

Original Research Article

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Crop Production Function for Chrysanthemum Crop under Drip Irrigation System

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ABSTRACT

A field experiment was carried out at Precision Farming Development Center (PFDC), at Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad. The experiment was laid out in split plot design with three replications. The treatments composed of three drip irrigation levels at 1.0, 0.8 and 0.6 E pan as main plots and four mulches viz., polythene mulch, paddy straw, dried leaves and no mulch assigned to sub plots. The Evapotranspiration production function and water production functions are expressed on the basis of yields because evapotranspiration is related to photosynthesis, which in turn is related to yield of crop. Using an evapotranspiration of 181.4 mm, higher yield of 401.8 kg/ha was obtained for the 1.0 E pan irrigation level. Similarly at evapotranspiration of 145.18 mm, an yield of 336.4 kg/ha was obtained for 0.8 irrigation level and similarly at evapotranspiration of 108.89 mm, yield of 261.6 kg/ha was obtained at 0.6 irrigation level. From these production functions, one can predict yield of a crop corresponding to any level water supplied and can be able to predict any variation in yield due to change in water supplied. After doing the above exercise, there was a need to develop proper irrigation schedules in order to achieve timely application of water as required by the crop at different growth stages. Therefore, irrigation scheduling was done for each yield and corresponding water requirement values. In order to indicate the efficiency of water use at those water availability conditions.

Keywords

Production function,
Evapotranspiration,
Irrigation levels,
Yields.

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Introduction

Chrysanthemum being a shallow rooted flower crop, nutrition enrichment for the crop and the prevalence of congenial soil moisture and temperature are considered important for improved crop yield. Besides weed competition, evapotranspiration loss of moisture without proper supplement of irrigation impedes the economical productivity of the crop. Hence irrigation plays an important role on the crop production of chrysanthemum. The first extensive comparison of drip irrigation with

conventional form of irrigation were made by Glodberg and his co-workers under severely limiting environmental conditions in the Arava and Negev districts of Israel and where an yield of more than 75 percent was observed in case of pepper, tomato crops (Goldberg and Shumeli, 1971a; Goldberg and Shumeli, 1971b). In view of deficit of water condition prevailing in the study area, there is a need to adopt micro irrigation to conserve the water in the soil profile and its best possible utilization for plant growth. Covering

the gaps between the rows with mulch material prevent rapid evaporation from the soil surface and reduce rapid drying of the land. Mulching also suppress weed infestation effectively. Furthermore, it stimulates microbial activity in soil by increasing soil temperature, which improves agro physical properties of soil (Solaiman *et al.*, 2008). Several research evidences on mulches in flower crops such as China aster, Cross and ray, Gladiolus and Marigold proved to be effective in preventing the loss of moisture (Solaiman *et al.*, 2008, Murugan and Gopinath 2001, Barman *et al.*, 2005, Gavhane *et al.*, 2004). However, information on the effectiveness of using different mulches on growth and development of chrysanthemum to this region is not adequately available.

Materials and Methods

The experiment conducted in experimental field of Precision Farming Development Center, Institute of Agricultural Engineering and Technology, Prof. Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad. Study area falls under arid sub-tropical climate zone with an average annual rainfall of 800 mm, Soil samples were collected at random from 0 to 30 cm soil depth of field and were analyzed soil tests in the laboratory of Agricultural Research Institute of PJTS Agricultural University using the standard methodology, it reveals that the type of soil is sandy clay loam in texture, slightly alkaline nature and non-saline. The infiltration rate was 2.3 mm/h and hydraulic conductivity was 2.5 mm/h.

Moisture retention capacity of the experimental field was estimated at -0.01MPa and -1.5MPa using pressure membrane apparatus (Richards, 1949) and the bulk density of the experimental soil was estimated for each 15 cm soil depth up to 30 cm by following the standard procedures (Dastane, 1972) and the resultant data was

presented in the below Table. The total available soil moisture i.e., the difference between -0.1MPa and 1.5 MPa in 0-30 cm soil depth was also estimated. The ground water table remained well below 6m depth of soil during the course of investigation (as evident from the nearby open well) and it was assumed that it did not contribute to the crop water use.

Crop water production functions describe the relationship of crop yield (Y) response to varying levels of water input and can be useful for various water management applications. Many of the water production functions presented in the literature were developed relating yield to applied water, which usually includes irrigation water to satisfy crop water requirements in addition to rainfall and stored soil moisture prior to planting. Consequently, existing production functions based on applied water cannot often be routinely used crop water management outside of specific geographical locations, soil and water management conditions for which the data were developed.

One of the more useful and widely accepted production function forms is based on the consumptive use, or evapotranspiration (ET), of water as a yield index. For optimizing the water use for a given yield target, the relationship between the crop yield and water used must be known. The relationship between the yield and water used for raising the crop is termed as “production function”. For successful crop production, crop must be supplied with adequate quantity of water at required frequency.

Design and layout of the experiment

The experiment was laid out using Split plot design with three replications. Three irrigation levels were taken as the main treatments and four mulches are taken as sub-treatments.

Layout of the drip system

Drip system consists of main, sub-main and laterals that were laid out in the experimental plot. The laterals of 12 mm diameter were laid 1.2 m apart with spacing of 45 cm distance between two inline emitters. The each emitter discharge capacity was 4L/h.

Reference crop evapotranspiration

$$ET_0 = K_p \times E_{pan}$$

Where:

ET_0 = Reference crop evapotranspiration (mm/day)

K_p = Pan coefficient

E_{pan} = Pan evaporation (mm/day)

Crop evapotranspiration

$$ET_c = ET_0 \times K_c$$

Where

ET_c = Crop evapotranspiration (mm/day)

ET_0 = Reference crop evapotranspiration (mm/day)

K_c = Crop coefficient

Reference crop evapotranspiration [ET₀]

ET_0 is a climatic parameter and can be computed from weather data. The ET_0 values are calculated using FAO CROPWAT model by giving the meteorological data and soil data as the input. ET_0 expresses the evaporating power of the atmosphere at a specific location and time of the year and does not consider the crop characteristics and soil factors. Thus, in the present study the FAO Penman-Monteith method (Allen *et al.*,

1998), Modified Penman method and Adjusted Pan Evaporation method (Doorenbos and Pruitt, 1977) were used to determine ET_0 as follows.

Water use efficiency

Water use efficiency (WUE) is the yield that can be produced from a given quantity of water. It was worked out by using the following formula and expressed as kg ha/mm.

Results and Discussion

The experiment included three levels of irrigation provided by drip irrigation. The each irrigation treatments was replicated three times and supplied with the same (non-limiting) level of nutrients. Optimum cultivation practices were adopted in all the plots. Irrigation scheduling for the treatments were based on different levels of allowable soil water depletion in the crop root zone. Irrigation scheduling and Crop ET was determined by using Penman-monteith method and using FAO-CROPWAT model separately. Losses from surface water runoff were negligible and deep percolation was ignored. The production functions was developed between the crop evapotranspiration values in terms of mm and yield of the flowers, the production function was developed in excel software considering X values as input values and Y values as the output values. Overall crop production function and water production functions for different mulch conditions are depicted in Fig 52 -57. All the experiments were monitored under a single technical program in order to bring uniformity in the results. WPFs were developed for each mulch treatment by fitting the data into excel software. However, the best-fit function based on the maximum value of coefficient of correlation 'R²' was adjudged as per the required WPF for the crop.

For chrysanthemum crop evapotranspiration verses yield and applied water verses yield are shown in above figures and R^2 values are found as 0.9985 nearer to one. Comparing the total crop evapotranspiration on abscissa and yield on Y axis, the relation is assessed for

chrysanthemum crop. The seasonal Evapotranspiration, calculated from the seasonal K_c , contains an evaporation component that varies between irrigation levels, times and locations and is depicted in Figures.

Fig.1 Crop evapotranspiration verses yield

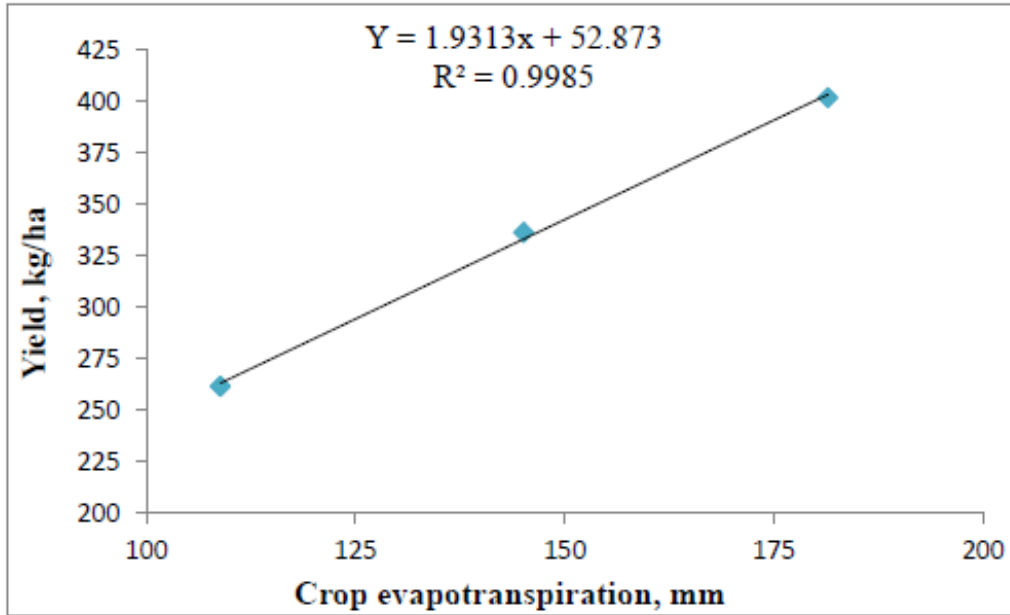


Fig.2 Applied water verses yield

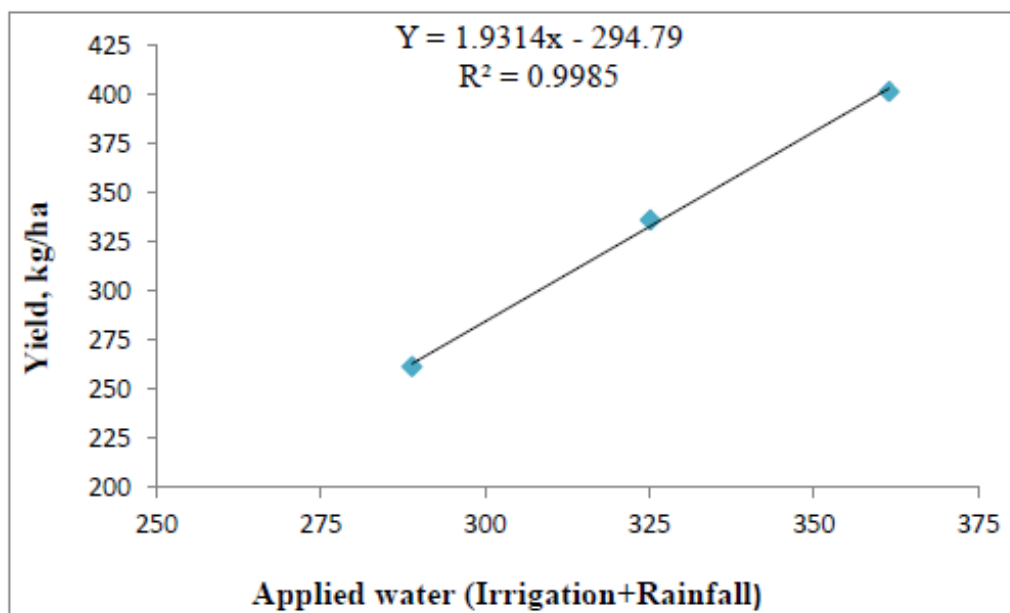


Fig.3 Crop evapotranspiration verses yield for no mulch

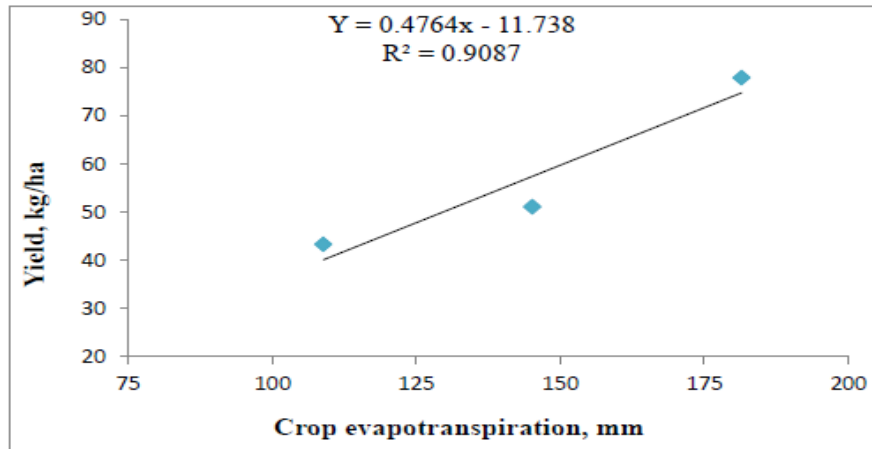


Fig.4 Crop evapotranspiration verses yield for paddy straw

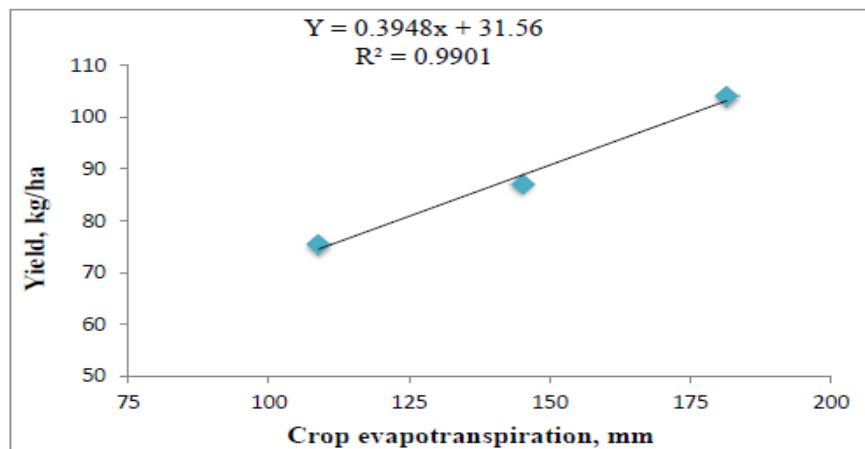


Fig.5 Crop evapotranspiration verses yield for black plastic mulch

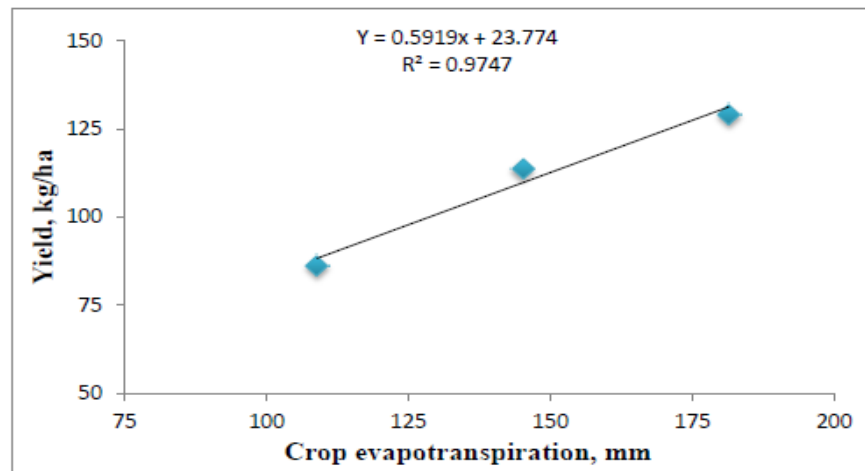


Fig.6 Crop evapotranspiration verses yield for dried leaves

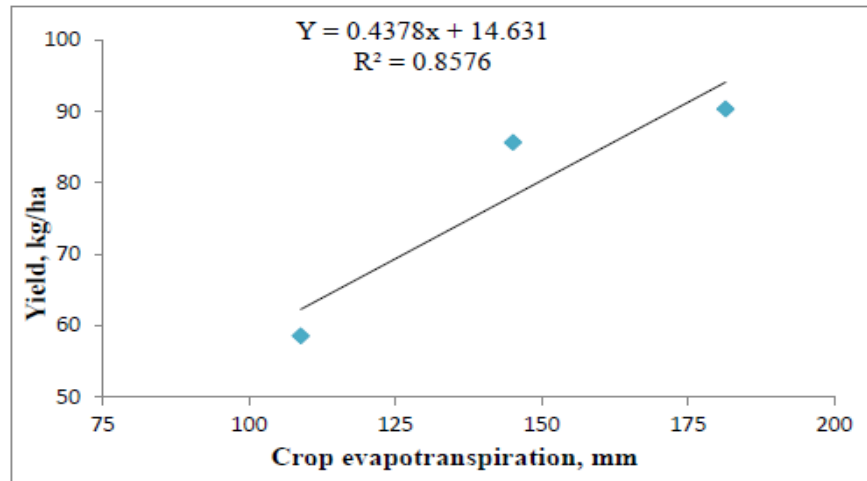


Table.1 Moisture retention characteristics of the experimental soil Soil depth (cm)

Soil depth (cm)	Soil moisture content (%) at		Bulk density [g/cm ³]	Available soil moisture [mm]
	Field capacity [-0.1 MPa]	Permanent Wiltingpoint [-1.5MPa]		
0-15	16.85	8.36	1.36	17.31
15-30	19.67	12.02	1.41	16.17
30-45	24.60	12.56	1.46	26.36

The Evapotranspiration production function and water production functions are expressed on the basis of yields because evapotranspiration is related to photosynthesis, which in turn is related to yield of crop. Using an evapotranspiration of 181.4 mm, higher yield of 401.8 kg/ha was obtained for the 1.0 E pan irrigation level. Similarly at evapotranspiration of 145.18 mm, an yield of 336.4 kg/ha was obtained for 0.8 irrigation level and similarly at evapotranspiration of 108.89 mm, yield of 261.6 kg/ha was obtained at 0.6 irrigation level. From these production functions, one can predict yield of a crop corresponding to any level water supplied and can be able to predict any variation in yield due to change in water supplied. Similarly it is made possible to assess the WUE in any particular situation. After doing the above exercise, there was a

need to develop proper irrigation schedules in order to achieve timely application of water as required by the crop at different growth stages. Therefore, irrigation scheduling was done for each yield and corresponding water requirement values. In order to indicate the efficiency of water use at those water availability conditions, have been worked out.

The experiment was laid out in split plot design with three replications. The treatments composes of three drip irrigation levels at 1.0, 0.8 and 0.6 E pan as main plots and four mulches viz., polythene mulch, paddy straw, dried leaves and no mulch assigned to sub plots.

The highest R² values are found for black plastic mulch and paddy straw conditions equation yield can adopt.

Highest crop production function noticed for black plastic mulch and paddy straw for any irrigation levels highest yield found in black plastic and paddy straw mulches

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