

Original Research Article

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Effect of Phosphorus and Bio-Organics on Yield and Soil Fertility Status of Mungbean [*Vigna radiata* (L.) Wilczek Under Semi- Arid Condition of Rajasthan, India

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

Mungbean, Uptake, Phosphorus Levels, Bio-organic and yield.

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A field experiment was conducted during *Kharif* season 2015. The results of the study indicated the application of phosphorus up to 40 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ recorded significantly higher number of pods per plant, number of seeds per pod and seed and straw yield, nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium uptake in seed and straw, protein content in seed, microbial biomass carbon, nitrogen and phosphorus in soil as compared to absolute control and 20 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ but was at par with 60 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹. Application of 40 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ represented an increase of grain yield over control and 20 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ by 32.15 and 7.48 per cent, respectively. Application of PM @ 5 t ha⁻¹ + *Rhizobium* +PSB significantly increased the pods per plant, number of seeds per pod and seed and straw yield, nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium content in seed and straw and their total uptake, protein content in seed, microbial biomass carbon, nitrogen and phosphorus in soil over control, PM @ 2.5 t ha⁻¹, PM @ 5 t ha⁻¹ and PM @ 2.5 t ha⁻¹ + *Rhizobium* +PSB. The application of bio-organics on grain yield was found significant and all the treatments of bio-organics were differed significantly. The application of PM @ 5 t ha⁻¹ + *Rhizobium* +PSB significantly higher the grain yield over control, PM @ 2.5 t ha⁻¹, PM @ 5 t ha⁻¹ and PM @ 2.5 t ha⁻¹ + *Rhizobium* +PSB. PM applied @ 5 t ha⁻¹ + *Rhizobium* + PSB significantly increased the grain yield by 52.63, 25.17, 7.15 and 15.20 per cent over B₀, B₁, B₂ and B₃, respectively.

Introduction

Greengram [*Vigna radiata* (L.) Wilczek] also known as mungbean is a self pollinated leguminous crop which is grown during *kharif* as well as summer seasons in arid and semi-arid regions of India. It is tolerant to drought and can be grown successfully on drained loamy to sandy loam soil in areas of erratic rainfall. The centre of origin of mungbean is India, may be used as a good

quality green or dry fodder or green manure. Pulses accounts 24.79 m ha area with production of 19.77 million tonnes in the country. Mungbean stands third after chickpea and pigeon pea among pulses. It occupies 29.36 lakh hectare area and contributes 13.90 lakh tonnes in pulse production in the country (Anonymous, 2014-15). The important mungbean growing states

are Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Bihar. In Rajasthan, total area under mungbean was 8.93 lakh hectares with the production of 4.23 lakh tonnes and productivity of 473 kg ha⁻¹ (Anonymous, 2014-15). It is mainly cultivated in arid and semi arid districts including Nagaur, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Sikar, Pali, Jhunjhunu and Ajmer. Despite of being such an important crop, the average productivity of mungbean in the state is quite low compared to its production potential which is a matter of serious concern. Phosphorus is an important nutrient next to nitrogen for plants. Indian soils are poor to medium in available phosphorus. It is an indispensable, constituent of nucleic acid, ADP and ATP. It has beneficial effects on nodule stimulation, root development, growth and also hastens maturity as well as improves quality of crop produce. The study of phosphorus to legumes is more important than that of nitrogen as later is being fixed by symbiosis with *rhizobium* bacteria. Incorporation of poultry manure improve available nutrient status of the soil with enhanced soil biological activity which in turn provides a congenial physical condition and improved availability of nutrient in the rhizosphere thereby and ultimate by resulting in an improvement in the crop growth and providing a better source-sink relationship.

Phosphorus solubilizing microorganisms (bacteria and fungi) enable P to become available for plant uptake after solubilization. Several soil bacteria, particularly those belonging to the genera *Bacillus* and *Pseudomonas* and fungi belonging to the genera *Aspergillus* and *Penicillium* possess the ability to bring insoluble phosphates in soil into soluble forms by secreting organic acids such as formic, acetic, propionic, lactic, glycolic, fumaric, and succinic acids. These acids lower the pH and bring about the dissolution of bound forms of phosphates have reported that during the solubilization of

rock phosphate by fungi, the pH of the culture was lowered from 7 to 3. Some of the hydroxyl acids may chelate with calcium and iron resulting in effective solubilisation and utilization of phosphates. The phosphate solubilizing microorganisms improved phosphorus uptake over control with and without chemical fertilizers. There is lack of information on the use of PSM for mungbean under semi-arid region of Rajasthan, India. Therefore, a field experiment have been conducted to assess the role of phosphorus solubilizing microorganisms with different phosphorus levels on mungbean yield and nutrient uptake in Entisols under semi-arid region of Rajasthan, India.

Materials and Methods

A field experiment was conducted during the rainy (*kharif*) season of 2015 at Agronomy farm of SKN College of Agriculture, Jobner (Rajasthan) in western side at 26⁰05' North latitude, 75⁰28' East longitude and at an altitude of 427 metres above mean sea level. In Rajasthan, this region falls under Agro climatic zone III a (Semi-Arid Eastern Plain Zone) to study the effect of phosphorus and bio-organics on yield and soil fertility status. The experiment included 20 treatment combinations comprising 4 levels of phosphorus (0, 20, 40, and 60 kg ha⁻¹) and five level of bio-organics (control, PM @ 2.5 t ha⁻¹, PM @ 5.0 ha⁻¹ t , PM @ 2.5 t ha⁻¹+ *Rhizobium* + PSB and PM @ 5.0 t ha⁻¹+ *Rhizobium* + PSB) were replicated thrice in factorial randomized block design. Mungbean cv. RMG-492 after treated with Bavistin @ 3 g kg⁻¹ seed to control seed born disease fallowed by rhizobium culture @ 25 g kg⁻¹ seeds. The seeds were inoculated with PSB @ 5 g kg⁻¹ seed as per routine procedure 2-3 hours before sowing and dried in shade (Paul *et al.*, 1971). The seeds were sown by 'pora' method with row spacing of 30 cm by hand plough at a depth of 5 cm using a seed rate of 20 kg ha⁻¹. The variety RMG-492 of

mungbean was used as the test crop and the sowing was done on 07th July, 2015. Whole amount of poultry manure as per treatment was broadcasted uniformly one week before sowing and incorporated in the soil. The nutrient composition of poultry manure was N, P and K 1.30 %, 1.80% and 0.80 respectively. The experimental soil was loamy sand in texture, slightly alkaline in reaction (pH 8.20), poor in organic carbon (0.18%) available nitrogen (130.42 kg ha⁻¹), available potassium (132.23 kg K₂O ha⁻¹) and medium in phosphorus (15.95 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹). The climate of this region is a typically semi-arid, characterized by extremes of temperatures during both summers and winters. During summers the mean weekly weather parameters for the crop season recorded at college meteorological observatory have been depicted graphically in Fig 1.

Soil sampling and analysis

The Soil samples (0–15 cm) were collected at the beginning of experiment from whole field, and from each plot were taken after harvest of mungbean crop. The soil samples were sieved (2 mm), homogenized and stored at 4 °C for enzymatic activity estimation, while for chemical analysis, soil was air dried for 3 days and thereafter stored at room temperature.

Microbial biomass C by chloroform fumigation extraction method Vance *et al.*, (1987) and microbial biomass N and P were estimated by chloroform fumigation extraction method Brookes *et al.*, (1984). Soil dehydrogenase activity was estimated by measuring the rate of triphenylformazan (TPF) from triphenyl tetrazolium chloride (TTC) Casida *et al.*, (1964) and alkaline phosphatase activities were measured by using p-nitrophenyl (PNP) Tabatabai and Bremner (1969).

Results and Discussion

Yield attributes and yield

The increasing level of phosphorus significantly increased number of pods per plant and seeds per pod up to 40 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ but it was at par with 60 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ (Table 1). Application of 40 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ representing an increase of number of pods per plant and seeds per pod by 34.97 and 14.06 per cent, 36.38 and 13.78 per cent over control and 20 kg P₂O₅, respectively. These results are in close conformity with the findings of Yadav and Jakhar (2001), Tanwar *et al.*, (2003) and Owla *et al.*, (2007) in mungbean. Same table further indicated that application of bio-organics significantly increased the number of pods per plant and seeds per pod all the treatments of bio-organics differed significantly. Application of PM @ 5 t ha⁻¹ + *Rhizobium* +PSB recorded significantly higher the number of pods per plant by 37.35, 23.01, 6.77 and 14.21 per cent over B₀, B₁, B₂ and B₃, respectively. Application of PM @ 5 t ha⁻¹ + *Rhizobium* +PSB significantly increased the seeds per pod over control, PM @ 2.5 t ha⁻¹, PM @ 5 t ha⁻¹ and PM @ 2.5 t ha⁻¹ + *Rhizobium* +PSB representing an increase of 56.89, 28.60, 8.40 and 18.23 per cent, respectively. The availability and optimum supply of nutrients to plants favorably influenced the flowering and grain formation, which in turn increased the pods plant⁻¹, grains pod⁻¹ and test weight. Findings of Mathur *et al.*, (2003) and Bhatt *et al.*, (2013) in greengram.

The application of phosphorus up to 40 kg ha⁻¹ significantly increased the grain yield (1163 kg ha⁻¹) which was significantly superior over control and 20 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ but remained at par with 60 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ (Table 1). Application of 40 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ represented an increase of grain yield over control and 20 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ by 32.15 and 7.48 per cent, respectively. This might be fact that excess

assimilates stored in the leaves and later translocated into grains at the time of senescence, ultimately led to higher grain yield. It was noted that a unit increase in number of pods/plant, number of grains/pod, test weight and total N, P and K uptake increased grain yield of mungbean. These results are in close conformity with the findings of Yadav and Jakhar (2001), Tanwar *et al.*, (2003) and Owlai *et al.*, (2007) in mungbean.

The application of bio-organics on grain yield (1273 kg ha⁻¹) was found significant and all the treatments of bio-organics were differed significantly. The application of PM @ 5 t ha⁻¹ + *Rhizobium* +PSB significantly higher the grain yield over control, PM @ 2.5 t ha⁻¹, PM @ 5 t ha⁻¹ and PM @ 2.5 t ha⁻¹ + *Rhizobium* +PSB. PM applied @ 5 t ha⁻¹ + *Rhizobium* + PSB significantly increased the grain yield by 52.63, 25.17, 7.15 and 15.20 per cent over B₀, B₁, B₂ and B₃, respectively. The beneficial response of organic manure to yield might be attribute to the availability of sufficient amount of plant nutrient throughout the growth period of crop resulting in better nutrient uptake, plant vigour and superior yield attributes (Chesti and Ali, 2012).

Nutrient uptake by plant

The increasing levels of phosphorus up to 40 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ Significant increase in Total N, P and K uptake by grain and straw were recorded maximum with the application of PM @ 5 t ha⁻¹ + *Rhizobium* + PSB as compared to (20 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹) and control which at par with 60 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ (Table 2). The maximum total NPK uptake were 99.44, 8.52, 85.38 kg ha⁻¹ and protein content 22.44% in mungbean seed were registered with application P₆₀ (60 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹). uptake of nutrients is the function of their concentration in plant and grain and straw yields, the higher concentration of these nutrients coupled with significantly higher

grain and straw yield improved the total uptake of N, P and K. Protein concentration is essentially the manifestation of N concentration in grain. Hence, increased N concentration might have also enhanced the protein content. These results corroborate the findings of Singh *et al.*, (2009), Awomyet *et al.*, (2012) and Kumawat *et al.*, (2014) in greengram.

Significant increase total N, P and K in grain and straw at harvest were recorded maximum with the application of PM @ 5 t ha⁻¹ + *Rhizobium* + PSB as compared to control, PM @ 2.5 t ha⁻¹, PM @ 5 t ha⁻¹ and PM @ 2.5 t ha⁻¹ + *Rhizobium* +PSB. The favorable soil conditions under organic manuring which acts as store house of energy for micro organisms are responsible for nutrient transformation besides providing better soil physico-chemical environment (decrease in bulk density and increase in saturated hydraulic conductivity and CEC) which help in the mineralization of nutrients. The organic manures besides being the direct source of nutrients also solubilized the insoluble P and K in soil through release of various organic acids (Dhakshinamoorthy *et al.*, 2000). The increased availability of these nutrients in the root zone coupled with increased metabolic activity at cellular levels might have increased nutrient uptake and their accumulation in the vegetative plants. An improved metabolism to greater translocation of these nutrient to reproductive organs of the crop and ultimately increased the content in grain and straw. Inoculation of seed with *Rhizobium* + PSB along with PM @ 5 t ha⁻¹ was more beneficial in enhancing all the above parameters due to increased solubility of phosphorus and higher N- fixation in nodules, leading to increased availability of N and P. The Increase availability of N and P also helped to utilize more potassium from the soil by the plant. Thus, the greater content and uptake of N, P and K in grain and straw as well as increase in protein content in grain might be due to

synergistic effect of *Rhizobium* +PSB inoculations and higher N, P and K content in poultry manure. These results corroborate the

finding of Tanwar *et al.*, (2003) in black gram and Basu *et al.*, (2006) in groundnut.

Table.1 Effect of phosphorus and bio-organics on yield and yield attributes of mungbean crop

Treatments	Grain yield kg ha ⁻¹	Number of pods per plant	Seeds per pod
Phosphorus levels			
P ₀ (Control)	880	25.65	7.20
P ₂₀ (20 kg P ₂ O ₅ ha ⁻¹)	1082	30.35	8.63
P ₄₀ (40 kg P ₂ O ₅ ha ⁻¹)	1163	34.62	9.82
P ₆₀ (60 kg P ₂ O ₅ ha ⁻¹)	1209	36.15	10.16
SEm±	25.01	0.70	0.23
CD (P = 0.05)	71.61	2.01	0.66
Bio-organics			
B ₀ (Control)	834	26.50	6.82
B ₁ (Poultry manure (PM)@ 2.5 t/ha)	1017	29.59	8.32
B ₂ (Poultry manure (PM)@ 5.0 t/ha)	1188	34.09	9.87
B ₃ (2.5 t/ha PM + <i>Rhizobium</i> + PSB)	1105	31.87	9.05
B ₄ (5.0 t/ha PM + <i>Rhizobium</i> + PSB)	1273	36.40	10.70
SEm±	27.97	0.79	0.26
CD (P = 0.05)	80.07	2.25	0.73

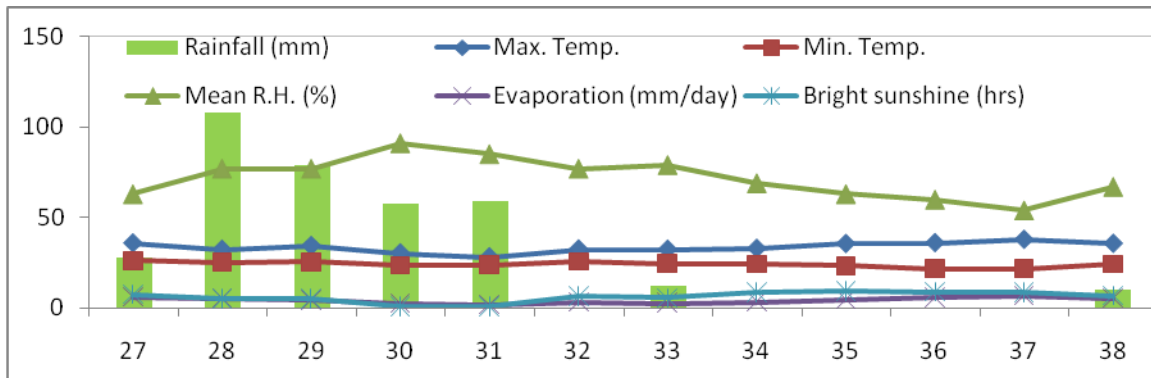
Table.2 Effect of phosphorus and bio-organics on number of pods per plant and seeds per pod

Treatments	Total nutrient uptake by grain and straw (kg ha ⁻¹)			Protein content (%)
	N	P	K	
Phosphorus levels				
P ₀ (Control)	51.84	4.88	42.81	18.44
P ₂₀ (20 kg P ₂ O ₅ ha ⁻¹)	78.07	6.64	67.65	20.50
P ₄₀ (40 kg P ₂ O ₅ ha ⁻¹)	94.33	7.56	80.98	22.19
P ₆₀ (60 kg P ₂ O ₅ ha ⁻¹)	99.44	8.52	85.38	22.44
SEm±	2.20	0.32	1.63	0.50
CD (P = 0.05)	6.28	0.92	4.67	1.42
Bio-organics				
B ₀ (Control)	46.84	3.87	43.97	16.04
B ₁ (Poultry manure (PM)@ 2.5 t/ha)	70.33	5.77	61.85	19.43
B ₂ (Poultry manure (PM)@ 5.0 t/ha)	95.14	8.11	79.88	23.01
B ₃ (2.5 t/ha PM + <i>Rhizobium</i> + PSB)	82.77	6.98	70.79	21.29
B ₄ (5.0 t/ha PM + <i>Rhizobium</i> + PSB)	109.50	9.29	89.53	24.68
SEm±	2.45	0.36	1.82	0.55
CD (P = 0.05)	7.03	1.03	5.22	1.59

Table.3 Effect of phosphorus and bio-organics on microbial biomass, enzyme activity and microbial population in soil

Treatments	Microbial biomass ($\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$ soil)			Dehydrogenase ($\mu\text{g TPF g}^{-1}$ soil 24 h^{-1})	Alkaline phosphatase enzyme ($\mu\text{g PNP produced g}^{-1}$ soil h^{-1})	<i>Rhizobium</i> ($\times 10^3$ cfu g^{-1} soil)	PSB ($\times 10^2$ cfu g^{-1} soil)
	C	N	P				
Phosphorus levels							
P ₀	176.58	35.44	28.45	115.85	9.66	9.10	13.85
P ₂₀	201.54	40.94	30.88	124.33	10.61	10.22	15.91
P ₄₀	222.54	45.58	32.97	132.28	11.35	11.25	17.78
P ₆₀	229.54	47.54	34.85	133.81	11.55	11.35	18.98
SEm _±	5.15	1.17	0.65	2.76	0.24	0.23	0.41
CD (P = 0.05)	14.74	3.34	1.86	7.92	0.70	0.67	1.18
Bio-organics							
B ₀	162.99	33.12	26.17	107.38	8.55	8.53	11.67
B ₁	192.20	38.37	29.69	117.59	10.10	9.67	15.57
B ₂	227.62	46.86	34.35	135.90	11.79	11.42	18.65
B ₃	210.16	42.39	32.17	126.99	10.92	10.53	17.17
B ₄	244.78	51.13	36.56	144.97	12.61	12.25	20.08
SEm _±	5.76	1.30	0.73	3.09	0.27	0.26	0.46
CD (P = 0.05)	16.48	3.73	2.08	8.85	0.78	0.75	1.32

Fig.1 Mean weakly meteorological data for crop season (Kharif, 2015)



Microbial biomass in soil

Application of 40 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ significantly increased the microbial biomass carbon, nitrogen, phosphorus after harvest by 26.02 and 10.41%, 28.61 and 12.32%, 22.49 and 12.85% over control and 20 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹, respectively (Table 3). However the application of 40 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ found at par

with 60 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹. The microbial biomass carbon increased with increase in dose of inorganic fertilizers, may be due firstly to increase in microbial population (Hasebe *et al.*, 1985) and secondary to the formation of root exudates, mucigel sloughed off cells and underground roots previous cut crops which also play an important role in increasing biomass carbon (Goyal *et al.*, 1992).

The application of bio-organics on microbial biomass carbon, nitrogen, phosphorus at harvest was found significant and all the treatments of bio-organics were differed significantly. The application of B₄ (PM @ 5 t ha⁻¹ + *Rhizobium* + PSB) increased the microbial biomass phosphorus at harvest over B₀, B₁, B₂ and B₃. The increase in microbial biomass C, N and P and activities of enzymes might also be due to increase in organic carbon of soil on account of addition of bio-organic. These results find support from the results of Saini *et al.*, (2005) and Kumar *et al.*, (2007).

The application inorganic fertilizers resulted in significantly higher soil microbial biomass nitrogen content as compared to the rest of the treatments. The fertilizer in the present study apparently provided supply of nutrients in balanced proportion which was reflected in term of increasing amount of microbial biomass nitrogen, increase in biomass nitrogen has also been reported by Wang Shuping *et al.*, (2013). Soil microbial biomass phosphorus recorded higher due to phosphorus application up to 60 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ after the harvest of mungbean. It provided substrates essential for microbial growth and activity, which in term was responsible for increase in the soil microbial biomass P. reason attributed in reduction death of microbial cells due to absence of any phosphate subtract. The addition of higher levels of phosphorus through external sources might have influenced the metabolism of micro-organism which is responsible for soil microbial biomass-P was reported by Santhy *et al.*, (2004).

Enzymes activity in soil

The increasing levels of phosphorus significantly increased the dehydrogenase, alkaline phosphatase enzyme activity after harvest up to 40 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹, being at par with 60 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ (Table 3). The effect of

application of bio-organics on dehydrogenase and alkaline phosphatase enzyme activity was found significant and all the treatments of bio-organics were differed significantly. The application of poultry manure @ 5 t ha⁻¹ + *Rhizobium* + PSB significantly increased the dehydrogenase and alkaline phosphatase enzyme activity over control, PM @ 2.5 t ha⁻¹, PM @ 5 t ha⁻¹ and PM @ 2.5 t ha⁻¹ + *Rhizobium* + PSB.

It might be due to highest dehydrogenase and alkaline phosphatase enzyme activity of soil recorded with application of poultry manure @ 5 t ha⁻¹ + *Rhizobium* + PSB. Soil enzyme activities increased by the incorporation of organic manure were also reported by Nannipieri *et al.*, (1983). The increased activity has generally been attributed to increased microbial biomass resulting from organic matter enrichment in the soil. Increase in activity may be due to protection to the enzymes fraction upon increase in the soil humus content was also reported by Pareek and Yadav (2011) and Nath *et al.*, (2012).

Microbial population in soil

The increasing levels of phosphorus up to 40 kg ha⁻¹ significantly increased the microbial population of *Rhizobium* (11.25 x 10² cfu g⁻¹) and PSB (17.88 x 10² cfu g⁻¹) at flowering stage, which was found at par with 60 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹. The microbial population count was maximum with the application of poultry manure @ 5 t ha⁻¹ + *Rhizobium* + PSB. *Rhizobium* (12.25 x 10³ cfu g⁻¹ soil) and PSB (20.08 x 10² cfu g⁻¹ soil) count at flowering stage in soil increased considerably due to the application of organic manures (Table 3). The availability of carbonaceous materials and substrates such as sugar, amino acids and organic acids to the soil from the decomposing organic materials and decay of roots under the plant canopy are important for supplying energy for microbial population (Bowen and Rovira, 1991).

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