

Original Research Article

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Effect of Phosphorus and Zinc Solubilizing Acidifiers on Content and Uptake of Micro nutrients in Summer Soybean

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ABSTRACT

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The present investigation was carried out during summer season of 2014-15 on Research farm, Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, Vasant Rao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani to evaluate the effect of different zinc solubilizing microbial cultures on nutrient content and uptake of soybean grown on Vertisol. Results revealed that highest Nutrient content and uptake was increased with the inoculation of microbial cultures as compared to uninoculated control and highest Fe, Mn, Cu, and Zn uptake was found with the treatment RDF + Rhizobium + Trichoderma viride.

Introduction

Soybean (*Glycine max* L. Merrill) a grain legume is considered as a wonder crop due to its dual qualities viz., high protein (40-43%) and oil content (20%). It also contains 60% poly-unsaturated fatty acid, vitamin-B (300 I.U) and vitamin C, D, E, K. It contains 0.69% phosphorus, 0.011% iron, 0.024% calcium and all other essential amino acids (Rahman, 1982). Major soybean growing states in India are Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Rajasthan. India ranks 5th in area and production of soybean in the world after U.S.A., Brazil, China, Argentina. Soybean has emerged as one of the major oil seed crop in India with the coverage of above 108.8 lakh hectare with estimated production of over 104.36 lakh MT during 2014. In Maharashtra state, soybean crop is grown on

an area of 38.08 lakh hectare with total production 30.72 lakh MT with average productivity of 808 kg/ ha (Anonymous, 2014). The poor productivity of soybean is mainly due to imbalance application of nutrients and use of traditional varieties. Under such situations, use of *Rhizobium* and zinc solubilizing bacteria (ZSB) had shown advantage in enhancing soybean productivity. Microbial inoculants are cost effective, eco-friendly and renewable sources of plant nutrients. Zinc has an immense role in nutrition of both eukaryotic and prokaryotic organisms as cofactor or metal activator in various enzyme systems (Hughes and Poole, 1989). Bacteria are known to immobilize metal by precipitation and adsorption. The ability to dissolve immobilized zinc viz. zinc

phosphate, zinc oxide and zinc carbonate in appreciable quantity is not common feature amongst the cultivable bacteria on soil surface. Few Zn solubilizing bacterial genera viz. *Thiobacillus thiooxidans*, *Thiobacillus ferrooxidans*, *Acinetobacter*, *Bacillus*, *Gluconacetobacter*, *Pseudomonas* and facultative thermophilic iron oxidizers have been reported as zinc solubilizers (Saravanan *et al.*, 2007). Because of avoidance of environmental problems, human health, and more crop integrated nutrient management plant beneficial living microbial cultures (biofertilizers) are supposed to be a safe supplement to chemical fertilizers in order to minimize the ecological disturbance. A number of microorganisms are considered as challenging agents for agriculture to promote better nutrient uptake and availability for plant use particularly zinc mobilizing and acidifying cultures may help to increase the zinc and other micronutrients availability for the crops like soybean. Summer soybean has a tremendous potential to be used as seed for kharif season. By considering these points, experiment was carried out to study the effect of zinc solubilizing microbial cultures on yield, nutrient uptake and quality of soybean.

Materials and Methods

Field experiment was conducted at research farm of Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani on Vertisol during summer season of 2014-15 on soybean variety MAUS-162. The initial soil pH was 7.96, EC- 0.28 dSm⁻¹, organic carbon-5.26 g kg⁻¹, CaCO₃ - 37.0 g kg⁻¹ available N - 190 kg ha⁻¹, P₂ O₅ - 16.7 kg ha⁻¹, K₂ O - 580 kg ha⁻¹ and S-9.42 mg kg⁻¹.

The initial micronutrient status were available Cu 2.27 mg kg⁻¹, Mn 7.22 mg kg⁻¹, Zn 0.56 mg kg⁻¹, Fe 5.28 mg kg⁻¹. The soil was clayey in texture, low in organic carbon,

available nitrogen, medium in phosphorus, sufficient in potassium and low in sulphur. As among the micronutrient status Cu, Fe and Mn were above the critical limits but Available Zn content in experimental soil was found to be deficient. The treatments comprising inoculation with liquid inoculants of *Bradyrhizobium* and *Bacillus megaterium* (PSB) for soybean, used in alone and in combinations. The experiment was laid out in Randomised Block Design with eight treatments in combinations in three replications. The experiment consisting of 8 treatments of laboratory tested Zn solubilizers T1: RDF + *Rhizobium*; T2: RDF + *Rhizobium* + *Burkholderia cepacia*; T3: RDF + *Rhizobium* + *Burkholderia cenocepacia*; T4: RDF + *Rhizobium* + *Pseudomonas fluorescens*; T5: RDF + *Rhizobium* + *Pseudomonas striata*; T6: RDF + *Rhizobium* + *Trichoderma viride*; T7: RDF + *Rhizobium* + *Trichoderma harzianum*; T8: RDF + *Rhizobium* + *Bacillus megaterium*. Seed treatment was done before sowing with liquid bioinoculants each @ 50 ml 10 kg⁻¹ seed. The crop was raised following recommended agronomic practices. The observations were recorded replication wise in each treatment namely number of nodules, fresh and dry weight of nodules, leghaemoglobin content in nodules (Thimmaiah, 2000), protein content (%) calculated by multiplying the nitrogen (%) with 5.74 and oil content by soxhlet apparatus (Plummer, 1998).

Protein and oil yield was calculated. Nutrient content N by Microkjeldhal method (AOAC, 1993), P content determined by spectrophotometrically by Vanadomolybdate phosphoric acid yellow colour method (Jackson, 1967), K content was determined from the diluted diacid extract on flame photometer (Jackson, 1973), S content was estimated by Turbidimetric method from diacid extract (Tabatabai and Bremner, 1970) and micronutrients such as Zn, Cu, Mn and Fe

were determined from di-acid extract digest with proper dilution using Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer with different wavelength (Jackson, 1973). The nutrient uptake was worked out by multiplying the nutrient concentration in plant/grain with respective yields.

All statistical tests were done by RBD design and significant differences was calculated at CD α 0.05 as per the methods described in "Statistical Methods for Agricultural Workers" by Panse and Sukhatme (1985). Uptake (kg ha⁻¹) = Nutrient content (%) x Yields of grain/dry matter (kg ha⁻¹) / 100

Fe content and uptake in soybean crop

The data narrated in table 1 indicates that content and Fe Uptake in grain and straw as well as total (grain + straw) by soybean was found highest in treatment T₆ (RDF+ *Rhizobium* + *Trichoderma viride*) i.e. (545, 557 and 1102.6 g ha⁻¹) respectively followed by treatment T₄ (RDF+ *Rhizobium* + *Pseudomonas fluorescens*) i.e. (467.6, 504.9 and 972.5 g ha⁻¹) whereas lowest Fe uptake was observed in T₁ treatment.

However, T₆ was found to be at par with T₄ treatment in influencing Fe uptake and lowest Fe grain and uptake was recorded in T₁ (RDF + *Rhizobium*). Chand and Somani (2003) revealed that effective use of FYM, biofertilizers along with chemical fertilizers improved Fe and Zn content in mustard. Mekki *et al.*, (1999) reported that organic manure either only or when it associated with biofertilizer increased Fe concentration in millet cuttings. This increase in Fe is mainly due to the action of biofertilizer that rendered phosphorus and most micronutrients in the available form.

Uptake of N, P, K, S, Fe, Zn and B to the application of micronutrients especially of Mo @ 1 kg ha⁻¹ ammonium molybdate which

recorded the highest values in case of uptake of all the nutrients. This might be attributed to increased growth of crop under this treatment due to enhanced N fixation by Mo and *Rhizobium* inoculation and also more P solubilization and uptake due to action of PSB resulting in higher uptake of all other complementary nutrients. Inoculation of biofertilizers (*Rhizobium* + PSB) also recorded significantly higher uptake of nutrients as against no inoculation (Sarawgi *et al.*, 1999 and Patel, 2003).

Zn content and uptake in soybean crop

The content and uptake of zinc by soybean was also found to be enhanced significantly with inoculation of *Trichoderma viride* along with RDF (Table 2).

The data shows increase in Zn content in grain, straw by soybean crop was recorded higher in treatment T₆ (57.8 and 35.7 mg kg⁻¹) receiving *Rhizobium* + *Trichoderma viride* followed by treatment T₄ (54.6 and 32 mg ha⁻¹) treated with *Rhizobium* + *Pseudomonas fluorescens*, which were found to be at par with each other and lowest value was noticed in treatment T₁ and its uptake by grain, straw and total was maximum in treatment T₆ receiving RDF+ *Rhizobium* + *Trichoderma viride* over other treatments and treatment T₄ was found statistically at par with T₆.

Amalraj *et al.*, (2012) studied nutrient solubilization efficiency, plant growth promoting traits and antagonistic effects of *Bacillus megaterium* var. phosphaticum and revealed that it also improved zinc (184mg/100g dry mass), iron (743mg/100g dry mass) and manganese (138mg/100g dry mass) in plant.

Gurumurthy *et al.*, (2009) noticed the higher uptake of Zn by soybean with the application of 50% RDF – N + 50% N through FYM + PSB in safflower grain and straw.

Table.1 Effect of phosphorus and zinc solubilizing acidifiers on content and uptake of Fe in summer soybean

Sr. No.	Treatment	Fe Content (mg kg ⁻¹)		Fe Uptake (g ha ⁻¹)		
		Grain	Straw	Grain	Straw	Total (g ha ⁻¹)
T ₁	RDF + <i>Rhizobium</i>	194.0	154.0	299.5	308.0	607.0
T ₂	T ₁ + <i>Burkholderia cepacia</i>	230.0	141.3	359.6	297.3	656.3
T ₃	T ₁ + <i>Burkholderia cenocepacia</i>	249.3	129.0	424.0	313.0	737.0
T ₄	T ₁ + <i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i>	269.3	186.4	467.6	504.9	972.5
T ₅	T ₁ + <i>Pseudomonas striata</i>	251.3	117.6	423.0	460.6	883.6
T ₆	T ₁ + <i>Trichoderma viride</i>	295.0	218.0	545.6	557.0	1102
T ₇	T ₁ + <i>Trichoderma harzianum</i>	256.0	175.6	427.0	448.6	875.6
T ₈	T ₁ + <i>Bacillus megaterium</i>	253.6	177.3	385.5	401.0	786.6
	S.E. ±	2.48	18.06	26.41	22.41	37.6
	C.D. at 5 %	7.70	55.32	80.8	68.6	115.3
	C.V. %	6.71	13.25	10.98	9.481	7.8

Table.2 Effect of phosphorus and zinc solubilizing acidifiers on content and uptake of Zn in summer soybean

Sr. No.	Treatment	Zn Content (mg kg ⁻¹)		Zn Uptake (g ha ⁻¹)		
		Grain	Straw	Grain	Straw	Total (g ha ⁻¹)
T ₁	RDF + <i>Rhizobium</i>	50.3	28.4	82.8	56.9	139.7
T ₂	T ₁ + <i>Burkholderia cepacia</i>	51.4	27.1	80.3	56.9	137.2
T ₃	T ₁ + <i>Burkholderia cenocepacia</i>	52.4	26.6	89.1	64.1	153.3
T ₄	T ₁ + <i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i>	54.6	32.0	95.6	86.9	182.5
T ₅	T ₁ + <i>Pseudomonas striata</i>	51.0	28.8	85.3	78.3	163.6
T ₆	T ₁ + <i>Trichoderma viride</i>	57.8	35.7	105.2	91.4	196.6
T ₇	T ₁ + <i>Trichoderma harzianum</i>	52.3	29.9	87.2	76.3	163.5
T ₈	T ₁ + <i>Bacillus megaterium</i>	51.6	30.1	76.6	68.4	145.0
	S.E. ±	0.27	0.34	5.79	4.07	7.12
	C.D. at 5 %	0.84	1.05	NS	12.4	21.8
	C.V. %	5.85	6.45	11.4	9.73	7.70

Table.3 Effect of phosphorus and zinc solubilizing acidifiers on content and uptake of Mn in summer soybean

Sr. No.	Treatment	Mn Content (mg kg ⁻¹)		Mn Uptake (g ha ⁻¹)		
		Grain	Straw	Grain	Straw	Total (g ha ⁻¹)
T ₁	RDF+ <i>Rhizobium</i>	73.5	35.3	113.2	70.6	183.6
T ₂	T ₁ + <i>Burkholderia cepacia</i>	75.3	33.5	117.6	70.6	188.2
T ₃	T ₁ + <i>Burkholderia cenocepacia</i>	76.3	32.7	129.3	79.3	208.6
T ₄	T ₁ + <i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i>	82.3	37.8	142.4	102.1	244.5
T ₅	T ₁ + <i>Pseudomonas striata</i>	77.7	34.1	130.3	92.8	223.1
T ₆	T ₁ + <i>Trichoderma viride</i>	84.7	43.7	154.7	111.9	266.6
T ₇	T ₁ + <i>Trichoderma harzianum</i>	77.2	36.2	134.6	93.4	228.0
T ₈	T ₁ + <i>Bacillus megaterium</i>	79.0	34.1	118.0	77.5	195.5
	S.E. ±	0.92	0.62	8.64	4.36	10.18
	C.D. at 5 %	2.82	1.92	NS	13.3	31.2
	C.V. %	2.03	3.02	11.51	8.66	8.12

Table.4 Effect of phosphorus and zinc solubilizing acidifiers on content and uptake of Cu in summer soybean

Sr. No.	Treatment	Cu Content (mg kg ⁻¹)		Cu Uptake (g ha ⁻¹)		
		Grain	Straw	Grain	Straw	Total (g ha ⁻¹)
T ₁	RDF+ <i>Rhizobium</i>	28.8	18.6	44.4	37.2	81.6
T ₂	T ₁ + <i>Burkholderia cepacia</i>	30.8	16.9	48.3	35.7	84.0
T ₃	T ₁ + <i>Burkholderia cenocepacia</i>	33.1	16.0	56.3	38.9	95.2
T ₄	T ₁ + <i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i>	36.0	20.2	62.6	54.9	117.5
T ₅	T ₁ + <i>Pseudomonas striata</i>	34.1	17.7	57.3	48.5	105.8
T ₆	T ₁ + <i>Trichoderma viride</i>	39.3	24.1	72.1	61.8	133.9
T ₇	T ₁ + <i>Trichoderma harzianum</i>	33.7	18.3	56.3	46.3	102.6
T ₈	T ₁ + <i>Bacillus megaterium</i>	32.9	18.0	47.2	40.7	87.9
	S.E. ±	0.33	0.37	3.73	2.43	4.68
	C.D. at 5 %	1.01	1.13	11.4	7.76	14.3
	C.V. %	2.86	3.49	11.6	9.64	8.02

Mn content and uptake in soybean crop

The scrutiny of the data given in table 3 shows significant increase in content and uptake of Mn by soybean with inoculation of RDF+ *Rhizobium* + *Trichoderma viride* (T₆). Significantly highest value of Mn content in grain (84.7 mg kg⁻¹) and in straw (43.7 mg kg⁻¹) were noted in treatment T₆ and T₄ was found

at par with T₆ treatment. Moreover, highest values of Mn uptake in grain (154.7 g ha⁻¹) and straw (111.9 g ha⁻¹) were noted in treatment T₆ and T₄ (*Rhizobium* + *Pseudomonas fluorescens*) was found at par with T₆. Soliman *et al.*, (2012) revealed that Mn concentration in grain and straw of safflower was influenced significantly noted highest receiving 100% NPK + FYM @ 5 Mg

ha⁻¹. Due to integrated use of organic and inorganic fertilizers acceleration of availability of nutrient in soil ultimately resulted in more utilization and assimilation of Mn. Gurumurthy *et al.*, (2009) also reported that the concentration of Mn was noticed higher in 50% RDF(N – applied through Urea) +50% N applied through *FYM + PSB* in soybean.

Altomare *et al.*, (1999) concluded that the iron and manganese have been particular foci of studies on their solubilization by soil microflora, their availability to plants, while plant roots can take up chelated iron either directly or after reduction of Fe³⁺ by plasma membrane reductases. Manganese can occur in several oxidation states, but it is available to plants only in the reduced form (Mn²⁺) and the activity of rhizosphere microorganisms that can either oxidize or reduce manganese and thus influence its availability. Microbes having the potential of synthesizing plant hormones might be responsible for expansion of root surface area and enhanced plant-microbe interaction resulted in more nutrient uptake (Qureshi *et al.*, 2005). Soliman *et al.*, (2012) reported that Mn concentration in grain and straw of safflower was influenced significantly in treatment receiving 100% NPK + FYM @ 5 Mg ha⁻¹. The increase in Mn uptake with application of FYM and NPK might be due to steady supply of Mn through organics. Sawarkar *et al.*, (2010) also noted that the application of 100% NPK + FYM showed highest Mn uptake by soybean in Vertisol.

Cu content and uptake in soybean crop

The data narrated in table 4 revealed that the content and uptake of Cu by soybean crop was also increased with inoculation of *Rhizobium + Trichoderma viride* along with recommended dose of fertilizers. Significantly highest values of Cu content in grain (39.3mg

ha⁻¹) and straw (24.1mg ha⁻¹) were noted in treatment T₆ and T₄ was found at par with T₆ treatment. Significantly highest values of Cu uptake in grain (72.1 g ha⁻¹) and straw (61.8 g ha⁻¹) were noted in treatment T₆ and T₄ (*Rhizobium + Pseudomonas fluorescens*) was found at par with T₆ treatment. Sayad *et al.*, (2009) reported that Cu uptake in grain and straw at harvest of safflower crop was influenced significantly with 100% NPK + FYM @ Mg ha⁻¹. Similar findings were reported by Soliman *et al.*, (2012). Gurumurthy *et al.*, (2009) noticed that the concentration of Cu was higher with 50% RDF (N – applied through Urea) + 50% N applied through *FYM + PSB* in soybean grain and straw. An increased nutrient uptake was observed 100% RDF+ dual inoculation treatment as a consequence of better nutritional environment offered through the cumulative effect of inorganic sources of nutrients through biofertilizers (Kumar *et al.*, 2009). Higher biomass production may also be the most pertinent reasoning for higher uptake of nutrients in the treatments referred above.

Sayad *et al.*, (2009) reported Cu concentration in grain and straw at harvest of safflower crop was influenced significantly and highest values were recorded with receiving 100% NPK + FYM @ Mg ha⁻¹. With the increment in supply of essential elements through organic and inorganic sources, their availability, mobilization and influx into plant tissue and improving content and uptake in the crops. Murthy *et al.*, (2012) found the uptake of Cu by safflower was higher in the recommended dose of N, P and K with farmyard manure than other treatments.

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