

Original Research Article

<https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2018.701.243>

Role of Different Sources of Nutrient Modules on Yield, Quality Parameters and Economics of Banana cv. Grand Naine

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

Banana, INM,
Nutrient module,
Soil properties and
NPK content in
plant

Article Info

Accepted:
14 December 2017
Available Online:
10 January 2018

A field experiment was conducted at new orchard, Department of Horticulture, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad during 2014-15 and 2015-16 on “Integrated nutrient management studies in banana cv. Grand Naine (AAA)” through application of different combination of organic manures and inorganic fertilizers with green manure, *Azospirillum* and PSB. The results revealed that, vermicompost equivalent to 40 % RDN (24.20 t/ha) + Urea equivalent to 40 % RDN (535.73 kg/ ha) + Green manure (sunhemp @ 8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (@ 30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (@ 30.86 kg/ha) (T₇) recorded the highest yield parameters {bunch weight (26.94 kg), number of hands per bunch (11.75), finger weight (137.38 g), finger length (17.75 cm), plot yield (85.57 kg) and the yield per ha (66.02 t)}, quality parameters {TSS (23.52⁰ brix), total sugars (20.30 %), reducing sugars (20.30 %), non-reducing sugars (17.87 %), pulp to peel ratio (3.81), shelf life (6.33 days), the least starch (3.67 %) and titrable acidity (0.25 %)} and gross returns (Rs.4.97 lakh/ha) and moderate net returns (Rs.3.04 lakh/ha) followed by T₁₀ (Agrigold combination) and T₁₁ (Bhumilabh combination). The highest net returns {Rs.3.17 lakh/ha} was recorded in T₁₀ (Agrigold combination) followed by T₇ (Rs.3.04 lakh/ha). However, the B: C ratio was highest in control (T₁₂, 3.42).

Introduction

In India, banana is cultivated in an area of 0.83 million ha with a production of 30 million tonnes (Anon., 2011).

The major banana growing areas are in Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka, West Bengal and Orissa. It is being grown in an area of 1.12 lakh ha with a production of 2.28 lakh tonnes in Karnataka state.

Banana is known to consume more nutrients for its growth, yield and biomass production (Hazarika *et al.*, 2015).

The use of chemical fertilizers alone has deleterious effect on soil physical, chemical and biological properties and productivity in the long run. The availability of organic manures is also one of the limitations for use in banana production. To fulfil the nutrient requirement only through organic or inorganic or bio- fertilizers alone is seldom possible but

integration of all these sources will not only aid in achieving higher yield and quality but also in sustaining the soil fertility status in the long run.

Materials and Methods

The field experiment with an integrated nutrient module consisting of organic manures, chemical fertilizers, green manure and bio-fertilizer in banana cv. Grand Naine was conducted during 2014-15 and 2015-16 at new orchard, Department of Horticulture, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad. The soil type was red with clay texture.

The experiment consists of 12 treatments *viz.*

Plant crop

T₁. FYM equivalent to 40 % RDN (48.40 t/ha) + VC equivalent to 40 % RDN (24.20 t/ha) + GM (Sunnhemp @ 8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (30.86 kg/ha).

T₂ -FYM equivalent to 40 % RDN (48.40 t/ha) + PM equivalent to 40 % RDN (8.96 t/ha) + GM (Sunnhemp @ 8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (30.86 kg/ha).

T₃. FYM equivalent to 40 % RDN (48.40 t/ha) + SM equivalent to 40 % RDN (10.17 t/ha) + GM (Sunnhemp @ 8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (30.86 kg/ha).

T₄. FYM equivalent to 40 % RDN (48.40 t/ha) + AG equivalent to 40 % RDN (10.52 t/ha) + GM (Sunnhemp @ 8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (30.86 kg/ha).

T₅. FYM equivalent to 40 % RDN (48.40 t/ha) + BL equivalent to 40 % RDN (7.56 t/ha) +

GM (Sunnhemp @ 8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (30.86 kg/ha).

T₆. FYM equivalent to 40 % RDN (48.40 t/ha) + 40 % RDN through chemical fertilizer (Urea 535.73 kg/ ha) + GM (Sunnhemp @ 8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20% RDN + PSB (30.86 kg/ha).

T₇. VC equivalent to 40 % RDN (24.20 t/ha) + 40 % RDN through chemical fertilizer (Urea 535.73 kg/ ha) + GM (Sunnhemp @ 8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (30.86 kg/ha).

T₈. PM equivalent to 40 % RDN (8.96 t/ha) + 40 % RDN through chemical fertilizer (Urea 535.73 kg/ ha) + GM (Sunnhemp @ 8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (30.86 kg/ha).

T₉. SM equivalent to 40 % RDN (10.17 t/ha) + 40 % RDN through chemical fertilizer (Urea 535.73 kg/ ha) + GM (Sunnhemp @ 8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (30.86 kg/ha).

T₁₀. AG equivalent to 40 % RDN (10.52 t/ha) + 40 % RDN through chemical fertilizer (Urea 535.73 kg/ ha) + GM (Sunnhemp @ 8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (30.86 kg/ha)

T₁₁. BL equivalent to 40 % RDN (7.56 t/ha) + 40 % RDN through chemical fertilizer (Urea 535.73 kg/ ha) + GM (Sunnhemp @ 8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (30.86 kg/ha)

T₁₂ -Control (RDF 200: 100: 300 g NPK /plant or 617.20:308.60: 925.80 kg NPK/ha + Farm yard manure@ 40 t/ha)

The recommended dose of phosphorous and potash (100 g/plant and 300 g/plant

respectively) was supplied through DAP and MOP.

Ratoon crop

RDF = 100:50:100 NPK g /plant or 308.60:154.20: 308.60 kg NPK/ha) + FYM @ 20 t/ha

Note: 1) FYM- Farm Yard Manure, VC- Vermicompost, PM-Poultry Manure, SM-Sheep Manure, AG-Agrigold, BL-Bhumilabh, GM-Green manure, PSB-Phosphate Solubilizing bacteria. *Azospirillum* (ACD-15) and PSB (*Pseudomonas striata*) were used for the study.

The application of organic manures, chemical fertilizers with green manure and bio-fertilizer will compensate the majority of the plant nutrition thereby increase the productivity of banana cv. Grand Naine. The influence was assessed on yield, quality and economics of banana. The results of the field experiments conducted during the year 2014-15 and 2015-16 are pooled and discussed.

Results and Discussion

The results of the field experiments conducted during the year 2014-15 and 2015-16 are pooled and discussed under different headings.

Effect of different sources of nutrient modules on yield parameters of banana (Table 1)

The influence of different sources of nutrient modules on yield parameters which caused the yield variations are discussed here under. The pooled data indicated that, the maximum mean yield of banana per hectare (66.02 t/ha) was recorded in T₇ {Vermicompost equivalent to 40 % RDN (24.20 t/ha) + Chemical fertilizer (Urea 535.73 kg/ ha) equivalent to 40 % RDN + Green manure (Sunnhemp @ 8.88 t/ha) +

Azospirillum (30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (30.86 kg/ha)} which was on par with T₁, T₁₀ and T₁₁ and significantly superior over rest of the treatments (Table 1).

The highest mean yield of banana in T₇ was attributed to the higher growth and yield contributing parameters. The mean yield components of banana indicated that the maximum bunch weight (26.94 kg), number of hands per bunch (11.75), finger weight (137.38 g), finger length (17.75 cm), number of fingers on third hand (16.93) were recorded in plants applied with vermicompost equivalent to 40 % RDN (24.20 t/ha) + Chemical fertilizer (Urea 535.73 kg/ ha) equivalent to 40 % RDN + Green manure (sunnhemp @ 8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (30.86 kg/ha) (T₇) (Table 1).

The similar results were also recorded with integrated nutrient modules by many scientists in banana. Athani *et al.*, (1999) reported that, maximum number of fingers per bunch, bunch weight (5.10 kg/bunch) and finally fruit yield (15.14 t/ha) was obtained by applying 50 % RDF + vermicompost 2.00 kg/plant in Rajapuri banana. They also reported that, organic matter in the form of vermicompost in combination with inorganic fertilizers increased the yield in banana cv. Rajapuri. Nachegowda *et al.*, (2004) reported that, plants applied with 15 kg FYM + 180:108:220g NPK /plant/year recorded the highest bunch weight (49.47 kg), fruit length (25.19 cm), fruit weight (220.21 g), finger/hand (19.00), fingers/bunch (227.94) and the yield (148.41t/ha) in banana followed by 2.5 kg Sheep manure +108:108:220g NPK/ plant/year. Hazarika *et al.*, (2011) reported that, the highest number of fingers per hand (22.87), finger length (22.97 cm), circumference (14.13 cm), finger volume (282.98 cc) and weight of finger (231.67 g) were significantly influenced by 100 % RDF

+VAM (50 g/plant) + *Azospirillum* (50 g/plant) + PSB (50 g/plant) + *Trichoderma harzianum* (50 g/plant) in banana.

Patil and Shinde (2013) recorded the highest bunch weight of 19.31 kg in plants inoculated with 75 % RDF + FYM + *Azotobacter* (50 g/plant) + PSB (50 g/plant) + VAM (250 g/plant) in Ardhapuri cultivar of banana. They also reported that, the highest yield of 85.80 t/ha obtained when the plants were treated with 50 % RDF + FYM + *Azotobacter* (50 g/plant) + PSB (50 g/plant) + VAM (250 g/plant) in banana cv. Ardhapuri (AAA). Significant increase in number of fingers per bunch and average bunch weight of 5.0 kg by applying vermicompost + N as inorganic fertilizer in banana reported by Manivannan and Selvamani (2014). They also reported that, maximum bunch weight, more number of fingers per bunch was obtained by applying vermicompost as full N in banana. They also opined that, significantly more finger weight, finger girth was obtained by applying organic + inorganic fertilizers. The maximum number of fingers per bunch, bunch weight (5.10 kg/bunch) and finally fruit yield (15.14 t/ha) by applying 50 % RDF + vermicompost 2.00 kg/plant in banana.

Influence of different sources of nutrient modules on quality parameters (Table 2)

The mean of the pooled data indicated that, the quality parameters like Total Soluble Solids, Reducing sugars, Non reducing sugars, Total Sugars, Pulp to peel ratio and Shelf life was maximum (23.52⁰ B, 17.87 %, 2.43 %, 20.31 %, 3.81 and 6.33 days respectively) in banana fruits harvested from plants treated with T₇ {Vermicompost equivalent to 40 % RDN (24.20 t/ha) + 40 % RDN through chemical fertilizer (urea 535.73 kg/ ha) + Green manure (sunhemp @ 8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (30.86 kg/ha)}. Whereas, the

least titratable acidity (0.25 %) was recorded in T₇ and T₁₀ treatments followed by T₁₁ treatment. However, the starch was least (3.67 %) in T₇ and T₁₀ treatments. In general the fruit quality parameters were improved in integrated nutrient modules compared to organic treatments (Table 2).

The main changes in fruit pulp during ripening are the conversion of starch to sugars. As ripening proceeds, pulp to peel ratio was increased from 2.0 in stage 5 to 2.7 in stage 7 when the fruits become fully ripened. This could be due to the osmotic transfer of moisture from the peel to the pulp as sugar content of pulp increased. It has been suggested that pulp to peel ratio can be considered as a coefficient of ripeness. These changes during ripening period (loss of greenness and increase in yellowness) may occur as a result of the breakdown of the chlorophyll in the peel tissue.

Venkatesh (1995) observed that application of organic manures *viz.*, vermicompost (@ 4 t/ha) and farmyard manure (@ 2.5 t/ha) resulted in significantly higher amount of total sugars and decreased titratable acidity compared to inorganic fertilizers in grape. The results of present study also indicated the same. The results indicated that a progressive increase in total sugar content and decrease in starch content was observed during ripening. Thompson (1996) reported that the softening of banana fruit during ripening is associated with the conversion of starch to sugar, breakdown of pectin substances and the movement of water from rind of banana to the pulp and this could be the major cause for decreasing the various mechanical properties of banana during ripening. Ushakumari *et al.*, (1997) recorded similar results as that of present study. They obtained significantly more reducing sugar by applying vermicompost as full N in banana cv. Njalipooan.

Table.1 Influence of different sources of nutrient modules on yield parameters in banana cv. Grand Naine (Pooled mean)

Treatments	Bunch weight. (kg)	No. of hands per bunch	Finger weight. (g)	Finger length (cm)	No. of Fingers on 3 rd hand	Plot yield (kg)	Yield (t/ha)
T ₁	18.17	10.06	124.27	16.14	14.89	73.21	56.48
T ₂	14.58	9.10	117.77	15.23	13.88	60.44	46.63
T ₃	11.55	8.58	104.28	14.36	13.10	58.35	45.02
T ₄	17.85	10.31	123.43	15.32	14.26	72.72	56.10
T ₅	16.41	9.73	120.39	15.55	14.19	70.04	54.04
T ₆	19.18	10.02	129.53	16.12	15.02	70.52	54.40
T ₇	26.94	11.75	137.38	17.75	16.93	85.57	66.02
T ₈	12.85	9.54	104.43	14.40	13.09	61.69	47.59
T ₉	19.54	10.19	129.83	16.12	15.04	70.83	54.64
T ₁₀	23.69	10.98	135.91	17.18	16.12	84.27	65.01
T ₁₁	22.51	10.49	135.16	17.07	16.14	73.66	56.83
T ₁₂	19.17	9.70	128.02	16.66	15.68	71.21	54.94
S Em+/-	0.65	0.15	1.84	0.31	0.30	4.28	3.30
CD at 5%	1.91	0.44	5.39	0.90	0.87	12.55	9.68

T₁. FYM equivalent to 40 % RDN (48.40 t/ha) + VC equivalent to 40 % RDN (24.20 t/ha) + GM (sunnhemp @ 8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (@ 30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (@ 30.86 kg/ha).
T₂-FYM equivalent to 40 % RDN (48.40 t/ha) + PM equivalent to 40 % RDN (8.96 t/ha) + GM (sunnhemp @ 8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (@ 30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (@ 30.86 kg/ha).
T₃. FYM equivalent to 40 % RDN (48.40 t/ha) + SM equivalent to 40 % RDN (10.17 t/ha) + GM (sunnhemp @ 8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (@ 30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (@ 30.86 kg/ha).
T₄. FYM equivalent to 40 % RDN (48.40 t/ha) + AG equivalent to 40 % RDN (10.52 t/ha) + GM (sunnhemp @ 8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (@ 30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (@ 30.86 kg/ha).
T₅. FYM equivalent to 40 % RDN (48.40 t/ha) + BL equivalent to 40 % RDN (7.56 t/ha) + GM (Sunnhemp @ 8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (@ 30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (@ 30.86 kg/ha).
T₆ FYM equivalent to 40 % RDN (48.40 t/ha) + 40 % RDN through chemical fertilizer (urea 535.73 kg/ ha) + GM (sunnhemp @8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (@ 30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (@ 30.86 kg/ha).
T₇. VC equivalent to 40 % RDN (24.20 t/ha) + 40 % RDN through chemical fertilizer (urea 535.73 kg/ ha) + GM (sunnhemp@8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (@ 30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (@ 30.86 kg/ha).
T₈. PM equivalent to 40 % RDN (8.96 t/ha)+ 40 % RDN through chemical fertilizer (urea 535.73 kg/ ha) + GM (sunnhemp @8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (@ 30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (@ 30.86 kg/ha).
T₉. SM equivalent to 40 % RDN (10.17 t/ha) + 40 % RDN through chemical fertilizer (urea 535.73 kg/ ha) + GM (sunnhemp @8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (@ 30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (@ 30.86 kg/ha).
T₁₀. AG equivalent to 40 % RDN (10.52 t/ha) + 40 % RDN through chemical fertilizer (urea 535.73 kg/ ha) + GM (sunnhemp @8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (@ 30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (@ 30.86 kg/ha)
T₁₁. BL equivalent to 40 % RDN (7.56 t/ha) + 40 % RDN through chemical fertilizer (urea 535.73 kg/ ha) + GM (sunnhemp @8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (@ 30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (@ 30.86 kg/ha)
T₁₂ -Control (RDF=617.20:308.60: 925.80 kg NPK/ha + Farm yard manure@ 40 t/ha (plant crop)
Ratoon crop: RDF=308.60:154.20: 308.60 kg NPK/ha) + FYM @ 20/ha accordingly it has been supplied through different sources
FYM- Farmyard manure, VC-Vermicompost, PM-Poultry manure, SM-Sheep manure, AG-Agrigold, BL-Bhumilabh, GM-Green manure, PSB-Phosphate Solubilizing bacteria

Table.2 Influence of different sources of nutrient modules on quality parameters in banana cv. Grand Naine (Pooled mean)

Treatments	TSS (° brix)	Total Sugars (%)	RS (%)	NRS (%)	Starch (%)	Titrable acidity (%)	Pulp to peel ratio	Shelf life (Days)
T ₁	19.82	18.95	16.92	2.03	5.00	0.33	3.25	5.04
T ₂	19.46	18.25	16.55	1.70	5.74	0.36	2.78	4.55
T ₃	19.02	17.88	16.31	1.57	6.08	0.37	2.55	4.53
T ₄	19.54	18.57	16.80	1.77	5.00	0.33	3.12	5.04
T ₅	19.70	18.76	16.97	1.80	5.17	0.33	3.04	4.76
T ₆	21.45	19.49	17.30	2.19	4.33	0.29	3.47	5.41
T ₇	23.52	20.30	17.87	2.43	3.67	0.25	3.81	6.33
T ₈	19.13	17.52	15.98	1.54	6.21	0.39	2.46	4.12
T ₉	20.25	19.07	17.03	2.04	4.92	0.32	3.33	5.38
T ₁₀	22.23	20.10	17.71	2.39	3.67	0.25	3.74	5.80
T ₁₁	22.07	19.31	17.09	2.22	3.84	0.28	3.56	5.68
T ₁₂	20.57	19.13	16.98	2.15	4.48	0.32	3.35	5.46
S Em+/-	0.20	0.39	0.39	0.02	0.05	0.00	0.04	0.08
CD at 5%	0.58	1.15	1.13	0.06	0.16	0.01	0.10	0.24

T₁. FYM equivalent to 40 % RDN (48.40 t/ha) + VC equivalent to 40 % RDN (24.20 t/ha) + GM (sunnhemp @ 8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (@ 30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (@ 30.86 kg/ha).
T₂-FYM equivalent to 40 % RDN (48.40 t/ha) + PM equivalent to 40 % RDN (8.96 t/ha) + GM (sunnhemp @ 8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (@ 30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (@ 30.86 kg/ha).
T₃. FYM equivalent to 40 % RDN (48.40 t/ha) + SM equivalent to 40 % RDN (10.17 t/ha) + GM (sunnhemp @ 8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (@ 30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (@ 30.86 kg/ha).
T₄. FYM equivalent to 40 % RDN (48.40 t/ha) + AG equivalent to 40 % RDN (10.52 t/ha) + GM (sunnhemp @ 8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (@ 30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (@ 30.86 kg/ha).
T₅. FYM equivalent to 40 % RDN (48.40 t/ha) + BL equivalent to 40 % RDN (7.56 t/ha) + GM (Sunnhemp @ 8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (@ 30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (@ 30.86 kg/ha).
T₆ FYM equivalent to 40 % RDN (48.40 t/ha) + 40 % RDN through chemical fertilizer (urea 535.73 kg/ ha) + GM (sunnhemp @8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (@ 30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (@ 30.86 kg/ha).
T₇. VC equivalent to 40 % RDN (24.20 t/ha) + 40 % RDN through chemical fertilizer (urea 535.73 kg/ ha) + GM (sunnhemp@ 8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (@ 30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (@ 30.86 kg/ha).
T₈. PM equivalent to 40 % RDN (8.96 t/ha)+ 40 % RDN through chemical fertilizer (urea 535.73 kg/ ha) + GM (sunnhemp @8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (@ 30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (@ 30.86 kg/ha).
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T₁₁. BL equivalent to 40 % RDN (7.56 t/ha) + 40 % RDN through chemical fertilizer (urea 535.73 kg/ ha) + GM (sunnhemp @8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (@ 30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (@ 30.86 kg/ha)
T₁₂ -Control (RDF=617.20:308.60: 925.80 kg NPK/ha + Farm yard manure@ 40 t/ha (plant crop)
Ratoon crop: RDF=308.60:154.20: 308.60 kg NPK/ha) + FYM @ 20/ha accordingly it has been supplied through different sources
FYM- Farmyard manure, VC-Vermicompost, PM-Poultry manure, SM-Sheep manure, AG-Agrigold, BL-Bhumilabh, GM-Green manure, PSB-Phosphate Solubilizing bacteria

Table.3 Influence of different sources of nutrient modules on economics of cultivation of banana cv. Grand Naine

Treatments	GC (Rs)	GR (Rs)	NR (Rs)	B:C ratio
T ₁	1,72,070	4,25,377	2,53,307	2.45
T ₂	1,41,057	3,51,422	2,10,365	2.49
T ₃	1,47,347	3,39,108	1,91,761	2.30
T ₄	1,84,279	4,22,733	2,38,454	2.29
T ₅	2,07,715	4,06,747	1,99,032	1.96
T ₆	1,68,454	4,09,822	2,41,368	2.43
T ₇	1,92,654	4,97,621	3,04,967	2.58
T ₈	1,29,016	3,58,638	2,29,622	2.78
T ₉	1,35,306	4,11,605	2,76,299	3.04
T ₁₀	1,72,238	4,90,095	3,17,857	2.85
T ₁₁	1,95,674	4,28,279	2,32,605	2.19
T ₁₂	1,21,164	4,13,830	2,92,667	3.42
S Em+/-	-	24394	24395	0.14
CD at 5%	-	71546	71546	0.41

Banana fruit selling price (Rs/t): plant crop Rs.8,000 and ratoon crop Rs.7,000

GC: Gross cost, GR: Gross returns, NR: Net returns and B:C ratio benefit : cost ratio

T₁. FYM equivalent to 40 % RDN (48.40 t/ha) + VC equivalent to 40 % RDN (24.20 t/ha) + GM (sunnhemp @ 8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (@ 30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (@ 30.86 kg/ha).

T₂-FYM equivalent to 40 % RDN (48.40 t/ha) + PM equivalent to 40 % RDN (8.96 t/ha) + GM (sunnhemp @ 8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (@ 30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (@ 30.86 kg/ha).

T₃. FYM equivalent to 40 % RDN (48.40 t/ha) + SM equivalent to 40 % RDN (10.17 t/ha) + GM (sunnhemp @ 8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (@ 30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (@ 30.86 kg/ha).

T₄. FYM equivalent to 40 % RDN (48.40 t/ha) + AG equivalent to 40 % RDN (10.52 t/ha) + GM (sunnhemp @ 8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (@ 30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (@ 30.86 kg/ha).

T₅. FYM equivalent to 40 % RDN (48.40 t/ha) + BL equivalent to 40 % RDN (7.56 t/ha) + GM (Sunnhemp @ 8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (@ 30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (@ 30.86 kg/ha).

T₆ FYM equivalent to 40 % RDN (48.40 t/ha) + 40 % RDN through chemical fertilizer (urea 535.73 kg/ ha) + GM (sunnhemp @8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (@ 30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (@ 30.86 kg/ha).

T₇. VC equivalent to 40 % RDN (24.20 t/ha) + 40 % RDN through chemical fertilizer (urea 535.73 kg/ ha) + GM (sunnhemp@ 8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (@ 30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (@ 30.86 kg/ha).

T₈. PM equivalent to 40 % RDN (8.96 t/ha)+ 40 % RDN through chemical fertilizer (urea 535.73 kg/ ha) + GM (sunnhemp @8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (@ 30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (@ 30.86 kg/ha).

T₉. SM equivalent to 40 % RDN (10.17 t/ha) + 40 % RDN through chemical fertilizer (urea 535.73 kg/ ha) + GM (sunnhemp @8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (@ 30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (@ 30.86 kg/ha).

T₁₀. AG equivalent to 40 % RDN (10.52 t/ha) + 40 % RDN through chemical fertilizer (urea 535.73 kg/ ha) + GM (sunnhemp @8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (@ 30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (@ 30.86 kg/ha)

T₁₁. BL equivalent to 40 % RDN (7.56 t/ha) + 40 % RDN through chemical fertilizer (urea 535.73 kg/ ha) + GM (sunnhemp @8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (@ 30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (@ 30.86 kg/ha)

T₁₂ -Control (RDF=617.20:308.60: 925.80 kg NPK/ha + Farm yard manure@ 40 t/ha (plant crop)

Ratoon crop: RDF=308.60:154.20: 308.60 kg NPK/ha) + FYM @ 20/ha accordingly it has been supplied through different sources

FYM- Farmyard manure, VC-Vermicompost, PM-Poultry manure, SM-Sheep manure, AG-Agrigold, BL-Bhumilabh, GM-Green manure, PSB-Phosphate Solubilizing bacteria

They also reported that significantly higher content of total sugar was obtained by applying vermicompost + inorganic fertilizers whereas, significantly less acidity was obtained by applying vermicompost + inorganic fertilizers and vermiculture in-situ and the highest content of non-reducing sugar by applying vermiculture in-situ. This could be due to the hydrolysis of starch into sugar during ripening (Garcia and Lajolo, 1988). Increase in TSS is an important trait of hydrolysis of starch in to soluble sugars such as glucose, sucrose and fructose (Stover and Simmonds, 1987 and Kulkarni *et al.*, 2010).

Mustaffa *et al.*, (2004) opined that application of 2.5 kg compost + 1.0 kg vermicompost + 1.0 kg neem cake + 2.5 kg poultry manure at 3, 5 and 7 months after planting recorded the maximum TSS (29.40⁰ Brix and 32.20⁰ Brix respectively), acidity (0.59 % and 0.61 % respectively), sugar - acid ratio (49.8 and 52.8 respectively), total sugars (25 % and 26.3 % respectively) and low starch (3.2 % and 3.4 % respectively). The lowest quality was recorded in inorganically fertilized fruits of Rasthali and Karpuravalli cultivars of banana respectively. Hazarika and Ansari (2008) revealed that bio-chemical constituents *viz.*, TSS, reducing sugar, non-reducing sugar, ascorbic acid, and moisture content of fruits was significantly influenced by different treatments having organic manure and bio-fertilizer along with inorganic fertilizers except sugar-acid ratio and titratable acidity in banana cv. Jahaji (AAA).

The results of Tangaselvabai *et al.*, (2009) were in line with the present study. They reported that the highest TSS, reducing sugars, non-reducing sugars, total sugars, ascorbic acid and starch was noticed in plants treated with 100:30:330 g NPK/plant in 2 splits + *Azospirillum*, 100 : 30 : 330 g NPK/plant in 2 splits + *Azospirillum*, 75:30:330 g NPK/plant in 2 splits +

Azospirillum, 220:30:330 g NPK/plant in 4 splits, 100:30:330 g NPK/plant in 2 splits + *Azospirillum* and 100:30:330 g NPK/plant in 2 splits+ *Azospirillum* respectively.

Influence of different sources of nutrient modules on banana economics (Table 3)

Knowing a module for getting higher crop yield, maintaining soil health and use of naturally available farm resources and wastes is the need of the hour. Banana crop is an exhaustive commercial horticultural crop which is grown for two-to-three years from single planting. The nutrient management plays a major role in its cultivation. The nutrient module which fetches higher returns as well as on par benefit: cost ratio as that of highest returns and highest benefit: cost ratio can be adopted for cultivation of banana.

The pooled economic analysis of treatments revealed that the lowest gross cost (Rs.1.29 lakh/ha) was incurred in the treatment T₈ {Poultry manure equivalent to 40 % RDN (8.96 t/ha) + 40 % RDN through chemical fertilizer (urea 535.73 kg/ ha) + Green manure (sunhemp @ 8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (30.86 kg/ha)}. The treatment T₇ {Vermicompost equivalent to 40 % RDN (24.20 t/ha) + 40 % RDN through chemical fertilizer (urea 535.73 kg/ ha) + Green manure (sunhemp @ 8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (30.86 kg/ha)} recorded the highest gross returns (Rs.4.97 lakh/ha). The highest net returns {Rs.3.17 lakh/ha} in T₁₀ {Agrigold equivalent to 40 % RDN (10.52 t/ha) + 40 % RDN through chemical fertilizer (urea 535.73 kg/ ha) + Green manure (sunhemp @ 8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (30.86 kg/ha)} followed by T₇ (Rs.3.04 lakh/ha). The highest benefit: cost ratio (3.42) was recorded in T₁₂ {RDF = 617: 308.6: 925.8 kg NPK /ha}

+ Farmyard manure (@ 40.00 t/ha) followed by T₉, T₁₀, T₈ and T₇ (3.04, 2.85, 2.78 and 2.58 respectively) treatments. The treatment T₇ (vermicompost combination) recorded moderate net returns (3.04 lakh/ ha) and B: C ratio (2.58) and is considered to be good due to the fact that if vermicompost is produced by farmers themselves the BC ratio can also be improved.

Bhalerao *et al.*, (2009) reported that application of 100 % recommended dose of NPK with 10 kg FYM per plant and bio-fertilizers (*Azospirillum* and PSB at 25 g each per plant) was found beneficial in terms financial returns with highest benefit cost ratio (1.48) in banana cv. Grand Naine.

Tangaselvabai *et al.*, (2009) also reported that treatment with 100:30:330 g NPK/plant in 2 splits + *Azospirillum* was found to be superior for increased net profit (Rs/ha) and benefit: cost ratio. The integrated nutrient modules would be superior in obtaining higher net profit and on par benefit: cost ratio as compared to the control treatment (100% RDF + FYM).

Kuttimani *et al.*, (2013b) reported that, higher gross returns of Rs. 3,63,850/- and Rs.3,85,600/- was recorded during 2010-11 and 2011-12 respectively with the application of 100 per cent recommended dose of fertilizer along with 40 % Wellgro soil and the net return was higher (Rs. 2,25,403/- and Rs. 2,48,364/-) with the application of 100 % recommended dose of fertilizer along with 40 % Well grow soil. The benefit-cost ratio was higher (2.63) with 40 % Well grow soil + 100 % RDF. The results of the present study also indicated higher gross returns when integrated nutrient modules were followed. However, the organic nutrient modules registered lesser gross returns owing to the fact that the banana crop is an exhaustive crop which might not be coped up by organics alone.

The cost of fertilizers is increasing enormously and the soil health is deteriorating by application of chemical fertilizers alone. So to maintain soil health and reduce the cost of cultivation application of recommended dose of nitrogen in integrated manner would be a better nutrient module. Application of plants with vermicompost equivalent to 40 % RDN (24.20 t/ha) + 40 % RDN through chemical fertilizer (urea 535.73 kg/ ha) + Green manure (sunhemp @ 8.88 t/ha) and *Azospirillum* (30.86 kg/ha) equivalent to 20 % RDN + PSB (30.86 kg/ha) (T₇) was most superior in increasing yield and quality parameters besides reducing the crop duration. The treatment T₇ recorded the highest gross returns (Rs.4.97 lakh/ha) and moderate net returns (Rs.3.04 lakh/ha). However, the B: C ratio was highest in control (T₁₂, 3.42). but still T₇ is considered to be good due to the fact that, if vermicompost is produced by farmers the BC ratio can also be improved in T₇ (vermicompost combination).

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How to cite this article:

Ganapathi, T., P.R. Dharmatti and Ramakrishna Hegde. 2018. Role of Different Sources of Nutrient Modules on Yield, Quality Parameters and Economics of Banana cv. Grand Naine. *Int.J.Curr.Microbiol.App.Sci.* 7(01): 2013-2022. doi: <https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2018.701.243>