

Original Research Article

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Productivity, Water Use Efficiency and Economics of Indian Mustard (*Brassica juncea* L.) as Influenced by Integrated Nutrient Management

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

Indian mustard, Integrated nutrient management, FYM, B:C ratio

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A field experiment was carried out in the pot culture of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, C S Azad University of Agriculture & Technology during 2017-18. The experiment consisted of 9 treatments viz. T₁: Control, T₂: N (RDN 100%), T₃: NP (100%), T₄: NPK (100%) T₅: NPK (100%) + Zn₅, T₆: NPK (100%) + S₃₀, T₇: NPK (100%) + Zn₅ + S₃₀, T₈: 75% (RDF) + Zn₅ + S₃₀ + 25% through FYM and T₉: 75% (RDF) + Zn₅ + S₃₀ + 25% through FYM + PSB @ 2.5 Kg ha⁻¹ in soil assigned in randomized block design replicated thrice during *rabi* season of 2017-18. The mustard cv Varuna was used in the experiment. The soil of the experimental plot was sandy loam in texture, medium in fertility and slightly alkaline in reaction. The weather during the experimental period was by and large normal and devoid of any extreme conditions. The results indicated that application of 75% (RDF) supplemented with 5 kg Zn, 30 kg S along with remaining 25% through FYM and PSB @ 2.5 Kg ha⁻¹ resulted in significantly maximum plant height, number of functional leaves, number of branches plant⁻¹, girth of plant, root development, minimum water use and ultimately higher seed yield and WUE as compared to other corresponding tested treatments. The treatment also excelled in harvest index, net return and benefit: cost ratio under control.

Introduction

India has 2.6 per cent of world's geographical area and 4 per cent of its water resources to sustain 16.8 per cent of the world's population and more than 15 per cent of world's livestock. An increase in productivity has been the foremost objective of all agricultural developmental programmes in the last few decades. At the national level, we have

increased our production from about 50 million tons in the early fifties to more than 284 million tonnes. The country's population is expected to reach around 1390 million by 2025 AD. To meet the food demand of growing population, food grain production has to be increased to 350 million tons by 2025 AD. The mining of nutrients from soil due to growing population with increasing food demand for ages severely limits crop

production. The present day agriculture has become much more dependent upon fertilizers to produce more from shrinking land resources. In India, area and production of rapeseed mustard was 6.41 million hectares and 6.33 million tonnes during 2017-18. Indiscriminating exploitation of soil resources without considering the carrying capacity and non-judicious use of agricultural input to fetch higher production had generated serious problem on sustaining agricultural productivity and soil quality in a long run. Soil quality has to function within ecosystem boundaries to sustain biological productivity, maintain environment, quality and promote plant and animal health. Fertilizer management issue in crop production is drawing attention among farmers, especially under current climate change situation. Efficient fertilizer management under environment-friendly condition is crucial to increase crop production worldwide. Appropriate amount of fertilizers applied on to soils reduced greenhouse gas emissions, NO₃ leaching and eutrophication.

Integration of chemical fertilizers with organic manures has been found quite promising not only in sustaining the soil health and productivity but also in stabilizing the crop production in comparison to the use of each component separately. Farm yard manure rich in organic matter can be supplemented with NPK fertilizers. Although, it is expensive than chemical fertilizer on nutrient basis but other beneficial effect which it has on soil can compensate for the added cost. It not only provides most of the essential nutrients but also improves soil structure through binding effect on soil aggregates (Kumawat *et al.*, 2018). Keeping in view of declining productivity, it is apparent that there is need to generate more information on integrated nutrient management for oilseeds especially mustard for sustainable productivity. Hence, present investigation was undertaken to

evaluate the effect of INM in integration of FYM and biofertilizer on growth and yield under a given set of management practices on mustard in central alluvial tract of Uttar Pradesh.

Materials and Methods

The experiment was conducted during *rabi* season of 2017-18 in pot culture of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry of C S Azad University of Agriculture & Technology, Kanpur in alluvial soil. Soil of the experimental plot was sandy loam in texture and slightly calcareous having organic carbon 0.32%, total nitrogen 0.03%, available P₂O₅ 16.3 ha⁻¹, pH 7.7, electrical conductivity 0.36 dSm⁻¹, permanent wilting point 6.3%, field capacity 18.4%, maximum water holding capacity 29.6%, Bulk density 1.46 Mgm⁻³, particle density 2.56 Mgm⁻³ and porosity 42.9%. The experiment was conducted in a randomized block design with three replications and nine treatments *viz.* T₁: Control, T₂: N (RDN 100%), T₃: NP (100%), T₄: NPK (100%), T₅: NPK (100%) + Zn₅, T₆: NPK (100%) + S₃₀, T₇: NPK (100%) + Zn₅ + S₃₀, T₈: 75% (RDF) + Zn₅ + S₃₀ + 25% through FYM and T₉: 75% (RDF) + Zn₅ + S₃₀ + 25% through FYM + PSB @ 2.5 Kg ha⁻¹ in soil. Mustard cv Varuna was sown in rows 45 cm apart using 5 kg seed ha⁻¹ and harvested on 24.2.2018. Full dose of P and K while half dose of N was applied as basal dose at the time of sowing where rest of N was given in two split doses during experimentation. Available moisture at sowing time upto 100 cm soil profile was 277.3 mm. Whereas amount of rainfall received during the crop period was nil against the average annual rainfall of about 800 mm. Recommended package of practices were applied in different treatments. Soil moisture was monitored gravimetrically using the sample collected from 0-25, 25-50, 50-75 and 75-100 cm soil depths at regular monthly intervals to quantify

the soil moisture content and growth parameters by randomly selecting three plants for each plots till the harvest. The amount of moisture used by the crop under different treatments was summing up the value of soil moisture depletion from the profile during the entire crop period. Water use efficiency (WUE) of the crop was calculated by the method as suggested by Viets (1962). The oil content of the oven dried seeds was estimated by extracting oil using petroleum ether (60-80°C) as solvent and Soxhlet apparatus as given by Sadasivum and Manickam, (1992). The oil yield (kg ha^{-1}) was calculated using following formula:

$$\text{Oil yield (kg ha}^{-1}\text{)} = \frac{\text{Seed oil content (\%)} \times \text{Seed yield (kg ha}^{-1}\text{)}}{\text{Seed yield (kg ha}^{-1}\text{)}}$$

For economic evaluation the cost of cultivation, gross returns, net returns, and B:C ratio were computed using standard procedure based on minimum support price of Indian mustard. Root studies were made at harvest by selecting two plants at random from each plot. The roots were freed with a fine jet of water spray so that the delicate rootlets were not broken.

Results and Discussion

Growth, yield attributes and yield

The results of the present study indicated that growth, yield components and yield of mustard were significantly influenced by the different treatments as compared to control (Table 1). Plant height, number of functional leaves, number of branches, girth of plant, number of siliquae plant^{-1} , number of seeds siliqua^{-1} , weight of siliqua, length of siliqua, 1000-seed weight and harvest index were significantly highest with application of T₉: 75% (RDF) + Zn₅ + S₃₀ + 25% through FYM + PSB @ 2.5 Kg ha^{-1} compared with control. The higher values of growth and yield attributes with organic and inorganic level

might be due to supply of macro and micro nutrients in the balanced form resulting better growth and development of the plants Kumawat, (2010). Application of 75% (RDF) + Zn₅ + S₃₀ + 25% through FYM + PSB @ 2.5 Kg ha^{-1} in soil produced significantly higher values of growth and yield contributing characters over application of chemical fertilizer alone (Dhruw *et al.*, 2017). Seed and straw yield of mustard was significantly affected due to nutrient management (Table 3). The significant increase in seed and stick + straw yield may be attributed to the positive effect of FYM supplemented with PSB in presence of chemical fertilizer resulting in consequent increase in yield components. The yield data obtained clearly demonstrate the superiority of the integrated use of FYM and chemical fertilizer, which provided greater response in production as compared to mineral N treatment. The beneficial effect of integrated use of nutrients with organic amendment was more pronounced and effective in enhancing productivity. This could be associated with other benefits of organics apart from N supply, such as improvements in microbial activities and better availability of plant nutrients from the soil (Singh *et al.*, 2014). Increase in mustard yield due to FYM application has also been reported by Dabi *et al.*, (2015). The significant increase in the yield as well as yield attributes may also be due to the fact that 50% flowering stage in Indian mustard is most sensitive stage in terms of nitrogen requirement and moisture availability to the crop results in increased water use efficiency and supply of critical nutrients. Furthermore, split dose of N as top dressing at this stage results in senescence delaying due to elongation of vegetative phase by retaining chlorophyll in the siliquae for longer period of time thereby resulting in improved attribute characteristics which resulted in more sink space and thus more photosynthesis transfer to the storage organs Kumari *et al.*, (2012), Kumar *et al.*, (2006) and Bharat *et al.*, (2017).

Table.1 Effect of INM on growth and development of mustard under different treatments

| Treatments | Plant Height (cm) | | | | Number of functional leaves (plant ⁻¹) | | | | Number of branches (plant ⁻¹) | | | | | | Girth of plant (cm) | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|--------|--------|------------|--|--------|--------|------------|---|--------|-------------|-----------|--------|-------------|---------------------|--------|--------|------------|
| | 30 DAS | 60 DAS | 90 DAS | At Harvest | 30 DAS | 60 DAS | 90 DAS | At Harvest | Primary | | | Secondary | | | 30 DAS | 60 DAS | 90 DAS | At Harvest |
| | | | | | | | | | 60 DAS | 90 DAS | At Maturity | 60 DAS | 90 DAS | At Maturity | | | | |
| T ₁ | 23.1 | 69.8 | 105.6 | 106.8 | 6.87 | 8.97 | 12.08 | 10.09 | 5.34 | 7.56 | 13.07 | 8.30 | 13.30 | 15.39 | 4.3 | 6.2 | 8.0 | 9.0 |
| T ₂ | 23.4 | 73.8 | 106.3 | 109.3 | 7.98 | 9.70 | 12.63 | 10.65 | 6.68 | 8.76 | 14.45 | 8.48 | 14.76 | 15.97 | 4.8 | 7.4 | 8.3 | 9.5 |
| T ₃ | 22.5 | 69.9 | 104.3 | 110.0 | 8.45 | 9.98 | 12.87 | 11.78 | 5.97 | 9.35 | 15.38 | 9.54 | 14.65 | 16.67 | 5.0 | 7.8 | 8.7 | 10.2 |
| T ₄ | 23.7 | 70.4 | 109.4 | 110.4 | 9.65 | 10.56 | 13.98 | 11.98 | 7.45 | 10.76 | 17.56 | 10.35 | 15.57 | 16.98 | 5.2 | 8.0 | 9.5 | 10.5 |
| T ₅ | 23.9 | 71.8 | 110.0 | 111.2 | 10.87 | 11.87 | 14.87 | 12.86 | 7.98 | 10.12 | 17.98 | 11.36 | 16.78 | 17.89 | 5.6 | 8.3 | 9.7 | 10.7 |
| T ₆ | 25.1 | 72.1 | 111.2 | 111.7 | 10.97 | 12.97 | 15.87 | 13.87 | 8.78 | 11.08 | 18.28 | 12.45 | 17.45 | 18.67 | 5.8 | 8.5 | 10.2 | 11.0 |
| T ₇ | 25.9 | 72.5 | 112.7 | 112.9 | 11.67 | 14.87 | 16.78 | 14.07 | 8.92 | 12.46 | 18.48 | 13.56 | 18.56 | 19.97 | 6.3 | 8.8 | 10.6 | 11.2 |
| T ₈ | 27.7 | 74.2 | 114.3 | 114.8 | 12.87 | 15.78 | 18.98 | 15.34 | 9.78 | 12.87 | 18.89 | 14.06 | 19.89 | 21.56 | 6.6 | 9.0 | 12.6 | 12.8 |
| T ₉ | 29.6 | 77.3 | 117.5 | 118.0 | 13.87 | 17.89 | 20.32 | 17.45 | 11.23 | 13.98 | 19.88 | 15.87 | 21.87 | 23.00 | 7.0 | 9.5 | 13.0 | 13.5 |
| SE (d) | 1.22 | 0.53 | 1.97 | 1.99 | 0.78 | 0.87 | 1.02 | 0.98 | 0.34 | 0.54 | 0.67 | 0.58 | 0.78 | 0.85 | 0.58 | 0.43 | 0.53 | 0.63 |
| CD (P=0.05) | 2.59 | 1.12 | 4.67 | 4.76 | 1.45 | 1.76 | 2.17 | 1.97 | 0.69 | 1.02 | 1.45 | 1.34 | 1.56 | 1.75 | 1.19 | 0.96 | 1.23 | 1.24 |

T₁: Control, **T₂**: N (RDN-100%), **T₃**: N P (100%), **T₄**: N P K (100%), **T₅**: N P K (100%) + Zn₅, **T₆**: N P K (100%) + S₃₀, **T₇**: N P K (100%) + Zn₅ + S₃₀, **T₈**: 75% (RDF) + Zn₅ + S₃₀ + 25% through FYM and **T₉**: 75% (RDF) + Zn₅ + S₃₀ + 25% through FYM + PSB @ 2.5 kg ha⁻¹ in soil.

Table.2 Effect of INM on root development and yield attributes of mustard crop under different treatments

| Treatments | Root depth (cm) | No. of Roots plant ⁻¹ | Dry weight of Roots (g) | No. of siliquae plant ⁻¹ | No. of seeds siliqua | Weight of siliqua (g) | Length of siliqua (cm) | 1000-seed weight |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| T ₁ | 55.4 | 10.56 | 21.76 | 86.95 | 11.87 | 14.66 | 3.5 | 3.98 |
| T ₂ | 58.3 | 12.45 | 23.56 | 89.34 | 13.55 | 16.45 | 3.8 | 4.10 |
| T ₃ | 58.7 | 13.56 | 24.87 | 97.34 | 13.98 | 16.98 | 4.0 | 4.56 |
| T ₄ | 60.4 | 13.98 | 24.98 | 99.87 | 14.56 | 17.45 | 4.3 | 4.87 |
| T ₅ | 61.5 | 15.45 | 25.67 | 100.34 | 15.67 | 18.45 | 4.7 | 5.18 |
| T ₆ | 63.9 | 15.98 | 25.98 | 105.35 | 15.88 | 18.89 | 4.8 | 5.20 |
| T ₇ | 64.6 | 16.34 | 26.78 | 107.45 | 16.57 | 18.99 | 5.2 | 5.40 |
| T ₈ | 66.2 | 16.88 | 27.78 | 110.45 | 18.45 | 19.45 | 5.4 | 5.65 |
| T ₉ | 68.0 | 18.45 | 29.00 | 113.56 | 19.67 | 19.87 | 5.8 | 5.98 |
| SE (d) | 0.18 | 0.53 | 0.75 | 0.56 | 0.34 | 0.56 | 0.06 | 0.07 |
| CD (P=0.05) | 0.36 | 1.17 | 1.51 | 1.24 | 0.69 | 1.14 | 0.12 | 0.14 |

T₁: Control, T₂: N (RDN-100%), T₃: N P (100%), T₄: N P K (100%), T₅: N P K (100%) + Zn₅, T₆: N P K (100%) + S₃₀, T₇: N P K (100%) + Zn₅ + S₃₀, T₈: 75% (RDF) + Zn₅ + S₃₀ + 25% through FYM and T₉: 75% (RDF) + Zn₅ + S₃₀ + 25% through FYM + PSB @ 2.5 kg ha⁻¹ in soil.

Table.3 Effect of INM on yield, WUE and economics of mustard under different treatments

| Treatments | Seed yield (q ha ⁻¹) | Stick (q ha ⁻¹) | Straw (q ha ⁻¹) | Harvest index (%) | Oil (%) | Oil Yield (q ha ⁻¹) | WU (mm) | WUE (Kg seed mm ⁻¹ ha ⁻¹ of water) | Net return (Rs ha ⁻¹) | B:C ratio |
|----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------|---------------------------------|---------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| T ₁ | 17.05 | 45.23 | 19.05 | 26.52 | 36.57 | 623.5 | 297.0 | 5.74 | 13171 | 1.34 |
| T ₂ | 17.56 | 45.98 | 19.56 | 26.79 | 37.16 | 652.5 | 295.2 | 5.94 | 12007 | 1.36 |
| T ₃ | 18.45 | 46.97 | 20.46 | 27.37 | 37.89 | 699.0 | 293.7 | 6.28 | 14619 | 1.39 |
| T ₄ | 18.66 | 47.08 | 20.66 | 27.55 | 38.00 | 709.0 | 292.3 | 6.39 | 14457 | 1.40 |
| T ₅ | 18.98 | 48.87 | 20.98 | 27.17 | 38.75 | 735.4 | 291.4 | 6.51 | 14984 | 1.41 |
| T ₆ | 19.56 | 49.96 | 21.56 | 27.35 | 39.47 | 772.0 | 290.8 | 6.72 | 16558 | 1.43 |
| T ₇ | 20.00 | 50.87 | 22.00 | 27.44 | 41.84 | 836.8 | 289.4 | 6.91 | 16217 | 1.44 |
| T ₈ | 20.73 | 51.89 | 22.73 | 27.78 | 42.74 | 886.0 | 287.3 | 7.21 | 16121 | 1.48 |
| T ₉ | 21.00 | 52.02 | 23.00 | 28.00 | 43.26 | 908.4 | 286.7 | 7.32 | 19279 | 1.49 |
| SE (d) | 0.67 | 0.53 | 0.32 | 0.08 | 0.34 | 1.98 | - | - | - | - |
| CD (P=0.05) | 1.34 | 1.07 | 0.65 | 0.17 | 0.69 | 3.97 | - | - | - | - |

T₁: Control, T₂: N (RDN-100%), T₃: N P (100%), T₄: N P K (100%), T₅: N P K (100%) + Zn₅, T₆: N P K (100%) + S₃₀, T₇: N P K (100%) + Zn₅ + S₃₀, T₈: 75% (RDF) + Zn₅ + S₃₀ + 25% through FYM and T₉: 75% (RDF) + Zn₅ + S₃₀ + 25% through FYM + PSB @ 2.5 kg ha⁻¹ in soil.

Root development

There exists a well marked difference in the root development under different treatments. The deeper penetration of roots as measured by root depth was maximum (68 cm) in the treatment of T₉ which received 75% (RDF) + Zn₅ + S₃₀ + 25% through FYM + PSB @ 2.5 Kg ha⁻¹ in soil while treatment of control exhibited shallow root (55.4 cm) system. The number of roots plant⁻¹ and dry root weight were higher in T₉ over control (Table 2). Similar observation has also been recorded by Tripathi *et al.*, (2011).

Water use and water use efficiency

Water use was considerably influenced by different treatments. As a result the water use of crop was maximum (297.0mm) under control while treatment of T₉ revealed the lowest (286.7mm) amount of water use. A higher WUE (7.32 Kg seed ha⁻¹ mm⁻¹) in terms of seed yield per unit of water was obtained in the treatment of T₉ where FYM and biofertilizers was used in integration with inorganics and lowest (5.74 Kg seed ha⁻¹ mm⁻¹) under control. This was primarily due to higher seed yield under the former as compared to the latter. These observations are in line with those of Verma and Yadav, (2018).

Economics

The gross, net returns and benefit : cost ratio were affected by nutrient management treatments. Treatment of 75% (RDF) + Zn₅ + S₃₀ + 25% through FYM + PSB @ 2.5 Kg ha⁻¹ in soil resulted in highest net returns of Rs 19279 with B:C ratio of 1.49 whereas these parameters were lowest under control. Higher productivity may be attributed to the positive effect of FYM supplemented with PSB in presence of chemical fertilizer. Thaneshwar *et al.*, (2017) reported highest monetary

advantage due to increase in yield with addition to balance form of nutrients in mustard.

From the foregoing discussion it can be concluded that application of 75% (RDF) + Zn₅ + S₃₀ + 25% through FYM + PSB @ 2.5 Kg ha⁻¹ incorporated in the soil have fetched highest net return of Rs 19279 having B:C ratio of 1.49 would be quite remunerative for higher productivity along with water use efficiency in light textured alluvial soils of Uttar Pradesh.

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