

Original Research Article

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Effect of Naphthalene Acetic Acid (NAA) and Gibberellic Acid (GA₃) on Growth and Fruit Quality of Tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum* Mill.)

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ABSTRACT

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The present experiment was carried out to study the “Effect of Naphthalene Acetic acid (NAA) and Gibberellic acid (GA₃) on growth and yield of tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum* Mill.)”. With the increased supply of NAA up to a level of 100 ppm plant height was significantly increased. Application of NAA significantly facilitates the number of branches per plant and the maximum value for this character was obtained with 100 ppm of NAA application. The number of fruits per plant and fruit weight was significantly improved due to increasing level of NAA application. The maximum values were recorded with 100 ppm NAA. Fruit weight and the number of fruits were significantly improved due to the GA₃ application and a maximum yield i.e. was obtained due to application GA₃ at 80 ppm.

Introduction

The vegetable is the most important component of a balanced human diet and acts as a protective food. India has occupied a prime position in the world in the vegetable production and second largest producer of vegetable next to China. According to dieticians, an adult individual requires 300g vegetables per days out of which 125g leafy vegetable 100 g root and tuber vegetable and 75g other vegetables for maintaining proper health. However, the per capita consumption of vegetable in India only 175 g which is very low as compared to the recommended dose. Production of adequate quantities of vegetable

can contribute a lot in solving the food problem of our country by reducing the level of malnutrition, thus providing nutritional security. Among the vegetables, tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum* Mill.) (2n= 24) is one of the most popular and widely grown vegetables in the world ranking second after potato.

According to Aykroyd (1963) tomato fruit contains 93.1 g water protein 1.99 g, fat 0.1 g, Carbohydrate 3.69g, mineral matter 0.6g calcium 20mg, phosphorus 36 mg iron 0.8mg, carotene as (Vitamin-A) 320 IU (International Unit), thiamine 2.27mg, iron 0.8 mg and ascorbic acid 31 mg per 100gm. It also

contains folic acid, pantothenic acid; biotin, Vitamin-K and inhibitors which are related to Vitamin-E. There are many methods adopted to increase the yield of the crop which comprises mainly of cultural and chemical practices. Application of plant growth regulators for improving the yield and quality of many vegetable crops has been emphasized by several workers. However, the improvement in yield and quality of the crop mainly depends on the concentration of plant growth regulators, method and time of application. Presently a large number of growth regulators are available in the market but basically they are two types and these are growth promoter and growth inhibitor or retardant group, though their action is quite opposite yet both the groups have profound effect on growth, yield and quality of vegetable crops. In the present study we are concerned with chemical i.e. growth regulators NAA and GA₃. NAA is commonly used in horticultural crops. It also affects the physiological process, hasten maturity and produces better quality fruits and some other aspects such as to increase the number of branches, increased fresh weight, and yield (Revanappa 1998). GA₃ is also one of the most important growth stimulating substances used in agriculture since long ago. It may promote cell elongation and cell division thus helps in the growth and development of many plant species. Gibberellins affect shoot elongation initiation of flower, stigma position, and fruit set, breaking dormancy, fruit size and seed number in the fruit. Keeping these facts in view the present investigation was carried out to study the Effect of Naphthalene Acetic acid (NAA) and Gibberellic acid (GA₃) on growth and fruit quality of tomato.

Materials and Methods

The present experiment was conducted at Research Farm of Indian Institute of

Vegetable Research, Varanasi which falls under the suitable niche of the vegetable dominated area of Uttar Pradesh. It is situated at 82.520 longitudes and 21.150 latitudes. To ascertain the nutritional status the experimental soil was analyzed on the basis of the soil test. The experiment was laid out in Randomized Block Design with three replications. The whole field was first divided into three main blocks and each block representing a replication. Further, each block was divided into 9 equal plots, each representing a treatment. The treatment was allocated to each replication randomly. The treatment comprised of four level of plant growth regulators GA₃ (control, 20, 40, 60 and 80 ppm) and NAA (control 25, 50, 75 and 100 ppm) along with a control. H-86 (KashiVishesh) variety of tomato was selected for this trial. The seedlings were raised in the raised bed at the experimental farm of IIVR, Varanasi. Twenty-five days old seedlings were transplanted in the well prepared main field on 28-10-2011. Seedlings were transplanted at a spacing of 80×55 cm in the afternoon and immediately after transplanting a light watering with rose can be given to avoid transplanting shock.

Statistical analysis

The data recorded during the study were statistically analyzed by the method as advocated by Panse and Sukhatme (1985).

Results and Discussion

In the present experiment the significant effect of GA₃ and NAA on plant height, the number of branches was recorded. From the Table 1 it is clear that plant height (cm) were found maximum in 15 DAT (38.10), 30 DAT (50.00), 45 DAT (58.10), 60 DAT (85.30) in treatment T₅: GA₃ (80ppm) followed by 37.20, 46.00, 57.30, 82.30 in treatment T₉: NAA (100ppm), respectively.

Table.1 Effect of Naphthalene Acetic Acid (NAA) and Gibberellic Acid (GA3) on plant height (cm) of tomato

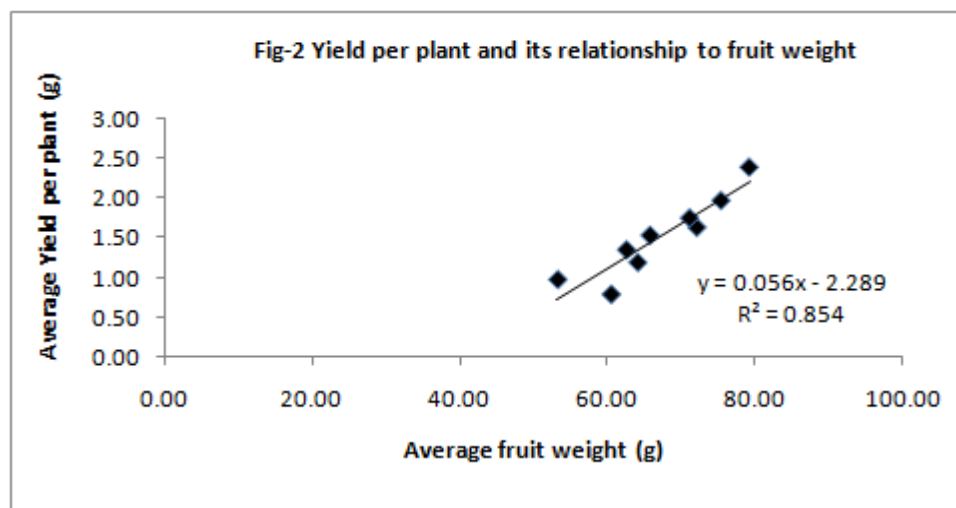
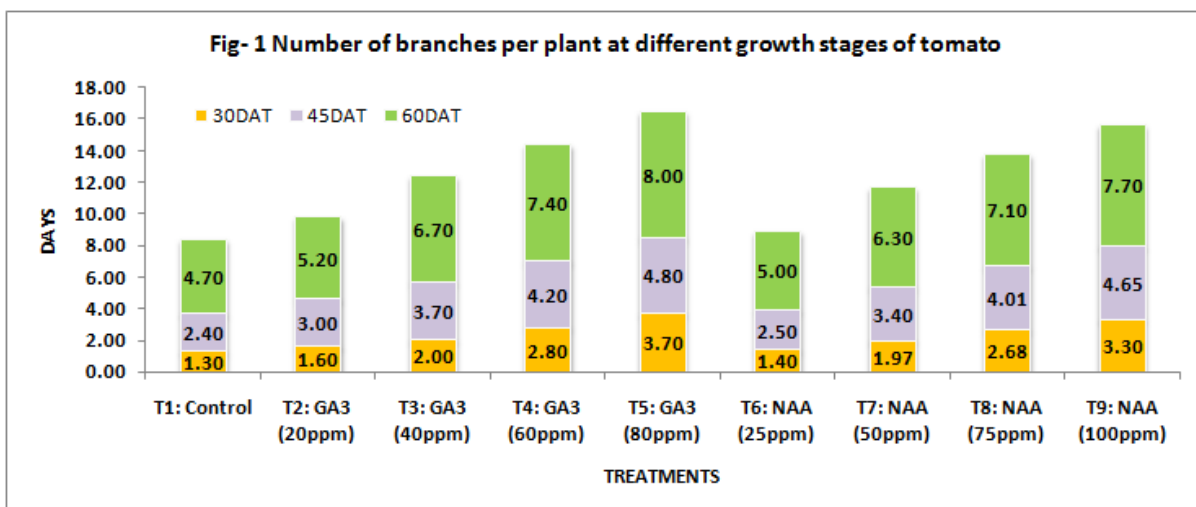
Treatments	15DAT	30DAT	45DAT	60DAT
T ₁ : Control	17.80	23.40	29.40	56.20
T ₂ : GA3 (20ppm)	23.20	31.00	37.20	62.60
T ₃ : GA3 (40ppm)	26.40	34.80	47.60	65.20
T ₄ : GA3 (60ppm)	34.40	41.80	50.20	75.80
T ₅ : GA3 (80ppm)	38.10	50.00	58.10	85.30
T ₆ : NAA (25ppm)	21.20	28.60	37.20	60.20
T ₇ : NAA (50ppm)	25.80	30.40	47.80	64.60
T ₈ : NAA (75ppm)	32.60	43.80	54.30	74.10
T ₉ : NAA (100ppm)	37.20	46.00	57.30	82.30
CD at 5%	5.67	7.21	5.68	8.12

Table.2 Effect of Naphthalene Acetic Acid (NAA) and Gibberellic Acid (GA3) on number of branches of tomato

TREATMENTS	30DAT	45DAT	60DAT
T ₁ : Control	1.30	2.40	4.70
T ₂ : GA3 (20ppm)	1.60	3.00	5.20
T ₃ : GA3 (40ppm)	2.00	3.70	6.70
T ₄ : GA3 (60ppm)	2.80	4.20	7.40
T ₅ : GA3 (80ppm)	3.70	4.80	8.00
T ₆ : NAA (25ppm)	1.40	2.50	5.00
T ₇ : NAA (50ppm)	1.97	3.40	6.30
T ₈ : NAA (75ppm)	2.68	4.01	7.10
T ₉ : NAA (100ppm)	3.30	4.65	7.70
CD at 5%	1.16	0.41	2.13

Table.3 Effect of Naphthalene Acetic Acid (NAA) and Gibberellic Acid (GA₃) on yield parameters of tomato

Treatments	Number of fruits per plant	Average fruit weight (g)	Average Yield per plant (g)	Yield per plot (g)	Yield per ha (t/ha)
T ₁ : Control	13.20	60.50	0.80	33.54	38.07
T ₂ : GA3 (20ppm)	18.70	64.10	1.20	50.34	39.62
T ₃ : GA3 (40ppm)	22.70	72.15	1.64	68.79	41.86
T ₄ : GA3 (60ppm)	26.20	75.42	1.98	82.99	44.65
T ₅ : GA3 (80ppm)	30.20	79.25	2.39	100.52	48.36
T ₆ : NAA (25ppm)	18.50	53.22	0.98	41.35	39.05
T ₇ : NAA (50ppm)	21.70	62.58	1.36	57.04	40.27
T ₈ : NAA (75ppm)	23.40	65.78	1.54	64.65	43.36
T ₉ : NAA (100ppm)	24.70	71.14	1.76	73.80	47.42
CD at 5%	9.50	6.48	8.67	7.14	12.6



This might be due to the rapid increase in cell division and cell elongation in the meristematic region. Plant height and number of branches/plant was increased with the increasing level of GA3 and NAA. These findings are in accordance with the work reported by Revnappa (1998) and Gupta and Gupta (2000); Naeem *et al.*, (2004), Rai *et al.*, (2006) and Balaguera-Lopez (2009). Table 2 and Figure 1 clearly revealed that maximum number of branches were recorded 30 DAT (3.70), 45 DAT (4.80), 60 DAT (8.00) in T₅: GA3 (80ppm) treated plant followed by 3.30, 4.65, 7.70 in T₉: NAA (100ppm) treated tomato plant respectively. These findings are in accordance with the work reported by

Gupta and Gupta (2000) and Naeem *et al.*, (2004). Tomato is a day-neutral crop but requires more sunny days for its flowering and fruiting. Several factors affect growth and yield of the crop. Besides genetic and environmental interaction nutrition and agronomic practices also play a significant role in yield maximization nowadays, sustainable agricultural scenario, an interaction of plant nutrient system in the form of organic, inorganic and biological components create attention. Use of GA3 and NAA in tomato is well established.

From the Table 3 it is quite clear that number of fruit per plant (30.20), average fruit weight

(79.25 g), yield per plant (2.39 kg), yield per plot (100.52 g) and yield per ha (48.36 t) were recorded maximum in treatment T₅: GA₃ (80ppm) followed by 26.20, 75.42, 1.98, 82.99 and 44.65 respectively in T₄: GA₃ (60ppm) treated plant. Critical analysis of data presented in the present study revealed the fact that GA₃ and NAA on different parameters have a significant effect on tomato as discussed hereunder. Plant growth regulator like GA₃ and NAA has shown the promising result in respect of growth and yield of the crop. The response of PGR varies with the species of plant, type of chemical and its concentration. These plant growth regulators induce various physiological impacts. Application of GA₃ and NAA significantly increased the number of fruits/plant. The increasing number of fruits per plant by GA₃ and NAA treatments might be due to the rapid and better nutrient translocation from roots to apical parts of the plant. The increase in concentration resulted in increasing number of fruits per plant. These results are in accordance with Mozarkar *et al.*, 1991, Bhosle *et al.*, 2002, Pandita *et al.*, 1999, and Singh *et al.*, 2011. Size and weight of fruit is also an important aspect as these fruit characters are useful for yield as well as consumer acceptability. The average fruit weight, length of fruit and width of fruit were significantly increased by plant growth regulators like GA₃ and NAA. It is due to the application of NAA and GA₃ which causes stimulation of fruit growth that resulted in increased fruit weight, fruit length, and fruit width. Similar results have been reported by Rodrigues *et al.*, 2001, Das and Pattanaik (1971), Lodhi *et al.*, 2002 and Ayub *et al.*, 2010.

Relationship between yield-fruit weight per plant

A linear relationship between yield-fruit weight per plant of tomato was observed.

Data from Figure 2 clearly revealed that when fruit weight per plant increases the yield per plant increases linearly. The regression equation (1) obtained from Figure 2 showed that; about 85.4% variation in fruit yield can be explained by fruit weight per plant. The equation also states that, per plant decrease in fruit weight the yield also reduced.

The regression equation:

$$y = 0.056x - 2.289, R^2 = 0.854, n=9, p<0.05 \quad (1)$$

To have optimum growth of tomato CV Kashi Vishesh for getting higher and quality yield application of GA₃ @ of 80ppm and NAA @ of 100ppm is useful.

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