

Original Research Article

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Yield and Yield Attributes of Wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) as Influenced by Different Weeding Tools and Weed Control Measures

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

Wheat, Weeding tools, Weed control efficiency and economics

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A field experiment was conducted at Zonal Research Station, Darisai, East Singhbhum, Jharkhand during rabi season of 2005-06 to 2007-08 to find out the performance of different weeding tools along with weedicides for increasing the productivity of wheat. The experiments were laid out in Randomized Block Design with six treatments viz; khurpi, dutch hoe, grubber, dry land weeder, weedicide and control. The results revealed that Grubber gave maximum grain yield (27.32 q ha⁻¹) followed by khurpi (26.20 q/ha). The highest weeding control efficiency (93.10 %) was also recorded in grubber followed by khurpi (96.8 %) and lowest (83.43%) was with weedicide. The plant damage was highest under dutch hoe (2.01%) followed by dryland weeder (1.61%) and lowest (0.64%) with khurpi. The highest benefit cost ratio (1.25) was obtained when weeding was done with grubber.

Introduction

Wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) is an essential grain food component and is a very important commodity among cereal crops (Montazeri et al., 2005). India is second largest producer of wheat in the world after China with about 12% share in total world wheat production. Wheat is grown in India in an area of about 30 Million hectares with a production of 93 Million tones and it is a second most important staple food after rice. In Jharkhand wheat occupies 96 thousand hectares with production of 158.40 thousand tonnes Wheat provides about 20% of the total food calories of the human diet.

Weed being hardier and more competent to crop is a puissant factor which affect the crop directly or indirectly. However, with the increasing irrigation facilities and use of modern inputs the weed problem has also been intensified. Weed competes with the crop to such an extent that the crop gets smothered by the weeds. Weeds directly deplete the soil nutrients, moisture and optimize nutrient application including seed rate.

Weeds create serious problem and become a major constraints in the crop production during *Rabi* season in East Singhbhum area. Topographical features and climate factors of the region are such that weed growth is very

fast. Manual weeding is difficult due to inadequate availability of labour and high labour charges at critical stages of crop weed competition. Low availability of weedicides along with its high cost is also are the major constraints in wheat production. Mechanical weeding may minimize the loss from 30% to 10% or even less. Kurstzens (2006) found that soil and residue manipulation can assist weed management by killing weeds mechanically, interfering in weed life cycle, facilitating operation and enhancing crop establishment and growth.

Weed infestation during the crop period causes more than 53% reduction in grain yield, depending on the weed densities and type of weed flora present (Singh *et al.*, 2002). Grassy weeds emerge as a serious problem in wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L. emend. Fiori & paol.), which pose a serious threat to its successful cultivation. For secured and higher production of wheat, timely and effective control of weeds is imperative. However, not much work have been undertaken on the wheat under different weeding tools along with weedicides for weed control as well as their effect on yield attributes for sub- humid tropical climate of East Singhbhum, Jharkhand, India. Thus, the present experiment was undertaken to study the performance of weeding tools for weed control as well as their effect on wheat yield.

Materials and Methods

The field experiment was conducted at Zonal Research Station, Darisai, East Singhbhum, Jharkhand during winter season of 2005-06 to 2007-08 which is located between 23°36' North latitude, 86°54' East longitude and at an altitude of 124 m above mean sea level. The soil of the experimental field was silt loam in texture with pH 6.2, organ carbon 0.58% available N, P, K 120.80, 66.55 and 140.00 kg ha⁻¹ respectively and having bulk density as

1.6 gm/cm³. Soil moisture at field capacity and wilting point were recorded as 17.79% and 8.5% respectively.

The experiment comprised 6 treatments *viz*; khurpi, dutch hoe, grubber, dry land weeder, weedicide and control in Randomized Block Design with four replications. Wheat cv. HW 2045 was sown in plots measuring 5m x 4 m with spacing of 22 cm. Recommended dose of fertilizer, N:P:K:: 100:50:25 kg /ha was applied in all the plots. Full dose of P and K along with one third N were applied at the time of sowing, and the remaining dose of N was applied in two equal splits after first and second irrigation. Weeding of the plots was done 30 days after sowing. Weed control efficiency (WCE) and plant damaged (%) was calculated by the following formula.

$$WCE = \frac{DWC - DWT}{DWC} \times 100$$

Where,

DWC= weed dry mass from the control plot (untreated)

DWT= weed dry matter from treated plot

$$\text{Plant damage (\%)} = \frac{A}{B} \times 100$$

Where,

A - Number of damage plants in sample plot

B - Total number of plants in sample plot

Observation on plant height, number of tillers per meter square, grains per spike, 1000 grain weight, weed count, weed dry matter were taken. The cost of cultivation was worked out for each treatment. The cost of cultivation includes expenses incurred in land preparation, intercultural operation, fertilizer, crop protection measures and harvesting with

labour charges. The net return was evaluated by subtracting the cost of cultivation from the income obtained through produce for each treatment. The benefit cost ratio (B:C) was estimated dividing income obtained from produce by total cost of production for each treatment.

The data collected from the experiment was analysed statistically using the analysis of variance procedure, appropriate for the Randomized Block Design experiment. The test of significance was carried out at 5 per cent level.

Results and Discussion

Yield attributes and yield

A perusal of the data showed that the weeding tools had significant effect on plant height. Maximum plant height (92.61cm) was observed in grubber while minimum (82.47cm) was in control.

The statistical data revealed significant effect on thousand grain weight (Table 1). Thousand grain weight was maximum (39.59 g) in grubber followed by khurpi (39.07 g) whereas, minimum value (34.44 g) was recorded in control.

Different weeding tools significantly affected the number of tillers m^{-2} (Table 1). Statistical analysis revealed that maximum number of tillers m^{-2} (426.30) was recorded in grubber while the minimum number of tillers m^{-2} (355.10) was observed in control.

All weeding tools for weed management significantly affected grain yield. An appraisal of Table 1 shows the effect of different weeding tools on grain yield. The maximum grain yield of 27.32 qha⁻¹ was observed when weeding was done with grubber followed by khurpi (26.20 q ha⁻¹). Minimum grain yield of 18.67qha⁻¹ was observed in control plots.

Weed control measures also significantly influenced the straw yield (Table1). The highest straw yield (51.32 q ha⁻¹) was observed in grubber followed by khurpi (47.39 q ha⁻¹) and lowest straw yield (40.91 q ha⁻¹) was observed in control.

The maximum yield attributes and yield were recorded in the treatment, using grubber during these three years followed by using khurpi. Tallest plant, 1000-seed weight, maximum number of effective tillers m^{-2} , grain yield and straw yield were recorded in this treatment due to weed-free condition which increases availability of nutrients, space, light and water to wheat crop.

These resulted into highest grain yield. The higher yield under weed management practices were mainly due to better growth and development of crop under low crop weed competition and greater availability of soil nutrient and other resources to crop plants. The highest production of wheat under weed management practices was also reported by Pandey *et al.*, (2006)

Weed growth

All weed control measures reduced the weed dry weight when compared with weedy check (control). From Table1, it is observed that the lowest dry weight of weeds (2.31 g/m²) was recorded in grubber followed by use of khurpi (2.80 g/m²). Combined application of isoproturon @ 1.0 kg a.i./ha + 2,4-D @ 0.5 kg a.i./ha as post emergence recorded dry weight of weeds (5.55 g/m²) at 30 DAS.

Weed control efficiency

The maximum weed control efficiency was observed with grubber (93.10 %) followed by khurpi (91.64%), dutch hoe (90.60%) dryland weeder (88.80%) and weedicide (83.43 %) (Fig. 1).

Table1: Effect of weeding tools on, plant height, effective tiller, 1000 seed weight, grain yield, straw yield, weeds dry weight, weed control efficiency, Plant damage and B: C ratio (Pooled data)

Treatments	Plant height (cm)	Effective tillers/m ²	1000 seed Weight (g)	Grain yield (qha ⁻¹)	Straw yield (qha ⁻¹)	Weeds dry weight at 30 DAS (g/m ²)	Weed control efficiency (%)	Plant damage (%)	B:C ratio
T ₁ – Khurpi	88.59	404.00	39.07	26.20	47.39	2.80	91.64	0.64	0.59
T ₂ – Dutch hoe	86.78	389.00	38.20	23.33	43.47	3.15	90.60	2.01	0.82
T ₃ -Grubber	92.61	426.30	39.59	27.32	51.32	2.31	93.10	1.46	1.25
T ₄ - Dryland weeder	85.56	383.30	37.63	22.75	44.50	3.75	88.80	1.61	0.84
T ₅ -Weedicide	84.59	366.60	37.10	21.27	42.13	5.55	83.43	0.95	0.73
T ₆ - Control	82.47	355.10	34.44	18.67	40.91	33.49	-	-	0.69
CD (5%)	4.16	42.49	2.76	3.41	5.79	3.75	-	-	-

Fig.1 Weed control efficiency (%) of different treatments

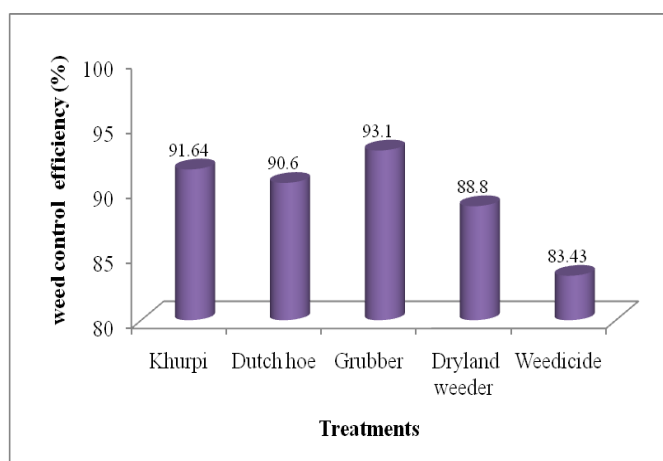
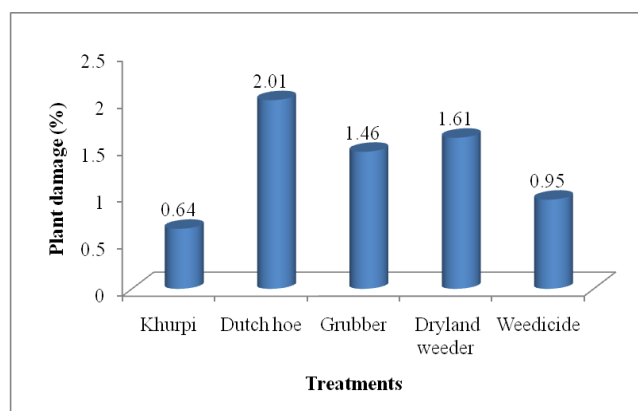


Fig.2 Plant damage (%) by different treatments



The maximum weeding control efficiency with grubber and khurpi was observed because of the capability of this hand tools to work between row to row spacing. Garg and Sharma (1998) also reported that the efficiency of Khurpi was (82.95%) slightly higher than wheel hoe (76.91%).

Higher percentage of plant damage was found in case of dutch hoe (2.01 %) followed by dryland weeded (1.61%), grubber (1.46 %), weedicide (0.95%) and khurpi (0.64 %). The higher recorded percentage of plant damage for dutch hoe might be due large width of blade in case of dutch hoe which when brought nearer to the plant during operation, caused damage to the plants by cutting either their roots or stem (Fig. 2).

Economics

The Benefit-Cost Ratio was worked out for all the treatments using net income generated and cost of cultivation of wheat. The maximum benefit cost ratio of 1.25 was noted when weeding was done with grubber and the lowest benefit cost ratio of 0.69 was recorded in control.

It is concluded that in wheat, higher yield (27.32 q ha⁻¹) was recorded in treatment T₃ (Grubber) with maximum plant height (92.61cm) and effective tillers (436.30). The maximum benefit cost ratio (1.25) was also

noted in T₃. The highest weeding efficiency (93.10 %) was found in treatment T₃ (Grubber) as compared to other treatments. Thus, it can be concluded that for wheat crop weeding with grubber may be recommended for getting higher yield of wheat.

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