

Original Research Article

<https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2018.708.225>

Effect of Planting Patterns and Fertility Levels in Chickpea and Linseed Intercropping in Tarai Region of Uttarakhand, India

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

Linseed, Chickpea, Fertility, Intercropping, Chickpea equivalent yield.

Article Info

Accepted:

12 July 2018

Available Online:

10 August 2018

A field experiment was conducted during *Rabi* season of 2015-16 and 2016-17 at N. E. Borlaug Crop Research Centre of Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar (Uttarakhand) with an objective to find out the appropriate row ratio and nutrient management strategy for chickpea + linseed intercropping system. The experiment was conducted in Split Plot Design with three replications having four main plot treatments (Planting patterns) *viz*; Sole chickpea, Sole linseed, chickpea + linseed (3:1), chickpea + linseed (4:2), and four Sub plot treatments (Fertility levels) *viz.*, 0:0:0 NPK kg/ha (F1), 20:40:20 NPK kg/ha (F2), 40:40:20 NPK kg/ha (F3), 60:40:20 NPK kg/ha (F4). The results revealed that the grain/seed, straw/stover and biological yields of both chickpea and linseed were higher in sole cropping than in intercropping combinations. However, the higher chickpea equivalent yield (System Productivity) was recorded in chickpea + linseed intercropping combinations under both the row arrangements (4:2 and 3:1) were found at par with sole chickpea and significantly higher over sole linseed.

Introduction

India is the largest producer (25 % the of global production), consumer (27 % of the world consumption), and importer (14%) of pulses in the world. Pulses account for around 20 per cent of the area under foodgrains and contribute around 7-10 per cent of the total foodgrains production in the country. Chickpea (*Cicer arietinum*) is an important

winter season food legume having extensive geographical distribution. In India, it is a major crop covering 8.41 million hectares of area (37% of the total area under pulses) with 6.68 million tons of production (47% of the total pulse production) (FAO, 2016-17). But, there has not been any significant increase in area (7.75 million hectare) under chickpea at national level since 1969-70. The increase in production has mainly been due to increase in

its productivity from 450 to 794 kg ha⁻¹ (Chaturvedi and Dua, 2001). To improve the productivity and stability, farmers often grow chickpea in association with various other crops, like barley, mustard, linseed and safflower. Amongst them, chickpea + linseed is one of the most important cropping systems of Central India. Intercropping with linseed had also been found to reduce the incidences of pod borer in chickpea (Ahmed, 2003).

In wake of the ever growing population of the world and India, in particular, the present food base seems to be narrowing down. The problem has been getting further aggravated with the varying patterns in the climate change making it prone to frequent crop failure. The high input based agriculture in present situation is showing signs of stress, and long term cereal based or nutrients exhaustive crops are putting a question mark on long term sustainability (Kalaghatagi *et al.*, 2017). Thus, diversification and intensification of crops and cropping systems, in space as well as time, has become absolutely necessary for tackling this worldwide worrying issue. Therefore, in view of the facts detailed above, the present investigation was carried out to explore the appropriate planting pattern and nutrient management strategy in chickpea + linseed intercropping systems.

Materials and Methods

A field experiment was conducted during *Rabi* season of 2015-16 and 2016-17 at N. E. Borlaug Crop Research Centre of Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar (Uttarakhand) to find out the appropriate row ratio and nutrient management strategy for chickpea + linseed intercropping system and to assess the effect of the same on the performance of chickpea and linseed. The soil of the experimental site was silty clay loam in texture and low in available nitrogen (257.8 kg/ha and 269.1) and medium in available phosphorus (12.4 kg/ha

and 13.2 kg/ha) and low in available potassium (177.3 and 175.6 kg/ha) and high in organic carbon (0.87 and 92 %) contents with neutral in reaction (pH 7.3 and 7.36) in 2015-16 and 2016-17, respectively. The experiment was conducted in Split Plot Design with three replications having four main plot treatments *viz*; Sole chickpea, Sole linseed; chickpea + linseed (3:1) and chickpea + linseed (4:2), and four Sub plot treatments *viz*; 0:0:0 NPK kg/ha (F1), 20:40:20 NPK kg/ha (F2), 40:40:20 NPK kg/ha (F3), 60:40:20 NPK kg/ha (F4). Chickpea variety 'PG 186' and linseed 'JRF-4' were sown in rows 30 cm apart on 15 December and 28 November during 2015-16 and 2016-17. Nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium doses were applied through NPK mixture (12:32:16) and remaining dose of nitrogen was applied through urea were drilled at sowing as per treatments. A total of 22.5 and 18 mm rainfall was received with 02 and 03 rainy days during 2015-16 and 2016-17 during the crop season.

Results and Discussion

The sole crop of chickpea and linseed recorded significantly higher grain yield than that of their contributions in the intercropping systems during both the years. Between the two intercropping combinations of chickpea + linseed, 3:1 remained significantly superior over 4:2 in terms of the grain yield of chickpea during both the years, while the trends were reversed in terms of the grain yield of linseed. Superiority of the sole crops of chickpea and linseed over their contributions in intercropping, and the significant variation among the two intercropping systems could be attributed to the more area under the concerned crop as the intercropping was practiced in replacement series. Tanwar *et al.* (2011); Gan *et al.* (2009); Biradar *et al.* (2015) and Upadhyay *et al.* (2012) have also expressed similar view in their studies (Table 1 and 2).

Table.1 Effect of planting pattern and fertility levels on yields of chickpea and linseed during 2015-16 and 2016-17

Treatment	Grain yield (Kg/ha)		Seed yield (Kg/ha)		Biological yield (kg/ha)				Straw Yield (kg/ha)		Stover Yield (kg/ha)	
	Chickpea		Linseed		Chickpea		Linseed		Chickpea		Linseed	
	2015-16	2016-17	2015-16	2016-17	2015-16	2016-17	2015-16	2016-17	2015-16	2016-17	2015-16	2016-18
Planting Pattern												
Sole Chickpea	1973	2131	-	-	5953	6279	-	-	3980	4148	-	-
Sole Linseed	-	-	916	936	-	-	2818	2848	-	-	1901	1912
Chickpea + Linseed (3:1)	1736	1892	263	316	5243	5548	798	890	3518	3656	535	574
Chickpea + Linseed (4:2)	1487	1615	432	448	4460	4742	1307	1342	2977	3127	876	893
SEm±	41	49	26	20	103	87	49	54	66	64	27	34
CD (P=0.05)	160	192	103	77	405	338	193	211	260	248	107	134
Fertility Level												
F1 (0:0:0)NPK	1297	1380	292	282	3959	4162	898	904	2662	2781	606	622
F2 (20:40:20)NPK	1818	2006	485	569	5497	5936	1472	1564	3685	3930	985	995
F3 (40:40:20)NPK	1986	2117	647	664	5977	6161	1999	2052	4007	4045	1353	1388
F4 (60:40:20)NPK	1827	2014	723	752	5441	5832	2196	2253	3614	3819	1472	1499
SEm±	40	74	20	14	156	231	46	59	90	151	30	50
CD (P=0.05)	119	221	58	41	464	687	136	176	268	448	90	146

Table.2 Effect of planting pattern and fertility level on chickpea equivalent yield of chickpea and linseed during 2015-16 and 2016-17

Treatment	Chickpea equivalent yield (CEY) (Kg/ha)	
	2015-16	2016-17
Sole Chickpea	1972	2139
Sole Linseed	1373	1404
Chickpea + Linseed (3:1)	2130	2366
Chickpea + Linseed (4:2)	2134	2287
SEm ±	60	44
CD (P=0.05)	194	153
Fertility Level		
F1 (0:0:0)NPK	1301	1396
F2 (20:40:20)NPK	1909	2236
F3 (40:40:20)NPK	2217	2428
F4 (60:40:20)NPK	2183	2431
SEm±	50	40
CD (P=0.05)	161	117

The fertility levels increased the grain yield of chickpea up to 40:40:20 NPK kg/ha (F3), while this increase was significant up to 60:40:20 NPK kg/ha (F4) in case of linseed during both the years. The straw/stover and biological yields biological yield were influenced significantly due to the planting patterns and fertility levels during both the years. The sole crops of chickpea and linseed recorded significantly higher straw/stover and biological yields over the intercropping combinations. Between the two intercropping combinations of chickpea + linseed 3:1, remained significantly superior over 4:2 in case of chickpea during both the years, while 4:2 was significantly superior over 3:1 in terms of the stover and biological yield of linseed. During 2015-16, 40:40:20 NPK kg/ha (F3) recorded highest straw/stover and biological yields of chickpea during both years. In case of linseed, the highest stover and biological yields were obtained with application of 60:40:20 NPK kg/ha (F4). Tanwar *et al.* (2011) and Abraham *et al.* (2010) reported the similar results from Lakhaoti (U.P). The highest chickpea equivalent yield was obtained in chickpea + linseed (4:2) during 2015-16, whereas chickpea + linseed (3:1) recorded highest chickpea equivalent yield during 2016-17. As the fertility levels increased the chickpea equivalent yield was also increased up to 40:40:20 (F3) during both the years. This could be attributed to the higher fertility level which managed to support the combined demand of both the crops at optimum level Singh and Pandey (2002) and Ahlawat and Gangaiah (2010) reported that the chickpea + linseed intercropping performed better over sole chickpea.

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How to cite this article:

Dharmendra Meena, Chandra Bhushan, Anil Shukla, V.K. Singh and Navneet Pareek. 2018. Effect of Planting Patterns and Fertility Levels in Chickpea and Linseed Intercropping in Tarai Region of Uttarakhand, India. *Int.J.Curr.Microbiol.App.Sci.* 7(08): 1957-1961.
doi: <https://doi.org/10.20546/ijemas.2018.708.225>