

Original Research Article

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Effect of Combination of Different Levels of Pruning, Nutrition and Paclobutrazol on Yield and Economics of Mango (*Mangifera indica* L.) cv. Alphonso

K. Usha Rani*, M.K. Honnabyraiah, J. DinakaraAdiga, T. Sakthivel,
Ashok, S. Alur and G.K. Halesh

Department of Fruit science, College of Horticulture, University of Horticultural sciences,
Bangalore-560065, Karnataka, India

*Corresponding author

ABSTRACT

Alphonso is the best table variety of mango produced in India and has great demand in the global market owing to its keeping quality, aroma, texture and flavour. Due to its inherent physiological disorders, we have not been able to achieve the expected production. Keeping this in view, experiment was designed to find out suitable remedial measures to step up the production by using pruning, INM and plant growth regulators. Field investigation was conducted for two consecutive years (2017-18 and 2018-19) in the established mango orchard on 7 years old Alphonso mango trees and maintained at 5 X 5 m spacing at Regional Horticultural Research and Extension Centre, UHS campus, GKVK, Bengaluru, to investigate the effects of pruning, INM and PBZ on regulating yield. Higher number of fruits per panicle (2.52), less number of days to maturity (108.13), more number of fruits per tree (148.33), highest yield per tree (27.58 kg/tree) and highest benefit cost ratio (3.01) were recorded in trees pruned at 10cm length along with soil drenching of PBZ @ 0.75g a.i./ m canopy diameter, application of 75% RDF, AMC and mango special spray.

Keywords

Mango cv.
Alphonso, Pruning,
INM, Paclobutrazol,
AMC (Arka
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Introduction

Mango (*Mangifera indica* L.) is a delicious fruit and member of family Anacardiaceae, in the order Sapindales with chromosomal number $2n=4x=40$. It is one of the most important tropical fruit of the world and is

the national fruit of India. Mango (*Mangifera indica* L.) is called 'the King of fruits' due to its wide adaptability, delicious taste, excellent flavor, attractive appearance and richness in phytochemical and nutrient (Purseglove, 1972). India has traditionally been the world's largest producer of mangoes and having area

under cultivation of 22.5 lakh hectares with production 21.82 million tons with a productivity of 8.7 tons/ha (Anon, 2018). India has a rich wealth of mango germplasm with more than 1000 varieties grown throughout the length and breadth of the country. However, only about 21 of them like Alphonso, Banganapally, Chausa, Dashehari, Langra, Totapuri, Kesar *etc.*, are commercially cultivated in different mango growing regions (Yadav, 1997).

Among them *cv.* Alphonso tops the list and is used as one of the choicest and prime variety of India. It is nutritionally accepted because of its characteristic sugar-acid blend, attractive colour and shape, pleasant aroma, superior fragrance, highly appreciable flavour, delicious taste and long keeping quality. In spite of these, 'Alphonso' is handicapped by its serious inherited physiological disorders like alternate bearing and occurrence of spongy tissue, which makes the variety as poorest yielder (2.5-3 tons/ha) compared to average Indian productivity (8.7 tons/ha). The alternate bearing is one of the major hurdles for its commercial spread.

The improvements in crop productivity in modern horticultural systems are increasingly dependent on manipulation of the physiological activities of the crop by pruning, nutrition and chemical means. The main reasons of low productivity are alternate bearing, malformation, fruit drop and insect pest and disease attack. It is observed that there is heavy fruit-drop at various stages of fruit growth which is a serious problem and has become a limiting factor for increasing production in Alphonso mango. With this view, the attempts are there for being made to study on effect of pruning, nutrition and paclobutrazol regulation and increasing yield of Alphonso mango trees grown under the agroclimatic conditions of Bangalore region.

Materials and Methods

The experiment was carried out on uniform trees (7-8 years) of cultivar Alphonso during 2017-18 and 2018-19 which are maintained at 5 X 5 m spacing at Regional Horticultural Research and Extension Centre, UHS campus, GKVK, Bengaluru,. Combinations of different levels of pruning, concentrations of paclobutrazol and levels of nutrition on regulation and increasing fruit yield of mango *cv.* Alphonso was investigated. The observations were recorded on three trees for each treatment. Combinations of different levels of pruning, nutrition and paclobutrazol were tried for their effect on yield and calculated the economics of the treatments along with control.

Treatment details of the experiment

T1 = control (No pruning and only RDF); T2 = Shoot pruning at 10cm length + RDF; T3 = Shoot pruning at 10cm length + PBZ @ 0.75g a.i./ m canopy diameter + 75% of RDF + 5kg vermicompost +20g of AMC + Mango special(spray); T4 = Shoot pruning at 10cm length + PBZ @ 0.75g a.i./ m canopy diameter + 75% of RDF + 10kg vermicompost + 2 g of AMC + Mango special(spray); T5 = Shoot pruning at 10cm length + PBZ @ 1.25g a.i./ m canopy diameter + 75% of RDF + 5kg vermicompost +20g of AMC + Mango special(spray); T6 = Shoot pruning at 10cm length + PBZ @ 1.25g a.i./ m canopy diameter + 75% of RDF + 10kg vermicompost + 20g of AMC + Mango special(spray); T7 = Shoot pruning at 20cm length + RDF; T8 = Shoot pruning at 20cm length + PBZ @ 0.75g a.i./ m canopy diameter + 75% of RDF + 5kg vermicompost + 20g of AMC + Mango special(spray); T9 = Shoot pruning at 20cm length + PBZ @ 0.75g a.i./ m canopy diameter + 75% of RDF + 10kg vermicompost + 20g of AMC + Mango special(spray); T10 = Shoot pruning at 20cm length + PBZ @ 1.25g a.i./ m

canopy diameter + 75% of RDF + 5kg vermicompost + 20g of AMC + Mango special(spray); T11 = Shoot pruning at 20cm length + PBZ @ 1.25g a.i./ m canopy diameter + 75% of RDF + 10kg vermicompost + 20g of AMC + Mango special(spray).

Treatment imposition for experiment

This investigation was laid out in randomized complete block design (RCBD) with three replications. Two years data was statistically analysed and pooled data is interpreted here. Pruning was carried out in 3rd week of July of year 2017 and 2018, application of paclobutrazol last week of September of year 2017 and 2018 and fertilizer application 2 split doses (first half dose in July of year 2017 and 2018 along with AMC, second half dose in October of year 2017 and 2018), mango special 3 sprays (before flowering, after flowering, during fruit setting) in year 2017 and 2018

Results and Discussion

Number of fruits per panicle

The data related to number of fruits per panicle are presented in Table 1. All the treatments showed significant effect on number of fruits per panicle during both years of research (2017-18 and 2018-19). The pooled mean of two years data on number of fruits per panicle revealed that its maximum value (2.52) was registered with T4 (shoot pruned at 10cm length along with the application of PBZ @ 0.75g a.i. / m canopy diameter, 75% of RDF, 10kg vermicompost, 20 g of AMC, mango special spray) which was at par with T9 (2.38), while minimum (0.73) was recorded in control followed by T2 (1.07).

Among the treatments, T4 recorded (245%) more number of fruits per panicle compared with other treatments and control. Pruning

resulted in reduced branching density and thus higher fruiting due to better light penetration into tree canopy that increases the photosynthetic efficiency and diverting the photosynthates towards fruit production has been reported by Jannoyer and Lauri (2009) and Elkhishen (2015). PBZ is reported to exert influence on overall tree physiology through improved nutrient uptake, partitioning photosynthates to the sites of flowering. This results are in confirmity with Sarkar and Rahim (2012) in mango *cv.* Amrapali, Upreti *et al.*, (2013) in mango *cv.* Totapuri and Lina and Protacio (2015) in jackfruit. Deepasamanth *et al.*, (2018) reported that with mango special spraying there is increased fruit yield and quality in Banganpally mango and concluded that improvement in number of fruits per panicle could be attributed to the B and Zn present in micronutrient treatments. Boron helps in fruit setting by enhancing the pollen grain germination and pollen tube elongation whereas, Zn reduces the fruit drop at various stages of fruit growth by promoting auxin synthesis which in turn delays the formation of abscission layer. Paclobutrazol appeared to favourably alter the source sink relationship of mango to support fruit growth with a reduction in vegetative growth (Kurian *et al.*, 2001). Similar results were reported by Singh *et al.*, (2009) and Singh *et al.*, (2018) in mango *cv.* Amrapali.

Days to maturity

The data presented in Table 1 revealed that there is a significant impact of various treatments on days to maturity during both years of investigation (2017-18 and 2018-19). Pooled mean data showed minimum duration for days to maturity of fruit (108.73days) was recorded with T4 (shoot pruned at 10cm length along with the application of PBZ @ 0.75 g a.i. / m canopy diameter, 75% of RDF, 10kg vermicompost, 20 g of AMC and mango special spray) followed by T9 (109.12), while

maximum duration for days to maturity (124.40 days) was recorded with control (T1).

Treatment T4 recorded (13%) less number of days to maturity compared with other treatments and control. It may be due to early fruit set and growth cause for early maturity.

Soil drenching of paclobutrazol given to regulate cropping tended to reduce the vegetative growth by antagonize the action of gibberellins may be the reason of advancement in flowering and reduction in duration of final harvest. The observation is in close agreement with the report of Tandel and Patel (2011) in mango *cv.* Alphonso, Rajapuri, Kesar and Patel *et al.*, (2016) in mango *cv.* Alphonso.

Number of fruits per tree and Fruit yield (kg/tree)

The observation related to number of fruits per tree are presented in Table 2 revealed that different treatments affected the number of fruits per tree significantly during the year 2017-18 and 2018-19. The maximum number of fruits per tree (148.33) was recorded with treatment T4 and this was followed by T9 (124.50) and T10 (91.77). The minimum number of fruits per tree (57.95) was obtained in control which was on par with T2 (61.67) and followed by T7 (73.33).

Fruit yield of individual tree was recorded at the time of harvest. The recorded data on fruit yield was presented in Table 2 revealed that fruit yield tree⁻¹ was varied significantly by different treatments during both years of investigation. Pooled mean of two years data showed that the fruit yield per tree was higher (27.58 kg tree⁻¹) with the treatment of T4 which was followed by the with T9 treatment (24.04 kg tree⁻¹). The lower yield per tree (9.66 kg tree⁻¹) was obtained in control which was on par with T2 (12.86 kg tree⁻¹).

Pruning enhance the number of fruits per tree and fruit yield (28% and 25% respectively with trees pruned to 20cm). Combination of pruning at 10cm along with the application of PBZ @ 0.75 a.i. / m canopy diameter of tree, 75% RDF, 10 kg vermicompost, 25 kg FYM, 20g of AMC and micronutrient spray (mango special) enhances the fruit yield significantly over rest of treatments.

This treatment recorded 155.96% increase in the number of fruits per tree and 166% increase in fruit yield per tree. Pruning resulted in inducing number of vegetative flushes (Shaban, 2009) and reduced branching density and thus higher fruiting due to better light penetration into tree canopy that increases the photosynthetic efficiency and diverting the photosynthates towards fruit production. Pruning induced enhancement in fruit yields in different mango cultivars has been reported by Pandey and Singh (2008) in mango *cv.* Amrapali, Shaban (2009) in mango *cv.* Zebda, Elkhishen (2015) and Rodge and Pujari (2017) in mango *cv.* Alphonso.

Higher yields in the PBZ treated trees is ascribed due to high flowering intensity, more number of hermaphrodite flowers, increased fruit set and reduced fruit drop, which results in higher fruit number. PBZ is reported to exert influence on overall tree physiology through improved nutrient uptake, partitioning photosynthates to the sites of flowering and fruiting, modifying the plant water balance and altering hormonal balance. The above results are in agreement with Nafees *et al.*, 2010; Tandel and Patel, 2011; Hussien *et al.*, 2012; Sarkar and Rahim, 2012; Upreti *et al.*, 2013; Reddy *et al.*, 2014; Vijaykrishna *et al.*, 2016; Gopu *et al.*, 2017 in different mango cultivars. Enhanced yields may be due to increased photosynthetic rate and carbohydrate accumulation as a result of multifarious role of FYM, vermicompost and biofertilizer.

Table.1 Effect of combination of different levels of pruning, nutrition and PBZ on fruiting parameters of mango cv. Alphonso

Treatments	Number of fruits per panicle			Days to maturity		
	2017-18	2018-19	Mean	2017-18	2018-19	Mean
T1(control)	0.30	1.17	0.73	123.43	125.37	124.40
T2(P1+RDF)	0.60	1.53	1.07	119.37	121.07	120.22
T3(P1+PBZ1+N1)	0.87	1.73	1.30	110.63	110.47	110.55
T4(P1+PBZ1+N2)	2.20	2.83	2.52	108.73	107.53	108.13
T5(P1+PBZ2+N1)	0.97	1.27	1.12	109.47	108.87	109.17
T6(P1+PBZ2+N2)	1.31	1.39	1.33	101.10	113.47	107.28
T7(P2+RDF)	0.90	1.60	1.25	113.10	120.67	116.88
T8(P2+PBZ1+N1)	1.17	1.63	1.40	110.97	113.20	112.08
T9(P2+PBZ1+N2)	2.13	2.63	2.38	108.90	109.33	109.12
T10(P2+PBZ2+N1)	1.13	1.77	1.45	110.47	111.43	110.95
T11(P2+PBZ2+N2)	1.17	1.80	1.48	111.30	111.20	111.25
S. Em±	0.10	0.11	0.08	1.09	1.33	1.11
CD at 5%	0.29	0.31	0.23	3.20	3.92	3.15

P1 - Shoot pruning at 10cm length; P2 - Shoot pruning at 20cm length.

PBZ1 - @ 0.75 g a.i. / m canopy diameter; PBZ2 - @ 1.25 g a.i. / m canopy diameter.

N1 -75% of RDF + 5Kg Vermi compost + 20 g Arka microbial consortium + Mango special (spray);

N2 -75% of RDF + 10Kg Vermi compost + 20 g Arka microbial consortium + Mango special (spray).

Table.2 Effect of combination of different levels of pruning, nutrition and PBZ on yield parameters of mango *cv.*Alphonso

Treatments	Number of fruits per tree			Fruit yield (Kg/tree)		
	2017-18	2018-19	Mean	2017-18	2018-19	Mean
T1(control)	3.24	91.67	51.95	1.05	16.07	8.66
T2(P1+RDF)	22.67	96.67	59.67	4.55	18.17	11.36
T3(P1+PBZ1+N1)	43.33	134.33	88.83	9.11	27.31	18.21
T4(P1+PBZ1+N2)	135.67	161.00	148.33	26.06	29.11	27.58
T5(P1+PBZ2+N1)	57.67	113.67	85.67	12.25	23.42	17.84
T6(P1+PBZ2+N2)	58.67	119.00	88.83	11.90	24.65	18.27
T7(P2+RDF)	39.67	103.00	73.33	8.41	18.89	13.65
T8(P2+PBZ1+N1)	43.00	131.33	87.17	9.41	26.68	18.05
T9(P2+PBZ1+N2)	103.67	145.33	124.50	21.60	25.48	24.04
T10(P2+PBZ2+N1)	65.00	118.53	91.77	12.80	23.64	18.22
T11(P2+PBZ2+N2)	48.00	118.29	83.15	11.02	23.86	17.44
S. Em±	4.83	7.81	6.07	0.97	1.55	1.25
CD at 5%	14.25	23.04	17.24	2.85	4.57	3.56

P1 - Shoot pruning at 10cm length; P2 - Shoot pruning at 20cm length.

PBZ1 - @ 0.75 g a.i./ m canopy diameter; PBZ2 - @ 1.25 g a.i./ mcanopy diameter.

N1 -75% of RDF + 5Kg Vermi compost + 20 g Arka microbial consortium + Mango special (spray);

N2 -75% of RDF + 10Kg Vermi compost + 20 g Arka microbial consortium + Mango special (spray).

Table.3 Effect of different treatments on economics of mango production *cv.* Alphonso

Treatment	Cost of chemical / inputs (Rs. /ha)	Total cost of cultivation(Rs/ha)	Yield (ton /ha)	Gross returns(Rs./ha)	Net realization (Rs. /ha)	Benefit cost ratio
T1(control)	7,234	47,572	3.864	1,15,920	68,348	1.44
T2(P1+RDF)	8,234	48,572	4.544	1,36,320	87,748	1.80
T3(P1+PBZ1+N1)	32,273	72,611	7.284	2,18,520	1,45,909	2.00
T4(P1+PBZ1+N2)	42,273	82,611	11.032	3,30,960	2,48,349	3.01
T5(P1+PBZ2+N1)	35,473	75,811	7.136	2,14,080	1,38,269	1.82
T6(P1+PBZ2+N2)	45,473	85,811	7.308	2,19,240	1,33,429	1.55
T7(P2+RDF)	8,234	48,572	5.460	1,63,800	1,15,228	2.37
T8(P2+PBZ1+N1)	32,273	72,611	7.220	2,16,600	1,43,989	1.98
T9(P2+PBZ1+N2)	42,273	82,611	10.016	3,00,480	2,17,869	2.63
T10(P2+PBZ2+N1)	35,473	75,811	7.288	2,18,640	1,42,829	1.88
T11(P2+PBZ2+N2)	45,473	85,811	6.976	2,09,280	1,23,469	1.43

Basic cost of cultivation - Rs. 40,338/ha

Price of fruits – Rs. 30/kg

P1 - Shoot pruning at 10cm length; P2 - Shoot pruning at 20cm length.

PBZ1 - @ 0.75 g a.i./ m canopy diameter; PBZ2 - @ 1.25 g a.i./ mcanopy diameter.

N1 -75% of RDF + 5Kg Vermicompost + 20 g Arka microbial consortium + Mango special (spray);

N2 -75% of RDF + 10Kg Vermicompost + 20 g Arka microbial consortium + Mango special (spray).

As explained by Chandra and Shivraj, 1972, yield enhancement can also be attributed to the fact that enhanced uptake level of nutrients such as nitrogen by biofertilizers could have diverted the photo assimilates to the developing flower buds and helped in the conversion of flowers to more femaleness to produce higher number of fruits which in turn also increase the weight of fruit and yield. Biofertilizer has currently attained a special significance because of their stimulation effects on the rate of biosynthesis of the plant growth regulators (auxin, gibberellins and cytokinin), which are helpful to increase the metabolic activity of plant and simultaneously, to increase the fruit set and yield (Goldwin, 1986). Increase in yield and yield attributing characters with reduced NPK doses in association with organic manure and biofertilizers may be due to the optimum supply of plant nutrients and growth hormones at desired amount during entire period of fruit growth, ultimately increase in accumulation of photosynthate and resulted into increase in yield of fruits as reported by Balakrishna *et al.*, (2001) in custard apple and Yadav *et al.*, (2011) in mango *cv.* Amrapali. INM induced higher yields in different mango cultivars has been recorded by Omar and Belal (2007), Patel *et al.*, (2005), Kundu *et al.*, (2011), Singh and Banik (2011), Yadav *et al.*, (2011), Mohitkumar and Rajeshkumar (2014), Khamis *et al.*, (2017), Sau *et al.*, (2017) and Mohitkumar *et al.*, (2018).

The combination of pruning, PBZ and INM enhanced fruit yield is expected to be cumulative in increasing the yields as evident from our results.

Benefit cost ratio

The calculated data on benefit cost ratio was presented in Table 3 indicated that treatments has shown significant effect on benefit cost ratio. It was maximum (3.06) with T4

followed by T9 (2.63) and T7 (2.37) and recorded minimum with control (1.44). Although, fruit yield was high in the combination treatments, but the benefit: cost ratio was found to be at par with pruning treatment. It was mainly due to the higher cost of vermicompost. Similar conformational results are obtained by Reddy and Kurian (2014) in mango *cv.* Alphonso, Dutta *et al.*, (2016) and Sau *et al.*, (2017) in mango *cv.* Himsagar, Talathi *et al.*, (2015) and Singh *et al.*, (2018) in mango *cv.* Amrapali.

As evident from analysis of benefit cost ratio, treatment T4 is best suitable to the farmers for getting higher profits by adopting it.

On the basis of experimental findings, it can be concluded that among the different treatment combinations the treatment pruning at 10cm length in association with the soil drenching of PBZ @ 0.75g a.i./ m canopy diameter and application of 75% of RDF, 10kg vermicompost, 20g of AMC and mango special spray was most promising for regulating and getting higher yields in high density orchard of mango *cv.* Alphonso.

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