

Original Research Article

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Effect of Integrated Nutrient Management on Growth and Yield Attributes of Summer Pearl Millet in South Gujarat

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ABSTRACT

A field experiment was conducted during summer season of 2018 at college farm of N. M. College of Agriculture, Navsari, Gujarat, to study the effect of integrated nutrient management on summer pearl millet under south Gujarat conditions. Two levels of manure (no compost and vermicompost @ 10 t/ha), three fertilizer levels (no RDF, 75 per cent RDF and 100 per cent RDF) and two levels of biofertilizer (no seed inoculation and seed inoculation with *Azotobacter* @ 2 ml/kg seeds) were compared. Application of 10 tonnes vermicompost/ha significantly increased plant height at 30, 60 DAS and at harvest (23.68, 90.79 and 166.23 cm, respectively), dry matter accumulation at 30, 60 DAS and at harvest (24.21, 45.18 and 53.54 g/plant, respectively), number of effective tillers (3.76), ear head length (19.20 cm), ear head girth (5.53 cm), test weight (12.70 g), grain yield (5035 kg/ha) and straw yield (11134 kg/ha) over control. Improvement in plant height at 30, 60 DAS and at harvest (23.20, 88.28 and 161.17 cm, respectively), dry matter accumulation at 30, 60 DAS and at harvest (22.02, 41.84 and 49.16 g/plant, respectively), number of effective tillers (3.33), ear head length (18.73 cm), ear head girth (5.48 cm), test weight (12.45 g), grain yield (4310 kg/ha) and straw yield (9479 kg/ha) were also noticed with 100 per cent RDF. Seed inoculation with *Azotobacter* also increased plant height at 30, 60 DAS and at harvest (22.65, 87.31 and 160.17 cm, respectively), dry matter accumulation at 30, 60 DAS and at harvest (19.96, 39.31 and 46.97 g/plant, respectively), number of effective tillers (3.21), ear head length (18.05 cm), ear head girth (5.41 cm), test weight (12.37 g), grain yield (3904 kg/ha) and straw yield (8704 kg/ha) over control.

Keywords

Ear head girth (5.53 cm), Test weight (12.70 g), Grain yield (5035 kg/ha)

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Introduction

Pearlmillet (*Pennisetum glaucum* L.) is one of the important millet crops of India. Among the millets, it comes next to sorghum in area and

production. Rajasthan ranks first in area and production of pearl millet. Besides being a staple diet of about 10 per cent population of our country, it is an important fodder crop also. It is the only cereal crop that is capable

of producing a reliable yield under the marginal environments and simultaneously responds to high management conditions. Its nutritious grain forms the important component of human diet and stover forms the principal maintenance ration for ruminant livestock during the dry poultry. It is nutritionally better than many cereals as it is a good source of protein (12.6 per cent), minerals, particularly iron (2.8 per cent) and fat (5 per cent). In India, it is annually grown on 8.74 million ha area producing nearly 8.83 million tonnes of grains with productivity of 1011 kg ha⁻¹ (Anon., 2011).

Materials and Methods

In order to accomplish the objectives, the present field experiment entitled, "Effect of integrated nutrient management in summer pearl millet (*Pennisetum glaucum* L.) under south Gujarat condition" was conducted during summer season of 2018 at the College Farm, N. M. College of Agriculture, Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari. The campus is geographically located at 20°-57' N latitude and 72°-54' E longitude at an altitude of 10 meters above the mean sea level. According to agro-climatic conditions, Navsari is located in south Gujarat heavy rainfall zone-I (Agro-ecological situation-III). The climate of this zone is typically tropical, characterized by humid and warm monsoon with heavy rain, quite cold winter and fairly hot summer. The average annual rainfall of the tract is about 1500 mm. The soil of experimental field was clayey in texture, having pH 7.8 with normal electrical conductivity (0.36 dsm⁻¹), low in organic carbon content (0.72%), low in available nitrogen (150.23 kg ha⁻¹), medium in available phosphorus (49 kg ha⁻¹) and fairly rich in available potassium (307.81 kg ha⁻¹).

The treatments consisted of two levels of manure (no compost and vermicompost @ 10 t/ha), three fertilizer levels (no RDF, 75 per

cent RDF and 100 per cent RDF) and two levels of biofertilizer (no seed inoculation and seed inoculation with *Azotobacter* @ 2 ml/kg seeds). These treatments were evaluated in randomized block design with factorial concept (FRBD) and replicate three times. Pearl millet variety GCH-732 was sown in furrows at 45 cm row spacing using a seed rate of 3.75 kg/ha. Application of fertilizers (120:60:00 NPK kg/ha) was applied as per treatment. Half dose of N and full dose of P and K applied basal at the time of sowing and remaining half dose of N at 30 and 60 days after sowing. Vermicompost (1.74 % N, 0.89 % P, 0.86 % K and 12:1 C: N ration) was mixed in soil at the time of field preparation as per treatment. Seed was uniformly coated with *Azotobacter* @ 2 ml/kg seeds as per treatments. The results were analysed using standard statistical procedure given by Panse and Sukhatme (1985).

Results and Discussion

Manure

Significant effect of vermicompost was observed on growth attributes, yield and yield attributes of pearl millet. An application of vermicompost @ 10 tonnes/ha significantly increased plant height at 30, 60 DAS and at harvest (23.68, 90.79 and 166.23 cm, respectively), dry matter accumulation at 30, 60 DAS and at harvest (24.21, 45.18 and 53.54 g/plant, respectively), number of effective tillers per plant (3.76), ear head length (19.20 cm), ear head girth (5.53 cm), test weight (12.70 g), grain yield (5035 kg/ha) and straw yield (11134 kg/ha). Increase in these growth parameters has evidently resulted from favorable function on manure. The basic fact is that vermicompost provides secondary elements like Ca, Mg, and S and fairly high amounts of micronutrients to the plants. It also increases CEC, water holding capacity and phosphate availability in the soil. Thus

balanced nutrition due to release of macro and micro nutrients due to application of vermicompost under favorable environment might have helped in higher uptake of nutrients. This accelerated the growth of new tissues and development of new shoots that

have ultimately increased the plant height and dry mater accumulation. The results of present investigation are in conformity with those of Narolia *et al.*, (2009), Jadhav *et al.*, (2011), Chaudhary *et al.*, (2014) and Kumar *et al.*, (2014^a) in pearl millet (Table 1–8).

Table.1 Interaction effect of manure and fertilizer on plant height of pearl millet

Treatment	Plant height at harvest (cm)		
	Fertilizer (F)		
Manure (M)	F ₁	F ₂	F ₃
M ₁	133.41	156.12	145.53
M ₂	157.74	164.13	176.81
S .Em. ±	4.55		
C.D. at 5%	13.33		

Table.2 Effect of integrated nutrient management on growth attributes of pearl millet

Treatments	Plant height (cm)			Dry matter accumulation (g/plant)		
	At 30 DAS	At 60 DAS	At harvest	At 30 DAS	At 60 DAS	At harvest
(A) Manure (M)						
No compost (M1)	21.11	78.98	145.02	14.65	27.75	34.83
Vermicompost @ 10 t/ha (M2)	23.68	90.79	166.23	24.21	45.18	53.54
S.Em. +	0.42	1.61	2.62	0.43	0.87	0.97
C.D. at 5%	1.24	4.74	7.70	1.25	2.55	2.86
(B) Fertilizer (F)						
No RDF (F1)	21.33	79.91	145.58	14.66	28.75	36.23
75 per cent RDF (F2)	22.66	86.46	160.12	21.61	38.81	47.16
100 Per cent RDF (F3)	23.20	88.28	161.17	22.02	41.84	49.16
S.Em. +	0.52	1.98	3.21	0.52	1.07	1.19
C.D. at 5%	1.52	5.80	9.43	1.54	3.13	3.50
(C) Biofertilizer (B)						
No seed inoculation (B1)	22.14	82.46	151.07	18.91	33.62	41.40
Seed inoculation with <i>Azotobacter</i> (B2)	22.65	87.31	160.17	19.96	39.31	46.97
S.Em. +	0.42	1.61	2.62	0.43	0.87	0.97
C.D. at 5%	NS	4.74	7.70	NS	2.55	2.86

Table.3 Effect of integrated nutrient management on yield and yield attributes of pearl millet

Treatments	No. of effective tillers per plant	Ear head length (cm)	Ear head girth (cm)	Test weight (g)	Grain yield (kg/ha)	Straw yield (kg/ha)
(A) Manure (M)						
No compost (M1)	2.05	15.73	5.06	9.41	2215	5329
Vermicompost @ 10 t/ha (M2)	3.76	19.20	5.53	12.70	5035	11134
S.Em. +	0.077	0.38	0.08	0.28	78.43	197.65
C.D. at 5%	0.23	1.12	0.24	0.83	230.04	579.70
(B) Fertilizer (F)						
No RDF (F1)	2.30	16.16	5.09	9.52	2505	6091
75 per cent RDF (F2)	3.10	17.51	5.32	11.20	4060	9125
100 Per cent RDF (F3)	3.33	18.73	5.48	12.45	4310	9479
S.Em. +	0.094	0.47	0.10	0.35	96.06	242.08
C.D. at 5%	0.28	1.35	0.29	1.01	281.74	709.98
(C) Biofertilizer (B)						
No seed inoculation (B1)	2.60	16.88	5.17	9.74	3346	7760
Seed inoculation with <i>Azotobacter</i> (B2)	3.21	18.05	5.41	12.37	3904	8704
S.Em. +	0.077	0.38	0.08	0.28	78.43	197.65
C.D. at 5%	0.23	1.12	0.24	0.83	230.43	579.70

Table.4 Interaction effect of manure and fertilizer on dry matter accumulation of pearl millet

Treatment	Dry matter accumulation (g/plant)		
	Fertilizer (F)		
Manure (M)	F ₁	F ₂	F ₃
M ₁	24.44	39.71	40.34
M ₂	48.02	54.62	57.98
S .Em. ±	1.69		
C.D. at 5%	4.95		

Table.5 Interaction effect of manure and fertilizer on number of effective tillers of pearl millet

Treatment	Number of effective tillers per plant		
	Fertilizer (F)		
Manure (M)	F ₁	F ₂	F ₃
M ₁	1.64	2.07	2.45
M ₂	2.95	4.14	4.20
S .Em. ±	0.13		
C.D. at 5%	0.39		

Table.6 Interaction effect of manure and fertilizer on ear head length of pearl millet

Treatment	Ear head length (cm)		
	Fertilizer (F)		
Manure (M)	F ₁	F ₂	F ₃
M ₁	15.21	15.93	16.06
M ₂	17.11	19.10	21.39
S .Em. ±	0.66		
C.D. at 5%	1.94		

Table.7 Interaction effect of manure and fertilizer on grain yield of pearl millet

Treatment	Grain yield (kg/ha)		
	Fertilizer (F)		
Manure (M)	F ₁	F ₂	F ₃
M ₁	1449	2447	2749
M ₂	3561	5672	5871
S .Em. ±	135.85		
C.D. at 5%	398.44		

Table.8 Interaction effect of manure and fertilizer on straw yield of pearl millet

Treatment	Straw yield (kg/ha)		
	Fertilizer (F)		
Manure (M)	F ₁	F ₂	F ₃
M ₁	3846	5742	6399
M ₂	8337	12507	12560
S .Em. ±	342.35		
C.D. at 5%	1004.07		

The higher values of yield attributes like number of effective tillers per plant, ear head length and girth and test weight coupled with the higher crop dry matter observed with these treatments might have been the most probable reason of higher grain yield. The increase in grain yield of pearl millet with these treatments was also largely due to high harvest index that showed high partitioning of the plant assimilates towards the sink. Similar results were also obtained by Chaudhary *et al.*, (2012) in pearl millet, Anon. (2013) in pearl millet, Chaudhary *et al.*, (2015) in pearl millet and Biri *et al.*, (2016) in sorghum.

Fertilizer

Successive levels of fertilizer significantly increased the growth attributes, yield and yield attributes. Significantly highest plant height at 30, 60 DAS and at harvest (23.20, 88.28 and 161.17 cm, respectively), dry matter accumulation at 30, 60 DAS and at harvest (22.02, 41.84 and 49.16 g/plant, respectively), number of effective tillers per plant (3.33), ear head length (18.73 cm), ear head girth (5.48 cm), test weight (12.45 g), grain yield (4310 kg/ha) and straw yield (9479 kg/ha) was recorded in treatment receiving 100 % RDF, while the lowest in the control. The reason for better growth and development under these treatments might be the increased availability of nutrients to plant through inorganic fertilizers matching to the need of crop throughout the growing season. Being a cereal crop, pearl millet required nutrients throughout the growing season. The results obtained in the present investigation are in close conformity with the finding of Rathore *et al.*, (2006), Narolia and Poonia (2011), Kumar *et al.*, (2014b), Singh and Chauhan (2016) and Patel *et al.*, (2018) in pearl millet, Singh *et al.*, (2017) in maize and Patidar and Mali (2004), Panwar *et al.*, (2014) in sorghum.

Further, P₂O₅ fertilization also improves the metabolic and physiological processes and

thus known as “energy currency” which is subsequently used for vegetative and reproductive growth through phosphorylation. In addition to vital metabolic role, P is an important structural component of nucleic acid, phytin, phospholipids and enzymes. An adequate supply of phosphorous early in the life cycle of plant is important in laying down the primordia of its reproductive part. The present findings are in close confirmation with those of Rathore *et al.*, (2006), Chaudhary *et al.*, (2015), Patel *et al.*, (2018), Varia and Sadhu (2012) in pearl millet, Khan *et al.*, (2015) in sweet sorghum in pearl millet.

Biofertilizer

Plant height at 30 DAS and dry matter accumulation per plant at 30 DAS in pearl millet remained unaffected due to inoculation of biofertilizers. Highest plant height at 60 DAS and at harvest (87.31 and 160.17 cm, respectively), dry matter accumulation at 60 DAS and at harvest (39.31 and 46.97 g/plant, respectively), number of effective tillers per plant (3.21), ear head length (5.41 cm), ear head girth (18.05 cm), test weight (12.37 g), grain yield (3904 kg/ha) and straw yield (8704 kg/ha) was recorded with the seed inoculation with *Azotobacter*.

Increased growth and yield under the influence of *Azotobacter* inoculation might be due to the increased number of efficient and healthy strain of *Azotobacter* in the rhizosphere, which in turn resulted in better utilization of atmospheric nitrogen. These results are in close conformity with the findings of Patel *et al.*, (2014), Rinku *et al.*, (2014) in pearl millet and Patel *et al.*, (1992), Agrawal *et al.*, (1996) in fodder sorghum.

Interaction

Application of vermicompost @ 10 tonnes/ha with 100 per cent RDF resulted in maximum plant height at harvest (176.81 cm) and dry

matter accumulation per plant at harvest (57.98 g) of pearl millet, being at par with vermicompost and 75 per cent RDF. The reason for better growth and development under these treatments might be the increased availability of nutrients to plant initially through inorganic fertilizers and then by organic manures like vermicompost matching to the need of crop throughout the growing season. Being a cereal crop, pearl millet required nutrients throughout the growing season. Louraduraj (2006) in maize reported similar results from their experiments.

Application of vermicompost @ 10 tonnes/ha with 100 per cent RDF resulted in maximum grain yield (5871 kg/ha), straw yield (12560 kg/ha), number of effective tillers per plant (4.20), ear head length (21.39 cm) of pearl millet, being at par with vermicompost and 75 per cent RDF in case of all yield attributes and yield except ear head length. This indicates that use of vermicompost in combination with fertility levels has beneficial effect in improving the crop yield. The beneficial response of vermicompost to yield might also be attributed to the better availability of sufficient amounts of plant nutrients throughout the growth period and especially at critical growth period of crops which has resulted in better plant vigour and superior yield attributes. These results are in line of the result of those reported by Divya *et al.*, (2017) in pearl millet, Singh *et al.*, (2017) in maize, Sheoran and Rana (2005) in sorghum, Pawar and Patil (2007) in maize, Govindappa *et al.*, (2009) in finger millet and Chaudhary *et al.*, (2014), Shrivastava and Arya (2017, Jain *et al.*, (2018) in pearl millet.

It could be concluded that application of vermicompost @ 10 tonnes/ha with 100 per cent RDF and inoculation of *Azotobacter* improved growth attributes, yield and yield attributes in pearl millet under the prevailing agro-climatic condition.

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