

Original Research Article

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## Effect of Fertility Levels on Growth, Phenological Parameters, Yield and Quality of Lentil (*Lens culinaris medikus*)

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### ABSTRACT

A field experiment was conducted during Rabi season at AKS University Satna (M.P.) during 2016-2017, the experiment consist of three factors viz. four Nitrogen levels (N10, N20, N30 and N40), four phosphorus levels (P50, P60, P70 and P80) and four potash levels (K10, K20, K30 and K40) was laid out in a randomized block design. with the objective of studying the effect of fertility levels on growth parameters (plant height, no. of branches per plant, no. of nodules per plant, fresh weight, dry weight), phenological parameters (LAI, CGR, RGR) and yield parameters ( no. of pods per plant, number of seeds per pod, seed weight, seed yield, test weight (1000 seeds) straw yield of lentil. The study relieved that increased growth parameters (plant height, no. of branches per plant, no. of nodules per plant) showed significant and consistent increased at all growth stages up to 30 kg Nha<sup>-1</sup>, 70 kg Pha<sup>-1</sup>, 30 Kkg ha<sup>-1</sup>, whereas phenological parameters and yield parameters increased significantly with Nitrogen application up to 40 kg Nha<sup>-1</sup>, up to 80 kg Pha<sup>-1</sup> and 40 kg K ha<sup>-1</sup>. The interaction effect on seed yield is between N, P & K was significant where highest with treatment combination of 40 kg N+80 kg P ha<sup>-1</sup> and of 40 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> respectively.

### Keywords

Fertility levels,  
CGR, RGR, LAI,  
Branches, Yield

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### Introduction

Lentil (*Lens culinaris medikus*) a name given by the German botanist medikus in 1778 (Cubero, 1981). The primary product of the cultivated lentil is the seed, which is a valuable human food product containing a high amount of protein (22.0-34.5%), carbohydrates (65%) and other minerals and vitamins (Yadav *et al.*, 2007) since, 2008. In many sentries lentils are used as a meat substitute (Duke, 1981). The seeds are mostly eaten as dal in soups and the flour can be

mixed with cereal flour and used in cakes, breads and some baby food (Muehlbauer *et al.*, 1995). In some parts of India, the whole seeds are eaten salted and fried young pods can also be used as green vegetables and the seeds can be a source of starch for textile and printing industries (Duke, 1981).

Lentil is predominantly grown in Asia which accounts for 80 percent of global area and 75% of world production. India ranks first in area as well as production, in Lentil followed by Turkey. It occupies second place among

the winter pulses after chickpea in the country covering an area of 1.48m ha with a production of 1.03m tones (Anonymous, 2011). The major lentil producing states are Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Rajasthan and Assam.

Most of the pulse growing soils are deficient in available P status. Many field experiments conducted in different agro climatic regions of the country have unambiguously crop is an economically viable proposition. Application of P to the pulse crop not only increased their productivity but also gives considerable residue for succeeding crop. Phosphorous also improves the crop quality and enhances the crop resistance to diseases (Mann, 1968). Phosphate application to pulses not only benefit the particular crop in increasing its yield but also favorably affects the soil nitrogen content for the succeeding non legume crop which require lower doses of nitrogen application Potash is important in nitrogen fixation on lentil and it is important in protein, starch synthesis, water nutrient, sugar transport and crop quality improving on lentil. Consider as reaction catalyst and it affects the efficiency of various enzymes.

## Materials and Methods

The investigation reported in the manuscript was carried out the experiment was conducted at the Instructional cum research farm, AKS University, Sherganj, Satna (M.P.) for *rabi* season 2016-2017. The experimental site is situated at the latitude of 23°58' N and longitude of 80°81' east in mid northern part of Rewa. The experimental farm lies in humid sub-tropical with an average rainfall is 1077mm and mean temperature range from 21°C to 31°C during crop season A field experiment was conducted in factorial randomized block design using three varieties of lentil (PL-4, Rani K-75, HUL-57) and different NPK dose of

F<sub>1</sub>=10:50:10NPK/ha, F<sub>2</sub>=20:60:20NPK/ha, F<sub>3</sub>=30:70:30NPK/ha, F<sub>4</sub>=40:80:40NPK/ha as test crop at Agricultural Research Farm of AKS University, Sherganj, Satna (M.P.). The surface soil (0-15 cm) samples collected from the experimental farm were analyzed for physico-chemical properties as suggested by Jackson (1973). The soil was well drained, sandy loam in texture having pH 7.5, EC 0.16 dsm<sup>-1</sup>, organic carbon 0.30 g kg<sup>-1</sup>, available nitrogen 176.6 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>, available phosphorus 12.5 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> and available potassium 200 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>. NPK was applied through urea, single super phosphate, muriate of potash and elemental sulphur, respectively. As per treatments, basal dressing along with ½ dose of nitrogen, full dose of phosphorus and potash at the time of sowing and remaining ½ dose of N was applied at 30 days after sowing (DAS). The crop was sown in spacing (30x5 cm apart) on 15 November, 2016. All agronomic practices were kept uniform and normal for all treatment. Data on plant height (cm) number of branches per plant, number of nodules per plant, fresh weight of nodules (g plant) dry matter accumulation (g plant<sup>-1</sup>/Q ha<sup>-1</sup>), leaf area index, number of pods per plant, number of seeds per pod, 1000- seed weight (g) seed yield, straw yield and harvest index were recorded during the course study by following standard procedure. Harvested on 17 March 2017 at maturity yield attributing characters.

## Results and Discussion

### Growth parameters

These favourable soil conditions brought about efficient utilization of plant nutrients accompanied by activating plant enzymes. The higher fertility level (N<sub>30</sub>P<sub>70</sub>K<sub>30</sub>) increased all the growth parameters significantly at every stage of observations. Accordingly N<sub>30</sub>P<sub>70</sub>K<sub>30</sub> recorded maximum plant height (61.84 cm), branches (12.13/plant) and root nodules

(25.0/plant) but LAI (3.76), CGR (0.0363 g/m<sup>2</sup>/day), fresh weight (11.20 g/plant), dry weight (2.19 g/plant) were found maximum due to highest fertility level (N<sub>40</sub>P<sub>80</sub>K<sub>40</sub>) (Table 1). On the other hand, the significantly lowest all these growth parameters were recorded under the lowest fertility level (N<sub>10</sub>P<sub>50</sub>K<sub>10</sub>) root development particularly due to increased availability of phosphorus insured more absorption of minerals, nutrients and soil moisture from the deeper soil layers. The remarkable increase in plant height and formation of higher number of branches/plant due to higher doses of phosphorus associated activities of *Rhizobium* and PSB biofertilizers supplying additional nutrients and solubilized-phosphorus may be as a result of acceleration of cell elongation and cell division. The present findings confirm with those of several research workers (Sayed, 1999; Saha *et al.*, 2004; Singh *et al.*, 2007; Singh *et al.*, 2011, Saket *et al.*, 2014; and Singh and Singh, 2017).

### Phenological parameters

LAI, CGR, RGR significantly increased with increased on fertility levels. The periodical observations recorded on lentil reveal that LAI, CGR, RGR were increased almost significantly due to application of higher levels of fertility N<sub>40</sub>P<sub>80</sub>K<sub>40</sub> at every stage. At harvest stage, the LAI 3.64 to 3.76, CGR 0.36 g/m<sup>2</sup>/day, RGR was not influenced significantly (Table 2–7).

### Yield parameters

The factors which are directly responsible for ultimate grain production viz. number of pods/plant, number of grains /pod, and 1000-grain yield were augmented almost significantly due to increased supply of NPK upto N<sub>40</sub>P<sub>80</sub>K<sub>40</sub> (Table 8).

**Table.1** Plant height (cm) of lentil at different growth intervals as influenced by fertility levels, varieties and their interactions

Treatments	Plant height (cm)			
	30	60	90 DAS	At Harvest
<b>Fertility levels (kg/ha)</b>				
<b>N10P50K10</b>	6.80	20.33	47.51	49.13
<b>N20P60K20</b>	7.47	22.75	58.22	59.87
<b>N30P70K30</b>	8.29	24.69	61.17	61.84
<b>N40P80K40</b>	7.64	22.69	55.93	57.80
<b>S.Em±</b>	0.26	0.70	2.33	2.10
<b>C.D. (P=0.05)</b>	0.77	2.06	6.84	6.22

**Table.2** Leaf area index (LAI) of lentil at different growth intervals as influenced by fertility levels, varieties and their interactions

Treatments	Leaf area index (LAI)		
	30	60	90 DAS
<b>Fertility levels (kg/ha)</b>			
<b>N10P50K10</b>	0.59	1.29	3.41
<b>N20P60K20</b>	0.72	1.33	3.56
<b>N30P70K30</b>	0.77	1.39	3.64
<b>N40P80K40</b>	0.79	1.48	3.76
<b>S.Em<sub>±</sub></b>	<b>0.07</b>	<b>0.027</b>	<b>0.070</b>
<b>C.D. (P=0.05)</b>	<b>0.0525</b>	<b>0.080</b>	<b>0.205</b>

**Table.3** Crop growth rate [CGR (g/m<sup>2</sup>/day)] of lentil at different growth intervals as influenced by fertility levels, varieties and their interactions

Treatments	Crop growth rate [CGR(g/m <sup>2</sup> /day)]	
	30	60 DAS
<b>Fertility levels (kg/ha)</b>		
<b>N10P50K10</b>	0.021	0.0280
<b>N20P60K20</b>	0.023	0.0289
<b>N30P70K30</b>	0.025	0.0360
<b>N40P80K40</b>	0.026	0.0363
<b>S.Em<sub>±</sub></b>	<b>0.0004</b>	<b>0.0015</b>
<b>C.D. (P=0.05)</b>	<b>0.0011</b>	<b>0.0043</b>

**Table.4** Relative growth rate [RGR (g/plant/day)] of lentil at different growth intervals as influenced by fertility levels, varieties and their interactions

Treatments	Relative growth rate	
	(g/plant/day)	
	30	60 DAS
<b>Fertility levels (kg/ha)</b>		
<b>N10P50K10</b>	0.0447	0.0228
<b>N20P60K20</b>	0.0441	0.0020
<b>N30P70K30</b>	0.0431	0.0241
<b>N40P80K40</b>	0.0407	0.0229
<b>S.Em±</b>	<b>0.0006</b>	<b>0.00084</b>
<b>C.D. (P=0.05)</b>	<b>0.0017</b>	<b>NS</b>

**Table.5** Fresh weight/plant of lentil at different growth intervals as influenced by fertility levels, varieties and their interactions

Treatments	Fresh weight/plant (g)		
	30	60	90 DAS
<b>Fertility levels (kg/ha)</b>			
<b>N10P50K10</b>	1.31	4.18	8.12
<b>N20P60K20</b>	1.43	4.51	8.90
<b>N30P70K30</b>	1.55	5.03	10.22
<b>N40P80K40</b>	1.63	5.53	11.20
<b>S.Em±</b>	<b>0.058</b>	<b>0.124</b>	<b>0.100</b>
<b>C.D. (P=0.05)</b>	<b>0.169</b>	<b>0.365</b>	<b>0.294</b>

**Table.6** Protein content of lentil as influenced by fertility levels, varieties and their interactions

Fertility levels (kg/ha)	Varieties			Mean
	PL-4	Rani K-75	HUL-57	
N10P50K10	20.07	21.10	22.18	<b>21.12</b>
N20P60K20	21.42	22.25	23.31	<b>22.33</b>
N30P70K30	22.64	23.17	24.10	<b>23.30</b>
N40P80K40	23.02	23.25	24.31	<b>23.53</b>
<b>Mean</b>	<b>21.79</b>	<b>22.04</b>	<b>23.48</b>	
	<b>Fertility levels</b>	<b>Varieties</b>	<b>Interaction</b>	
<b>S.Em<math>\pm</math></b>	0.084	0.073	0.145	
<b>C.D. (P=0.05)</b>	<b>0.246</b>	<b>0.213</b>	<b>NS</b>	

**Table.7** Growth parameters of lentil as influenced by fertility levels

Treatments	Plant height (cm) at harvest	Branches plant 90 DAS	Root nodules/plant at 45 DAS	LAI 90 DAS	CGR (g/m <sup>2</sup> /day) (60-90 DAS)	RGR (g/plant/day) (60-90 DAS)	Fresh weight/plant (g) at 90 DAS	Dry weight/plant (g) at 90 DAS
Fertility levels (kg/ha)								
N10P50K10	49.13	7.83	10.71	3.41	0.0280	0.0228	8.12	1.68
N20P60K200	59.87	9.89	13.96	3.56	0.0289	0.0220	8.90	1.79
N30P70K30	61.84	12.13	16.76	3.64	0.0360	0.0241	10.22	2.09
N40P80K40	57.80	9.04	12.62	3.76	0.0363	0.0229	11.20	2.19
<b>S.Em<math>\pm</math></b>	2.10	1.04	1.08	0.070	0.0015	0.00084	0.10	0.044
<b>C.D. (P=0.05)</b>	6.22	3.05	3.17	0.205	0.0043	NS	0.29	0.130

**Table.8** Yield-attributes, yield and protein content of lentil as influenced by fertility levels

Treatments	Pods/ plant	Seeds/ pod	1000-seed weight/plant (g)	Seed yield(q/ha)	Straw yield (q/ha)	Seed Protein (%)
Fertility levels (kg/ha)						
N10P50K10	124.36	1.30	22.15	9.11	17.01	21.12
N20P60K200	128.48	1.37	23.23	10.46	19.91	22.33
N30P70K30	135.26	1.44	24.22	11.46	21.80	23.30
N40P80K40	142.31	1.47	24.44	12.37	23.93	23.53
S.Em <sub>+</sub>	0.57	0.017	0.134	0.075	0.148	0.084
C.D. (P=0.05)	2.07	0.051	0.392	0.221	0.434	0.246

The overall grain yield of lentil was found higher by 12.37q/ha due to N<sub>40</sub>P<sub>80</sub>K<sub>40</sub> over the 3,26q/ha due to N<sub>10</sub>P<sub>50</sub>K<sub>10</sub>. Similarly straw yield is higher by 23.93q/ha due to N<sub>40</sub>P<sub>80</sub>K<sub>40</sub> over the 6.92q/ha due to N<sub>10</sub>P<sub>50</sub>K<sub>10</sub>. The trend of increases in grain yield obtained due to this treatment was exactly in accordance with the similar increases recorded in the yield-attributing characters (pods/plant, seeds/pod and 1000-grain weight) and the increased vegetative growth.

### Quality parameters

The protein content in grain was found to increase significantly (23.30 to 23.53%) with the higher levels of fertility (N<sub>30</sub>P<sub>70</sub>K<sub>30</sub> and N<sub>40</sub>P<sub>80</sub>K<sub>40</sub>). The significantly lowest protein content (21.12%). The response of NPK in improving seed quality may be attributed to its significant role in regulating the photosynthesis, root-enlargement and better microbial activities (Mishra *et al.*, 2015). These results are in agreement with those of several workers (Saha *et al.*, 2004; Singh *et al.*, 2007; Tatarwal and Rana, 2007; Singh *et*

*al.*, 2011; Saket *et al.*, 2014 and Singh and Singh, 2017).

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