

Original Research Article

<https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2020.911.284>

## Studies on Effect of Organic Treatments and Spacing on Growth and Yield Parameters of Kalmegh (*Andrographis paniculata*) var. CIM – Megha

M. Chandana<sup>1\*</sup>, Veena Joshi<sup>2</sup>, D. Lakshminarayana<sup>3</sup> and D. Vijaya<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Plantation, Spices, Medicinal and Aromatic Crops, <sup>2</sup>Department of Fruit Science, <sup>3</sup>Department of Horticulture, College of Horticulture, Rajendranagar, SKLTSHU, Mulugu, Siddipet, India

<sup>4</sup>Department of Soil Science and Analytical Chemistry, Grape Research Station, SKLTSHU, India

\*Corresponding author

### ABSTRACT

A field experiment conducted on the effect of organic treatments and spacing on growth and yield parameters of kalmegh under rabi season 2017-18 at college of Horticulture, Rajendranagar revealed that interaction between organic treatments and spacing significantly influenced growth and yield parameters. The treatment M<sub>1</sub>S<sub>1</sub> - FYM 30 t/ha + AMC (7.5 l/ha) with spacing S<sub>1</sub> (15 x 15 cm) recorded maximum plant height (45.64 cm) at harvest, followed by M<sub>3</sub>S<sub>3</sub>- Neem cake 7.5 t/ha + AMC 7.5 l/ha with spacing S<sub>3</sub> (30 x 45 cm). Minimum was recorded in M<sub>5</sub>S<sub>3</sub> – control at spacing (S<sub>3</sub>- 30 x 45 cm). The treatment M<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub> -Vermicompost 6t/ha + AMC (7.5 l/ha) with spacing S<sub>3</sub> (30 x 45 cm) recorded maximum stem diameter (3.43 mm), followed by M<sub>3</sub>S<sub>3</sub>- Neem cake 7.5 t/ha + AMC 7.5 l/ha at spacing S<sub>3</sub> (30 x 45 cm). Minimum was recorded in the treatment M<sub>5</sub>S<sub>1</sub>- Control with spacing S<sub>1</sub> (15 x 15 cm). The treatment M<sub>1</sub>S<sub>3</sub> –FYM (30 t/ha) + AMC (7.5 l/ha) with spacing S<sub>3</sub> (30 x 45 cm) recorded maximum fresh weight of leaves per plant (60.63 g), dry weight of leaves per plant (30.26 g), at harvest, followed by the treatment M<sub>3</sub>S<sub>3</sub> whereas minimum was recorded in the treatment M<sub>5</sub>S<sub>1</sub>. The treatment M<sub>1</sub>S<sub>1</sub> - (FYM (30 t/ha) + AMC (7.5 l/ha) with spacing S<sub>1</sub> (15 x 15 cm) recorded maximum fresh herb yield per plot (3.12 kg), dry herb yield per plot (1.56 kg), at harvest, followed by M<sub>3</sub>S<sub>1</sub>- Neem cake (7.5 t/ha) + AMC (7.5 l/ha) with spacing S<sub>1</sub>(15 x 15 cm). Minimum was recorded in the treatment M<sub>5</sub>S<sub>3</sub>- Control with spacing S<sub>3</sub> (30 x 45 cm).

### Keywords

Kalmegh, Organic treatments, AMC (Arka Microbial Consortium), Fresh weight, Dry weight, Growth and yield

### Article Info

Accepted:  
17 October 2020  
Available Online:  
10 November 2020

### Introduction

Kalmegh is a bitter annual herb (perennial, if maintained), erect, 50 cm to 1m. in height, stem quadrangular, much branched; leaves opposite, short petioled, flowers in racemes, fruit capsule, linear, oblong or elliptic; seeds

about 12 in number, subquadrate, brownish or creamy yellow. Kalmegh is one of the important ingredients in various ayurvedic preparations used for fever and liver disease, which are commonly used by ayurvedic physicians. The herb is having a preventive effect from many diseases, due to its powerful

immune strengthening benefits. The entire plant is used to treat snake bite. The hot water extract of the whole plant is used for acute jaundice. The decoction of the dried leaf is used against high blood pressure. The plant has properties like laxative, antipyretic, anti-inflammatory, anti-viral, anti-malarial, anti-cancer (Kumar *et al.*, 2004, Shen *et al.*, 2002). Calabrese *et al.*, (2000) has conducted a trial on HIV patients and found effective.

In the present content of rapid civilization, global warming, climate change, indiscriminate use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, sustainable production of agricultural crops is the prime objectives of agricultural researchers and policy makers. Organic production and integrated use of benefits are the key issues of today crop production.

For maintaining optimum productivity of the land and building up of soil fertility, the use of organic manures along with biofertilizers (Arka Microbial Consortium - AMC) to crops has been suggested. It is a well known fact that the availability of organic manures is very much limited in the present day agriculture (Annadurai *et al.*, 2001).

Spacing is an important factor for better growth and yield of the plant. Optimum number of plants is required per unit area to utilize efficiently the available production factors such as water, nutrient, light and CO<sub>2</sub>.

## Materials and Methods

The field experiment was conducted at College of Horticulture, Rajendranagar during rabi 2017-18. The soil type was loamy sand having pH 6, EC 0.06 dSm<sup>-1</sup>, low in available N (175.61 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>), low in available P (7.77 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) and medium in available potash (182.56 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>). The experiment was laid out in Factorial randomized block design (FRBD)

in three replications with 15 treatment combinations comprised of five levels of organic treatments *viz.*, M<sub>1</sub> – FYM (30t/ha) + AMC (7.5 l/ha), M<sub>2</sub> – Vermicompost (6t/ha) + AMC (7.5 l/ha), M<sub>3</sub> – Neem cake (7.5t/ha) + AMC (7.5 l/ha), M<sub>4</sub> – Sheep manure (10t/ha) + AMC (7.5 l/ha), M<sub>5</sub> - Control and three levels of spacing *viz.*, S<sub>1</sub> – 15x15 cm, S<sub>2</sub> – 30x30 cm, S<sub>3</sub> – 30x45 cm.

## Results and Discussion

### Plant height (cm)

Interaction between organic treatments and spacing found to be non significant effect on plant height at harvest (Fig. 1 and Table 1).

### Stem diameter (mm)

Interaction between organic treatments and spacing had significant effect on stem diameter at Harvest. M<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub> Vermicompost (6 t/ha) + AMC (7.5 l/ha) with Spacing S<sub>3</sub> 30 x 45 cm recorded maximum stem diameter (3.43mm) followed by M<sub>3</sub>S<sub>3</sub> Neem cake (7.5 t/ha) + AMC (7.5 l/ha) with spacing S<sub>3</sub> 30 x 45 cm (3.27mm) which were remained on par. M<sub>5</sub>S<sub>1</sub> Control with spacing S<sub>1</sub> -15 x 15 cm (1.02mm) recorded minimum stem diameter among all the interactions.

Incorporation of vermicompost promotes maximum stem diameter which might be due to the presence of plant growth promoters like auxins and cytokinins in vermicompost, which are responsible for cell division and cell elongation (Prabu and Shakila, 2013).

### Number of primary branches

Interaction between organic treatments and spacing had significant effect on number of primary branches at harvest. Among all the interactions, M<sub>3</sub>S<sub>3</sub> Neem cake (7.5 t/ha) + AMC (7.5 l/ha) with spacing S<sub>3</sub> 30 x 45 cm

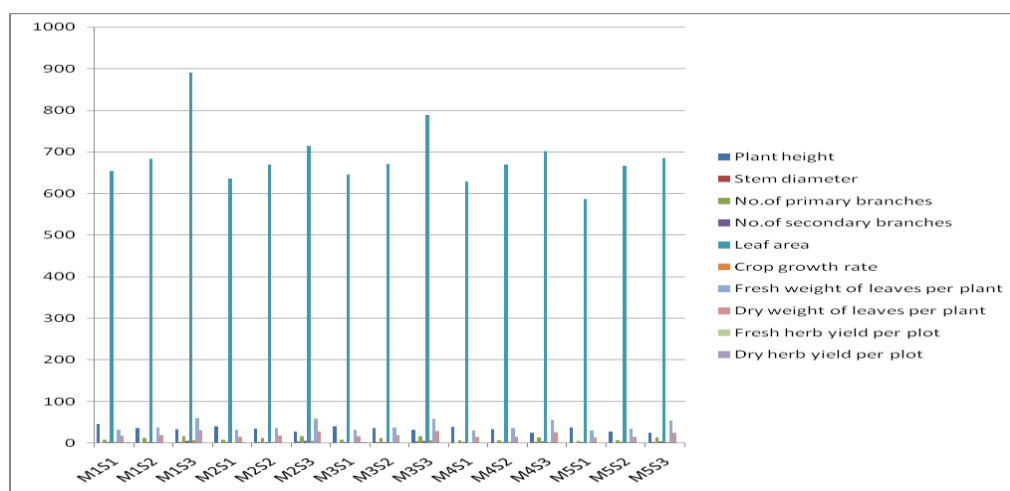
recorded maximum number of primary branches (17.23) followed by M<sub>1</sub>S<sub>3</sub> (16.63). M<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub> Vermicompost (6 t/ha) + AMC (7.5 l/ha) with Spacing S<sub>3</sub> 30 x 45 cm (16.16), M<sub>4</sub>S<sub>3</sub> Sheep manure (10 t/ha) + AMC (7.5

l/ha) with spacing S<sub>3</sub> 30 x 45 cm (13.60) which were remained at par. Minimum number of primary branches was recorded in M<sub>5</sub>S<sub>1</sub> Control with spacing S<sub>1</sub> -15 x 15 cm (6.01).

**Table.1** Effect of organic treatments and spacing on growth and yield parameters of kalmegh var. CIM-Megha at harvest

Treatments	Plant height (cm)	Stem diameter (mm)	No. of primary branches	No. of secondary branches	Leaf area (cm <sup>2</sup> )	Crop growth rate (g/day/m <sup>2</sup> )	Fresh weight of leaves per plant (g)	Dry weight of leaves per plant (g)	Fresh herb yield per plot (kg)	Dry herb yield per plot (kg)
M <sub>1</sub> S <sub>1</sub>	45.64	1.04	8.01	2.41	653.90	1.87	32.39	18.16	3.12	1.56
M <sub>1</sub> S <sub>2</sub>	36.77	1.66	12.60	3.33	683.60	2.53	38.08	19.36	1.86	0.93
M <sub>1</sub> S <sub>3</sub>	33.56	2.66	16.63	5.57	890.60	7.14	60.63	30.26	1.46	0.73
M <sub>2</sub> S <sub>1</sub>	40.73	1.42	7.86	2.39	635.40	1.26	31.57	16.07	2.43	1.21
M <sub>2</sub> S <sub>2</sub>	34.66	2.20	12.01	3.34	669.40	2.16	36.70	18.62	1.75	0.88
M <sub>2</sub> S <sub>3</sub>	27.33	3.43	16.16	5.01	714.00	5.09	58.14	27.72	1.34	0.71
M <sub>3</sub> S <sub>1</sub>	40.95	1.34	8.30	2.61	645.30	1.36	31.95	17.16	2.96	1.48
M <sub>3</sub> S <sub>2</sub>	36.57	2.06	12.79	3.48	670.20	2.36	37.34	19.21	1.79	0.90
M <sub>3</sub> S <sub>3</sub>	32.75	3.27	17.23	5.78	788.10	6.31	59.43	29.04	1.38	0.73
M <sub>4</sub> S <sub>1</sub>	38.95	1.03	6.84	2.53	629.10	1.26	31.51	14.93	1.91	0.95
M <sub>4</sub> S <sub>2</sub>	33.74	1.57	7.02	3.03	668.90	1.96	36.55	15.63	1.63	0.82
M <sub>4</sub> S <sub>3</sub>	25.84	2.50	13.60	4.02	701.40	2.93	56.12	26.44	1.28	0.64
M <sub>5</sub> S <sub>1</sub>	37.57	1.02	6.01	2.25	586.70	0.97	30.70	13.53	1.64	0.82
M <sub>5</sub> S <sub>2</sub>	28.23	1.24	6.78	3.02	667.20	1.93	35.34	14.82	1.45	0.68
M <sub>5</sub> S <sub>3</sub>	25.83	2.34	13.46	3.62	684.20	2.52	54.74	24.54	1.22	0.61
S.Em±	1.60	0.04	0.36	0.20	7.38	0.20	1.55	0.29	0.02	0.04
C.D	N.S	0.13	1.06	0.58	21.39	0.59	N.S	0.84	0.70	0.10

**Fig.1** Effect of organic treatments and spacing on growth parameters of kalmegh var. CIM-Megha at harvest



Increased number of branches was noticed in bio-fertilizers treatments could be attributed to activation of bio-active substances in plants due to the application of bio-fertilizers, which in the turn would have increased the availability of nutrients. Similar observations were recorded by Ajimuddin *et al.*, (2005) in sweet basil.

Kumar *et al.*, (2010) reported that maximum number of primary branches from wider spacing crop in kalmegh. The closer spacing (15 x 15 cm) recorded the minimum number of primary branches per plant might be due to overcrowding and competition for sunlight, nutrients and air.

### **Number of secondary branches**

Interaction between organic treatments and spacing had significant effect on number of secondary branches at harvest. M<sub>3</sub>S<sub>3</sub> Neem cake (7.5 t/ha) + AMC (7.5 l/ha) with spacing S<sub>3</sub> 30 x 45 cm recorded maximum number of secondary branches (5.78) followed by M<sub>1</sub>S<sub>3</sub> FYM (30 t/ha) + AMC (7.5 l/ha) with spacing S<sub>3</sub> 30 x 45 cm (5.57), M<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub> Vermicompost (6 t/ha) + AMC (7.5 l/ha) with Spacing S<sub>3</sub> 30 x 45 cm (5.01) and were at par. Minimum number of secondary branches was recorded in M<sub>5</sub>S<sub>1</sub> Control with spacing S<sub>1</sub> -15 x 15 cm (2.25).

Number of secondary branches was found to be maximum with application of organic manures along with biofertilizers like azotobacter, phosphorous solubilizing bacteria and arbuscular mycorrhiza fungi independently or in combination enhances the N and P status respectively, which assisted the host plant to promote growth (Khaliq *et al.*, 1997) in mentha *spp.*, (Nath *et al.*, 2000) Coleus, (Mohanchandra 2003) *Solanum nigrum*, (Ramesh babu. 1996). Wider spacing promotes branching in mint, because of exposure of the plant to light, which affected

the plants to promote maximum number of secondary branches. (Salim *et al.*, 2014)

### **Leaf area (cm<sup>2</sup>)**

Interaction between organic treatments and spacing had significant effect on leaf area at Harvest. Among all the interactions M<sub>1</sub>S<sub>3</sub> FYM (30 t/ha) + AMC (7.5 l/ha) with spacing S<sub>3</sub> (30 x 45 cm) recorded maximum leaf area (890.60) followed by M<sub>3</sub>S<sub>3</sub> Neem cake (7.5 t/ha) + AMC (7.5 l/ha) with spacing S<sub>3</sub> 30 x 45 cm (788.10). Minimum leaf area was recorded in M<sub>5</sub>S<sub>1</sub> Control with spacing S<sub>1</sub> -15 x 15 cm (586.70).

In addition to mineralization and long term availability of nutrients by FYM, by the application of AMC might be the reason to cause increase in the length and breadth of the leaves leading to increased leaf area (Manjunatha *et al.*, 2002). Light is important source of photosynthesis for plant growth, wider spaced plant get proper light intensity and nutrient as compare to the closely spaced plant So, maximum leaf area recorded under wider spacing. Similar results have been reported by Kahsay *et al.*, (2014) who found that wider spaced plant get more leaf area.

### **Crop growth rate**

Interaction between organic treatments and spacing had significant effect on crop growth rate at Harvest. Among all the interactions M<sub>1</sub>S<sub>3</sub> - FYM (30 t/ha) + AMC (7.5 l/ha) with spacing S<sub>3</sub> (30 x 45 cm) recorded the maximum crop growth rate (7.14) followed by M<sub>3</sub>S<sub>3</sub> - Neem cake (7.5 t/ha) + AMC (7.5 l/ha) with spacing S<sub>3</sub> 30 x 45 cm (6.31). Minimum crop growth rate was observed in M<sub>5</sub>S<sub>1</sub> Control with spacing S<sub>1</sub> -15 x 15 cm (0.97).

The increasing crop growth rate due to application of FYM and biofertilizers may be

due to the compensation with growth of number of plants per unit area by efficient utilization of available resources viz., nutrients, water, light and space and having comparatively less competition between intra and inter row spacing resulting optimum crop growth rate under wider spacing. The same results have been supported by various workers (Khanda and Mishra, 1999; Santhi and Vijayakumar, 1997, and Pareek *et al.*, 1991).

### **Fresh weight of leaves per plant**

Interaction between organic treatments and spacing did not exhibit any significant effect on fresh weight of leaves at Harvest.

### **Dry weight of leaves per plant**

Interaction between organic treatments and spacing had significant effect on dry weight of leaves at Harvest. Among all the interactions M<sub>1</sub>S<sub>3</sub> FYM (30 t/ha) + AMC (7.5 l/ha) with spacing S<sub>3</sub> (30 x 45 cm) recorded the maximum dry weight of leaves (30.26) followed by M<sub>3</sub>S<sub>3</sub> Neem cake (7.5 t/ha) + AMC (7.5 l/ha) with spacing S<sub>3</sub> 30 x 45 cm (29.04). Minimum dry weight of leaves was observed in M<sub>5</sub>S<sub>1</sub> Control with spacing S<sub>1</sub>-15 x 15 cm (13.53).

The highest dry weight per plant could be attributed to the promotion of growth and yield attributes due to greater uptake of nutrients into the plant system under the influence of biofertilizers. These are similar to the findings of Mahendran and Kumar (1998) in potato, Mahantesh (2002) in onion. The increasing dried leaf yield may be due to the compensation with growth of number of plants per unit area by efficient utilization of available resources. The same results have been supported by various workers (Khanda and Mishra, 1999).

### **Fresh herb yield per plot (kg)**

Interaction between organic treatments and spacing had significant effect on fresh herb yield per plot at Harvest. Among all the interactions M<sub>1</sub>S<sub>1</sub> - FYM (30t/ha) + AMC 7.5 l/ha with spacing S<sub>1</sub> - 15 x 15 cm recorded the maximum (3.12) followed by M<sub>3</sub>S<sub>1</sub> - Neem cake 7.5 t/ha + AMC 7.5 l/ha with spacing S<sub>1</sub> - 15 x 15 cm (2.96). Minimum fresh herb yield per plot was observed in M<sub>5</sub>S<sub>3</sub> . Control with spacing S<sub>3</sub> - 30 x 45 cm (1.22).

The application of organic manures before planting *Mentha longifolia* plants provide a beneficial effects on plant growth, due to their availability to supply macro and micro nutrients in available forms and improving soil structure (Dauda *et al.*, 2008) and microbial biomass (Dhull *et al.*, 2004). Among different spacing levels, more number of plants per unit area was observed under 15 x 15cm spacing compared to other spacings. Such a phenomenon of higher yield at closer spacing has also been reported by Singh and Nand (1979) in *Mentha spicata*.

### **Dry herb yield per plot (Kg)**

Interaction between organic treatments and spacing had significant effect on dry herb yield per plot at Harvest. Among all the interactions M<sub>1</sub>S<sub>1</sub> - FYM 30t/ha + AMC 7.5 l/ha with spacing S<sub>1</sub> - 15 x 15 cm recorded the maximum (1.56) followed by M<sub>3</sub>S<sub>1</sub> - Neem cake 7.5 t/ha + AMC 7.5 l/ha with spacing S<sub>1</sub>-15 x 15 cm (1.48). Minimum dry herb yield per plot was observed in M<sub>5</sub>S<sub>3</sub> Control with spacing S<sub>3</sub> - 30 x 45 cm (0.61).

Growing of kalmegh at closer spacing is suggested for obtaining maximum dry biomass yield (Singh *et al.*, 2011).

In conclusion the application of FYM (30 t/ha) + AMC (7.5 l/ha) can be recommended

for obtaining maximum growth and yield parameters. Spacing of 15 x 15 cm can be recommended for higher herb yield and spacing of 30 x 45 cm can be recommended for maximum growth parameters.

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#### **How to cite this article:**

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doi: <https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2020.911.284>