

Original Research Article

<https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2020.906.431>

Studies on Effect of Tree Lopping Intensities and Organic Manures on Soil Physico-Chemical Properties in Morus-Maize Based Agroforestry System

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

Agroforestry, Canopy management, Lopping, Organic manures, Soil properties, Edaphic processes etc.

Article Info

Accepted:

26 May 2020

Available Online:

10 June 2020

Agroforestry a complex land use system both ecologically and economically have innumerable role to play in conservation of natural resources along with its economic viability. Various tree canopy management activities like pruning and lopping along with applied resources have significant effect on soil. Litter fall, decomposition, leaching and residual effect have great potential on soil health of the system. Present system involving lopped trees and organically manured crop have shown varying effect on soil properties. Tree lopping had significantly affected various soil properties where the maximum EC ($0.13 \text{ dS}^{-1} \text{ m}$), Organic carbon percentage (1.33%) and available Nitrogen (418.02 kg/ha) were observed in T_0 (No lopping). Among organic manures S_1 (FYM) has shown maximum soil pH (7.08) and EC ($0.12 \text{ dS}^{-1} \text{ m}$) whereas maximum organic carbon was obtained in both S_1 and S_3 (1.37%), available nitrogen (437.89 kg/ha) was found to be maximum in treatment S_3 (Vermicompost) and maximum available soil phosphorus (48.17 kg/ha) and available soil potassium (327.93 kg/ha) was observed in S_2 (Jeevamruth). Interaction effect of lopping and organic manure ($T \times S$) has shown differential results. Overall application of organic manures has shown improvement in soil properties and lopping had differential effect on soil due to varied leaf fall and edaphic processes.

Introduction

Agroforestry being multi component farming it is having more pressure on land for resources than any monocropping where the requirement is less. Whereas, in agroforestry soil nutrients are better compared to any other systems due to closed nutrient cycle and sustainable nutrient base because of perennial

component. Trees add organic matter to the soil system in various manners like litter fall, dead root additions that is chief source of substrate for a vast range of organisms responsible for soil biological activity and improves the soil health and fertility. Plants get most of their nutrients from soil for their growth and development but due to land degradation and overuse of land, the present-

day land is not capable of supplying such essential nutrients to plants hence, artificial fertilization is commonly done. Chemical fertilizers no doubt have boosted the crop growth, yield and productivity, but to larger extent they are also responsible for soil deterioration and soil pollution. But over usage of chemical fertilizers the land is getting degraded day by day in its health and fertility status hence, the use of chemical fertilizers has to be minimized and organic manures has to be used as an alternative for chemical fertilizers in order to replenish the soil health and fertility. Integration of different sources of nutrients has positive effect on soil health along sustained productivity and undisturbed congenial environment for soil flora and fauna. Land degradation can be easily fought by using integrated measures like using organic manure and along with long lasting solutions like agroforestry which conserve soil and improve nutrient pool status by closed nutrient cycling. Agroforestry holds considerable potential as a major land-management alternative for conserving soil as well as maintaining soil fertility and productivity. Presence of trees on farm lands increases organic matter through leaf litter, reduce nutrient losses through run off, leaching and enhance nutrient use efficiency. But once agroforestry model gets older it needs various canopy management activities in order to get good growth of intercrop. Whereas, effect of tree canopy management activities on soil is very less studied aspect hence present study is conducted to spread limelight on this aspect of agroforestry.

Materials and Methods

Field study was conducted in agroforestry experimental farm area of Dr. Y.S.Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni, Solan during the year 2018-2019 with lopping as main and organic manures as sub

treatment. Before the starting of experiment soil samples were collected from field and analyzed for later comparison. Randomized Complete block design was laid out with three replications under mulberry trees that are spaced 9m*3m apart and are lopped at varying intensities (T₀ (unlopped /Control), T₁ (25%), T₂ (50%) and T₃ (75%). Before sowing the maize seeds three trees in each row were selected for lopping at the intensities of (0%, 25%, 50% and 75%) and were lopped according to subjective judgment in all three rows and four beds of size 4m*2m were prepared under each lopping intensity and in case of control no lopping was carried out just four beds were prepared. Under each lopping intensity different organic manures viz T₀ (No manure), T₁ (FYM), T₂ (Jeevamruth) and T₃ (Vermicompost) were applied as per recommended dose (Quantity of organic manures were calculated on N equivalent basis). Manures were equally distributed and mixed thoroughly. Maize seeds were sown at spacing 45*20cm spacing during second week of June 2018 as a kharif crop in the beds prepared in interspace between two rows of trees. Crop was irrigated and cultivated as per standard package of practices and was harvested after maturity.

Total treatment combinations were T₀S₀, T₀S₁, T₀S₂, T₀S₃, T₁S₀, T₁S₁, T₁S₂, T₁S₃, T₂S₀, T₂S₁, T₂S₂, T₂S₃, T₃S₀, T₃S₁, T₃S₂, T₃S₃. The crop was harvested after its maturity and Four soil samples were collected randomly from each plot of depth 0-15cm and composite sample was prepared by mixing the four samples from every plot. Samples were air dried, crushed thoroughly and passed through 2 mm sieve. After that further analysis was carried out as per following methods. Obtained data was analyzed using OPSTAT by subjecting data to statistical analysis as per Gomez and Gomez (1984) with 5% critical difference.

Results and Discussion

Trees lopping intensities and addition of different organic manures to the land have shown varying effects as the various soil process like decomposition, release and uptake of nutrients, leaching and residual effect on soil properties. Among the lopping treatments the tree lopping treatment T3 (75% lopping) resulted in the minimum soil pH *i.e.*, 6.74 and the lopping treatment T0 (0% lopping) resulted in the maximum soil pH *i.e.*, 6.90 among the organic manure treatments, the soil pH was minimum in treatment S2 (Jeevamruth) *i.e.*, 6.60 and the maximum soil pH was attained in treatment S1 (FYM) *i.e.*, 7.08 due to more bases availability which was statistically at par with S3 (Vermicompost) *i.e.*, 6.90. Combination of tree lopping and organic manure treatments was found to be non-significant with maximum soil pH being attained in treatment combination T0S1 (0% lopping intensity + FYM) *i.e.*, 7.23 and treatment combination T3S2 (75% lopping intensity + Jeevamruth) attained minimum soil pH *i.e.*, 6.53. Srikant *et al.*, (2000) for organic manures and Kahi *et al.*, (2009) for tree lopping also reported similar results. Effect of Lopping on soil Ph was not observed as it needs more time to alter.

Maximum soil EC (dS m^{-1}) was recorded in T0(no lopping) *i.e.*, 0.12 which was at par with T1 (25% lopping intensity) *i.e.*, 0.12 and the minimum soil EC (dS m^{-1}) was obtained in treatment T3(75% lopping intensity) *i.e.*, 0.11. Organic manure applications the maximum soil EC (dS m^{-1}) was obtained in organic manure treatment S1(FYM) application *i.e.*, 0.12 and as at par with manure treatment S2 (Jeevamruth) *i.e.*, 0.12 and the minimum soil EC (dS m^{-1}) was obtained in S0 (no manure) *i.e.*, 0.11. Combined effect of both lopping treatment and organic manures has found to be non-significant for soil EC (dS m^{-1}) and the in treatment combination T0S1 (0% lopping

intensity + FYM) resulted in maximum *i.e.*, 0.11 soil EC (dS m^{-1}) and treatment combination T3S0 (75% lopping intensity + no manure) attained minimum soil EC (dS m^{-1}) *i.e.*, 0.11. The difference in soil EC was may be due to differential nutrient status of organic manures and differential litter fall and decomposition by tree canopy. Similar results were obtained by Varalaxmi *et al.*, (2005) and Gathala *et al.*, (2007).

Among the lopping treatments the tree lopping treatment T3 (75% lopping) resulted in the minimum soil organic carbon (%) *i.e.*, 1.23 and the lopping treatment T0 (0% lopping) resulted in the maximum soil organic carbon(%) *i.e.*, 1.33 the soil organic carbon(%) was significantly affected due to the litter fall, decomposition and leaching of soil nutrients. Soil organic carbon (%) was minimum in treatment S0 (No manure) *i.e.*, 1.06 and the maximum soil organic carbon (%) was attained in treatment S1 (FYM) *i.e.*, 1.37. FYM affected soil organic carbon (%) due to presence of more carbon source in FYM and no manure application had nil carbon source.

Combination was found to be non-significant with maximum soil organic carbon (%) being attained in treatment combination T0S1(0% lopping intensity + FYM) *i.e.*, 1.43 and treatment combination T3S0(75% lopping intensity + No manure) attained minimum soil organic carbon (%) *i.e.*, 1.01. Difference in soil organic carbon due to lopping was a result of decreased litter fall and decomposition in lopped trees than unlopped trees. Similar results for tree lopping were obtained by Prasad *et al.*, (2016) and Emire *et al.*, (2018).

Available nitrogen for tree lopping treatment T3 (75% lopping) resulted in the minimum available nitrogen(kg-1ha) in soil *i.e.*, 405.7kg and the lopping treatment T0 (0% lopping) resulted in the maximum soil available

nitrogen (kg^{-1}ha) *i.e.*, 418.05kg .Whereas the application of organic manures significantly affected the available nitrogen(kg^{-1}ha) in soil among the organic manure treatments, the soil available nitrogen(kg^{-1}ha) was minimum in treatment S0 (No manure) *i.e.*, 341.0kg and the maximum available nitrogen (kg^{-1}ha) in soil was attained in treatment S3 (Vermicompost) *i.e.*, 437.89 kg organic manure has shown significant variation in soil due to bulk posting of organic matter rich in nitrogen which enhanced microbial activity in the soil and thereby greater conversion of organically bound nitrogen to inorganic form by the activities of microbes.

Combination of tree lopping and organic manure treatments was found to be significant with maximum available nitrogen (kg^{-1}ha) in soil being attained in treatment combination T₀S₃(0% lopping intensity + Vermicompost) *i.e.* 447.2kg and treatment combination T₃S₀(75% lopping intensity + No manure) attained minimum available nitrogen(kg^{-1}ha) in soil *i.e.* 337.6kg. The rate of mineralization and uptake of nutrients was maximum under 75% lopped trees hence the available nitrogen in soil was minimum after harvest of maize

crop. Similar results for increase in nitrogen with increasing tree shade was reported by Kaushal *et al.*, (2012) and Sirohi and Bangarwa (2015).

Among the lopping treatments, the tree lopping treatment T₃ (75% lopping) resulted in the minimum available phosphorus in soil (kg^{-1}ha) *i.e.* 41.56 kg and the lopping treatment T₀ (0% lopping) resulted in the maximum available phosphorus in soil (kg^{-1}ha) *i.e.* 42.49. Whereas the application of organic manures significantly affected the available phosphorus in soil (kg^{-1}ha) among the organic manure treatments, the available phosphorus in soil (kg^{-1}ha) was maximum in treatment S₂ (Jeevamruth) *i.e.* 48.17kg, minimum available phosphorus in soil (kg^{-1}ha) was attained in treatment S₀ (No manure) *i.e.* 31.32kg. The organic manure has shown significant variation with Jeevamruth resulting in maximum available phosphorus in soil (kg^{-1}ha) due to presence of many beneficial microorganisms that increase phosphorus availability and treatment S₃ (Vermicompost) being at par with maximum followed by FYM and no manure application (Table 1 and 2).

Table.1 Soil physico-chemical analysis: Methods and instruments used

Sr. No.	Parameter	Method employed	Instrument/apparatus used	Soil properties before sowing (0-15cm)
1.	pH (1:2)	1:2 soil water suspension (Jackson, 1973)	pH meter	6.58
2.	Electrical conductivity (dS m^{-1})	1:2 soil water suspension (Jackson, 1973)	Electrical conductivity meter	0.11
3.	Organic carbon (%)	Rapid titration method (Walkley and Black, 1934)		1.09
4.	Available Nitrogen (kg ha^{-1})	Alkaline potassium permanganate method (Subbiah and Asija, 1956)	Kjeldhal distillation unit	338.4
5.	Available phosphorus (kg ha^{-1})	Olsen <i>et al.</i> , (1954)	Spectronic 20-D+	32.92
6.	Available potassium (kg ha^{-1})	Neutral 1N ammonium acetate solution method (Merwin and Peech, 1951)	Flame photometer	268.2

Table.2 Effect of tree lopping intensities and organic manures on soil properties

Parameters /Manures	Soil pH				Electrical conductivity (dS m ⁻¹)				Organic carbon (%)			
	S ₀ (No man)	S ₁ (FYM)	S ₂ (Ver)	S ₃ (Jeev)	S ₀ (No man)	S ₁ (FYM)	S ₂ (Ver)	S ₃ (Jeev)	S ₀ (No man)	S ₁ (FYM)	S ₂ (Ver)	S ₃ (Jeev)
T₀ (0%)	6.73	7.23	6.70	6.97	0.12	0.13	0.12	0.12	1.12	1.43	1.38	1.40
T₁ (25%)	6.67	7.07	6.63	6.97	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	1.09	1.44	1.37	1.40
T₂ (50%)	6.60	7.03	6.53	6.83	0.11	0.12	0.12	0.11	1.02	1.35	1.23	1.35
T₃ (75%)	6.60	7.00	6.53	6.83	0.10	0.12	0.11	0.11	1.01	1.27	1.30	1.32
Mean	6.68	7.08	6.60	6.90	0.11	0.12	0.12	0.11	1.06	1.37	1.32	1.37
CD_{0.05}	T S TxS			NS	T S TxS			0.03	T S TxS			0.03
				0.09				0.03				0.05
				NS				NS				NS

Parameters /Manures	Available Nitrogen (kg ha ⁻¹)				Available phosphorus (kg ha ⁻¹)				Available potassium (kg ha ⁻¹)			
	S ₀ (No man)	S ₁ (FYM)	S ₂ (Ver)	S ₃ (Jeev)	S ₀ (No man)	S ₁ (FYM)	S ₂ (Ver)	S ₃ (Jeev)	S ₀ (No man)	S ₁ (FYM)	S ₂ (Ver)	S ₃ (Jeev)
T₀ (0%)	343.73	441.54	439.67	447.26	31.59	43.43	48.86	46.08	271.06	322.66	329.40	328.10
T₁ (25%)	341.70	435.26	444.40	437.36	31.25	43.20	48.10	45.82	270.13	321.56	328.60	327.26
T₂ (50%)	341.06	430.33	434.19	435.66	31.06	42.40	48.43	45.36	270.60	320.80	327.80	325.00
T₃ (75%)	337.60	427.63	426.63	431.26	31.36	42.88	47.28	44.73	266.23	321.93	325.93	322.60
Mean	341.02	433.69	436.22	437.89	31.32	42.98	48.17	45.50	269.50	321.74	327.93	325.74
CD_{0.05}	T S TxS			2.04	T S TxS			NS	T S TxS			NS
				2.93				0.95				2.60
				5.46				NS				NS

Combination of tree lopping and organic manure treatments was found to be non-significant with maximum available phosphorus in T₀S₁ and T₂S₀ attained minimum available phosphorus. Jeevamruth contains enormous amount of microbial load which multiply in the soil and acts as tonic to enhance microbial activity and acidic substances in soil (Palekar, 2006). Manjur *et al.*, (2014) who reported significant difference in available soil phosphorus with radial distance from tree base under *F. albida* and *A. tortilis* in southern Ethiopia. Prasad *et al.*, (2016) also reported similar results for tree density effect on soil organic carbon and available NPK.

Among the lopping treatments the tree lopping treatment T₃ (75% lopping) resulted in the minimum available potassium in soil (kg⁻¹ ha) i.e. 309.17kg and the lopping treatment T₀ (0% lopping) resulted in the maximum available potassium in soil (kg⁻¹ ha) i.e. 312.80kg. Whereas the application of organic manures significantly affect the available potassium in soil (kg⁻¹ ha) among the organic manure treatments, the available potassium in soil (kg⁻¹ ha) was maximum in treatment S₂ (Jeevamruth) i.e. 327.9kg which was statistically at par with S₃ (Vermicompost) i.e. 325.74kg and the minimum available potassium in soil (kg⁻¹ ha) was attained in treatment S₀ (No manure) i.e. 269.5kg.

Combination of tree lopping and organic manure treatments was found to be non-significant with maximum available potassium in soil (kg⁻¹ ha) being attained in treatment combination T₀S₁(0% lopping intensity + Jeevamruth) i.e. 329.4kg and treatment combination T₃S₀(50% lopping intensity + No manure) attained minimum available potassium in soil (kg⁻¹ ha) i.e. 266.2kg. Abebe (2006) also reported similar results that exchangeable K concentration

under the canopy of *Millettia ferruginia* was significantly higher.

In conclusion, soil physico-chemical properties were improved from initial to final crop harvest under agroforestry system due to presence of canopy and leaf fall whereas lopping has not shown significant effect on some of soil properties because the duration of experiment was less to observe alter in soil properties. But the lopping has shown immediate significant positive affect on crop yields hence can be taken up. The availability of nutrients was high, when applied with organic manures in agroforestry system and also improved the crop yield. Hence more of the long duration studies are needed in order to study effect of canopy management on soil in agroforestry; this area needs to be studied further in future.

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How to cite this article:

Shashi Kumar, M.C., C.L. Thakur, P.V. Dhanyashri, Stanzin Namdol and Inamatti, S.S. 2020. Studies on Effect of Tree Lopping Intensities and Organic Manures on Soil Physico - Chemical Properties in Morus-Maize Based Agroforestry System. *Int.J.Curr.Microbiol.App.Sci.* 9(06): 3661-3667. doi: <https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2020.906.431>