

Original Research Article

<https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2020.908.058>

Nitrogen Dynamics and Soil Nutrient Status as Influenced by Tillage and INM Practices under Soybean - Cotton Rotation in Vertisol

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ABSTRACT

The present investigation was conducted during *kharif* 2017-18 with a view to study the nitrogen dynamics and soil nutrient status as influenced by tillage and INM practices under soybean - cotton rotation in Vertisol at Akola. The experiment was carried out with main plot comprises two treatments i.e. conservation tillage and conventional tillage and eight sub plot treatments of IPNS consisting of control, 100 per cent RDF and use of chemical fertilizer along with organic source of nutrient in which 50 per cent N applied through organic sources (FYM, wheat straw, glycidia leaf manuring (GLM), composted cotton straw, vermicompost and phosphocompost) and remaining N was applied through chemical fertilizers. The experiment was framed in randomised block design with three replications. The results of present experiment indicated that, significantly highest seed cotton yield was recorded with the application of phosphocompost in conjunction with chemical fertilizers (13.71 q ha⁻¹). Among tillage practices, the seed cotton (12.95 q ha⁻¹) and cotton stalk (25.62 q ha⁻¹) yield was recorded with the adoption of conservation tillage as compared to conventional tillage. The improvement in organic carbon (6.47 g kg⁻¹) and available N (253.8 kg ha⁻¹) was noted with the conservation tillage in combination with 50 % N through FYM + remaining RD through chemical fertilizer. The overall improvement in available P, K and S was noted with the application 50 % N through FYM + remaining RD through chemical fertilizer. However, the various inorganic N fractions viz; NH₄-N (12.58 mg kg⁻¹), NO₃-N (16 mg kg⁻¹) and mineral-N (28.58 mg kg⁻¹) were increased significantly with the application of 50 % N through FYM + remaining RD through chemical fertilizer. Among tillage practices, conservation tillage was found promising for higher retention of NH₄-N (12.83 mg kg⁻¹), NO₃-N (14.66 mg kg⁻¹) and mineral-N (27.49 mg kg⁻¹).

Keywords

Conservation tillage, NO₃-N, NH₄-N, Vermicompost, Phosphocompost, Glycidia leaf manuring

Article Info

Accepted:
10 July 2020
Available Online:
10 August 2020

Introduction

Indian agriculture has entered in a new phase of research and development from the green revolution era of enhancing crop productivity

to resolving the new challenges emerged out from green revolution. In order to resolve these problems and to meet out emerging needs, the demand of efficient use and conservation of resources is creating the

pressure on the researchers. Issues of resource conservation and maintaining their sustainability is important in view of facing problems of resource degradation along with the fundamental principle of reducing costs of crop production and increasing profitability. Agricultural systems are relying on approaches like sustainable agriculture or conservation agriculture, are not only able to support high productivity, but also preserve biodiversity along with environmental safeguards.

Conservation agriculture has emerged as a new paradigm to achieve the goals of sustainable agricultural production. It involves the new and innovative ways of generating and promoting technologies that focus on resource conservation as a way to enhance productivity in a sustainable manner. Conservation agriculture aims at reversing the process of degradation inherent to the conventional agricultural practices like intensive cultivation and burning or removal of crop residues. Aggressive seed bed preparation with heavy machinery lead to declining soil fertility, biodiversity and erosion. The nutrient needs of the Indian agriculture are so large that no single plant nutrient source be it fertilizers, organic manures, green manures or biofertilizers is in position to meet the entire plant nutrient demand. Therefore, resource conservation becomes a top priority and restoration of precious soil resource by way of innovative means of management is the need of the day.

Cotton (*Gossypium spp.*) is one of the important commercial crops known as “White Gold of Black Soil” in Maharashtra in general and in Vidarbha in particular, is a leading fiber crop and second most important crop in the world (Rajendran *et al.*, 2005). The productivity of cotton in Maharashtra is 333 kg lint per ha (Anonymous, 2016). The economy of agricultural community of

Vidarbha is mostly dependent on the cotton. The area under cotton in Vidarbha is 14.22 lakh ha with production of 23 lakh bales. The reasons for low productivity includes erratic distribution of rainfall, imbalanced fertilizer use, poor quality seed, low adoption of improved agro-techniques and decline in soil health (Anonymous, 2016).

Most of the soils of the cotton growing areas are low in organic carbon, nitrogen and available phosphorus (Rattan *et al.*, 1999). Considering soil as a only and finite source of crop production, increase in production and productivity can be achieved only through enhanced vis-a-vis sustained soil fertility by replenishment of removed nutrients in crop production system.

Therefore, it is the time now to develop such a crop management system that may sustain the soil and crop productivity in terms of maintenance of physical, chemical and biological properties of soil. This can be achieved with modification in existing tillage practices, integrated plant nutrient management in order to enhance and sustain the overall soil quality.

The hypothesis of this study is relevant use of conservation tillage and integrated nutrient management in various cropping systems is an important way for build-up of soil organic matter and thereby augmenting the soil fertility and soil quality. It reduces time, labour and machine operation as well as conserving moisture and reducing soil erosion and nutrient loss there by sustaining the crop yields as well as soil health.

In this context, the present investigation was planned to study the nitrogen dynamics and soil nutrient status as influenced by tillage and INM Practices under soybean - cotton rotation in Vertisol.

Materials and Methods

The field experiment was conducted on at Research Farm of Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, Dr. PDKV, Akola on soybean - cotton rotation in Vertisol. The soil of experimental site was Vertisol belonging to fine, smectitic, hyperthermic, Typic Haplusters. It was calcareous in nature and moderately alkaline in reaction. The fertility status of the soil indicates that the soil was moderate in organic carbon, available nitrogen and phosphorus and very high in available potassium. The experiment was carried out with main plot comprises two treatments i.e. conservation tillage (CNS) (one harrowing and two weeding) and conventional tillage (CNV) (one ploughing, one harrowing, two hoeing and two hand weeding) and eight sub plot treatments of integrated plant nutrient system consisting of control, 100 per cent RDF and use of chemical fertilizer along with organic source of nutrient in which 50 per cent N applied through organic sources (FYM, wheat straw, glyricidia leaf manuring (GLM), composted cotton straw, vermicompost and phosphocompost) and remaining N was applied through chemical fertilizers. The experiment was framed in randomized block design with three replications. The variety of cotton was AKH 9916 (non Bt). The general recommended dose of fertilizer for rainfed cotton was 60:30:30 N, P₂ O₅ and K₂O kg ha⁻¹. The N, P and K were applied in the form of urea, single super phosphate and muriate of potash. Treatment wise basal doses (half nitrogen and full phosphorus and potassium) of fertilizers were calculated and applied at the time of sowing and remaining half dose of nitrogen was applied at flowering to soybean and cotton, thoroughly mixed in the soil. The crop residues were decomposed by PDKV decomposer. FYM, wheat straw, composted cotton stalk, vermicompost and phosphocompost and glyricidia foliage

lopping applied as a source of nutrient in soil. The different organics and crop residues were applied as per treatments based on nutrient content. The crop residues and glyricidia foliage lopping were applied in between two rows of cotton crop and thoroughly mixed in the soil.

The treatment wise initial surface soil samples (0-20 cm) before sowing from experimental site and after harvest of crop was collected. The air dried samples were carefully and gently ground with the wooden pestle to break soil lumps (clods) and passed through sieve of 0.5 mm for organic carbon and 2 mm sieve for other soil parameters. Briefly, organic carbon was determined by the modified Walkley and Black method was followed (Nelson and Sommers, 1982). Available nitrogen was determined by alkaline permanganate method using microprocessor based automatic distillation system (Subbiah and Asija, 1956). Available phosphorus was determined by Olsen's method using 0.5 M sodium bi-carbonate as an extractant using UV based double beam spectrophotometer (Watanabe and Olsen, 1965). Available potassium was determined by neutral normal ammonium acetate method using flame photometer (Hanway and Heidal, 1952). Available sulphur was determined by Morgan's reagent as extractant (Turbidimetric method) using UV based double beam spectrophotometer (Chesnin and Yien, 1950). Nitrate nitrogen (NO₃-N) was determined by Devardas alloy stem distillation method by (Bremner, 1965).

Ammonical nitrogen (NH₃-N) was determined by MgO stem distillation method by (Bremner, 1965). Mineral nitrogen was determined by MgO and Devarda's alloy stem distillation method by (Bremner, 1965). The seed cotton and cotton yield was recorded. The data subjected to statistical analysis as per Gomez and Gomez (1984).

Result and Discussion

Seed cotton yield

The data in respect of seed cotton yield as influenced by tillage was significant (Table 1). However, numerically higher seed cotton yield was obtained with conventional tillage (12.95 q ha⁻¹) as compared to conservation tillage (11.68 q ha⁻¹). Similar findings were reported by Namdeo *et al.*, (2003). They reported that the yields of cotton grown in Vertisols at the end of fourth year have not shown significant variation from the results obtained on some soils properties indicated that the effect of various intensities of tillage on soil properties and crop yield needs to be the further ascertained. Among various IPNS practices, the seed cotton yield was significantly influenced by various IPNS practices. The significantly highest seed cotton yield was observed in 100 % P through phosphocompost + remaining N through chemical fertilizer (13.71 q ha⁻¹) followed by 50 % N through FYM + remaining RD through chemical fertilizer (13.38 q ha⁻¹) which were on par with each others. It may be inferred that increase in seed cotton yield may be due to more availability and efficient use of nutrients. The increase in seed cotton yield due to integrated use of FYM and chemical fertilizers attributed to efficient utilization of nutrient from soil. Modhvadia *et al.*, 2016 found that, significantly higher seed cotton and stalk yield was recorded with incremental dose of N.

Interaction effect of tillage and IPNS on seed cotton yield was found significant. Significantly highest seed cotton yield was recorded with application of 100 % P through phosphocompost + remaining N through chemical fertilizer in conservation tillage (14.22 q ha⁻¹) followed by application of 50 % N through FYM + remaining RD through chemical fertilizer (14.20 q ha⁻¹). The interaction of conservation tillage with

Phosphocompost and FYM was found most beneficial and recorded highest seed yield of cotton. This can be attributed to the combined effect of conservation tillage in improving soil properties along with FYM which reflected in higher cotton yield. The application of glyricidia green leaf manuring noted comparable yield with the treatment of FYM which signifies the importance of conservation tillage with organics.

Stalk yield of cotton

Significantly higher stalk cotton yield was obtained with conservation tillage (25.62 q ha⁻¹) as compared to conventional tillage (22.72 q ha⁻¹) (Table 1). As tillage helps to maintain moisture content due minimum soil disturbances, ultimately helps to reduce losses of nutrients. Maximum number of branches and number of bolls per plant was noticed by Jadhao *et al.*, 2004. Although the yields of cotton grown in Vertisols at the end of fourth year have not shown significant variation from the results obtained on some soils properties indicated that the effect of various intensities of tillage on soil properties and crop yield needs to be the further ascertained. The significantly highest seed cotton yield (28.0 q ha⁻¹) was recorded in 100 % P through phosphocompost + remaining N through chemical fertilizer followed by application of 50 % N through FYM + remaining RD through chemical fertilizer (26.78 q ha⁻¹). It may be inferred that increase in seed cotton yield may be due to more availability and efficient use of nutrients. Mariam *et al.*, 2018 reported that, balanced use of N, P and K reported to have higher dry weight of plant and fruit weight per plant of Okra (*Abelmoschus esculantus* L.).

Organic carbon

The organic carbon (6.04 g kg⁻¹) content was higher in conservation tillage as compared to conventional tillage (5.83 g kg⁻¹) as

conservation tillage helps in reducing oxidation of SOC in soil by maintaining proper moisture content in soil. The significant increase organic carbon content under conservation tillage can be attributed to less disturbance of the soil which might have helped in preservation of more carbon in soil reducing oxidation of carbon. Novak *et al.*, (2009) noticed conservation tillage increases the soil organic carbon as compared to disc tillage system.

Among various nutrient management practices, significantly higher organic carbon (6.31 g kg^{-1}) was observed with the application of 50 % N through FYM + remaining RD through chemical fertilizer. However, the conjoint use of chemical fertilizers with FYM, glyricidia green manure and phosphocompost were found beneficial for maintaining organic carbon content compared to the use of only chemical fertilizers.

The increase in organic carbon content under integrated use of chemical fertilizers and organic manure treatments might have been due to direct incorporation of organic matter, better root growth and more plant residues addition.

The treatments of organics also recorded higher organic carbon in comparison to 100 % RDF, which is due to the use of fertilizer and organics, which helped in higher contribution of biomass to soil in the form of greater root biomass through crop stubbles and residues. The subsequent decomposition of these materials might have resulted into enhanced organic carbon content of soil. Ravankar *et al.*, (2005) reported that, the highest organic carbon was found in the plot receiving inorganic fertilizers in combination with organics under sorghum-wheat cropping sequence in Vertisols in the long-term fertilizer experiments.

Soil nutrient status

Available N

The available nitrogen was significantly higher in conservation tillage (240.4 kg ha^{-1}) as compared to conventional tillage (230.9 kg ha^{-1}). The nitrogen in the soil was conserved under conservation tillage due to less disturbance of soil. Similarly, the highest nitrogen recorded under conservation tillage because of less mechanical disturbance of soil. Similar results were reported by Dick (1983) they observed that, greater amount of nitrogen under no-tilled surface (0-30 cm) soil compared to minimum and conventional tillage. Khiani and More (1984) observed through a long term experiment that available nitrogen was higher due to harrowing (85.4 kg ha^{-1}) than ploughing (81.1 kg ha^{-1}) in Vertisol.

The available N status after harvest of cotton in (2017-18) was significantly influenced by various nutrient management practices. Highest soil available nitrogen (248.0 kg ha^{-1}) was recorded with 50% N through FYM + remaining RD through chemical fertilizers. Application of organics along with chemical fertilizers helps in increasing available nitrogen status of soil. The application of inorganic fertilizers along with organic and addition of previous soybean biomass helped in maintaining available nitrogen status of soil under soybean-cotton rotation.

It was observed that considerable improvement in available N status was observed in all the treatments which involve combined application of crop residues and inorganic fertilizer over initial status. This might be attributed to improved physical properties of the soil coupled with enhanced microbial population. Several earlier studies also showed an increase in available N with the application of FYM + inorganic fertilizers (Surekha and Rao, 2009).

Available P

Significantly higher available phosphorus was observed in conservation tillage (23.20 kg ha^{-1}) as compared to conventional tillage (21.11 kg ha^{-1}). Conservation tillage involves minimum soil disturbance, leaving comparatively higher amount of crop residue which mostly accumulate at the surface of soil, ultimately enhanced organic matter content in soil and availability of nutrient like phosphorus. Similar observations were also recorded by Sonune *et al.*, (2012) also observed higher available P in black cotton soils and minimum tillage compared to conventional tillage.

The highest available phosphorus (25.78 kg ha^{-1}) observed with the application of 100 % P through phoshpocompost + remaining P through chemical fertilizer which was significantly superior over all the other treatments and lowest available phosphorus was observed in control (14.96 kg ha^{-1}) and 100 % RDF (20.07 kg ha^{-1}). The increase in available phosphorus due to legume cultivation can be ascribed to the development of phosphorus solubilising organisms in the root zone of legumes reported by Sharma *et al.*, (1986).

Available K

Higher available potassium was observed in conservation tillage ($356.13 \text{ kg ha}^{-1}$) as compared to conventional tillage ($351.30 \text{ kg ha}^{-1}$). Similar observation recorded by Sonune *et al.*, (2012) in Vertisol and reported that available potassium was higher due to harrowing than ploughing in black soil.

Maximum available potassium ($366.52 \text{ kg ha}^{-1}$) was noted with the application of 50 % N through FYM + remaining RD through chemical fertilizer followed by ($365.88 \text{ kg ha}^{-1}$) 50% N through GLM + remaining RD

through chemical fertilizer, ($364.26 \text{ kg ha}^{-1}$) 50 % N through vermicompost + remaining RD through chemical fertilizer and ($362.97 \text{ kg ha}^{-1}$) 100 % P through phoshpocompost + remaining N through chemical fertilizer. The increase in available K might be due to the reduction in potassium fixation and release of K due to the interaction of organic matter with clay, besides the direct K addition in available K pool to the soil reported by Suresh *et al.*, (1999) and Jadhao *et al.*, (2018).

Available S

The higher available sulphur was observed in conservation tillage (12.84 mg kg^{-1}) as compared to conventional tillage (11.30 mg kg^{-1}). The increased availability of sulphur might be due to enhance the decomposition process and mineralization of the organic manures in conservation tillage. Improvement in available sulphur status under crop residues and green manuring also due to its ameliorative effect on improvement of physical and chemical properties which helps to improve the availability of native sulphur in the soil. The results corroborates with the findings reported by Bharambe *et al.*, (2002).

The highest available sulphur (12.96 mg kg^{-1}) was recorded in treatment receiving 50 % N through FYM + remaining RD through chemical fertilizer followed by application of 100 % P through phoshpocompost + remaining N through chemical fertilizer (12.81 mg kg^{-1}), with application of 50 % N through GLM + remaining N through chemical fertilizer (12.50 mg kg^{-1}) which was significantly superior over control. The lowest available sulphur (9.46 mg kg^{-1}) was recorded in treatment control. Available sulphur in both the crops (cotton and soybean) has shown increase over initial values which may be due to addition of biomass from previous year soybean crop. Dikshit *et al.*, (1995) also noticed increased the available sulphur

content with fertilization under continuous cropping (16 cycles of soybean-wheat and maize-fodder) in Vertisol. The Interaction between tillage and IPNS on available sulphur was non significant.

Nitrogen dynamics

The significantly higher NH₄-N (12.83 mg kg⁻¹) and NO₃-N (14.66 mg kg⁻¹) was recorded in conservation tillage as compared

to conventional tillage. The significantly higher total mineral-N was recorded in conservation tillage (27.49 mg kg⁻¹) as compared to conventional tillage (19.47 mg kg⁻¹). The higher NH₄-N in conservation tillage as compared to conventional tillage might be due to more retention of moisture which prevent oxidation of ammonium to nitrate. Similar results of tillage on the distribution of various nitrogen forms in soil were reported by Chandra *et al.*, (2017).

Table.1 Effect of tillage and IPNS on seed cotton and stalk yield of cotton under soybean-cotton rotation

IPNS	Cotton yield (q ha ⁻¹)					
	Seed cotton			Stalk		
	CNS	CNV	Mean	CNS	CNV	Mean
Control	8.74	7.68	8.21	16.90	15.15	16.03
100 % RDF	13.99	12.02	13.01	24.68	23.12	23.90
50 % N through FYM + remaining RD through chemical fertilizer	14.20	12.57	13.38	29.70	23.86	26.78
50% N through WS+ remaining RD through chemical fertilizer	13.12	10.03	11.57	23.63	23.36	23.49
50% N through GLM + remaining RD through chemical fertilizer	13.48	13.17	13.32	27.34	25.10	26.17
50 % N through composted cotton stalk+ remaining RD through chemical fertilizer	12.15	12.06	12.10	25.94	21.59	23.76
50 % N through vermicompost+ remaining RD through chemical fertilizer	13.59	12.80	13.19	26.44	24.00	25.22
100 % P through phoshpocompost + remaining N through chemical fertilizer	14.22	13.19	13.71	30.88	25.12	28.00
Mean	12.95	11.68	-	25.62	22.72	-
	Tillage	NM	Int.	Tillage	NM	Int.
SE (m) ±	0.12	0.24	0.35	0.41	0.83	1.17
CD (at 5%)	0.35	0.71	1.00	1.19	2.38	3.37

Table.2 Effect of tillage and IPNS on organic carbon of soil after harvest of cotton under soybean-cotton rotation

IPNS	Organic carbon (g kg ⁻¹)		
	CNS	CNV	Mean
Control	5.39	5.25	5.32
100 % RDF	5.71	5.61	5.66
50 % N through FYM + remaining RD through chemical fertilizer	6.47	6.34	6.31
50% N through WS+ remaining RD through chemical fertilizer	6.05	5.87	5.96
50% N through GLM + remaining RD through chemical fertilizer	6.34	6.08	6.21
50 % N through composted cotton stalk+ remaining RD through chemical fertilizer	6.00	5.60	5.80
50 % N through vermicompost+ remaining RD through chemical fertilizer	6.10	5.73	5.92
100 % P through phoshpocompost + remaining N through chemical fertilizer	6.19	5.98	6.09
Mean	6.04	5.83	
	Tillage	NM	Int.
SE (m) ±	0.05	0.09	0.13
CD (at 5%)	0.14	0.27	0.38

Table.3 Effect of tillage and IPNS on available N of soil after harvest of cotton under soybean-cotton rotation

IPNS	Avail N (kg ha ⁻¹)		
	CNS	CNV	Mean
Control	210.5	207.1	208.9
100 % RDF	247.0	242.0	244.5
50 % N through FYM + remaining RD through chemical fertilizer	253.8	243.2	248.0
50% N through WS+ remaining RD through chemical fertilizer	240.0	231.8	235.9
50% N through GLM + remaining RD through chemical fertilizer	245.0	242.2	243.2
50 % N through composted cotton stalk+ remaining RD through chemical fertilizer	243.2	219.0	231.6
50 % N through vermicompost+ remaining RD through chemical fertilizer	243.6	229.4	236.5
100 % P through phoshpocompost+ remaining N through chemical fertilizer	244.6	236.6	241.1
Mean	240.4	230.9	
	Tillage	NM	Int.
SE (m) ±	1.10	2.21	3.12
CD (at 5%)	3.13	6.38	9.02

Table.4 Effect of tillage and IPNS on available macronutrients in soil after harvest of cotton under soybean- cotton rotation

Treatments	P	K	S
(a)Tillage	(kg ha⁻¹)		(mg kg⁻¹)
Set I-Conservation tillage	23.20	356.13	12.84
Set II -Conventional tillage	21.11	351.31	11.30
SE(m)±	0.32	1.04	0.21
CD at 5 %	0.93	3.01	0.61
(b) Integrated plant nutrient system			
Control	14.96	311.60	9.46
100 % RDF	20.07	353.58	11.23
50 % N through FYM + remaining RD through chemical fertilizer	25.52	365.52	12.96
50% N through WS+ remaining RD through chemical fertilizer	22.44	349.94	12.15
50% N through GLM + remaining RD through chemical fertilizer	21.95	365.88	12.50
50 % N through composted cotton stalk+ remaining RD through chemical fertilizer	22.45	356.37	12.38
50 % N through vermicompost+ remaining RD through chemical fertilizer	24.04	364.26	12.30
100 % P through phospocompost+ remaining N through chemical fertilizer	25.78	362.97	12.81
SE(m)±	0.64	2.08	0.42
CD at 5 %	1.86	6.02	1.23
(c) Interaction	NS	NS	NS

Table.5 Effect of tillage and IPNS on inorganic N forms in soil after harvest of cotton under soybean-cotton rotation

Treatments	Inorganic N forms (mg kg ⁻¹)			
	NH ₃ -N	NO ₃ -N	Mineral N	
(a)Tillage				
Set I-Conservation tillage	12.83	14.66	27.49	
Set II -Conventional tillage	7.55	11.92	19.47	
SE(m)±	0.18	0.11	0.23	
CD at 5 %	0.51	0.32	0.67	
(b) Integrated plant nutrient system				
Control	6.44	8.20	14.64	
100 % RDF	8.10	12.28	20.38	
50 % N through FYM + remaining RD through chemical fertilizer	12.58	16.00	28.58	
50% N through WS+ remaining RD through chemical fertilizer	10.15	12.92	23.07	
50% N through GLM + remaining RD through chemical fertilizer	11.72	15.73	27.45	
50 % N through composted cotton stalk+ remaining RD through chemical fertilizer	10.07	12.22	22.29	
50 % N through vermicompost+ remaining RD through chemical fertilizer	11.50	14.69	26.19	
100 % P through phoshpocompost+ remaining N through chemical fertilizer	10.97	14.33	25.30	
	SE(m)±	0.35	0.22	0.46
	CD at 5 %	1.02	0.63	1.34
(c) Interaction	NS	NS	NS	

The maximum NH₄-N was observed with the addition of 50 % N through FYM + remaining RD through chemical fertilizer (12.58 mg kg⁻¹) followed by with the application of 50 % N through GLM + remaining RD through chemical fertilizer (11.72 mg kg⁻¹). The higher NO₃-N was observed with the addition of 50 % N through FYM + remaining RD through chemical fertilizer (16.00 mg kg⁻¹) followed by with application of 50% N through GLM + remaining RD through

chemical fertilizer (15.73 mg kg⁻¹). The higher total mineral N was observed with the addition of 50 % N through FYM + remaining RD through chemical fertilizer (28.58 mg kg⁻¹) followed by with application of 50% N through GLM + remaining RD through chemical fertilizer (27.45 mg kg⁻¹). This result conformity with the findings of Bhattacharyya *et al.*, (2013).

In conclusion, the higher seed cotton and stalk

yield of cotton, soil nutrient status and inorganic forms of N were recorded in the conservation tillage practices as compared to the conventional tillage practice. Among the various integrated nutrient management system, the significantly highest seed cotton yield and stalk yield of cotton and available nutrients were recorded with application of 100 % N through phosphocompost + remaining P through chemical fertilizer. The inorganic N fractions viz; NO₃-N, NH₄-N and mineral-N were improved with the application of 50 % N through FYM + remaining RD through chemical fertilizer followed by 50 % N through GLM + remaining RD through chemical fertilizer.

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How to cite this article:

Age, A.B., P. R. Kadu, S. D. Jadhao, N. M. Konde, D.V. Mali, B. A. Sonune and Gite, P.A. 2020. Nitrogen Dynamics and Soil Nutrient Status as Influenced by Tillage and INM Practices under Soybean - Cotton Rotation in Vertisol. *Int.J.Curr.Microbiol.App.Sci.* 9(08): 509-520. doi: <https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2020.908.058>