Effect of drought stress on carbohydrate content in drought tolerant and susceptible chickpea genotypes

Sarita Devi Gupta, Manjri, Akanksha Singh, Pratibha Singh and RN Kewat

Abstract
Drought stress is one of the major abiotic stresses in agriculture worldwide. The study was carried out to investigate the effect of drought stress on carbohydrate content in drought tolerant and susceptible chickpea genotypes. A field experiment was carried out at Student’s Instructional Farm in a randomized block design with three replications and in the laboratory of Department of Biochemistry during Rabi season of 2013-14 and 2014-15. The tolerant variety accumulated more carbohydrate content than the sensitive one. Results showed that carbohydrate content ranges between 61.51 to 66.64 per cent in the year 2013-14 and 61.44 to 66.53 per cent in the year 2014-15. First year experiment recorded highest carbohydrate content in tolerant genotype K 850 (66.64%) and the lowest value were recorded in susceptible genotype PUSA 372 (61.51 %). In the second year experiment maximum carbohydrate content was recorded in K 850 (66.53%) whereas, the lowest value was noticed in PUSA 372 (61.44 %). Analysis of the data indicates that genotypes differed significant with regard to carbohydrate content in both of the years. So, carbohydrate in stress condition can be used as markers for selection of drought tolerant genotypes.

Keywords: Drought stress, chickpea, genotype, tolerant, carbohydrate

Introduction
Chickpea (Cicer arietinum L.), also called Bengal gram, is an old world pulse crop and is one of the seven Neolithic founder crops in the fertile crescent of the Near East. Currently, chickpea is grown in over 50 countries across the Indian sub continent, North Africa, Middle East, southern Europe, America and Australia. Globally, chickpea is the third most important pulse crop in production, next to dry beans and field pea. Drought is the most severe abiotic stress factor limiting plant growth and crop production. When plants are subjected to various abiotic stresses, some reactive oxygen species (ROS) such as superoxide (O2-), hydrogen peroxide (H2O2), hydroxyl radicals (OH) and singlet oxygen (1O2) are produced. However, under various abiotic stresses the extent of ROS production exceeds the antioxidant defense capability of the cell, resulting in cellular damages (Almeselmani et al., 2006) [1]. Drought stress increased water soluble carbohydrate (WSC) concentration at flowering stage. Plants usually had the highest carbohydrate levels when grown under drought during vegetative phase and during anthesis. Owing to their solubility they may help plants to survive periods of osmotic stress induced by drought. The tolerant variety accumulated more soluble carbohydrate than the sensitive variety. Drought stress at vegetative stage did not increase WSC, but severe drought stress during vegetative and flowering phases increased WSC in drought resistance chickpea cultivars (Mafakheri et al., 2011) [5]. Water soluble carbohydrate roles as a compatible solute under drought stress and might be a useful marker for selecting more drought tolerant varieties. Changes in carbohydrate, in addition to depending on severity and duration of water deficit, might also reflect genotypic differences in the regulation of carbon metabolism and partitioning at the whole plant level (Praxedes et al., 2005) [7]. The total carbohydrate includes monosaccharides and oligosaccharides, starch and other polysaccharides. Starch is the most abundant pulse carbohydrate and varies from 31.5 to 53.6 per cent (Shad et al., 2009) [9]. In drought tolerant plants the accumulation of higher amounts of soluble carbohydrates, glucose, sucrose and fructose demonstrated as markers for selection of drought tolerant genotypes (Kerepesi and Galiba 2000) [4].
Materials and Methods

Plant Materials

The research was carried out with thirteen chickpea (Cicer arietinum L.) genotypes in which seven genotypes (K 850, KWR 108, RSG 888, BG256, BG 362, JG 11 and SAKI 9516) were drought tolerant and the rest of the six (DCP 92-3, JG 315, GCP 105, NDG 54, PUSA 372 and Pant G 186) were susceptible type. Seeds of these genotypes were obtained from the department of Genetics and Plant Breeding of the university (N. D. U. A. & T.) Kumarganj, Faizabad.

Experimental Site

The field experiment was conducted at Students Instructional Farm of Narendra Deva University of Agriculture and Technology Kumarganj, Faizabad (U.P.). The site of field experiment laid under the humid and sub-tropical climate and is located between 24.47°N and 83.98°E longitude and elevation of about 113 m from the sea level in the gangetic alluvium of eastern U.P. The climate of area is semi arid with hot summer and cold winter. In order to determine the physico-chemical properties of soil and its fertility status, soil samples were collected from different places of field with the help of soil auger from a depth of 0.15 cm before applying the treatments. The soil sample taken from each spot was mixed together and composite samples was prepared and analyzed for different properties of soil.

The result of soil analysis indicates that the soil of experimental field was silty loam in texture with slightly alkaline in reaction. Besides this the soil was low in nitrogen, phosphorus and medium in available potassium while deficient in sulphur. The experiment was of a randomized block design with three replications.

Methods of Analysis

Total carbohydrate content was determined as described by Yemm and Wills (1954) [10]. Accordingly, one g of dried sample was transferred to 100 ml glass stoppered measuring cylinder. It was added with 10 ml of distilled water and stirred with a long glass rod to disperse the sample thorough it. Thereafter 13 ml of 52 per cent perchloric acid was added and frequently stirred for 20 minutes. The volume was made up to 100 ml with water. It was then mixed properly and filtered. It was diluted to the mark with water and mixed properly. Ten ml of the sample extract was diluted to 100 ml and proceeded as follows:

1. One ml of diluted filtrate in duplicate was pipetted in to the test tubes.
2. Duplicate blank was prepared using 1ml of distilled water into another test tube.
3. Duplicate standard using 1ml of standard glucose (100 mg/ml) was pipetted into separate test tube.
4. Five ml of anthrone reagent (0.1% in concentrated H₂SO₄) was added into all the test tubes.

The test tubes were kept in a water bath for 12 minutes for development of colour and it was measured at 630 nm on spectronic- 20.

Results and Discussion

Drought stress increased carbohydrate concentration in all drought tolerant chickpea genotypes in comparison to drought susceptible chickpea genotypes. It was estimated that carbohydrate content ranges between 61.51 to 66.64 per cent in the year 2013-14 and 61.44 to 66.53 per cent in the year 2014-15. First year and second year experiment recorded highest carbohydrate content in same genotype in K 850 (66.64%) and K 850 (66.53%), respectively. Analysis of the data indicates that genotypes differed significant with regard to carbohydrate content in both of the years. The result was closely supported by Benu and Srivastav (2006) [3], Shad et al. (2009) [9] and Salem and Arab (2011) [8] who reported that carbohydrate content varied from 53.75 to 65.44 per cent. Starch is the principal carbohydrate of chickpea seed. The amyllose constitutes 31.86-45.8 per cent of starch whereas, remainder is amyllopectin. The sugar and crude fibre constitute most of carbohydrate together with protein influenced the functional properties of chickpea flours and their food products. The availability of carbohydrate is important in terms of calorific value (Ali et al., 2003) [2]. Generally plants had the maximum carbohydrate content when grown under drought stress condition. Owing to their solubility they may help plants to survive periods of osmotic stress induced by drought.

Experimental findings revealed that drought tolerant chickpea genotype ‘K 850’ had the maximum carbohydrate content and genotype ‘PUSA 372’ the lowest carbohydrate content. The tolerant genotype accumulated maximum carbohydrate than the sensitive one. Results indicated that severe drought stress increased carbohydrate in drought resistance chickpea cultivars. The results indicate to close favour with Praxedes et al., (2005) [7] and MC Kersie and Leshem (1994) [6] who reported that carbohydrate roles as a compatible solute under drought stress and might be a useful marker for selecting more drought tolerant genotypes. Changes in carbohydrate, in addition to depending on severity and duration of water deficit, might also reflect genotypic differences in the regulation of carbon metabolism and partitioning at the whole plant level.

Table 1: Variation in carbohydrate content in different genotypes of tolerant and susceptible chickpea genotypes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Genotype</th>
<th>2013-14</th>
<th>2014-15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K 850</td>
<td>66.64</td>
<td>66.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KWR 108</td>
<td>66.47</td>
<td>66.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCP 92-3</td>
<td>62.87</td>
<td>62.57</td>
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<tr>
<td>RSG 888</td>
<td>66.54</td>
<td>66.43</td>
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<tr>
<td>BG 256</td>
<td>64.86</td>
<td>64.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BG 362</td>
<td>63.34</td>
<td>63.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JG 315</td>
<td>63.17</td>
<td>63.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JG 11</td>
<td>64.80</td>
<td>64.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAKI 9516</td>
<td>63.88</td>
<td>63.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCP 54</td>
<td>63.21</td>
<td>63.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUSA 372</td>
<td>61.91</td>
<td>61.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pant G 186</td>
<td>61.51</td>
<td>61.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEm±</td>
<td>0.23</td>
<td>0.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD (at 5%)</td>
<td>0.69</td>
<td>1.24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion

Chickpea (C. arietinum L.) is an agronomically significant plant which has an essential role in the economy and human diet especially in developing countries. Chickpea is successfully grown under conditions which limit growth of other plants. It is especially affected by drought which delays flowering and decreases yield in mediterranean and sub-tropical climates. The aim of this study was to determine the effect of drought on tolerant and susceptible chickpea genotypes which can be used to identify chickpea plant tolerance to drought stress. In the present study, the results show that the varietal differences are significant regarding carbohydrate content. It can be concluded that severe drought
stress increased carbohydrate content in drought resistance chickpea genotypes.

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References