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Effects of organic and inorganic source of nutrients on Physio-chemical properties of soil and yield of cabbage (*Brassica oleracea* L.)

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Abstract

The field experiment was conducted on effects of organic and inorganic fertilizers on soil health, growth and yield of Cabbage (*Brassica oleracea* L.) Cv. Magic ball at the Soil Science Research Farm, Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture & Technology Sciences during Rabi season 2017-2018. The maximum plant height (24.45 cm), maximum head diameter (21.56 cm) and maximum yield (24.12 tonnes/ha⁻¹) was obtained in treatment T₈ (@40kg ha⁻¹ N₄₀ + @10 t ha⁻¹ FYM)). Growth parameters, soil properties, increased significantly with the application of FYM and inorganic fertilizers with recommended dose of P&K i.e. maximum pH, EC (dSm⁻¹) and pore space(%) was obtained in T₈ [@40kg ha⁻¹ N₄₀ + @10 t ha⁻¹ FYM] were increase with increase in fertilizer levels. The lowest values related to all parameters were obtained in control treatment. Cost benefit ratio (C: B) 1: 3.56 was highest in T₆ (@40kg ha⁻¹ N₄₀ + @0 t ha⁻¹ FYM) and T₈ (@40kg ha⁻¹ N₄₀ + @10 t ha⁻¹ FYM) was more profitable Rs 84934.40 ha⁻¹ than any other treatments and recommendations.

Keywords: NPK, FYM (farm yard manure), urea, cost benefit ratio, cabbage

Introduction

Cabbage (*Brassica oleracea*) is a green leafy biennial plant, belonging to the Brassicaceae family originating from California. It is grown as an annual vegetable crop for its dense leaved heads. It is descended of the wild cabbage, *Brassica oleracea* var.oleraceae and is closely related to broccoli and cauliflower. Cabbage (*Brassica oleracea* var.oleraceae and is closely related to broccoli and cauliflower. Cabbage (*Brassica oleracea* var.oleraceae and is closely related cole crop in the world and can beused as fresh (salad) or cooked vegetable products. The head is an excellent source of vitamins, minerals and dietary fibers. It is a good source of vitamin A, B, & C, contains minerals like P, K, Na, Fe, fats and protein. It has cooling effect and helps to prevent diabetic problems. The Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations (FAO) 2012 reports that world production of cabbage and other brassicas for 2011 was almost 69 million metric tons (68 million long tons; 75 million short tons).

The root system of cabbage is fibrous and shallow, about 90 percent root mass is the upper 20-30 cm (8-12 in) tall, with flowers that are yellow or white. The initials leaves form a rosette shape compromising 7-15 leaves, each measuring 25-30 cm (10-14 in) by 20-30 cm (8-12 in) leaves.

Cabbage grows best in a relatively cool and humid climate. Leaves are more distinctly petioled and the quality of the head is impaired in drier atmospheres. The optimum temperatures for growth and development are from 18 °C to 20 °C. It is fairly resistant to frost and can survive temperatures as low as - 3 °C without damage. Cabbage is also adapted to a wide variety of climatic conditions and can such be grown throughout the year in most regions. Cabbage can be grown on a wide range of soils but it thrives on well-drained, moisture-retentive loamy soils well supplied with organic matter. It does not grow well on highly acidic soil. The ideal soil pH ranges from 5.5 to 6.5 and it should not be allowed to fall below 4.5. In soils with pH above 6.5 the leaves become dark but leaf margins die back. Plants in saline soils are also highly susceptible to blackleg.

The crop demands higher amount of plant nutrients particularly nitrogen for head production. However, excess supply of nitrogen through inorganic fertilizers although increases the total dry weight but adversely affects the head quality by producing coarse and loose head, reducing keeping quality and enhancing the nitrate nitrogen content of head (Ojetayo *et al.*, 2011)^[32].

Some study suggests that application of higher amount of organic manure along with reduced levels of inorganic nitrogen fertilizer can improve the nutritional and keeping quality of cabbage head (Londhe 2002; Yadav *et al.*, 2001)^[57]. Therefore, integrated nutrient management practices will be beneficial for improvement of overall quality of head.

Organic and inorganic fertilizers use is primarily based on providing nutrients to plants, sustaining plant growth and development and increasing yield. Inorganic fertilizers are cheaper and thus more affordable, resulting in the use of more mineral and less organic fertilizers (OF), increasing thus incidents of unbalanced fertilization, soil physical structure deterioration and degradation, salt accumulation, secondary salinization etc. Organic matter increases the content of organic carbon, microbial biomass and cation exchange capacity. Organic inputs alone will not meet the nutritional needs of crops because they contain a comparatively less quantity of nutrients compared to inorganic fertilizers, the need to integrate the two forms in order to achieve better crop yields. The interaction between organic matter and inorganic fertilizers may lead to either an increase or decrease in nutrients in soil depending on the nutrient and plant material.

Materials and Methods

The field experiment on effect of organic and inorganic source of nutrients on the physio-chemical properties of soil and yield of cabbage (brassica oleracea l.) Cv. Magic ball was conducted during the Rabi season of the year 2017-2018 at the Research Farm of Department of Soil Science, Sam Higginbottom university of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences. Allahabad (UP), located at 25'N latitude 81.50'E longitude and 98m above the mean sea level. Agroclimatically, Allahabad district represents the subtropical belt of the South East of Uttar Pradesh, and is endowed with extremely hot summer and fairly cold winter. The maximum temperature of the location reaches up to 46°C- 48°C and seldom falls as low as 4°C -5°C. The relative humidity ranged between 20 to 94 percent. The average rainfall of this area is around 1100mm annually. It comes under subtropical climate receiving the mean annual rainfall of about 1100mm, major rainfall from July to end of September. However, occasional precipitation was also not uncommon during winter. The winter months were cold while summer months were very hot and dry. The minimum temperature during the crop season was to be 5.9 Oc and the maximum is to be 29.04 OC. The minimum humidity was to be 42.72.0% and maximum was to be 93.28%.

 Table 1: The nine treatments combinations of organic and inorganic fertilizer.

Treatment	Treatment Combinations		
T ₀	control		
T_1	$@0N_0 + @5 t ha^{-1} FYM$		
T_2	$@0N_0 + @10 t ha^{-1} FYM$		
T ₃	@20kg ha ⁻¹ N ₂₀ + @0 t ha ⁻¹ FYM		
T_4	@20kg ha ⁻¹ N ₂₀ + @5 t ha ⁻¹ FYM		
T ₅	@20kg ha ⁻¹ N ₂₀ + @10 t ha ⁻¹ FYM		
T ₆	@40kg ha ⁻¹ N ₄₀ + @0 t ha ⁻¹ FYM		
T ₇	@40kg ha ⁻¹ N ₄₀ + @5 t ha ⁻¹ FYM		
T_8	@40kg ha ⁻¹ N ₄₀ + @10 t ha ⁻¹ FYM		

Result and Discussion

Experiment will be laid out in 2x2 randomized block design (RBD) with different doses of organic and inorganic fertilizer, plot size was 2x2 m². Cabbage grows on 29th November 2017 and the source of nutrients were FYM, Urea, SSP and MOP respectively. Basal dose of fertilizer was applied in respective plots according to treatment allocation. All the agronomic practices were carried out uniformly to raise the crop. The crop was harvested on 27th Jan 2018 first cutting and 30th Jan 2018 second cutting. Soil samples were collected from the soil 0-15 cm depth, air dried kept in an oven at 105°C for 48 hrs for drying, pass through 2 mm sieve, soils were analysis by using standard procedures as described for pH 1:2 (w/v) (Jakson 1958), EC (dSm⁻¹) (Wilcox 1950), Organic Carbon (%) (Walkley and Black 1947), available Nitrogen kg ha⁻¹ (Subbiah and Asija 1956), Phosphorus kg ha-1 (Olsen et al., 1954) and Potassium kg ha⁻¹ (Toth and Price 1949), Boron kg ha⁻¹ (Wilcox 1950), Sulfur kg ha⁻¹ (Bardsley and Lancaster 1960), Magnesium Meq/100g (Bower et al. 1952), Calcium Meq/100g (Bower et al. 1952). The plant parameter, physical and chemical properties during the experiment are presented in Tables 2, 3, and 4 respectively.

Table 2: Plant growth parameter

Treatment	Plant height(cm)	Head diameter(cm)	Head yield
T ₀	18.21	11.08	10.21
T1	21.00	14.33	11.25
T ₂	21.04	15.31	11.00
T3	21.24	16.27	16.55
T_4	22.95	18.26	20.15
T5	22.14	20.31	23.90
T ₆	22.31	17.15	18.32
T ₇	23.27	19.48	21.41
T ₈	24.45	21.56	24.12
F-Test	S	S	S
C.D	2.082	1.38	2.527

Particulars	Results	Methods			
Sand (%)	45.5%	Bouyoucos Hydrometer method (1952)			
Silt (%)	37.0%	Bouyoucos Hydrometer method (1952)			
Clay (%)	17.5%	Bouyoucos Hydrometer method (1952)			
Soil Color	-	Munshell Color Chart (1915)			
Dry Soil	10YR 6/4 light yellowish brown				
Wet Soil		10YR 4/3 brown			
pH	7.07	Jackson, 1958			
EC (dSm ⁻¹)	0.5	Wilcox, 1950			
Available nitrogen (N) kg ha ⁻¹	210 kg ha ⁻¹	Subbaih and Asija, 1956			
Available phosphorus (P) kg ha ⁻¹	13.01 kg ha ⁻¹	Olsen et al., 1954			
Available potassium (K) kg ha ⁻¹	210 kg ha ⁻¹	Toth and Prince, 1949			

Table 3: Physical & chemical properties of soil (pre-sowing)

Table 4: Effect of different levels of organic and inorganic on Physio-Chemical properties of soil after harvest of cabbage.

Treatment	Bd,(Mg m ⁻³)	Pd (Mgm ⁻³)	Pore space (%)	pH 1:2 (w/v)	EC (dSm ⁻¹)	Organic Carbon (%)	N (kg ha ⁻¹)	P2O5 (kg ha ⁻¹)	K2O (kg ha ⁻¹)
T ₀	1.17	2.54	51.52	7.16	0.78	0.36	82.41	13.5	250.13
T1	1.19	2.57	52.52	7.23	0.82	0.41	84.75	16.5	257.6
T2	1.19	2.67	53.64	7.2	0.82	0.40	90.75	19.5	257.6
T3	1.17	2.65	54.20	7.26	0.81	0.40	90.75	16.5	268.8
T_4	1.19	2.62	54.71	7.26	0.85	0.40	91.5	16.5	265.8
T5	1.17	2.57	53.67	7.2	0.85	0.42	91.5	18.0	257.6
T ₆	1.21	2.63	53.22	7.23	0.83	0.37	93.11	19.5	261.33
T 7	1.20	2.66	55.98	7.26`	0.89	0.42	94.5	21.0	272.5
T ₈	1.21	2.68	56.36	7.30	0.91	0.41	95.25	19.5	272.53
F-Test	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	S	S	S	S
C.D	1.756	0.082	1.806	1.791	1.238	0.011	2.884	0.974	2.884

Physical properties of soil (post-harvest)

The results given in Tables 4 indicates some of the important parameter of physical and chemical properties for Cabbage. NPK and FYM fertilizers conjunction on pH, EC, bulk density, particle density and pore space to be non-significant. The pH, EC (dsm⁻¹), bulk density (Mgm⁻³), particle density (Mgm⁻³) and pore space (%) of post-harvest soil was recorded 7.30, 0.91, 1.21, 2.68 and 56.36 respectively in the treatment T_8 that was significantly higher as compared to other treatment combination. The slight decreased in bulk density, particle density and pore space may be due to tillage operation and increase in plant growth.

Chemical properties of soil (post-harvest)

Table 4 indicates some of the important parameter on physical properties on Cabbage. NPK and FYM fertilizers in conjunction on pH, EC (dsm⁻¹), BD, PD, and pore space was found non-significant and Organic carbon (%), available nitrogen (kg ha-1), available phosphorus (kg ha-1), available potassium (kg ha-1). Organic carbon (%), available nitrogen (kg ha-1), available phosphorus (kg ha-1), available potassium (kg ha-1), was recorded (0.41, 95.25, 19.5, 272.53) respectively in the treatment T₈ that was significantly higher as compared to other treatment combination.

The slight increase in soil pH, soil EC (dSm-1), phosphorus (kg ha-1), Organic carbon (%),available potassium (kg ha-1) and decrease in available nitrogen (kg ha-1) may be due to increase in levels of inorganic fertilizer and FYM fertilizer, similar observation was found by Everaarts A.P and R. Booi (2000) ^[3]. It may be concluded from trial that the various level of inorganic fertilizer and FYM fertilizer used from different sources in the experiment, the treatment combination T₈ (@40kg ha⁻¹ N₄₀ + @10 t ha⁻¹ FYM) was found to be the best, for improvement in physical and chemical properties of soil.

Conclusion

On the basis of present investigation it is concluded that the treatment T_8 (N₄₀40kg ha⁻¹ + 10 t ha⁻¹ FYM) was found to be the best treatment combination in respect to plant growth and head yield parameter. T_6 (40kg ha⁻¹ N₄₀ + 0 t ha⁻¹ FYM) and T_7 (40kg ha⁻¹ N₄₀ + 5 t ha⁻¹ FYM) was found to be the best treatment combination in respect to net return and gross return of Cabbage grown under Allahabad Agro-climatic conditions. This treatments showed maximum gross return, net return and benefit: cost ratio i.e. (3.56) respectively. These findings are based on one year research trial, to sustain more work to be needed for the same.

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