Effect of different phosphorus levels on growth and productivity of field pea (*Pisum sativum* var. *Arvense*) cultivars in Agra region

**Jitendra Kumar, Rahul Kumar, Uma and SB Singh**

**Abstract**

A field experiment was conducted to study the effect of phosphorus levels on growth and yield of field Pea (*Pisum sativum* var. *Arvense*) varieties at the research farm of Raja Balwant Singh College, Bichpuri, Agra. The soil of experimental field was alluvial with calcareous layer at the depth of about 1.5-2 m, well drained and deficient in available nitrogen, low in organic carbon, medium in available phosphorus and fairly rich in potash content and was slightly alkaline in reaction. The experiment was laid out in randomized block design (RBD) with four replication of three pea cultivars *i.e.* KPMR-400 (V1), Rachna (V2) and KPMR-522 (V3) and four levels of phosphorus viz. 0, 30, 60 and 90 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹. Thus there were twelve treatment combinations in the study. The crop stand per running meter, plant height, number of primary branches per plant was obtained significantly higher with the variety KPMR-522 (V3) as compared to other varieties at most of stages of crop growth. Variety ‘Rachna’ (V2) gave higher dry matter accumulation. ‘Rachna’ (V2) variety produced significantly higher length of primary roots and number of nodules as compared to all other varieties. Variety ‘KPMR-522’ (V3) resulted in highest biological and grain yield and proved its superiority over all other varieties except (V1) Variety. Variety affected harvest index significantly and higher harvest index was obtained with ‘KPMR-400’ (V1) as compared to all other varieties. Application of 60 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ produced maximum number of branches per plant and dry matter accumulation. Primary root length was found significantly superior with the application of phosphorus @ 60 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹. Effective nodules per plant was recorded superior with the application of phosphorus @ 90 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ and most similar result with 60 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹. Exactly same order of significance *i.e.* P₁ (90 kg), P₂ (60 kg), P₃ (30 kg) and P₀ (no phosphorus) P₂O₅ was noticed for grain yield (q ha⁻¹), Stover yield (q ha⁻¹), Biological yield (q ha⁻¹), shelling percent and harvest index. Maximum grain yield (18.69 q ha⁻¹) application of P 90 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹, biological yield (68.02 q ha⁻¹) recorded with the application of P₂ (60 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹) and Stover yield (52.05 q ha⁻¹) with P₁ (30kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹), non-significant shelling percent (74.14%) and significant harvest index (28.97%) was associated with the application of P₁ (90 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹).

**Keywords:** Field pea, phosphorus

**Introduction**

Pulse crops are wonderful gift of the nature. They provide nutrition’s food, and fodder and thrive well in fragile ecosystem where other crops often fail. Pulses have the ability to trap atmospheric nitrogen in their root nodules in association with Rhizobium bringing qualitative improvement in physical, chemical and biological properties of soil. Pulses are next to cereals in term of their economic importance as human food. The ability of pulses to fix atmospheric nitrogen in the soil crop system is their unique and beneficial characterisitic among all the plant species. Thus pulses can contribute significantly to achieve the twin objective of increasing productivity and improving the sustain ability of rice and wheat based cropping systems. India has undergone a series of ups and down in agricultural production with the climatic condition playing have in the years of abnormality. We faced many drought in 18th and 19th centuries without much know how to counterfeit late middle years of 20th century. India has improved its position in food grain production with technological interventions. Currently, agro-eco systems are facing the problems of overexploitation of natural resources, decline in soil fertility, ground water level and agricultural productivity. Hence, ensuring sustainable food security is the need of the hour.

Corresponding Author:

Jitendra Kumar
Department of Agronomy, Raja Balwant Singh College, Bichpuri, Agra, Uttar Pradesh, India

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Pulses play an important role in providing a nutritionally balanced diet. These are the principal source of protein for vegetarians. India is the world’s largest producer with 25% share in the global production.

Field pea is one of the most popular food crops in the world as it is very nutritious and its cultivation is also easy. Field pea usually grows in the cold areas of the world unlike the other major pulses of the world. But they have universal appeal, as they are required in all over the world for consumption. Field pea pulse is generally comes in two colors i.e. green and yellow. According to FAO statistics, India is one of the largest producer of field pea in the world and stands at the 5th place in the list of major field pea production next to France. The India production contributes to around 7% in the world’s total produce with the production figures of 7.8 laces tonnes. Uttar Pradesh is a major field pea producing state in India producing about 60% of the country’s produce. The other major pea producing state in India is Madhya Pradesh. In Uttar Pradesh, Jalaun district contributes highest in terms of area and production by 21% and 29% respectively to the state total area and production of field pea. Again Lalitpur stands at the second position in the area (18%) and production (19%) share to the state total, followed by Jhansi area 14% and production 14%, Mahoba (area 8% production 5%), Hamirpur (area 3% and production 3%) and Azamgarh (area 2% and Production 2%) Rest 33% and 28% of acreage and output respectively are come from other state. In India, field pea is used as Dal, Chholla, many attractive dishes and snacks, green pods are also used as vegetable. Nutritionally, it is very rich as it contains 22.9-25% crude protein (dry weight basis), 0.9% Threonine, 0.2% Methionine, 1.8% lysine, 60-65% carbohydrate and 2.0% fat and minerals (Ali and Howthorne, 1993).

Phosphorus is one of the essential nutrients for plant growth and development. Phosphorus regulates protein synthesis in plants, because it is a component of the complex nucleic acid structure phosphorus is important in cell division and development of new tissue, also phosphorus play a vital role in plant energy reactions, photo synthesis, respiration, genetic transfer, seed and fruit production, and nutrient transfer in plants (Raghothama and Karthikeyan, 2005). Phosphorus is also component of phytin, a major storage from of p in seeds, phospholipids, and ATP. Moreover, phosphorus promotes root growth and stimulates tillering and often fertilizer are mainly determined by the soil P available but are not related to soil organic matter, total N, total P, soil CaCO3 contents, and soil N available (Li et al., 2011). Despite the potential for pea crops in agriculture, they still face challenges due to competition from weeds, insects and due to lack of successful nodulation (Date, 2000; Lemerle et al., 2006; Martin – Sanz et al., 2011). The growth and final yield of pea plants are dependent on the formation of nodules and nitrogen fixation by Rhizobium leguminosarum bv. Viciae (Evans et al., 1996). Poor nodulation can lead to unsuccessful establishment of pea plants, or ineffective Rhizobium bacteria relationship, and consequently poor atmospheric N fixation. Nodulation failure can be explained by unfavorable fields conditions such as low or high pH, high salinity, high soil nitrate content, low soil moisture and lack of essential elements (Evans et al., 1989; Begum et al., 2001) and the absence of effective strains of Rhizobium in the soil (Date, 2000). Therefore, inoculation of legumes with desired efficient strains of Rhizobium in the form of commercial inoculate products is a common practice to improve nitrogen fixation and final crop yield (This et al., 1991). The information on phosphorus requirement of pulses especially on peas is quite meager. Therefore, to understand the phosphorus requirement in relation to pea cultivars for maximization of yield, the present experiment was conducted.

Methods and Materials
The present field experiment was carried out at the research farm of Raja Balwant Singh College, Bichpuri, Agra, which is situated at the distance of about 11 km away from Agra city on Agra-Bharatpur road at an elevation 163.4 m above mean sea level with 27.20 N latitude and 77.90 E longitude. The region has a semi arid and sub tropical climate with hot and dry summers and severe cold winters. The soil of experimental field was alluvial with calcareous layer at the depth of about 1.5 m to 2 m and was well drained to know the exact nature and physico-chemical properties of experimental soil, a composite soil sample from the surface of soil (0-30 cm depth) was taken before application of fertilizers and sowing of the experimental plots with the help of an auger and subjected to mechanical and chemical analysis. The soil of the experimental field was deficient in available total nitrogen, low in organic carbon, medium in available phosphorus and fairly rich in potash content and soil was slightly alkaline in reaction. The experiment was laid out in randomized block design (RBD) with four replication of three pea cultivars i.e. KPMR-400 (V1), Rachna (V2) and KPMR-522 (V3) and four levels of phosphorus viz. 0, 30, 60 and 90 kg P2O5 ha-1. Thus there were twelve treatment combinations in the study. Fertilizer application was done as basal during sowing of the experimental crop, full dose of nitrogen (20 kg/ha) and potash (20 kg/ha) was supplied as basal and phosphorus was applied as per treatment. Total crop duration was 131 days, prior to harvest border rows were harvested and removed then experimental plots were harvested manually and allowed to sun drying for 7 days. The total weight of harvested produce was recorded plot wise to get total biomass just before threshing and straw and grain yield per plot were recorded after threshing.

Fig 1: Mean weekly meteorological, observation recorder during crop season (Nov. 12, 2017 to April 23, 2018)
Results
Growth
The crop stands remained practically unaffected due to different varieties and phosphorus levels. However, variety ‘Rachna (V2)’ produced maximum crop stand. At all the stages of crop growth but at harvest maximum crop stand variety is KPMR-400 (V1) but the crop stands per running meter tended to increase by increasing the P2O5 rates thus highest number of crop stands per running were noted with P5.
The effect of variety on the shoot height was found to be significant at varieties tested, maximum shoot height was noted with variety ‘Rachna’ (V2). Application of phosphorus improved the plant height continuously significant only two stages (30 DAS and 60 DAS) and non—significant at three stages (90 DAS, 120 DAS and at harvest). The P2O5 rates, the highest plant height P3 at 30 DAS, P5 to 60 DAS, P1 at 90 DAS & 120 DAS, and P2 at harvest. In general, number of branches per plant increase from the very beginning up to at harvest. The maximum number of branches per plant were recorded with variety ‘KPMR-522 (V3)’ which was found significantly superior as compared to all other varieties at all the recorded stages of crop growth. The increasing levels of phosphorus up to 60 kg P2O5 ha−1 significantly increased the number of branches per plant at all the stages of crop growth, Maximum number of branches per plant i.e 14.93 was recorded with application of 60 kg P2O5 ha−1 (P2).
Variations in dry matter accumulation due to different varieties were found to be significant at all the stages of crop growth and only one stage non—significant (60 DAS). The higher values of dry matter accumulation was recorded with the ‘Rachna (V2)’ and also was found significantly superior as compared to all other varieties at all the stages of crop growth. The effect of the levels of phosphorus application on dry matter accumulation in plant was statistically significant at various stages and non—significant at (120 DAS) of crop growth except 90 and 120 DAS. Table also be indicated that the dry matter accumulation in plants increased significantly with level of phosphorus up to maximum 60 kg P2O5 ha−1 at 30, & 60, & 120 DAS, 90 Kg P2O5 ha−1 90 DAS & at harvest. The maximum primary root length was found with variety ‘Rachna’ (V2). It is also revealed that the differences brought about by the application of phosphorus in the primary root length were affected significantly during the investigation. P2 level of phosphorus application brought up significant increase in the primary root length over other levels of phosphorus application while P2 produced primary roots with maximum length (4.39 cm) which was found significantly superior over all the tested levels of phosphorus application. Variation in effective root nodules per plant due to varieties were found nominal and level of Significance. However, the maximum root nodules were produced by the variety ‘Rachna’ (V2). It is also clear from the table that variation in nodules due to application of phosphorus levels also maximum root nodules P3, & P5.

Table 1: Crop growth parameters of pea as affected by different varieties and phosphorus levels.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatments</th>
<th>Varieties</th>
<th>Crop Stands (per running meter)</th>
<th>Plant Height (cm)</th>
<th>Branches per plant</th>
<th>Dry Matter accumulation (g/plant)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>KPMR-400 (V1)</td>
<td>22.31</td>
<td>45.30</td>
<td>14.19</td>
<td>5.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rachna (V2)</td>
<td>21.84</td>
<td>104.81</td>
<td>13.59</td>
<td>6.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>KPMR-522 (V3)</td>
<td>21.84</td>
<td>54.87</td>
<td>14.40</td>
<td>5.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>S.Em ±</td>
<td>0.450</td>
<td>3.75</td>
<td>0.163</td>
<td>0.183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C.D at 5%</td>
<td>NS</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>0.480</td>
<td>0.528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phosphorus levels</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 (Control: P0)</td>
<td>20.50</td>
<td>66.13</td>
<td>13.27</td>
<td>5.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30 (P1)</td>
<td>23.17</td>
<td>66.73</td>
<td>13.88</td>
<td>6.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>60 (P2)</td>
<td>23.42</td>
<td>74.18</td>
<td>14.93</td>
<td>5.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>90 (P3)</td>
<td>21.92</td>
<td>66.27</td>
<td>14.14</td>
<td>6.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>S.Em ±</td>
<td>0.520</td>
<td>4.33</td>
<td>0.188</td>
<td>0.211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C.D at 5%</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>NS</td>
<td>0.55</td>
<td>0.610</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Root studies per plant at development 75 percent flowering stage as influenced by different varieties and phosphorus levels.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatments</th>
<th>Primary root length plant (cm)</th>
<th>Effective nodules plant−1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Varieties</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>KPMR-400 (V1)</td>
<td>3.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rachna (V2)</td>
<td>4.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>KPMR-522 (V3)</td>
<td>4.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>S.Em ±</td>
<td>0.117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C.D at 5%</td>
<td>0.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phosphorus levels</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 (Control: P0)</td>
<td>3.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30 (P1)</td>
<td>4.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>60 (P2)</td>
<td>4.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>90 (P3)</td>
<td>4.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>S.Em ±</td>
<td>0.135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C.D at 5%</td>
<td>0.39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Yield attributes
The data presented, reveal that the number of pods per plant was found significantly higher with the variety Rachna’ (V2). It is obvious from the data on number of pods per plant given in table 3 under reference that there was significant difference among rate phosphorus application @ 90 kg P2O5 ha−1 produced the maximum number of pods per plant. The weight of pods per plant exhibited significant variation due to different varieties. The maximum weight of pods per plant was obtained with ‘KPMR-400’ (V1) and this was found
significantly superior overall other varieties under test. The application of the phosphorus up to 60 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ resulted in significantly higher weight of pods per plant and this level was found at par with the phosphorus application @ 90 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹. The variations in pod length due to different varieties could not reach the level of significant. However, The maximum pod length (6.18 cm) was obtained under ‘Rachna’ (V₂) followed by ‘KPMR-400’ (V₁) (5.56 cm) and KPMR-522 (V₃) (5.87 cm). The effect of different levels of phosphorus was recorded non-significant in pod length. Also However, the highest pod length was found with the phosphorus application @ 90 and 60 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹. The pea cultivars significantly differ in respect of number of seeds per pod. The higher number of seeds per pod was found with variety ‘Rachna’ (V₂) but this was found statistically at par' KPMR-522 (V₃). Phosphorus levels significantly affect the number of seeds per pod phosphorus application @ 60 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ produced maximum number of seeds per pod this was found statistically at par with the phosphorus application@ 30 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹. The varieties did not bring about any difference in weight of seeds per pod. Almost very similar weight of seeds per pod was found under each variety. Application of phosphorus also failed to affect the weight of seeds per pod. However, the highest weight of seeds per pod was found with the phosphorus application @ 60 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹.

With regard of weight of test weight the variation was noted non-significant order. Variety ‘KPMR-400’ (V₁) gave significantly higher weight of 1000 grains and this was found significantly superior over all other varieties in this regard during the investigation. Whereas the lowest test weight was obtained with ‘Rachna’ (V₂). Application of phosphorus significantly affected the test weight, however, the maximum test weight was recorded with the phosphorus application @ 90 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ and this was found statistically at par with phosphorus application @ 60 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ in this respect.

**Table 3: Yield attributes as influenced by different varieties and phosphorus levels.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatments</th>
<th>Dry weight plant¹(g)</th>
<th>Number of Pod plant¹</th>
<th>Weight of Pod plant¹</th>
<th>Pod length (cm)</th>
<th>Number of seeds pod¹</th>
<th>Weight of seeds pod¹(g)</th>
<th>Test weight (g)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KPMR-400 (V₁)</td>
<td>5.561</td>
<td>7.81</td>
<td>11.44</td>
<td>5.56</td>
<td>5.75</td>
<td>10.06</td>
<td>212.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rachna (V₂)</td>
<td>7.23</td>
<td>10.68</td>
<td>9.87</td>
<td>6.18</td>
<td>6.50</td>
<td>1.06</td>
<td>198.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KPMR-522 (V₃)</td>
<td>5.74</td>
<td>8.37</td>
<td>10.81</td>
<td>5.87</td>
<td>6.06</td>
<td>1.08</td>
<td>210.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.Em ±</td>
<td>0.226</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.278</td>
<td>0.241</td>
<td>0.140</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>0.432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.D at 5%</td>
<td>0.653</td>
<td>0.730</td>
<td>0.804</td>
<td>NS</td>
<td>0.405</td>
<td>NS</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phosphorus levels</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 (Control: P₀)</td>
<td>6.26</td>
<td>9.00</td>
<td>10.09</td>
<td>4.91</td>
<td>5.50</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>180.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 (P₁)</td>
<td>6.40</td>
<td>9.00</td>
<td>10.48</td>
<td>5.91</td>
<td>6.16</td>
<td>1.04</td>
<td>210.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 (P₂)</td>
<td>5.98</td>
<td>8.50</td>
<td>11.30</td>
<td>6.33</td>
<td>6.33</td>
<td>1.16</td>
<td>217.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90 (P₃)</td>
<td>6.15</td>
<td>9.33</td>
<td>11.09</td>
<td>6.33</td>
<td>4.81</td>
<td>1.10</td>
<td>220.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.Em ±</td>
<td>0.261</td>
<td>0.288</td>
<td>0.321</td>
<td>0.278</td>
<td>0.162</td>
<td>0.44</td>
<td>0.499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.D at 5%</td>
<td>NS</td>
<td>NS</td>
<td>0.928</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>0.467</td>
<td>0.127</td>
<td>1.44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Yield**

**Biological yield (q ha⁻¹)**
The result of experiment showed that the variation in biological yield (q ha⁻¹) due to different varieties was of significant order. However, the highest biological yield was obtained with the variety ‘KPMR-522’ (V₃). Data revealed that the biological yield (q ha⁻¹) increased significantly with the phosphorus application @ 30 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ as compared to 0 and 90 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹. However, the highest biological yield was obtained with the phosphorus application @ 60 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹(P₂) but this was found statistically at par with 30 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ (P₁).

**Grain yield (q ha⁻¹)**
Data pertaining to the grain yield revealed that the grain yield (q ha⁻¹) increased significant due to different varieties, among the varieties tested, maximum ‘KPMR-522’ (V₃), and this was found statistically at par with variety ‘KPMR-400’ (V₁). The phosphorus application significant improved the grain production. Every increase in the phosphorus level increased the grain yield significantly up to 90 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ during the experimentation.

**Stover yield (q ha⁻¹)**
The data pertaining to stover yield, revealed that the highest Stover yield (51.74 q ha⁻¹) was recorded with the variety ‘Rachna’ (V₂) which produced significant more stover yield than ‘KPMR-400’ and except ‘KPMR-522’. Application of phosphorus @ 30 and 60 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ being at par resulted in significant higher Stover yield than that obtained from no phosphorus and phosphorus application@ 90 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹.

**Shelling percentage**
A critical examination of data revealed that the variation in shelling percentage due to different varieties was found significant, Variety ‘KPMR-522’ (V₃) showed higher shelling percentage (84.56) as compared to all other varieties. Increasing doses of phosphorus up to 90 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ increased the shelling percentage. The non-significantly highest shelling percentage was noted with no phosphorus dose (P₀) as compared to all other levels of phosphorus application except 30 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ (P₁).

**Harvest index (%)**
The harvest index significantly affected due to different varieties. Table further revealed that maximum harvest index was obtained with variety ‘KPMR-400’ (V₁) and this was found significantly superior to all other varieties. Although, among tested different varieties, the lowest harvest index was observed with V₂. Application of phosphorus has appreciable effect on harvest index. Maximum harvest index was recorded with the phosphorus application @ 90 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ and this was found significantly superior over all other levels of phosphorus application in this respect.
Table 4: Yield of pea (q/ha) as influenced by different cultivars and phosphorus levels.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatments</th>
<th>Biological Yield (q ha⁻¹)</th>
<th>Grain Yield (q ha⁻¹)</th>
<th>Stover Yield (q ha⁻¹)</th>
<th>Shelling (%)</th>
<th>Harvest Index (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Varieties</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KPMR-400 (V₁)</td>
<td>58.50</td>
<td>17.01</td>
<td>41.44</td>
<td>71.68</td>
<td>28.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rachna (V₂)</td>
<td>66.91</td>
<td>15.17</td>
<td>51.74</td>
<td>65.97</td>
<td>22.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KPMR-522 (V₃)</td>
<td>67.72</td>
<td>17.15</td>
<td>50.57</td>
<td>84.56</td>
<td>25.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.Em ±</td>
<td>0.501</td>
<td>0.247</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>0.155</td>
<td>0.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.D at 5%</td>
<td>1.45</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>1.444</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>1.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phosphorus levels</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 (Control: P₀)</td>
<td>57.04</td>
<td>13.42</td>
<td>43.63</td>
<td>55.71</td>
<td>23.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 (P₁)</td>
<td>67.96</td>
<td>15.84</td>
<td>52.05</td>
<td>74.04</td>
<td>23.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 (P₂)</td>
<td>68.02</td>
<td>17.83</td>
<td>50.19</td>
<td>73.83</td>
<td>26.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90 (P₃)</td>
<td>64.48</td>
<td>18.69</td>
<td>45.80</td>
<td>74.14</td>
<td>28.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.Em ±</td>
<td>0.579</td>
<td>0.285</td>
<td>0.577</td>
<td>0.179</td>
<td>0.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.D at 5%</td>
<td>1.67</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>0.666</td>
<td>NS</td>
<td>1.57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Discussion**

**Influence of cultivars**

Improved plant type plays an important role in rising yield potential a crop. The new plant types process substantially different growth pattern and also differ in yield potential. Different pea varieties influenced the crop stand at all growth stage. This was mainly due to the fact that once the initial plant stand maintained at 15 DAS remained almost same at each crop growth stage. Plant height was significantly influenced by varieties. However the maximum plant height was attained by ‘Rachna’ followed by ‘KPMR- 522’. Significant differences among varieties were due to their genetic characteristics. Achakzai (2012) [3] have also reported likewise. Number of branches per plant was significantly higher with ‘KPMR-522’ than ‘KPMR – 400’ at all the stages of crop growth. The more number of branches under ‘KPMR-522’ might be attributed to its better growth under prevailing weather conditions.

Dry matter accumulation showed an increasing trend with the age of the crop. Growth is a function of a complex process of plant system interesting with the varying environmental conditions. The dry matter accumulation in the plant, by and large, is understood as an index of growth. Dry matter accumulation was slow during initial growth stages due to Poor production of photo synthetic surface and canopy structure. With the advancement in growth, the leaves are capable of synthesizing more photo-synthates and offer roots to proliferate and to absorb more nutrients from the soil hence the dry matter accumulation gained momentum at later stages. Varieties influenced the dry matter accumulation significantly at all the stages but only one stage non-significant (60 DAS) of crop growth (Table 4). Variety ‘Rachna’ was capable to utilize more input and accumulate large dry matter as compared to other varieties. This differential behavior might be due to its responsiveness to inputs like fertilizer and irrigation and edaphic factors which led to non- significantly higher dry matter accumulation. These results are in constituents with the findings of Nandpuri and Dhillon (1984) [15].

Variety significantly affect the primary root length ‘Rachna’ higher root length than other varieties. The differences in length of root may be attributed to genetic characteristics of the varieties which caused significant differences. Number of nodules per plant was significantly influenced by varieties (Table 4). However, the maximum number of nodules per plant was produced by ‘Rachna’ followed by ‘KPMR-400’ and ‘KPMR- 522’. This may be attributed to the varieties which may be attributed to the varieties which differed in growth characteristics.

Yield attributes are the function of vegetative development yield attribute viz; dry weight per plant (g), number of pods per plant, weight of pods per plant(g), pod length (cm), number of seeds per pod, weight of seed per pod (g) and test weight (g) were influenced significantly and non-significant with different varieties. The highest values of these characters were recorded with the ‘Rachna’ (V₂) similar results have also have been observed by Gupta et al. (1982) [10].

The biological grain and Stover yield increased significantly with ‘KPMR-522’ (V₃) and highest harvest index are ‘KPMR-400’ (V₁). Yield is function of complex inter relationship of its components which are determined from the growth rhythm in vegetative phase and from its subsequent reflection in reproductive phase. Better vegetative growth associated with higher yield attributes viz. dry weight per plant, number of seeds per pod and test weight resulted in higher seed, Stover and biological yields. Variety ‘KPMR-522’ (V₃) showed the highest shelling percentage and ‘KPMR-400’ (V₁) highest harvest index.

**Influence of phosphorus levels**

Crop stand was significantly affected by phosphorus levels at all growth stage because properly applied phosphatic fertilizer influenced the germination of seed which resulted in a uniform plant stand. Remained affected at later stage due to the uniform growth of the plants. Phosphorus application affect the plant height significantly at (30 DAS & 60 DAS) and non-significant at (90, 120 DAS & at harvest) crop stage (Table 4). Differential response of phosphorus to be attributed to its uptake efficiency and its utilization, et al which in turn is greatly influenced by environmental factor (Abbos et al., 1994) [1]. Increasing levels of phosphorus from 0, 30 and 90 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ resulted in significant increase in branches per plant at all the stage (Table 4) However, phosphorus level P₂ (60 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹) was found to have maximum number of branches. Phosphorus is important in root development and translocation of photosynthates and, being the constituent of nucleic acid, phytin and phospholipids, its application increase different growth parameters. The findings are in accordance with Shaukat et al. (2014) [19]. Phosphorus application significantly increased and Non-significant (120 DAS) the dry matter up to 90 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ at 30, 60 and 120 DAS 90 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ at harvest time increase in dry matter accumulation to be attributed to increased branches per plant with increased phosphorus levels. The results are in close accordance with Krishna and Ahlawat (2000) [11]. Phosphorus application up to 60 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ significantly increased the length of root. This was mainly attributed to the favorable effect of phosphorus on root growth as phosphorus is essential.
for extensive root development phosphorus promotes root growth and cell formation (Diener, 1950) [8]. A dignified effect of phosphorus application was found on number of nodules. A does of 60 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ showed faster rate in increased the nodules plant⁻¹ and then slow rate was observed but maximum number of nodules plant⁻¹ was recorded with 90 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹. This might be due to the phosphorus application which increased the root growth. The roots are the seat of nodules therefore, better development of root with phosphorus also increase the number of nodules per plant. The results are in agreement with these of Shaukat et al. (2014) [19] and Erman et al. (2009) [9] also indicated improvement in nodulation due to P application. The yield components viz. dry weight per plant (g), number of pods per plant, weight of pod per plant (g), pod length (cm), number of seeds per pod. Weight of seed per pod (g) and test weight (g) increased non-significantly 30 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ dry weight plant⁻¹ 60 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ weight of pod plant⁻¹, number of seed pod⁻¹, weight of seed pod⁻¹ and significantly 90 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ number of pod plant⁻¹ & pod length (cm) and test weight. The improvement in plant growth by phosphorus application due to higher photosynthetic activity and translocation of photosynthates to sink, which consequently resulted in better development of yield attributes. These finding one in agreement with those Sharma et al. (1992). Biological yield improved up to 60 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹. Grain yield improved up to 90 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹. Stover yield improved up to 30 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹. The enhancement in seed, Stover and biological yield was due to augmenting effect of phosphorus application on all growth and yield attributes. This increase was further attributed better translocation of photosynthates from source to sink due to higher uptake of phosphorus which are responsible for quick and easy translocation of photosynthates. The favorable response of grain yield to P fertilization might be attributed to the potent role of this element in mobilization of nutrients and protein synthesis (Prihar and Tripathi, 1989) [10]. The findings are in accordance with Salehi and Aminpanah (2015). Increasing doses of phosphorus in 90 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ increased shelling percentage and harvest index increased up to 90 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹. This may be attributed to increased number of seeds per pod. This might be due to the vigorous growth of plant with higher P level which increased grain as well as straw yield, significant improvement in seed index due to P application was also reported by Srivastava and Ahlawat (1993) [31].

Conclusion

Though the result are based on single season data, however taking into consideration the promising result of this experiment following main inferences are drawn. Among the three varieties tested, KPMR-400 (V₁) and KPMR-522 (V₂) gave better result in respect of grain yield. And Rachna (V₃) gave better results in respect of Stover yield. Maximum potential of field pea yield of the best quality crop must be fertilized with 90 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹.

References
