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## Effect of household waste based vermicompost and fertilizer on carbon pools and nutrient status in an incubation experiment

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**Abstract**

An incubation experiment consisting of three levels of fertilizer (0%, 100%, 50%) as well as four levels of vermicompost (0 t ha<sup>-1</sup>, 1.25 t ha<sup>-1</sup>, 2.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup>, 3.7 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) along with calcareous sandy loam soil conducted over a period of one year during *khariif*, 2018 at Dr. RPCAU, Pusa. The effect of incubation on water soluble carbon (WSC), hot-water soluble carbon (HWSC) and available-N increased from 0<sup>th</sup> DAI to 115<sup>th</sup> DAI, whereas TOC, OC, KMnO<sub>4</sub>-C increased from 0<sup>th</sup> DAI to 65<sup>th</sup> DAI and then decreased up to 115<sup>th</sup> DAI.

**Keywords:** Incubation, vermicompost, carbon pools, nutrients status

**Introduction**

Vermicomposting is proven to be the ultimate solution for waste management as well as environment pollution as it totally excludes chemical usages for decomposition rather it take the help of earthworms. Vermicasts are rich in different enzymes such as lipase, protease, cellulose, amylase as well as very fine texture, good water holding capacity, good soil conditioners and thus helpful in organic matter decomposition and act as a pool of nutrient resource. (Kumar *et al.* 2020).

The SOC fractions like water-soluble organic C (WSC), microbial biomass C (MBC), labile C and mineralizable C are considered as more sensitive indicators of management induced changes than total SOC (Saviozzi *et al.* 2001; Yang *et al.* 2005) [13, 16]. These pools have potential to provide an early indication of the changes or impacts of management or environmental stress on soil quality. However, changes in labile pools of SOC due to different soil management practices have been studied mainly in cooler and temperate regions of the world (Liang *et al.* 1998; Sherrod *et al.* 2005) [7, 14], but such studies in tropical and subtropical regions are very few. Application of organic fertilizers and especially manure, either alone or in combination with inorganic fertilizers, increases SOC concentration and increase in carbon pools in soil. Labile C fractions i.e. hot-water extractable C (HWC) and permanganate oxidizable C (KMnO<sub>4</sub>-C) respond more quickly to changes in management practices than SOC, and are thus used as early and sensitive indicators of SOC changes (Ghani *et al.* 2003) [5]. On the other hand application of organic materials enhances the microbial activity in soil so much so there is a positive correlation between microbial activity and transformation of Nutrients.

**Materials and Methods**

An Incubational experiment was conducted at Dr. RPCAU, Pusa, and Samastipur during *khariif*, 2018. In the experiment four levels of vermicompost (0 t ha<sup>-1</sup>, 1.25 t ha<sup>-1</sup>, 2.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup>, 3.7 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) and three levels of fertilizer (0%, 100%, 50%) were mixed with 200 gram soil in the incubation boxes and proper lab temperature and moisture content were maintained. The Incubation experiment started from 0<sup>th</sup>DAI(Days After Incubation) to 115<sup>th</sup> DAI as well as the design of experiment was Factorial Completely Randomized with three levels of factors (vermicompost-level, fertilizer-levels and incubation days)along with twelve treatments and three replications.

**Total Organic Carbon (TOC)**

0.25 g of processed soil sample is weighed out into a 25 ml volumetric flask, 20 ml of 0.4 N chromic acid solution is added to the soil samples and similar quantity is taken for the blank (without soil). The mixture is heated in H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> bath and heated on hot plate at such a rate that a temperature of 155°C is reached in 20 to 25 minutes. The temperature is held at 155°C to 160°C for an additional 5 minutes. The chromic acid solution, cooled to room temperature, is diluted with distilled water to 200 ml, and then 1g NaF and 2-4 drops di-phenyl ammine indicator added. The solution is back titrated with the 0.2 N ferrous ammonium sulphate until the solutions colour turns from violet to light green (Jackson, 1973) [56].

$$\text{TOC (\%)} = 10.67 \times (B - S) / B$$

Where, B= Blank Titration (ml), S= Sample titration (ml)

**Available N**

The available nitrogen in soil was determined by alkaline potassium permanganate method as described by Subbiah and Asija (1965).

**Available P**

Soil available phosphorus was determined by using 0.5M NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (pH 8.5) solution (Olsen extractant) as suggested by Olsen *et al.* (1965).

**Active Organic Carbon**

Organic carbon was determined by wet digestion method of Walkley and Black (1934) as described in Black (1965). Fifty mg of vermicompost sample and one gram of soil samples were taken for analysis considering same amount of chemicals and method.

$$\text{Organic carbon (\%)} = \frac{10(B-S) \times 0.003 \times 100}{B \times \text{weight of sample (g)}}$$

Where,

B = titration value of blank

S = titration value of sample

**Water soluble carbon (hot and cold water extractions)**

Ten gram of moist soil was taken in a centrifuge tube and 20ml deionised water was added. It was sealed with para film at 105°C in heating block for 45-60 mins and centrifuged at 3500 rpm for 30-40 mins. Then it was filtered through 0.2µm filter and washed 3-4 times and final 50ml volume was made with water. 10 ml of filtrate was taken in 500ml flask and 0.4N K<sub>2</sub>Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>(2ml), 10 ml Conc. H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, 5ml orthophosphoric acid, 70mg HgO was added and heated on hot plate at 105°C for 60mins in reflux condition. Then it was cooled, 250ml water was added and titrated against 0.035N FAS using ferroin indicator and brick-red end point was observed. The calculation was done according to McGill *et al.* (1986). The other method of Ghani *et al.* (2003) [5] can also be used.

**KMnO<sub>4</sub> Carbon**

Three gram of air dried soil was taken in 50ml centrifuge tube and 30ml of 20Mm permanganate solution was added. Container was shaken for 15mins the centrifuged for 5mins at 2000 rpm. 2 ml filtrate was taken in 50ml volumetric flask and volume was made the reading was taken at 560nm. (Blair *et al.* 1995).

$$\text{POSC (mg kg}^{-1}\text{)} = \frac{(B-S) \times 50 \times 30 \times 1000 \times 9}{2 \times 1000 \times 3}$$

Where,

B= conc. Of KMnO<sub>4</sub> in blank (milimoles)

S= conc. Of KMnO<sub>4</sub> in sample (milimoles)

50/2 = dilution factor

9 = mg of carbon oxidized by 1 mM of KMnO<sub>4</sub>

**Results and Discussions****A. Water Soluble Carbon (mg g<sup>-1</sup>)**

The water soluble carbon content (fig. no.1) in the soil during the incubation period showed the effects towards the application of vermicompost and fertilizer on water soluble carbon.

The water soluble carbon increased significantly with increasing levels of vermicompost and fertilizers irrespective of different incubation periods. Irrespective of all incubation periods, the increasing levels or doses of vermicompost increased the mean water soluble carbon from 0.053 to 0.097 mg g<sup>-1</sup> soil and along with increasing fertilizers levels increased the from 0.059 to 0.077 mg g<sup>-1</sup> soil. With highest vermicompost doses the mean water soluble carbon increased from 0.033 to 0.055 mg g<sup>-1</sup>, 0.048 to 0.071 mg g<sup>-1</sup>, 0.060 to 0.084 mg g<sup>-1</sup>, and 0.071 to 0.099 mg g<sup>-1</sup>s along with high fertilizers doses increased water soluble carbon from 0.038 to 0.054 mg g<sup>-1</sup>, 0.054 to 0.072 mg g<sup>-1</sup>, 0.066 to 0.084 mg g<sup>-1</sup> and 0.079 to 0.097 mg g<sup>-1</sup> at 0<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 65<sup>th</sup> and 115<sup>th</sup> DAI, respectively.

However during the incubation period the water soluble carbon increased at a gradually in all incubation periods from 0<sup>th</sup> DAI to 115 DAI at a increasing rate. The highest dose of vermicompost (3.75 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) along with highest dose of fertilizer (100% RDF) showed significant increase in the water soluble carbon, which was superior than other vermicompost + NPK treatments but significantly superior than sole doses of vermicompost, NPK and control. All the interactions of incubation stages, vermicompost and fertilizer doses were found significant. Similar results were reported by Banger *et al.* (2009).

**B. Hot-Water Soluble Carbon (mg g<sup>-1</sup>)**

The Hot-water soluble carbon content in the soil during the incubation period has been depicted in fig. no. 2.

The Hot-water soluble carbon increased significantly with increasing levels of vermicompost and fertilizers irrespective of different incubation periods. Irrespective of all incubation periods, the increasing levels or doses of vermicompost increased the mean hot-water soluble carbon from 0.088 to 0.102 mg g<sup>-1</sup> and along with increasing fertilizers levels increased the from 0.090 to 0.102 mg g<sup>-1</sup>. Irrespective of fertilizers levels with highest vermicompost doses the mean hot-water soluble carbon increased from 0.082 to 0.097 mg g<sup>-1</sup>, 0.087 to 0.101 mg g<sup>-1</sup>, 0.089 to 0.093 mg g<sup>-1</sup> and 0.093 to 0.107 mg g<sup>-1</sup> and with high fertilizers doses increased hot-water soluble carbon from 0.085 to 0.095 mg g<sup>-1</sup>, 0.089 to 0.101 mg g<sup>-1</sup>, 0.091 to 0.103 mg g<sup>-1</sup> and 0.095 to 0.107 mg g<sup>-1</sup> at 0<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 65<sup>th</sup> and 115<sup>th</sup> DAI, respectively.

However during the incubation period the Hot-water soluble carbon increased at a gradual rate in all incubation periods from 0<sup>th</sup> DAI to 115<sup>th</sup> DAI. The highest dose of vermicompost (3.75 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) along with highest dose of fertilizer (100% RDF) showed significant increase in the hot-water soluble carbon, which was superior than other vermicompost +NPK

treatments but significantly superior than sole doses of vermicompost, NPK and control. All the interactions of incubation stages, vermicompost and fertilizer doses were found non-significant.

### C. Total Organic Carbon (%)

The fig. no. 3 shows the effect of vermicompost and fertilizer on status of total organic carbon content in the soil during the incubation period.

The Total organic carbon increased significantly with increasing levels of vermicompost and fertilizers irrespective of different incubation periods. Irrespective of all incubation periods, the increasing levels or doses of vermicompost increased the mean total organic carbon from 1.04 to 1.35% and along with increasing fertilizers levels increased the TOC from 1.14 to 1.28%. Irrespective of fertilizers levels with highest vermicompost doses the mean total organic carbon increased from 1.04 to 1.32%, 1.06 to 1.45%, 1.07 to 1.49% and 0.98 to 1.14% at 0<sup>th</sup> DAI, 30<sup>th</sup> DAI, 65<sup>th</sup> DAI and 115<sup>th</sup> DAI, respectively. Irrespective of vermicompost doses the increasing fertilizer level ranged the TOC 1.11 to 1.27%, 1.21 to 1.34% and 1.24 to 1.37% and 1.01 to 1.12% at 0<sup>th</sup> DAI, 30<sup>th</sup> DAI, 65<sup>th</sup> DAI and 115<sup>th</sup> DAI, respectively.

However during the incubation period the Total organic carbon increased at a faster rate in all incubation periods from 0<sup>th</sup> DAI to 65 DAI and then decreased up to 115<sup>th</sup> DAI. The highest dose of vermicompost (3.75 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) along with highest dose of fertilizer (100% RDF) showed significant increase in the Total organic carbon, which was superior than other vermicompost +NPK treatments but significantly superior than sole doses of vermicompost, NPK and control. The increase in TOC up to 65 days and then decrease up to 115 days might be attributed to the decomposition of organic matter and release of CO<sub>2</sub> which might have resulted into increase in organic carbon content of soil. The treatments which consists of no manure and no fertilizer i.e. control, recorded lowest of TOC. Addition of organic manures significantly augmented the organic carbon and thereby the organic matter contents of soil. Similar results were found by Manna *et al.* (2013). All the interactions of incubation stages, vermicompost and fertilizer doses were found non-significant.

### D. KMnO<sub>4</sub>-Carbon (g kg<sup>-1</sup>)

The KMnO<sub>4</sub>-carbon increased significantly due to the combined application of different levels of vermicompost (0 t ha<sup>-1</sup>, 1.25 t ha<sup>-1</sup>, 2.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup>, 3.7 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), and fertilizers (no fertilizer, 100% NPK, 50% NPK) either alone or together than the control (no compost + no fertilizer) is shown in the table-30 and depicted in fig. no. 4. The combined application of vermicompost and fertilizer sources increased KMnO<sub>4</sub>-carbon at increasing rate up to 65-90 days and then decreased up to 120 DAI, similar results were found by Purakayastha *et al.* (2008), where he found that soils amended with 100% NPK and FYM significantly increased KMnO<sub>4</sub>-carbon content than control soil. Irrespective of all incubation stages the mean KMnO<sub>4</sub>-carbon increased from 1.13 to 1.36 g Kg<sup>-1</sup> with the increasing vermicompost levels as well as the fertilizer level increased KMnO<sub>4</sub>-carbon from 1.20 to 1.34 g kg<sup>-1</sup>. The KMnO<sub>4</sub>-carbon mean increased from 0.44 to 0.67g Kg<sup>-1</sup> with vermicompost levels and 0.52 to 0.67 g kg<sup>-1</sup> at 0<sup>th</sup> DAI.

The mean KMnO<sub>4</sub>-carbon varied from 0.44 to 0.67 g kg<sup>-1</sup>, 0.42 to 0.62 g kg<sup>-1</sup>, 2.08 to 2.39 g kg<sup>-1</sup> and 1.61 to 1.76 g kg<sup>-1</sup>

with increasing levels of vermicompost and from 0.52 to 0.67 g kg<sup>-1</sup>, 0.46 to 0.59 g kg<sup>-1</sup>, 2.16 to 2.38 g kg<sup>-1</sup> and 1.66 to 1.76 g kg<sup>-1</sup> with increasing levels of fertilizers at 30 DAI, 65 DAI, 115 DAI, respectively. All the treatments consisting of 100%NPK with all highest doses of vermicompost (3.75 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) increased the KMnO<sub>4</sub>-carbon than vermicompost and fertilizers sole doses and over control, might be due to balanced nutrition enhanced the enzymatic activity. However the overall interactions among the incubation stages, vermicompost and fertilizers showed significant results.

### E. Organic Carbon (g kg<sup>-1</sup>)

The Organic carbon content in the soil during the incubation period has been given in the table-31 and depicted in fig. no. 5.

The Organic carbon increased significantly with increasing levels of vermicompost and fertilizers irrespective of different incubation periods. Irrespective of all incubation periods, the increasing levels or doses of vermicompost (no mature, 1.25 t ha<sup>-1</sup>, 2.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup>, 3.7 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) increased the mean organic carbon from 6.38 to 7.71 g kg<sup>-1</sup> soil and along with increasing fertilizers levels (no fertilizer, 100% NPK, 50% NPK) increased the from 6.57 to 7.62 g kg<sup>-1</sup> soil. Irrespective of fertilizers levels with highest vermicompost doses the organic carbon increased from 6.10 to 7.43 g kg<sup>-1</sup> soil, 6.27 to 7.60 g kg<sup>-1</sup> soil, and 6.62 to 7.95 g kg<sup>-1</sup> soil, 6.51 to 7.84 g kg<sup>-1</sup> soil and excluding vermicompost levels with high fertilizers dose organic carbon from 6.30 to 7.34 g kg<sup>-1</sup> soil, 6.47 to 7.51 g kg<sup>-1</sup> soil, 6.81 to 7.86 g kg<sup>-1</sup> soil and 6.70 to 7.75 g kg<sup>-1</sup> soil at 0<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 65<sup>th</sup> and 115<sup>th</sup> DAI, respectively.

However during the incubation period the organic carbon increased at a gradual rate in incubation periods from 0<sup>th</sup> DAI to 65<sup>th</sup> DAI and the decreased from 65<sup>th</sup> DAI to 115<sup>th</sup> DAI. The highest dose of vermicompost (3.75 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) along with highest dose of fertilizer (100% RDF) showed significant increase in the organic carbon, which was superior than other vermicompost +NPK treatments but significantly superior than sole doses of vermicompost, NPK and control. Similar results were found by Reddy *et al.* (2017). All the interactions of incubation stages, vermicompost and fertilizer doses were found non-significant.

### F. Available-N (kg ha<sup>-1</sup>)

The available-N content in the soil during the incubation period has been depicted in fig. no. 6.

The available-N increased significantly with increasing levels of vermicompost and fertilizers irrespective of different incubation periods. Irrespective of all incubation periods, the increasing levels or doses of vermicompost increased the mean available-N from 214.12 to 215.91 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> and along with increasing fertilizers levels increased the from 218.48 to 216.03 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>. Irrespective of fertilizers levels with highest vermicompost doses the mean available-N increased from 208.90 to 210.81 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>, 211.52 to 213.40 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>, 217.52 to 219.50 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> and 218.55 to 219.92 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> and excluding vermicompost levels with high fertilizers doses increased available-N from 209.28 to 210.89 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>, 211.79 to 213.44 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>, 217.93 to 219.36 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> and 218.93 to 220.42 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> at 0<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 65<sup>th</sup> and 115<sup>th</sup> DAI, respectively.

However during the incubation period the Available-N increased at a faster rate in all incubation periods from 0<sup>th</sup> DAI to 115<sup>th</sup> DAI. The highest dose of vermicompost (3.75 t



ha<sup>-1</sup>) along with highest dose of fertilizer (100% RDF) showed significant increase in the Available-N, which was superior than other vermicompost + NPK treatments but significantly superior than sole doses of vermicompost, NPK and control. Similar results were found by Meena *et al.* (2013). All the interactions of incubation stages, vermicompost and fertilizer doses were found significant. The Available-N content increased in all incubation stages from 0 DAI to 115 DAI and might be due to the increased mineralization throughout the experiment.

### G. Available- P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> (kg ha<sup>-1</sup>)

The graph in fig. no. 7 shows the effect of vermicompost and fertilizer on available- P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> content in the soil during the incubation period.

The Available-P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> increased significantly with increasing levels of vermicompost and fertilizers irrespective of different incubation periods. Irrespective of all incubation periods, the increasing levels or doses of vermicompost increased the mean Available- P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> from 13.62 to 15.91 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> and along with increasing fertilizers levels increased the from 9.27 to 10.85 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>. Irrespective of fertilizers levels with highest vermicompost doses the mean available-P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> increased from 4.81 to 7.54 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>, 14.51 to 17.08 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>, 24.00 to 29.05 Kg ha<sup>-1</sup> and 9.68 to 10.41Kg ha<sup>-1</sup> and excluding vermicompost levels with high fertilizers doses increased available- P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> from 5.61 to 7.02 Kg ha<sup>-1</sup>, 14.12 to 16.91 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>, 25.49 to 29.44 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>, 9.27 to 10.85 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> at 0<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 65<sup>th</sup> and 115<sup>th</sup> DAI, respectively.

However during the incubation period the available- P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> increased at a faster rate in all incubation periods from 0<sup>th</sup> DAI to 65<sup>th</sup> DAI and then decreased sharply up to 115<sup>th</sup> DAI. The highest dose of vermicompost (3.75 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) along with highest dose of fertilizer (100% RDF) showed significant increase in the available-P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, which was superior than other vermicompost + NPK treatments but significantly superior than sole doses of vermicompost, NPK and control. Similar results were found by Maitra *et al.* (2008). All the interactions of incubation stages, vermicompost and fertilizer doses were found significant. The Available-P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> content increased in all incubation stages from DAI to 65 DAI and then decreased up to 115 DAI might be due to the initial secretion of organic acids released fixed phosphorus but in later stages highest microbial activity utilized more amount of available phosphorus.

### Correlation Coefficients

**Table 1:** Pearson coefficient 0<sup>th</sup> Dai

	TOC	WSC	HWSC	KMnO <sub>4</sub> -C	OC	N	P
TOC	1.000						
WSC	0.755**	1.000					
HWSC	-0.087 <sup>NS</sup>	-0.338 <sup>NS</sup>	1.000				
KMnO <sub>4</sub> -C	0.677*	0.934**	-0.395 <sup>NS</sup>	1.000			
OC	0.774**	0.958**	-0.346 <sup>NS</sup>	0.858**	1.000		
N	0.677*	0.978**	-0.335 <sup>NS</sup>	0.906**	0.959**	1.000	
P	0.779**	0.950**	-0.363 <sup>NS</sup>	0.893**	0.885**	0.881**	1.000

(\*\* Significant at P= 0.01 level, \*Significant at P = 0.05 level)

The correlation coefficient showed positive and highly significant between water soluble carbon and available nitrogen. Both positive and negative correlations are shown in Table-1.

**Table 2:** Pearson Coefficient 30<sup>th</sup>Dai

	TOC	WSC	HWSC	KMnO <sub>4</sub> -C	OC	N	P
TOC	1.000						
WSC	0.904**	1.000					
HWSC	0.901**	0.971**	1.000				
KMnO <sub>4</sub> -C	0.878**	0.915**	0.887**	1.000			
OC	0.888**	0.955**	0.977**	0.886**	1.000		
N	0.881**	0.989**	0.984**	0.922**	0.975**	1.000	
P	0.654*	0.756**	0.691*	0.714**	0.694*	0.756**	1.000

(\*\* Significant at P= 0.01 level, \*Significant at P = 0.05 level)

The correlation coefficient showed positive among all parameters and highly significant between hot water soluble carbon and available nitrogen. Both positive and negative correlations are shown in Table-2

**Table 3:** Pearson Coefficient 65<sup>th</sup> DAI

	TOC	WSC	HWSC	KMnO <sub>4</sub> -C	OC	N	P
TOC	1.000						
WSC	0.916**	1.000					
HWSC	0.894**	0.984**	1.000				
KMnO <sub>4</sub> -C	0.869**	0.874**	0.905**	1.000			
OC	0.870**	0.956**	0.973**	0.849**	1.000		
N	0.920**	0.984**	0.984**	0.899**	0.976**	1.000	
P	0.174 <sup>NS</sup>	0.153 <sup>NS</sup>	0.271 <sup>NS</sup>	0.224 <sup>NS</sup>	0.359 <sup>NS</sup>	0.258 <sup>NS</sup>	1.000

(\*\* Significant at P= 0.01 level, \*Significant at P = 0.05 level)

The correlation coefficient showed positive and highly significant between water soluble carbon hot water soluble carbon and available nitrogen (Table-3). Available-P found non-significant with other parameters.

**Table 4:** Pearson coefficient 115<sup>th</sup> DAI

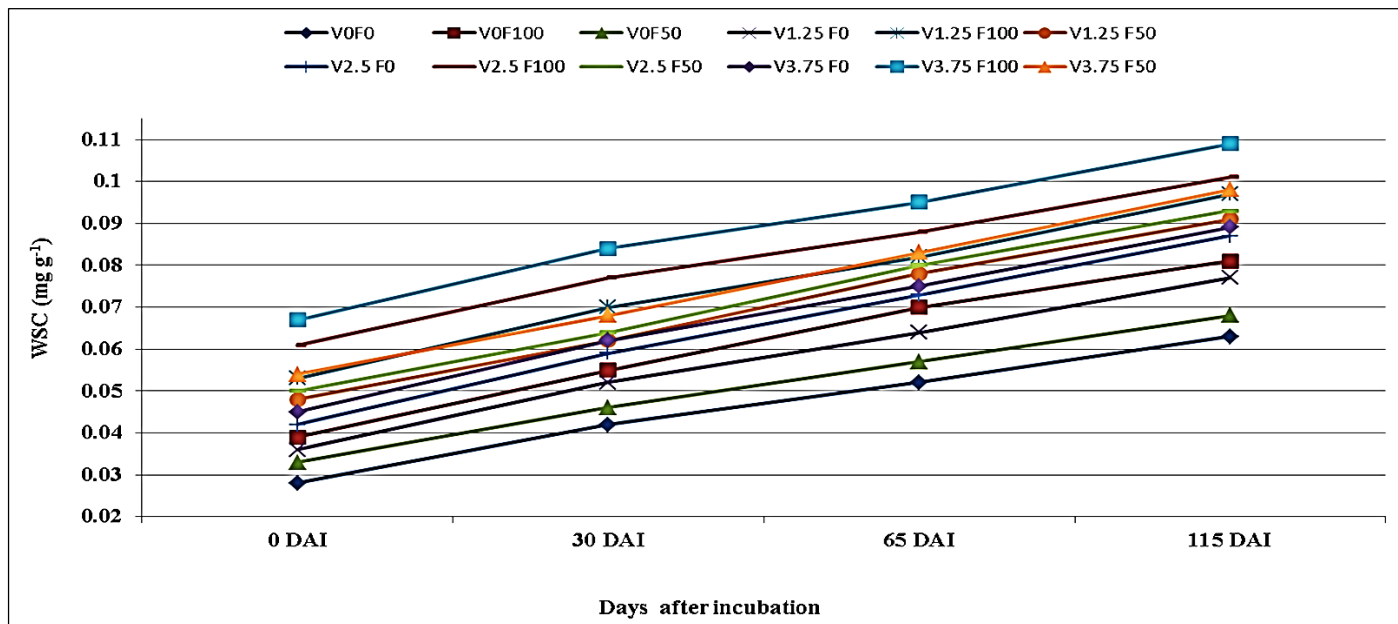
	TOC	WSC	HWSC	KMnO <sub>4</sub> -C	OC	N	P
TOC	1.000						
WSC	0.984**	1.000					
HWSC	0.981**	0.960**	1.000				
KMnO <sub>4</sub> -C	0.968**	0.983**	0.941**	1.000			
OC	0.967**	0.969**	0.984**	0.940**	1.000		
N	-0.061 <sup>NS</sup>	0.088 <sup>NS</sup>	-0.083 <sup>NS</sup>	0.010 <sup>NS</sup>	0.028 <sup>NS</sup>	1.000	
P	-0.155 <sup>NS</sup>	-0.139 <sup>NS</sup>	-0.218 <sup>NS</sup>	-0.102 <sup>NS</sup>	-0.263 <sup>NS</sup>	0.190 <sup>NS</sup>	1.000

(\*\* Significant at P= 0.01 level, \*Significant at P = 0.05 level)

The correlation coefficient showed positive and highly significant between hot water soluble carbon and organic carbon. Both available-P and N found NS with other parameters (Table-4).

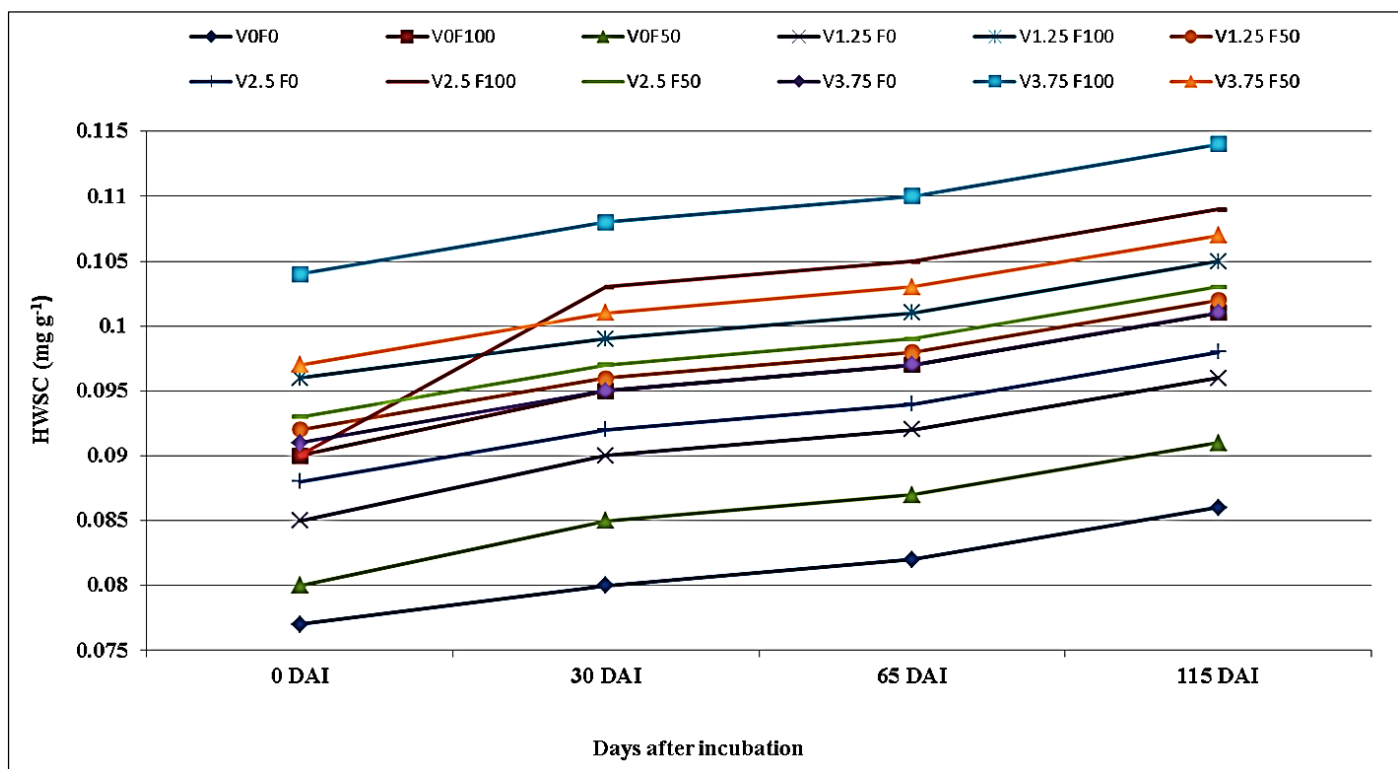
### Conclusions

The study revealed that application of vermicompost and fertilizer together increased the availability of nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus along with elevated the levels of water soluble carbon, hot-water soluble carbon, total organic carbon, active organic carbon and KMnO<sub>4</sub>-Carbon. The combined application of vermicompost and fertilizer might have increased microbial population thus leading to nutrient solubilization and post availability in soil. The combined application of vermicompost and fertilizer improved the soil health and soil ecological environments.



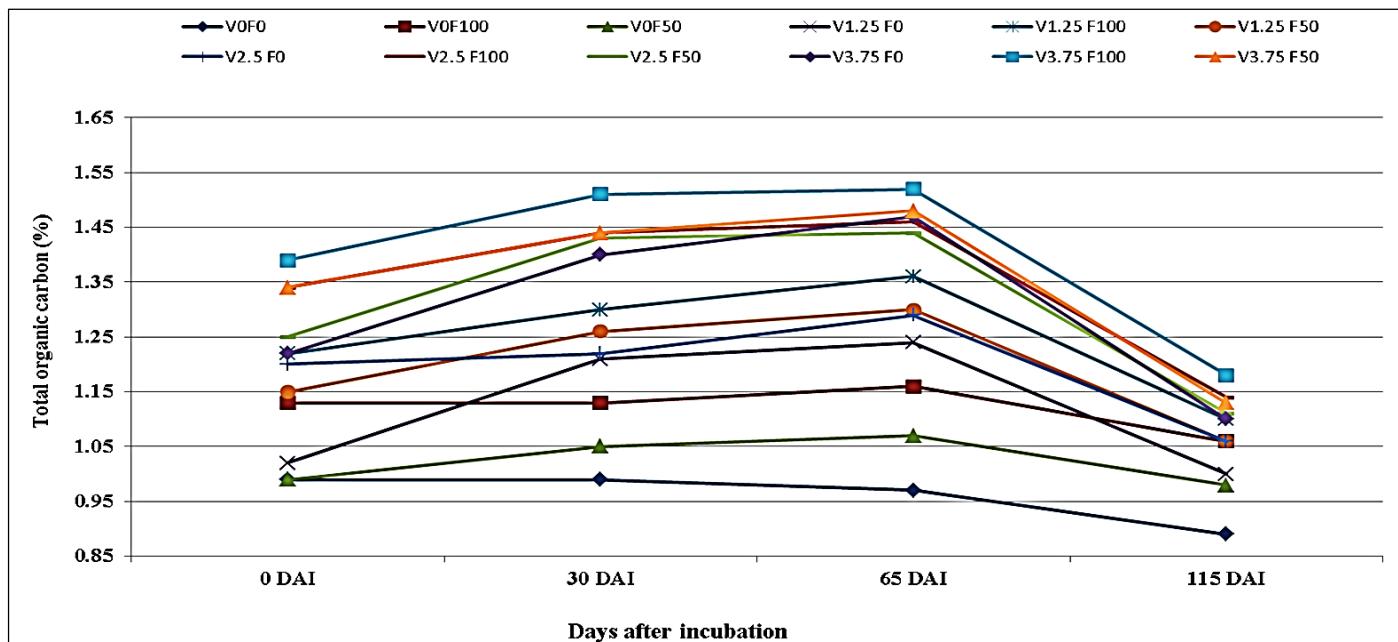
V<sub>0</sub>= Vermicompost (0 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), V<sub>1.25</sub>= Vermicompost (1.25 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), V<sub>2.5</sub>= Vermicompost (2.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), V<sub>3.75</sub> = Vermicompost (3.75 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), F<sub>0</sub>= Fertilizer (no fertilizer), F<sub>100</sub>= Fertilizer (100 % RDF), F<sub>50</sub>= Fertilizer (50 % RDF) and V<sub>0</sub>F<sub>0</sub> = control (0 t ha<sup>-1</sup> vermicompost +no fertilizer).

**Fig 1:** Effect of vermicompost and fertilizer on water soluble carbon -WSC (mg g<sup>-1</sup>) in soil during incubation study



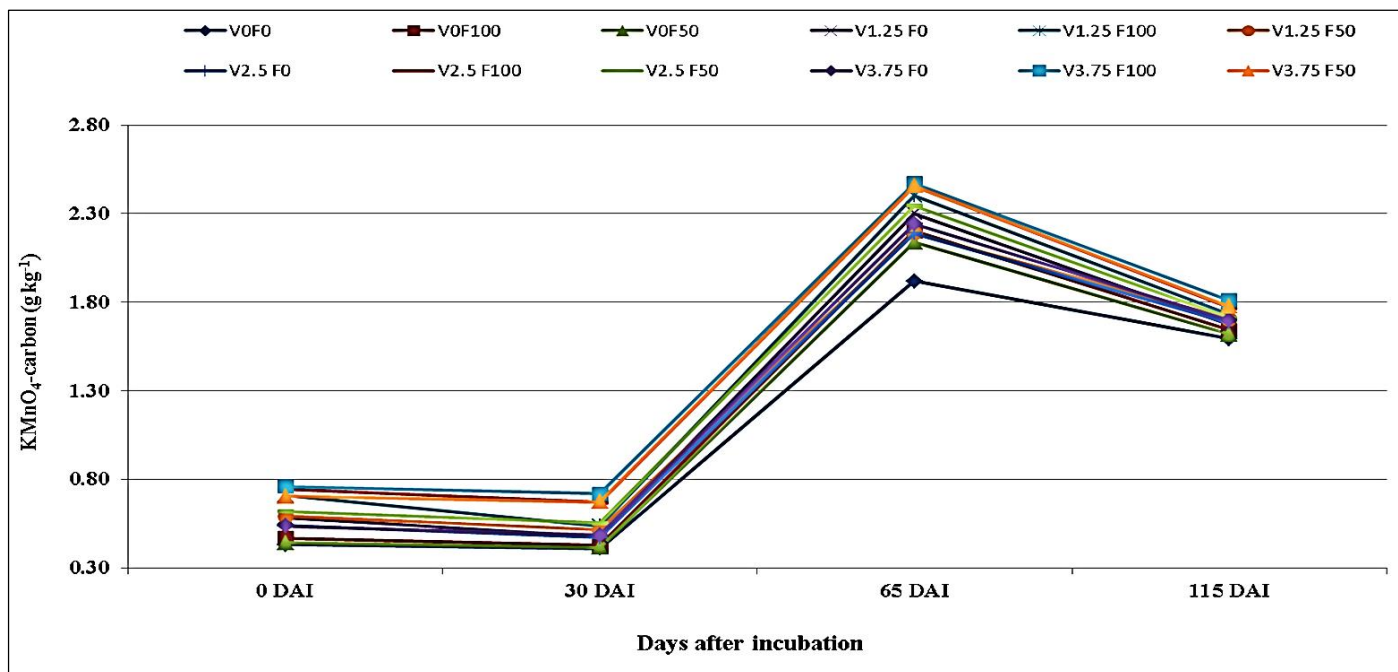
V<sub>0</sub>= Vermicompost (0 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), V<sub>1.25</sub>= Vermicompost (1.25 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), V<sub>2.5</sub>= Vermicompost (2.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), V<sub>3.75</sub> = Vermicompost (3.75 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), F<sub>0</sub>= Fertilizer (no fertilizer), F<sub>100</sub>= Fertilizer (100 % RDF), F<sub>50</sub>= Fertilizer (50 % RDF) and V<sub>0</sub>F<sub>0</sub> = control (0 t ha<sup>-1</sup> vermicompost +no fertilizer).

**Fig 2:** Effect of vermicompost and fertilizer on hot-water soluble carbon -HWSC (mg g<sup>-1</sup>) in soil during incubation study



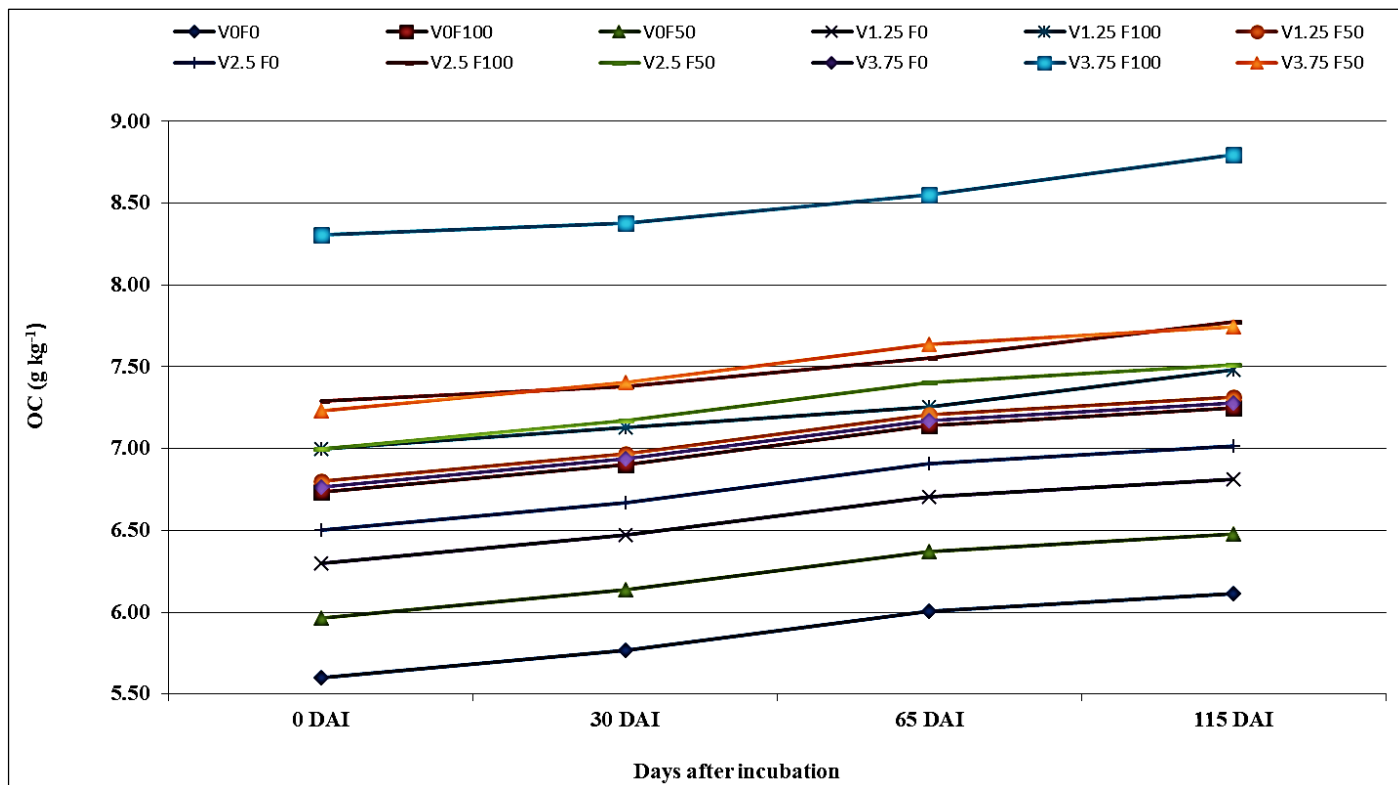
V<sub>0</sub>= Vermicompost (0 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), V<sub>1.25</sub>= Vermicompost (1.25 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), V<sub>2.5</sub>= Vermicompost (2.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), V<sub>3.75</sub> = Vermicompost (3.75 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), F<sub>0</sub>= Fertilizer (no fertilizer), F<sub>100</sub>= Fertilizer (100 % RDF), F<sub>50</sub>= Fertilizer (50 % RDF) and V<sub>0</sub>F<sub>0</sub> = control (0 t ha<sup>-1</sup> vermicompost +no fertilizer).

**Fig 3:** Effect of vermicompost and fertilizer on total organic carbon-TOC (%) in soil during incubation study



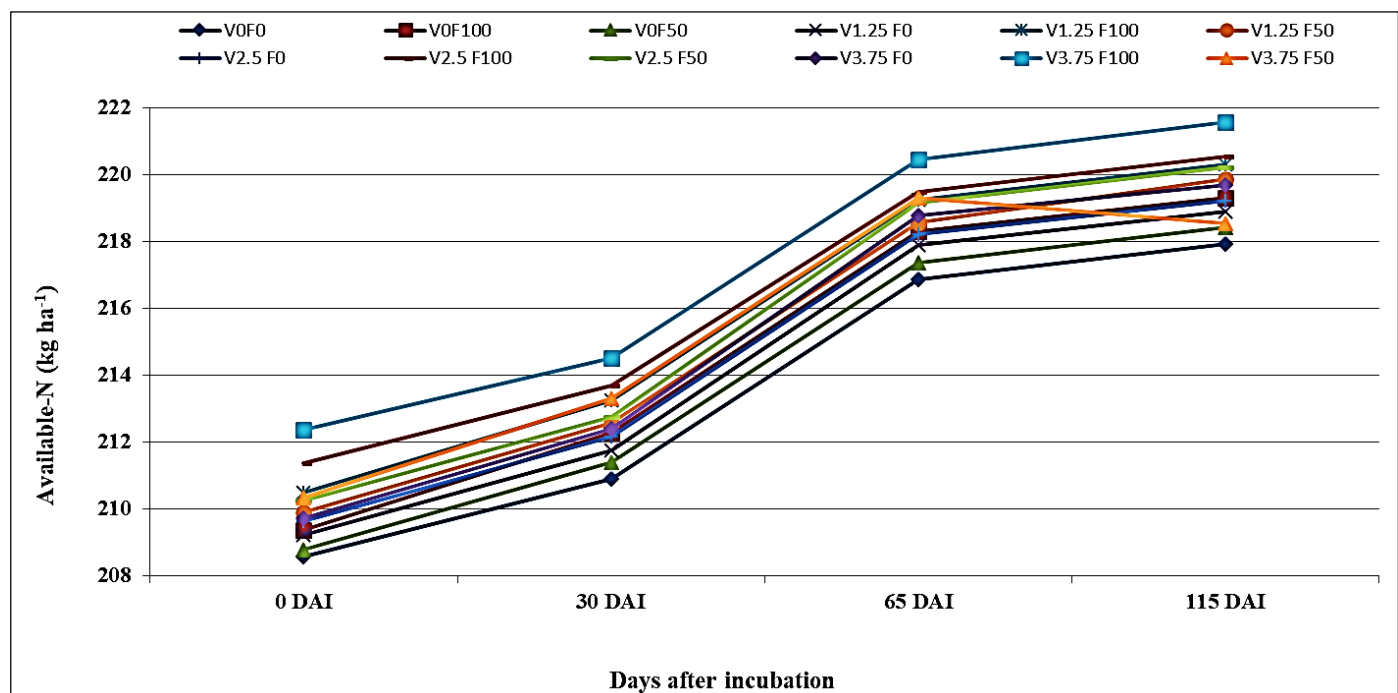
V<sub>0</sub>= Vermicompost (0 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), V<sub>1.25</sub>= Vermicompost (1.25 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), V<sub>2.5</sub>= Vermicompost (2.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), V<sub>3.75</sub> = Vermicompost (3.75 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), F<sub>0</sub>= Fertilizer (no fertilizer), F<sub>100</sub>= Fertilizer (100 % RDF) F<sub>50</sub>= Fertilizer (50 % RDF) and V<sub>0</sub>F<sub>0</sub> = control (0 t ha<sup>-1</sup> vermicompost +no fertilizer).

**Fig 4:** Effect of vermicompost and fertilizer on permanganate carbon-KMnO<sub>4</sub>-carbon (g kg<sup>-1</sup>) in soil during incubation study



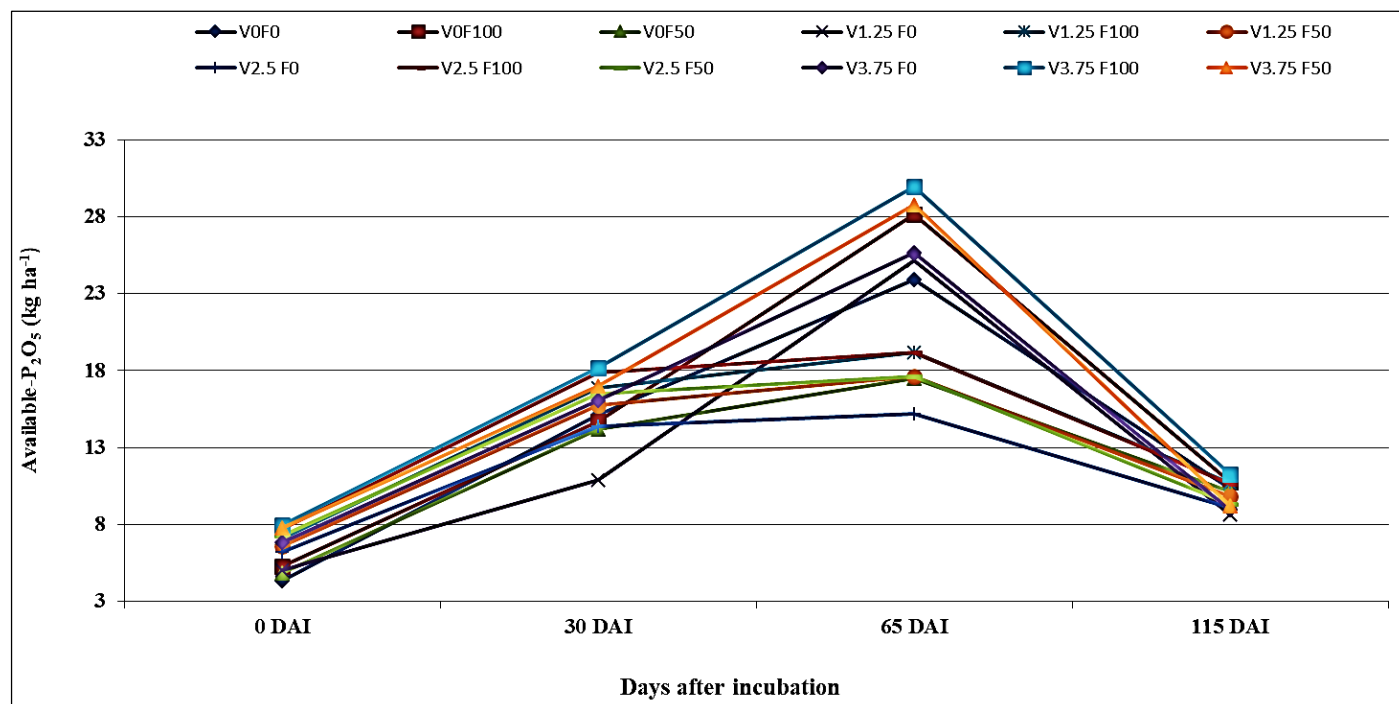
V<sub>0</sub>= Vermicompost (0 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), V<sub>1.25</sub>= Vermicompost (1.25 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), V<sub>2.5</sub>= Vermicompost (2.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), V<sub>3.75</sub>= Vermicompost (3.75 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), F<sub>0</sub>= Fertilizer (no fertilizer), F<sub>100</sub>= Fertilizer (100 % RDF), F<sub>50</sub>= Fertilizer (50 % RDF) and V<sub>0</sub>F<sub>0</sub> = control (0 t ha<sup>-1</sup> vermicompost +no fertilizer).

**Fig 5:** Effect of vermicompost and fertilizer on soil organic carbon -OC (g kg<sup>-1</sup>) in soil during incubation study



V<sub>0</sub>= Vermicompost (0 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), V<sub>1.25</sub>= Vermicompost (1.25 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), V<sub>2.5</sub>= Vermicompost (2.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), V<sub>3.75</sub>= Vermicompost (3.75 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), F<sub>0</sub>= Fertilizer (no fertilizer), F<sub>100</sub>= Fertilizer (100 % RDF), F<sub>50</sub>= Fertilizer (50 % RDF) and V<sub>0</sub>F<sub>0</sub> = control (0 t ha<sup>-1</sup> vermicompost +no fertilizer).

**Fig 6:** Effect of vermicompost and fertilizer on soil available-N (kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) in soil during incubation study



V<sub>0</sub>= Vermicompost (0 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), V<sub>1.25</sub>= Vermicompost (1.25 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), V<sub>2.5</sub>= Vermicompost (2.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), V<sub>3.75</sub> = Vermicompost (3.75 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), F<sub>0</sub>= Fertilizer (no fertilizer), F<sub>100</sub>= Fertilizer (100 % RDF), F<sub>50</sub>= Fertilizer (50 % RDF) and V<sub>0</sub>F<sub>0</sub> = control (0 t ha<sup>-1</sup> vermicompost +no fertilizer).

**Fig 7:** Effect of vermicompost and fertilizer on soil available-P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> (kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) in soil during incubation study

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