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## Response to date of sowing and nitrogen levels on growth, yield and yield attributes and economics of fodder barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) under north Gujarat condition

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#### Abstract

A field experiment was conducted at Agronomy Instructional Farm, Chimanbhai Patel College of Agriculture, S.D.A.U., Sardarkrushinagar to study the "Response of fodder barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) To date of sowing and nitrogen levels" during *Rabi* season of 2018-19. The soil of experimental field was loamy sand in texture with low in organic carbon (0.25%) and available nitrogen (163 kg/ha), medium in available phosphorus (38.2 kg/ha) and high in available potash (288 kg/ha) having pH value of 7.40. Total twelve treatment combinations comprising four levels of date of sowing in main plot *viz.*, 20<sup>th</sup> October, 1<sup>st</sup> November, 10<sup>th</sup> November and 20<sup>th</sup> November and three levels of nitrogen in sub plot *viz.*, 80 kg N/ha, 100 kg N/ha and 120 kg N/ha were laid out in split plot design with four replications. Sowing of the fodder barley on 10<sup>th</sup> November recorded significantly higher growth and yield attributes, green forage (362.7 q/ha), dry fodder (93.7 q/ha), net returns (38,104 Rs/ha) and BCR ratio (2.11) at total of both cuts than other date of sowing. Fertilizing the fodder barley crop with 120 kg N/ha gave significantly higher value for all growth and yield attributes, green forage, dry fodder, net returns and BCR ratio than other nitrogen levels.

**Keywords:** barley, date of sowing, economics, growth, nitrogen levels, yield and yield attributes

#### Introduction

Agriculture and animal husbandry in India are interwoven with the intricate fabric of the society in cultural, religious and economical ways as mixed farming and livestock rearing forms an integral part of rural living. The farmer possessing the livestock breeds with higher milk yield potential and suffering from deficit in fodder availability in the country. Total forage production in India is 866.6mt. In which 400mt. green fodder production and 446mt. dry fodder production. Whereas, the annual forage requirement is 1706mt. (1097mt. green fodder and 609mt. dry fodder). Deficit in green fodder production is 696mt. (63.50%) and 143mt. (23.56%) deficit in dry fodder (Bhagmal *et al.*, 2014) [3].

Among various cereals, Barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) is one of the founder crops of old world agriculture and was one of the first domesticated cereals. Barley is the major cereal in many dry areas of the world and is vital for the livelihoods of many farmers. Barley fodder may be a viable source of income generation for farmers. It has high capacity for tillering and re-growth after cutting and additional capacity for large accumulation of biomass rapidly after re-growth. Its fodder is also palatable.

Date of sowing is one of the important factors for higher production as it determines the optimum time of sowing of the crop. An optimum time of sowing enhances the efficiency of barley by exploiting growth factors in an effective manner. Optimum date of sowing is necessary for maximum possible yield of good quality green fodder because availability of highest nutritive stage for longer duration is desired. It is therefore, almost necessary to determine the optimum date of sowing of barley crop for good quality and quantity of green forage yield.

Plant nutrients also play an important role in fodder crop production. Nitrogen is the key element in achieving consistently high yields in cereals. The major constraints for production in the state are poor nitrogen status of the soils.

Nitrogen is commonly the most limiting nutrient for crop production in the majority of the world's agricultural areas and therefore adoption of good nitrogen management strategies often results in large economic benefits to farmers. Nitrogen is a vitally important and is one of the universally deficient plant nutrients in most of the Indian soils particularly in the loamy sand soils of semi-arid regions. It is an essential constituent of plant proteins and chlorophyll and is present in many other compounds of greater physiological importance in plant metabolism *viz.*, nucleotides, phospholipids, enzymes, hormones, vitamins *etc.* It governs to a considerable degree the utilization of carbohydrates, potassium, phosphorous and other elements. Nitrogen being an essential constituent of protein, nucleic acid and chlorophyll plays a major role in photosynthesis and chlorophyll synthesis (Kanwar, 1976) [12].

## Materials and Methods

The field experiment was conducted at Agronomy Instructional Farm, Chimanbhai Patel College of Agriculture, S.D.A.U., Sardarkrushinagar to study the "Response of fodder barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) To date of sowing and nitrogen levels" during *Rabi* season of 2018-19. Geographically, Sardarkrushinagar Dantiwada Agricultural University, where the experiment was laid out is situated at 24°-19' North latitude and 72°-19' East longitude with an elevation of 154.52 metre from the mean sea level. The climate of this region is sub-tropical monsoon type and falls under semi-arid region. In general, monsoon is warm and moderately humid, winter is fairly cold and dry, while summer is largely hot and dry. The soil of experimental field was loamy sand in texture with low in organic carbon (0.25%) and available nitrogen (163 kg/ha), medium in available phosphorus (38.2 kg/ha) and high in available potash (288 kg/ha) having pH value of 7.40. Total twelve treatment combinations comprising four levels of date of sowing in main plot *viz.*, 20<sup>th</sup> October, 1<sup>st</sup> November, 10<sup>th</sup> November and 20<sup>th</sup> November and three levels of nitrogen in sub plot *viz.*, 80 kg N/ha, 100 kg N/ha and 120 kg N/ha were laid out in split plot design with four replications. The seed of fodder barley (RD 2052) variety were drilled manually to a depth of 2-3 cm in the previously opened furrows at a distance of 22.5 cm between the two rows and lightly covered with the soil. The crop was fertilized as per treatments where the half dose of nitrogen in the form of urea and full dose of phosphorus in the form of di-ammonium phosphate were applied as basal dose in the previously opened furrow just before sowing. Nitrogen was applied as per treatments in two equal split at basal and after first cut phosphorous was applied as a common dose @ 60kg/ha for all plots as basal. The crop was harvested treatment wise at 50% flowering stage.

## Results and Discussion

### Growth attributes

Barely crop exhibited significant response to date of sowing and nitrogen level on growth attributes. The periodical observation *viz.*, plant height, leaf length, number of leaves per plant, number of tillers per meter row length and leaf: stem ratio (Table 1) at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> cut showed significant difference due to date of sowing. The maximum values for plant height (81.55 and 73.51 cm), leaf length (19.80 and 16.07 cm), number of leaves per plant (10.59 and 9.87), number of tillers per meter row length (89.5 and 95.8) and leaf: stem ratio (0.51 and 0.46) at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> cut were recorded under barley sowing during 10<sup>th</sup> November. The taller plants in the 10<sup>th</sup> November sowing might be due to favourable

temperature effect on the growth of plants. The present findings are in accordance with the findings of Fazal *et al.* (2012a) [9], Khan *et al.* (2014) [13] and Sharma *et al.* (2017) [19]. The application of 120 kg N/ha at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> cut increased plant height, leaf length, number of leaves per plant, number of tillers per meter row length and leaf: stem ratio but, it was statistically same with nitrogen level 100 kg/ha than 80 kg N/ha. Improvement in growth attributes due to application of nitrogen 120 kg/ha accelerated meristematic activity on account of availability of nitrogen in sufficient quantity and right time during the entire growth period of the crop and higher rate of nitrogen per hectare to enhanced production of leaf material as compared to stem in plant. These results confirm the findings of Fazal *et al.* (2012) [10], Dubey *et al.* (2013) [8], Khan *et al.* (2014) [13] and Alemnaw and Legas (2015) [2].

### Yield attributes and yield

Date of sowing influence significantly on green forage and dry fodder yield at first cut, second cut and total of both cuts (Table 2). The better performance of forage barley observed in term of plant height, leaf length, number of leaves per plant, number of tillers per meter row length and leaf: stem ratio was observed by sowing the fodder barley on 10<sup>th</sup> November which ultimately reflected on higher green forage and dry fodder yield of barely. Significantly the highest green forage yield (207.4, 154.6 and 362.1 q/ha) was recorded by taking first, second and total cut on 10<sup>th</sup> November sowing. The increased in green forage yield by the 10<sup>th</sup> November sowing was to the tune of 15.80, 17.03 and 16.31 per cent than that of 20<sup>th</sup> October sowing at first cut, second cut and total green forage yield, respectively. The remarkable increase in yields with normal sowing might be attributed due to favourable effect on growth attributes. This might have ultimately resulted in higher photosynthetic activities and also in production of more photosynthesis. The increase in green forage yield was also observed by Singh *et al.* (2004) [21] and Sharma *et al.* (2017) [19]. Similar trend was also observed for dry fodder yield (53.7, 39.9 and 93.7 q/ha) of barely because of higher green forage yield, so the dry fodder yield was more in the 10<sup>th</sup> November of sowing as compared to other date of sowing. The increased in dry fodder yield was also observed by Razzaque and Rafiquzzaman (2006) [17], Shekara and Lohithaswa (2012) [20] and Dar *et al.* (2014) [6]. Significantly higher green forage yield (211.2, 155.0 and 366.3 q/ha) was recorded by the application of 120 kg N/ha at first cut, second cut and total green forage yield, respectively. The percentage increased in green forage yield by the application of 120 kg N/ha was to the tune of 18.05, 15.84 and 17.10 per cent than that of 80 kg N/ha at first cut, second cut and total green forage yield, respectively. The remarkable increase in yields with higher levels of nitrogen might be attributed due to favourable effect on growth attributes (Table 1). The increase in leafy part due to nitrogen application might have ultimately resulted in higher photosynthetic activities and also in production of more photosynthesis. As a result of which, nitrogen yielded better response on forage yield of barely crop. More or less similar response to nitrogen has been reported by Yadav and Mali (2012) [22], Dubey *et al.* (2013) [8], Choudhary *et al.* (2014) [4] and Dahipahle *et al.* (2017) [5]. Similarly, dry fodder yield were also recorded significantly higher with application of nitrogen 120 kg/ha than other treatments. Application of 120 kg N/ha which accounted 8.75, 16.56 and 12.01 per cent higher than that of 80 kg N/ha at first cut, second cut and total dry fodder yield, respectively.

The dry fodder yield followed the same trend as observed in green forage yield due to application of nitrogen. Nitrogen is used largely in synthesis of protein, but structurally it is a constituent of chlorophyll molecule combined with carbohydrates and fatty acids. It helps in formation of protoplasm, which is the physical base of a life of the plant. Thus, more production of dry matter can be explained at higher nitrogen rates. The higher dry matter yield with higher nitrogen rates also reported by Alam and Haider (2006) <sup>[1]</sup>, Meena *et al.* (2012) <sup>[15]</sup>, Dubey *et al.* (2013) <sup>[8]</sup> and Dahipahle *et al.* (2017) <sup>[5]</sup>.

### Economics

Economics is the major consideration for the farmers while taking a decision regarding the adoption of new technology. Fodder barely sowing during 10<sup>th</sup> November recorded higher net returns (38,104 Rs/ha) and benefit cost ratio (2.11) over

other date of sowing (Table 3). This was due to higher green forage yield recorded barely during 10<sup>th</sup> November sowing. These results are conformity with those reported by Kalhapure and Shete (2013) <sup>[11]</sup>, Dar *et al.* (2016) <sup>[7]</sup> and Reddy *et al.* (2018) <sup>[18]</sup>. Application of nitrogen 120 kg/ha recorded higher net returns (46,396 Rs/ha) and benefit cost ratio (2.73) over 100 and 80 kg N/ha. The higher net returns and BCR under these treatments was mainly due to higher yields. Similar results were also reported by Kumpawat (2009) <sup>[14]</sup>, Meena *et al.* (2012) <sup>[15]</sup> and Puniya *et al.* (2015) <sup>[16]</sup>.

### Conclusion

It can be concluded that fodder barley (RD 2052) should be sown during on 1<sup>st</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> November and fertilizing with 120 kg N/ha under North Gujarat condition for obtaining higher green forage yield and net realization.

**Table 1:** Plant height, leaf length, number of leaves per plant, number of tillers per metre row length and leaf: stem ratio of fodder barley as influenced by date of sowing and nitrogen levels

Treatments	Plant height (cm)		Leaf length (cm)		Number of leaves per plant		Number of tillers per metre row length		Leaf: stem ratio	
	1 <sup>st</sup> cut	2 <sup>nd</sup> cut	1 <sup>st</sup> cut	2 <sup>nd</sup> cut	1 <sup>st</sup> cut	2 <sup>nd</sup> cut	1 <sup>st</sup> cut	2 <sup>nd</sup> cut	1 <sup>st</sup> cut	2 <sup>nd</sup> cut
<b>Main plot: Date of sowing (D):</b>										
20 <sup>th</sup> October	66.00	61.16	17.12	14.26	9.20	8.61	77.0	85.1	0.37	0.34
1 <sup>st</sup> November	78.18	71.82	19.62	15.02	9.56	9.46	87.7	91.4	0.48	0.45
10 <sup>th</sup> November	81.55	73.51	19.80	16.07	10.59	9.87	89.5	95.8	0.51	0.46
20 <sup>th</sup> November	73.00	65.62	19.50	14.66	9.36	8.81	80.0	85.2	0.41	0.39
S.E.m.±	2.495	2.037	0.546	0.377	0.316	0.272	2.62	2.58	0.013	0.012
C.D. at 5%	7.98	6.52	1.75	1.21	1.01	0.87	8.41	8.26	0.04	0.04
C.V. (%)	11.57	10.37	9.94	8.72	11.30	10.25	10.89	10.00	10.36	10.18
<b>Sub plot: Nitrogen levels (N) kg/ha:</b>										
80 kg/ha	65.84	64.21	18.25	14.46	9.20	8.93	80.1	85.3	0.42	0.36
100 kg/ha	76.73	68.96	19.06	15.18	9.88	9.04	84.1	88.6	0.44	0.42
120 kg/ha	81.47	70.91	19.73	15.36	9.96	9.60	86.4	94.3	0.46	0.44
S.E.m.±	1.92	1.41	0.38	0.22	0.22	0.19	1.68	2.04	0.01	0.01
C.D. at 5%	5.61	4.11	1.11	0.64	0.65	0.57	4.91	5.95	0.03	0.03
C.V. (%)	10.29	8.28	7.98	5.83	9.18	8.49	8.05	9.11	9.21	9.40

**Table 2:** Green forage yield and dry fodder yield of fodder barley as influenced by date of sowing and nitrogen levels

Treatments	Green forage yield (q/ha)			Dry fodder yield (q/ha)		
	1 <sup>st</sup> cut	2 <sup>nd</sup> cut	Total	1 <sup>st</sup> cut	2 <sup>nd</sup> cut	Total
<b>Main plot: Date of sowing (D):</b>						
20 <sup>th</sup> October	179.1	132.1	311.3	46.3	34.2	80.6
1 <sup>st</sup> November	196.6	146.8	343.4	50.8	38.0	88.9
10 <sup>th</sup> November	207.4	154.6	362.1	53.7	39.9	93.7
20 <sup>th</sup> November	193.5	143.2	336.7	50.1	37.0	87.2
S.E.m.±	5.91	4.31	10.16	1.52	1.17	2.67
C.D. at 5%	18.9	13.8	32.5	4.89	3.75	8.55
C.V. (%)	10.55	10.37	10.41	10.52	10.87	10.57
<b>Sub plot: Nitrogen levels (N) kg/ha:</b>						
80 kg/ha	178.9	133.8	312.8	48.0	34.4	82.4
100 kg/ha	192.4	143.6	336.1	50.4	37.5	87.9
120 kg/ha	211.2	155.0	366.3	52.2	40.1	92.3
S.E.m.±	4.25	3.39	6.29	1.06	0.86	1.46
C.D. at 5%	12.4	9.9	18.3	3.09	2.51	4.26
C.V. (%)	8.76	9.41	7.44	8.42	9.21	6.66

**Table 3:** Economics of the different treatments on fodder barley as influenced by date of sowing and nitrogen levels

Treatments	Green forage yield (q/ha)	Gross realization (Rs/ha)	Cost of production (Rs/ha)	Net realization (Rs/ha)	Benefit: Cost ratio (BCR)
<b>Main plot: Date of sowing (D):</b>					
20 <sup>th</sup> October	311.3	62264	35422	26842	1.76
1 <sup>st</sup> November	343.4	68684	34322	34362	2.00
10 <sup>th</sup> November	362.1	72426	34322	38104	2.11
20 <sup>th</sup> November	336.7	67354	33222	34132	2.03
<b>Sub plot: Nitrogen levels (kg/ha) (N):</b>					
80 kg/ha	312.8	62562	26308	36254	2.38
100 kg/ha	336.1	67224	26586	40638	2.53
120 kg/ha	366.3	73260	26864	46396	2.73

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