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Effect of organic manures and inorganic fertilizers on maize yield, chemical composition and seed quality under maize: Chickpea cropping sequence

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Abstract

The field trial was carried out at College Agronomy Farm, Anand Agricultural University, Anand to study the effects of organic manures and inorganic fertilizers on yield, chemical composition and quality of seed of maize under Maize-Chickpea cropping sequence during the year 2015-17. There were total four organic manure treatments like (M₁: no manure, M₂: FYM 10 t/ha, M₃: castor cake 1.0 t/ha and M₄: vermicompost 2.5 t/ha), inorganic fertilizer (like F₁:75% RDF and F₂ 100% RDF) and sulphur levels (S₁: 0 kg S/ha and S₂: 20 kg S/ha) with four replications and tested in Randomized Block Design (Factorial). The results indicated that the seed and straw yields were significantly influenced due to combined application of FYM 10 t/ha and 100% RDF (100-60-00 NPK kg/ha) along with 20 kg S/ha. The nutrients like N, P, K and S content and uptake; chlorophyll content and quality parameter like protein content of maize were also increased due to same set of organic and inorganic fertilizer application.

Keywords: Maize, FYM, castor cake, vermicompost, seed yield, nutrient uptake, chlorophyll

Introduction

Maize (*Zea mays* L.) is one of the most important cereal crops in the world agriculture economy both as a food for human being and a feed for animals. There is no cereal on the earth, which has such immense potential like maize and therefore, it occupies the pride place as, "Queen of cereals". Maize is important not only because of its great adaptability to divergent conditions but also due to its high responsiveness to management practices particularly nutrient management. The basic concept underlying used of organic manures and inorganic fertilizer in crop production refers to combining of old and modern methods of nutrient management into ecologically sound and economically optimal farming system. Integrated nutrient management (INM) is a judicious use of organic and inorganic sources of nutrient to crop fields for sustaining and maintaining soil productivity. To counter the detrimental effect of inorganic fertilizers, organic manure are available indigenously which improve soil health resulting enhanced crop yield and quality. Therefore, the trial was conducted to study the effect of nutrient management through sources on maize yield, its chemical composition and seed quality under maize – cowpea cropping sequence.

Materials and Method

The field experiment was conducted at College Farm, Department of Agronomy, B. A. College of Agriculture, Anand Agricultural University, Anand to study the "Effect of organic manures and inorganic fertilizers on maize yield, chemical composition and seed quality under maize (*Zea mays* L.) – chickpea (*Cicer arietinum* L.) cropping sequence" during *kharif* and *rabi* seasons of the years 2015-16 and 2016-17. The texture of the soil is loamy sand. The soil is very deep and fairly moisture retentive. The soil of experimental site had low organic carbon (0.45%), low available N (250.88 kg/ha), medium available P₂O₅ (48.54 kg/ha) and SO₄-S (15.24 mg/kg); and high available K₂O (315.84 kg/ha). There were total four levels of organic manure like (M₁: no manure, M₂: FYM 10 t/ha, M₃: castor cake 1.0 t/ha and M₄: vermicompost 2.5 t/ha); two levels of inorganic fertilizer (F₁:75% RDF and F₂: 100% RDF) and two sulphur levels (S₁: 0 kg S/ha and S₂: 20 kg S/ha).

The experimental design was Randomized Block Design (Factorial) with four replications. Recommended dose of fertilizer (120-60-0 kg/ha) was applied by urea and DAP chemical fertilizer and sulphur was applied in form of Gypsum to maize crop. All agronomical practices and plant protection measure was followed for better and successful crop production. The observation on yield attributes were recorded by randomly selected five plants from net plot area and tagged all plants for further observations. The seed and straw samples were drawn after harvest of maize and analysed for their nutrient content and quality parameters in laboratory adopting standard procedures. The data of various parameters were statistically analyzed using analysis of variance (ANOVA) technique and the treatments were compared at 5% levels of significance (Cochran and Cox, 1967) [13].

Results and Discussion

Effect of organic manure

Data presented in Table 1 revealed that the application of FYM @ 10t/ha (M₂) recorded significantly highest seed yield (4249 kg/ha) and straw yield (6420 kg/ha). The increased in maize yields with the application of organic manure might be due to the availability of both the native and applied nutrients in the soil and substantially enhance their uptake by the plant, leading to overall improvement in the growth and yield attributing characters. Secondly, maximum yield under the treatment of FYM was also attributed to the beneficial effects of FYM by way of regulated liberalization and balanced supply of nutrients, tilting microbial dynamics in favour of the crop growth and creation of salutary soil environmental condition for the crop growth. Similar results were also obtained by Rajkumara *et al.* (2012) [9], Ashoka *et al.* (2013) [2] and Mukherjee (2014) [8] during their investigation.

Data presented in Table 1 indicated that application of FYM @ 10t/ha recorded significantly highest chlorophyll-a (6.83 mg/g) and chlorophyll-b (1.49 mg/g) content at 30 DAS. The increased in chlorophyll contents in leaf under organic manure treatment might be due to significant increase in nutrient availability and water holding capacity of soil which increase plant water potential, which brought out rapid unfolding and expansion of leaf, resulting in increased interception of radiant energy that might have increased synthesis of chlorophyll contents in leaf (Shaded and El-Tayeb, 1991) [10].

The significantly highest seed protein content (10.65%) was recorded under the treatment M₂ (FYM @10t/ha) than rest of organic manures treatments. The higher protein content might be due to the protein molecules are presumably built up through controlled condensation of amino acid molecules formed by combining reduced nitrogen with derivative of carbohydrates obtained with the plant system as a product of photosynthesis. Similar result was also reported by Srinivasanarao *et al.* (2010) [12].

Perusal of results (Tables 2) indicated that the application of FYM @ 10t/ha recorded significantly highest uptake of N (72.67 kg/ha), P₂O₅ (33.90 kg/ha), and K₂O (18.97 kg/ha) by seed and 40.87, 21.52 and 42.96 kg/ha uptake by straw, respectively, but it was statistically at par with treatment M₄ (Vermicompost 2.5 t/ha). In case of S uptake by seed (5.24 kg/ha) was significantly increased due to M₂ and at par with M₄ treatment but S uptake by straw (13.76 kg/ha) was significantly increased due to M₄ and at par with M₂ treatment. This could be attributed to the fact that added organic manures increased the nitrogen, phosphorus, potash and sulphur concentration in seed and straw due to better root

establishment, resulting in higher absorption of nutrient to feed and sustain in increased growth lead to higher seed and straw yields. The nutrient uptake is the function of yield and nutrient concentration and yield are more deciding factor for higher nutrient uptake. These findings are in accordance with those reported by Meena *et al.* (2011) [7].

Table 1: Effect of organic and inorganic fertilizer on seed, straw yields and chlorophyll content of maize (pooled of Two years)

Treatment	Seed yield (kg/ha)	Straw yield (kg/ha)	Chlorophyll-a (mg/g)	Chlorophyll-b (mg/g)
			At 30 DAS	
Organic manure (M kg/ha)				
M ₁	2980	4857	6.00	1.30
M ₂	4249	6420	6.83	1.49
M ₃	4028	6136	6.46	1.41
M ₄	4166	6266	6.70	1.44
S.Em. +	78.88	101.08	0.12	0.03
C. D. at 5%	222	284	0.34	0.08
Inorganic fertilizer (F kg/ha)				
F ₁	3679	5705	6.30	1.37
F ₂	4033	6134	6.69	1.45
S.Em. +	55.78	71.47	0.09	0.02
C. D. at 5%	157	201	0.24	0.05
Sulphur (S kg/ha)				
S ₁	3739	5821	6.44	1.41
S ₂	3973	6018	6.55	1.42
S.Em. +	55.78	71.47	0.09	0.02
C. D. at 5%	157	NS	NS	NS
Interaction	MxF	MxF	-	-
C. V. %	11.57	9.66	10.65	10.87

Effect of inorganic fertilizer

The treatment F₂ (100% RDF) was recorded significantly the highest seed yield (4033 kg/ha) and straw yield (6134 kg/ha) over 75% RDF treatment. The seed yield was increased by 9.6% and straw yield by 7.5% due to F₁ over F₂ treatment. Application of 100% RDF recorded significantly the highest seed yield might be due to different levels of RDF was related to the differences in size of photosynthetic surface and to the relative efficiency of total sink activity, possibly a function of number of cobs/ plant, length and girth of cob, average weight/cob and seed index, chlorophyll contents, which in turn influenced the direction of movement of substrates. All these might have cumulatively produced higher seed yield under the 100% RDF.

The maximum values of chlorophyll-a (6.69 mg/g) and chlorophyll-b (1.45 mg/g) contents were registered under the treatment F₂ (Tables 1) at 30 DAS. The nitrogen being a structural component of chlorophyll directly helped more synthesis of chlorophyll and increase its content as the recommended dose of fertilizer increased. Secondly, nitrogen has direct involvement in the porphyrin ring structure of chlorophyll molecule. These results are in conformity with the results of Martorana *et al.* (1997) [6].

Data presented in Table 2 indicated that application of 100% RDF (F₂) noted significantly the highest protein content (10.43%). The maize plants had efficiently translocated applied nitrogen and assimilated it into proteinous substances of maize seed.

The significantly the highest uptake of N by seed and straw (67.70 and 38.63 kg/ha, respectively), P₂O₅ by seed and straw (31.77 and 20.51 kg/ha, respectively), K₂O by seed and straw (17.82 and 40.42 kg/ha, respectively) and S by seed and straw (4.79 and 13.12 kg/ha, respectively) was recorded in treatment F₂ (100% RDF). The higher uptake values were

evidently due to higher vegetative growth which might have produced more straw resulting into more uptake. These results are in conformity with the results of Meena *et al.* (2011) [7] and Kumar and Hiremath (2015) [4].

Table 2: Effect of organic and inorganic fertilizer on protein content and nutrients uptake by maize

Treatment	Protein content (%)	Nutrient uptake by seed (kg/ha)				Nutrient uptake by Straw (kg/ha)			
		N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	S	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	S
Organic manure (M)									
M ₁	9.81	46.89	22.81	12.79	3.29	29.79	15.64	31.50	9.96
M ₂	10.65	72.67	33.90	18.97	5.24	40.87	21.52	42.96	13.75
M ₃	10.04	64.86	31.45	17.70	4.80	37.97	20.00	40.59	13.06
M ₄	10.38	69.28	32.73	18.29	4.81	39.62	20.95	41.78	13.76
S.Em. +	0.14	1.71	0.75	0.43	0.14	0.83	0.38	0.77	0.32
C. D. at 5%	0.40	4.81	2.10	1.20	0.39	2.32	1.07	2.16	0.89
Inorganic fertilizer (F)									
F ₁	10.01	59.15	28.68	16.06	4.28	35.49	18.55	38.00	12.15
F ₂	10.43	67.70	31.77	17.82	4.79	38.63	20.51	40.42	13.12
S.Em. +	0.10	1.21	0.53	0.30	0.10	0.58	0.27	0.54	0.22
C. D. at 5%	0.28	3.40	1.49	0.85	0.28	1.64	0.75	1.53	0.63
Sulphur (S)									
S ₁	10.17	61.23	29.30	16.23	4.24	36.35	19.06	38.58	12.19
S ₂	10.27	65.62	31.15	17.64	4.83	37.77	20.00	39.84	13.07
S.Em. +	0.10	1.21	0.53	0.30	0.10	0.58	0.27	0.54	0.22
C. D. at 5%	NS	3.40	1.49	0.85	0.28	NS	0.75	NS	0.63
Interaction	-	MxF	MxF	MxF	MxF	-	-	MxF	-
C. V. %	7.92	15.27	13.99	14.31	17.41	12.61	11.00	11.07	14.13

Effect of sulphur

The significantly highest seed yield (3973 kg/ha) was recorded with the treatment S₂ (20 kg S/ha) over control (S₁). Further, the treatment S₂ recorded 6.3 per cent higher seed yield over treatment S₁. These might be due to the fact that sulphur application improved over all nutritional environment of the *rhizosphere* as well as plant system which could be more advantageous for profuse vegetative and root growth which activated higher absorption of phosphorus, sulphur and nitrogen from the soil and improved metabolic activities inside the plant. Sulphur plays a vital role in the synthesis of chlorophyll, a part of active centre of some enzymes. It also affects various metabolic processes, which ultimately helps in growth and development of plants.

Perusal of data presented in Table 1 indicated that application of sulphur did not showed its effect on Chlorophyll-a (mg/g) and Chlorophyll-b (mg/g) at 30 DAS, protein content, nitrogen and potash uptake by straw.

Table 3: Interaction effect of organic manures and inorganic fertilizer on seed, straw yield and nutrient content in seed and potash content in straw

Organic manure (M)	Inorganic fertilizer (F)													
	Seed yield (kg/ha)		Straw yield (kg/ha)		N uptake by seed (kg/ha)		P uptake by seed (kg/ha)		K ₂ O uptake by seed (kg/ha)		S uptake by seed (kg/ha)		K ₂ O uptake by straw (kg/ha)	
	F ₁	F ₂	F ₁	F ₂	F ₁	F ₂	F ₁	F ₂	F ₁	F ₂	F ₁	F ₂	F ₁	F ₂
M ₁	2870	3091	4592	5122	44.36	49.41	21.70	23.93	12.36	13.22	3.14	3.44	29.35	33.64
M ₂	3952	4547	6492	6564	65.79	79.54	31.45	36.36	17.42	20.51	4.87	5.62	41.77	44.15
M ₃	3668	4388	5708	6348	57.45	72.28	28.67	34.23	15.88	19.52	4.28	5.33	38.45	42.74
M ₄	4107	4225	6029	6504	69.02	69.55	32.89	32.56	18.57	18.02	4.85	4.77	40.04	43.53
S.Em. +	111.5		142.9		2.42		1.05		0.61		0.20		1.09	
OC. D. at 5%	313		401		6.80		2.97		1.70		0.55		3.05	

Conclusion

The overall results can be concluded that the application of FYM @ 10t/ha with 100% Recommended Dose of fertilizer (120-60-0 NPK kg/ha) and 20 kg S/ha gave highest seed and

Data presented in Table 2 indicated that application of 20 kg S/ha (S₂) was recorded significantly the highest uptake of N by seed (65.62 kg/ha), P₂O₅ by seed and straw (31.15 and 20.00 kg/ha, respectively), K₂O by seed (17.64kg/ha) and S by seed and straw (4.83 and 13.07 kg/ha, respectively) than treatment S₁. The uptake of N and K₂O by straw was found non-significant. The beneficial effects of sulphur application to the crop could be more advantageous for profuse vegetative and root growth, which activated higher absorption of P and S from soil. Sulphur also reduced alkalinity of soil, which makes plants to absorbed more nutrients i.e. nitrogen and potash from soil. Similar results were obtained by Srinivasanarao *et al.* (2010) [12].

Interaction effect

The seed and straw yields were significantly influenced due to interaction effect between organic manure and inorganic fertilizer (Table 3), wherein, treatment combination M₂F₂ recorded highest seed and straw yield (4547 and 6564 kg/ha). The highest seed and straw yield were obtained with the combined use of organic manure and inorganic fertilizer might be due to the fact that yield attributes and cumulative effect of yield attributes mainly responsible for higher productivity. Anup *et al.* (2010) [11] and Manjhi *et al.* (2016) [5] were also reported same results.

Data presented Table 3 indicated that treatment combination M₂F₂ exhibited more uptake of N (79.54 kg/ha), P₂O₅ (36.36 kg/ha), K₂O (20.51 kg/ha) and S (5.62 kg/ha) by seed, but it was statistically at par with treatment combination M₃F₂. Further, highest K₂O uptake by straw was found with the treatment combination M₂F₂ (44.15 kg/ha) followed by treatment combinations M₃F₂, M₄F₂ and M₂F₁. The higher uptake of N, P, K and S might be due to better root establishment, resulting in higher absorption of nutrients to feed and sustain in increased growth lead to higher seed and straw yields. The nutrient uptake is the function of yield and nutrient concentration and yield is more deciding factor for higher nutrient uptake. The increased in nutrient uptake might be due to the increase in cation exchange capacity of roots which increased the demand for essential nutrient, resulting from increased biological and economical yield due to application of inorganic fertilizers. Hence, K uptake was increased with increasing recommended dose of fertilizer in conjunction with organic manure. These results are akin to those reported by Rajkumara *et al.* (2012) [9] and Mukherjee (2014) [8].

straw yield of maize. The nutrients like N, P, K and S content and uptake and quality parameter like protein content of maize were also increased due to same set of organic and inorganic fertilizer application.

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