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Effect of different levels of fertilizers and organic matter on soil Physico-chemical properties, growth and yield of baby corn (*Zea mays* L.) G-5414 Variety

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Abstract

Organic and inorganic nutrients are important for crop productivity and soil health. Present study investigated the Effect of different levels of fertilizers and organic matter on soil physico-chemical properties, Growth and yield of Baby Corn (*zea mays* L) G-5414 Variety. Field experiment was conducted at Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, Naini Agricultural Institute, Prayagraj – 211007, during kharif 2019 on loamy sand soil. The experiment consisted of 9 treatment viz., T0--Control (No Treatment), T1--NPK 100% + Organics 0%, T2--NPK0% + vermicompost 100% 10 t ha-1, T3--NPK 0% + Poultry manure 100% 10 t ha-1, T4--NPK 75% + Vermicompost 25% 82:39:20kg ha¹+2.5 t ha-1, T5—NPK 75%+ Poultry manure 25% 82:39:20 kg ha-1 +2.5:1tha-1, T6--NPK 50% + Vermicompost 50% 55:26:13 kg ha-1+5t ha-1 and T7--NPK50% + Poultry manure 50%55:36:13 kg ha-1 5t ha-1 T8-NPK 50% + Organics 25% 55:26:13 kg ha-1+2.5:1t ha-1. Conclusively, integration of inorganic fertilizers with organic manures can be used with optimum rates to improve crop productivity on sustainable basis. The results showed that progressive increase in level of N P K and organic fertilizer used from different sources in the experiment, the treatment combination(NPK 50% + Organics 25%) significantly increased the physical and chemical analysis parameters i.e. (Bulk density (Mg m-3), Particle density (Mg m-3), Pore space (%), % of solid space, Specific gravity, Water retaining capacity (%), Soil pH (1:2), EC (dSm-1), Organic carbon (%), Available Nitrogen (Kg ha-1), Available Phosphorus (Kg ha-1) and Available Potassium (Kg ha-1)of soil.

Keywords: NPK, Vermicompos, poultry manure and soil Physico-chemical properties

Introduction

Maize (*Zea mays* L.) is considered as one of the most important cereal crop in the world which serves as a staple food more than any of the other cereal crops. Maize (*Zea mays* L.) 3rd ranks as a food-grain crop after wheat and rice and it is not only a cereal but also used as a vegetable and fodder crop. Maize was originated from America which was domesticated almost 7000 years ago and it provides nutrients to human and as well as animals, and used as respiration, indole acetic acid (IAA) metabolism, phenol metabolism, and as part of the cell membranes (Parr & Loughman, 1983; Ahmad *et al.*, 2009). Salicylic acid (SA; 2-hydroxybenzoic acid) is an endogenous growth regulator of phenolic nature, which is normally a source of raw material for the production of oil, protein, starch, food sweeteners, alcoholic beverages and fuel source.

In addition to a huge generation of jobs, cultivation has started to gain momentum in peri-urban areas late due to its export potential. Being a crop with a limited period (50–60 days), it can be planted and harvested 3–4 times a year. However, a few nations, including Thailand, Indonesia, India, and Brazil, are still limited to production areas. Baby corn has gained popularity recently in Taiwan and India as a vegetable mainly in the states such as Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Maize covers a large area of 66 lakh hectares with 133 lakh tones produced and 2015 kg ha-1 productivity in India. There are no reported data for baby corn production in the United States; nevertheless, the United States is the leading importer of baby corn, mainly from Asian countries, especially from Thailand. United States imports accounted for approximately 140% of total baby corn exported

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by these countries based upon reports of the United States Department of Agriculture and the Foreign Agricultural Service (Aekatasanawan 2001; Stone *et al.*, 2008).

Synergistic effects of organic manures with inorganic fertilizers accumulate more total nitrogen in soils (Huang *et al.*, 2007) [6], but sole application of farm yard manure (FYM) resulted in increased yield of maize (Anatoliy and Thelen, 2007), higher SOM content (44%), improved soil porosity (25%) and 16 times more water holding capacity (Gangwar *et al.*, 2006) [5]. A long term residual effect on soil organic C and soil P (about 7 to 8 years) were reported by Kihanda *et al.*, (2006) [7] when organic manure was applied in a semi-arid dryland agriculture. Organic manures also affect the soil biological activity (Araújo and Monteiro, 2006) [3], while enhanced phosphorous (P) availability is also well reported with the application of organic manures in the soil (Toor and Bahl, 1997) [8].

A major challenge for this growing sector is the management of this substantial waste burden, which, if managed correctly, is a valuable resource of nutrients. Vermicomposting is an effective way of doing this. Vermicomposts are organic materials broken down by interactions between microorganisms and earthworms in a mesophilic process, to produce fully stabilized organic soil amendments with low C: N ratios (Ramasamy, *et al.*, 2011) Vermicompost has large particulate surface area that provides many micro-sites for the microbial activity and strong retention of nutrients. The nutrients content in vermicompost vary depending on the waste materials that is being used for compost preparation. If the waste materials are heterogeneous one, there will be wide range of nutrients available in the compost.

Materials and Methods Soil Sampling

The soil of experimental area falls in order of Inceptisol and in experimental plots is alluvial soil in nature. The soil samples randomly collect from five different sites in the experiment plot prior to tillage operation from a depth of 0-15 cm. The size of the soil sample reduce by conning and quartering the composites soil sample is air dry and pass through a 2 mm sieve by way of preparing the sample for physical and chemical analysis. The experimental details are given below under different heading:

Design and treatment

The experiment was carried out in randomized block design with three levels of N P K, three levels of Vermicompost. The treatments were replicated three times and were allocated at random in each replication.

Experimental sites

The experiment was conducted on the research farm of department of Soil Science and agricultural chemistry, Sam

Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences, Prayagraj which situated six km away from Prayagraj city on the right bank of Yamuna river, the experimental site is located in the sub – tropical region with 25° N latitude 81.500° E longitude and 95° MS Latitude.

Fertilizer application The fertilizers were applied in each plot according to treatment combinations. T0--Control (No Treatment), T1--NPK 100% + Organics 0%, T2--NPK0% + vermicompost 100% 10 t ha⁻¹, T3--NPK 0% + Poultry manure 100% 10 t ha⁻¹, T4--NPK 75%

+ Vermicompost 25% 82:39:20kg ha⁻¹+2.5 t ha⁻¹, T5--NPK 75%+ Poultry manure 25%

82:39:20 kg ha⁻¹ +2.5:1t ha⁻¹, T6--NPK 50% + Vermicompost 50% 55:26:13 kg ha⁻¹+5t ha⁻¹ and T7--

NPK50% + Poultry manure 50% 55:36:13 kg ha⁻¹ 5t ha⁻¹ T8--

NPK 50% + Organics 25% 55:26:13 kg ha⁻¹+2.5:1t ha⁻¹ was given in equal quantity to each plot which was calculated on the basis of general recommendation for maize as 0 kg, 80 kg,

100 kg ha⁻¹ wa0073 supplied. On the basis of treatment combination the fertilizer used are described in table below.

Results and Discussion

The observation of all the parameters were recorded during the course of investigation and subjected to statistical analysis for valid inferences. The results and discussion of the effect of N P K and organic fertilizer on soil physico-chemical properties have been critically analysed and presented in this chapter.

Data presented in table 1 showed that application of T8(NPK 50% + Organics 25% 55:26:13 kg ha⁻¹+2.5:1t ha⁻¹) was significantly enhanced the soil physico-chemical properties. The significantly Bulk density (1.18 Mgm⁻³), particle density (3.33 Mgm⁻³), % of pore space

(72.22%), % of solid space (47.37%), Water retaining capacity (67.57%), Specific gravity (2.45), Organic carbon (%) (0.76%), Organic matter (%) (0.76%), E.C (dSm⁻¹) (0.24), pH

(1:2) w/v (7.96), Available Nitrogen (kg ha⁻¹) (305.98), Phosphorus (kg ha⁻¹) (52.97) and Potassium (kg ha⁻¹)

(29.64) of soil physico-chemical analysis were observed with application of (NPK 50% + Organics 25% 55:26:13 kg ha⁻¹+2.5:1t ha⁻¹).

These findings are corroborated with the previous results in literature (Eghball *et al.*, 2004; Huang *et al.*, 2007; Agbede *et al.*, 2008) [4, 6, 1].

Surface soil organic carbon buildup probably due to the addition of plant residues, root exudates, plant and root biomass in the surface layer that decreased with increased soil depth regardless of the manures applied (Brar *et al.*, 2013).

Also the probable reason for recording by Aphal (2005) and Zhang (2008) and Zhang (2008). Further, Singh *et al.*, (2016), Kharub and Chandra (2010), reported by Jackson *et al.* (1973), Muhr *et al.* (1965).

Table 1: Effect of different levels of fertilizers and organic matter on soil physico-chemical properties.

Treatments	Bulk density (Mgm ⁻³)	Particle density (Mgm ⁻³)	% of pore spaces	% of solid space	Water retaining capacity (%)	Specific gravity	Organic carbon (%)	Organic Matter (%)	E.C (dSm ⁻¹)	pH (1:2) w/v	Available Nitrogen (kg ha ⁻¹)	Phosphorus (kg ha ⁻¹)	Potassium (kg ha ⁻¹)
T0	1.11	2.5	55.55	44.45	56.12	2.26	0.6	0.6	0.17	7.9	231.61	20.56	112.46
T1	1.1	3.33	66.66	33.33	67.57	2.41	0.37	0.76	0.2	7.8	233.67	46.65	160.96
T2	1.17	2.84	55.55	44.45	60	2.43	0.76	0.37	0.19	7.8	257.81	48.79	142.2
T3	1.05	2.22	52.63	47.37	61.11	2.45	0.63	0.48	0.18	7.6	276.64	51.27	144.8
T4	1.12	2.2	55.55	44.45	56.75	2.11	0.36	0.36	0.21	7.78	277.68	49.14	156.23
T5	1.14	2.5	55.55	44.43	55.55	2.42	0.22	0.74	0.24	7.73	277.18	51.15	164.12
T6	1.08	2.23	72.22	22.78	66.66	2.29	0.26	0.26	0.2	7.67	280.83	52.97	166.38

T7	1.04	2.86	63.16	36.84	57.89	2	0.16	0.16	0.19	7.78	299.69	51.21	173.73
T8	1.18	2.25	64.75	35.29	64.71	2.27	0.52	0.24	0.21	7.96	305.98	49.26	181.71
F- test	NS	NS	S	S	S	S	S	S	NS	NS	S	S	S
S. Ed. (\pm)	0.494	0.777	0.27	0.494	1.71	0.04	0.09	0.054	0.309	1.283	2.43	1.35	3.334
C. D. (P = 0.05)	1.02	1.604	0.557	1.02	3.53	0.082	0.186	0.111	0.637	2.649	5.016	2.787	9.781

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