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GK Surya Krishna

Department of Soil Science and
Agricultural Chemistry, SV
Agricultural College, Acharya N
G Ranga Agricultural
University, Tirupati, Andhra
Pradesh, India

T Giridhara Krishna

Department of Soil Science and
Agricultural Chemistry, SV
Agricultural College, Acharya N
G Ranga Agricultural
University, Tirupati, Andhra
Pradesh, India

V Munaswamy

Department of Soil Science and
Agricultural Chemistry, SV
Agricultural College, Acharya N
G Ranga Agricultural
University, Tirupati, Andhra
Pradesh, India

Y Reddi Ramu

Department of Agronomy, SV
Agricultural College, Acharya
NG Ranga Agricultural
University, Tirupati, Andhra
Pradesh, India

Corresponding Author:

GK Surya Krishna

Department of Soil Science and
Agricultural Chemistry, SV
Agricultural College, Acharya N
G Ranga Agricultural
University, Tirupati, Andhra
Pradesh, India

Study of different phosphorus fractions and their relationship with soil properties under major cropping systems in soils of Chittoor district, A.P.

GK Surya Krishna, T Giridhara Krishna, V Munaswamy and Y Reddi Ramu

Abstract

An investigation was undertaken during 2018-19 in Southern zone of A.P. to study different Phosphorus fractions and their relationship with Soil properties under major cropping systems of Chittoor district. Majority of the soils were moderately alkaline in reaction, non-saline, free lime content indicating that these soils are moderately calcareous, medium to high in available P_2O_5 . The highest mean values for saloid-P (28.28 mg kg^{-1}), Fe-P (50.68 mg kg^{-1}), total-P ($490.28 \text{ mg kg}^{-1}$) and other forms of P ($406.44 \text{ mg kg}^{-1}$) were recorded in Sugarcane mono cropping system and available P_2O_5 ($113.57 \text{ kg ha}^{-1}$) and Ca-P ($108.26 \text{ mg kg}^{-1}$) were recorded in Bajra-Groundnut cropping system. Free $CaCO_3$ showed positive and significant correlation with saloid-P and Ca-P. Available P_2O_5 showed positive and significant correlation with Al-P and Ca-P, whereas, saloid-P showed significant and positive correlation with Fe-P and total-P, Fe-P showed positive and significant correlated with total-P and other forms of P. Total-P showed positive and significant relation with other forms of P.

Keywords: Phosphorus fractions, cropping systems, available P_2O_5 , moderately calcareous and moderately alkaline

Introduction

Phosphorus is the second most critical plant nutrient owing to its important role in root proliferation and thereby atmosphere nitrogen fixation. It is a major component of compound whose functions relate to growth, root development, flowering and ripening. It also enhance the efficiency of utilization of atmospheric nitrogen and symbiotic process, thereby reducing dependence on nitrogenous fertilizer and this also helps to maintain the sustainability of farming systems. In general, overall improvement in growth and yield attributing character because of phosphorous increased the photosynthesis activity of plant and helps to develop a more extensive root system and thus enables the plant to extract more water and nutrients from the soil depth resulting in better development of plant growth and yield and attributes (Kokani *et al.*, 2015)^[1].

Knowledge of the amount and distribution of phosphorus (P) in soil would provide a logical basis for consideration of the P requirements of different crops. Since different P fractions have different solubilities and the amount of each depends on various soil characteristics the availability of soil P should largely depends on the different P fractions and soil characteristics.

Materials and Methods

Five soil samples from each cropping system (Bajra-Groundnut system, Sugarcane mono cropping system and Paddy-Groundnut system) at 0-15cm depth were collected from farmer fields of Chittoor district where soils were moderately calcareous in nature. These soil samples were analysed for status of available P_2O_5 (Olsen-P) and different P fractions (Sal-P, Al-P, Fe-P, Ca-P, total-P and other forms of P). The available phosphorus was extracted by using Olsen's extractant (0.5 M $NaHCO_3$ of pH 8.5) as described by Olsen *et al.* (1954)^[17] and the phosphorus content in the extract was determined by Murphy and Riley (1962)^[16] method using ascorbic acid as the reducing agent using spectrophotometer.

The inorganic phosphorus fractions *viz.*, saloid-P, Fe-P, Al-P and Ca-P were estimated by following the sequential extraction procedure as given by Kovar and Pierzynski (2009)^[10]. In brief, saloid-P was extracted from 1g of soil with 50 mL of 1M NH_4Cl with half-an-hour

shaking and centrifugation at 2000 rpm for 30 minutes. Aluminium-P was extracted from the residual soil with 50 ml of 0.5M NH₄F (pH 8.2) by shaking the suspension for one hour centrifuged and wash twice with saturated NaCl. Iron-P was extracted from the residual soil by shaking with 50 ml of 0.1M NaOH for seventeen hours and centrifuged at 2000 rpm for 10 minutes and wash. Finally Ca-P was extracted by shaking the residual soil with 50 ml of 0.25M HCl for one hour and centrifuged and wash. The concentration of P in the respective extracts obtained after shaking with each of the extractant was estimated by the ascorbic acid method in a spectrophotometer at 660 nm. Total phosphorus in the soils was determined by perchloric acid digestion method as described by Jackson (1973) [7]. The other P forms were computed by deducting the estimated forms viz., saloid-P, Al-P, Fe-P and Ca-P from total-P. The other forms include org-P, RS-P, occl-P etc., Simple correlation coefficient analyses between soil properties and fractions of P were computed by standard statistical methods.

Results and Discussion

Physico-chemical properties of soil

pH

In Chittoor district, where soils were calcareous the pH of surface soils varied from 7.42 in Sugarcane monocropping system to 8.11 in Paddy-Groundnut system with a mean value of 7.60 and 7.92, respectively (Table 1). The mean pH in different cropping systems were in the order of Paddy-Groundnut system (7.92) followed by Bajra-Groundnut system (7.75) and Sugarcane monocropping system (7.60).

The data on soil pH revealed that soils were mildly to moderately alkaline in reaction. The maximum mean pH value was observed in soils of Paddy-Groundnut cropping system in surface soils. However, similar trend was observed in Bajra-Groundnut cropping system as mostly these crops were grown as rainfed crops.

It was observed that from (Table 4) that pH showed negative and non-significant relation with sal-P, Fe-P, Ca-P, total-P and other forms as reported by Bhavsar *et al.* (2018) [4] with sal-P, Fe-P, Ca-P and total-P and Laxminarayana (2007) [12] with sal-P, Fe-P.

Electrical conductivity (EC)

The electrical conductivity measured, in the soils was non-saline and below the critical limits and the results are as follows.

The EC of surface soils varied from 0.007 dSm⁻¹ in Sugarcane mono cropping system to 0.033 dSm⁻¹ in Bajra-Groundnut system with a mean value of 0.019 and 0.025 dSm⁻¹ respectively (Table 1). The mean EC in different cropping systems, were in the order of Bajra-Groundnut system (0.025 dSm⁻¹) followed by Paddy-Groundnut system (0.023 dsm⁻¹) and Sugarcane mono cropping system (0.019 dsm⁻¹).

From the (Table 4) it was observed that EC showed positive and non-significant correlation with Al-P negative and non-significant relation with all other P fractions.

Free CaCO₃

The free CaCO₃ of surface, soils varied, from 4% in Paddy-Groundnut cropping system to 8.5% in Bajra-Groundnut system with a mean value of 6.04% and 6.8%, respectively (Table 1). The highest free CaCO₃ mean values were obtained in Bajra-Groundnut system (6.8%) followed by Sugarcane

mono cropping system (6.28%) and Paddy-Groundnut system, (6.04%).

The highest (6.8%) free CaCO₃ was observed under Bajra-Groundnut system compared to Sugarcane mono cropping system and Paddy-Groundnut system might be due to dissolution effect under Sugarcane mono cropping and Paddy-Groundnut cropping systems.

It was revealed that free CaCO₃ showed positive and significant correlation with saloid-P ($r = 0.601^{**}$) and Ca-P ($r = 0.603^{**}$) (Table 4) Similar results were reported with Ca-P by Devra *et al.* (2014) [5], Sowjanya *et al.* (2017) [19] and Bhavsar *et al.* (2018) [4]. Significant positive correlation between Ca-P and calcium carbonate content emphasizes its role, in distribution, of Ca-P.

Table 1: Physico-chemical properties under different cropping systems in soils of Chittoor district

S. No.	Cropping system	pH	EC (dSm ⁻¹)	CaCO ₃ %
1	Sugarcane mono cropping	7.42-7.68 (7.60)	0.007-0.031 (0.019)	4.5-8.4 (6.28)
2	Paddy-Groundnut	7.63-8.11 (7.92)	0.020-0.032 (0.023)	4-8.2 (6.04)
3	Bajra-Groundnut	7.47-7.94 (7.75)	0.013-0.033 (0.025)	5.5-8.5 (6.8)

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate the mean value

Available P₂O₅

The data on available phosphorus in soil under, different cropping systems is presented in Table 2. The available P₂O₅ of surface soils varied from 34.38 kg ha⁻¹ in Sugarcane mono cropping system to 142.42 kg ha⁻¹ in Bajra-Groundnut cropping sequence with a mean value of 44.45 kg ha⁻¹ to 113.57 kg ha⁻¹ respectively. The highest available P₂O₅ mean values were obtained in Bajra-Groundnut system (113.57 kg ha⁻¹) followed by Paddy-Groundnut system (81.87 kg ha⁻¹) and Sugarcane mono cropping system (44.45kg ha⁻¹) from fig 1. Available P₂O₅ content, was low in Sugarcane mono cropping system even though farmers are applying high dose of phosphatic fertilizers due to the presence of fibrous root system P utilization will be high and thus reduces the phosphorus availability where as in Bajra-Groundnut cropping system due to continuous addition of manures and fertilizers like DAP that may solubilise the native inorganic P compounds resulting in increased the P availability. Similar results were reported by Tolanur and Badanur (2003) [21] and Bajpai *et al.* (2006) [3].

From the Table 4 it was observed that available, P₂O₅ showed positive and significant correlation with Al-P (0.571*) and Ca-P (0.523*) so that with increasing of Al-P and Ca-P, Olsen-P was increased. Similar findings were reported by Azadi *et al.* (2017) [2] and Sui *et al.* (1999) [20] with Al-P and Ca-P. It showed negative and significant correlation with Fe-P (-0.650**), total-P (-0.680**) and other forms of P (-0.764**).

Table 2: Status of available P₂O₅ under different cropping systems in soils of Chittoor district

S. No.	Cropping system	Available P ₂ O ₅
1	Sugarcane mono cropping	34.38-59.99 (44.45)
2	Paddy-Groundnut	65.95-108.26 (81.87)
3	Bajra-Groundnut	98.63-142.42 (113.57)

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate the mean value

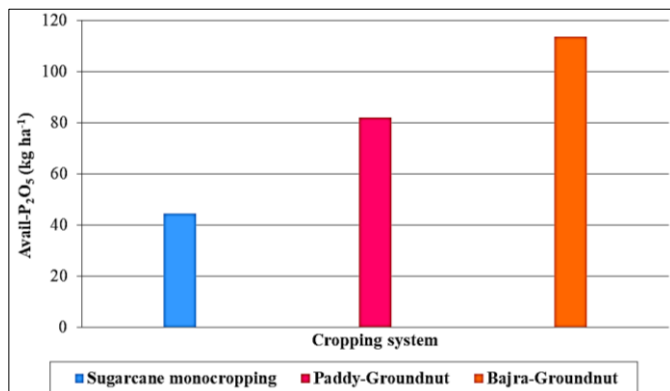


Fig 1: Status of available P₂O₅ under different cropping systems in soils of Chittoor district

Inorganic P fractions

Saloid-P

The data on saloid-P in soil, under different cropping systems is presented in Table 3. The saloid-P of surface soils varied from 15.94 mg kg⁻¹ in Paddy-Groundnut system to 38.11 mg kg⁻¹ in Sugarcane mono cropping system with a mean value of 21.60 mg kg⁻¹ and 28.28 mg kg⁻¹ respectively. The highest saloid-P mean values were obtained in Sugarcane mono cropping (28.28 mg kg⁻¹) followed by Bajra-Groundnut system (22.84 mg kg⁻¹) and Paddy-Groundnut system (21.6 mg kg⁻¹) from fig 2.

The saloid-P was low, in Paddy-Groundnut system Bajra-Groundnut system and Sugarcane mono cropping systems compared to all other forms of inorganic soil P. This might be due to high P uptake and utilization under two crop sequences and a long duration Sugarcane mono cropping system.

From the Table 4 it was revealed that, saloid-P showed significant and positive correlation with Fe-P ($r = 0.725^{**}$) and total-P ($r = 0.734^{**}$) while it was negatively significant correlation with other forms of P ($r = -0.604^{**}$) and positively non-significantly correlated with Ca-P. The significant and positive correlation of saloid-P with total-P and Fe-P indicates that these forms have profound effect on the content and distribution of saloid-P. Similar results were also reported by Devra *et al.* (2014)^[5].

Al-P

The data on Al-P in soil under different cropping systems is presented in Table 3. The Al-P of surface soils varied from 31.96 mg kg⁻¹ in Sugarcane mono cropping system to 55.32 mg kg⁻¹ in Paddy-Groundnut cropping sequence with a mean value of 37.93 mg kg⁻¹ and 49.68 mg kg⁻¹ respectively. The highest Al-P mean values (from fig 2) were obtained in Paddy-Groundnut system (49.68 mg kg⁻¹) followed by Bajra-Groundnut system (44.03 mg kg⁻¹) and Sugarcane mono cropping system (37.93 mg kg⁻¹).

The low content of Al-P, in Sugarcane mono cropping system might be due to alkaline soil reaction and fixation to other forms of P. Similar findings were reported by Mengel (1985)^[15], Kulkarni (1994)^[11], Gajbhiye (2001)^[6] and Majumdar *et al.* (2004)^[14]. High content under Paddy-Groundnut and Bajra-Groundnut systems might be due to high soluble Al under reduced conditions in Paddy soils and low fixation, under irrigated conditions. It was revealed that Al-P showed negative and non-significant correlation with all P forms in the study (Table 4)

Fe-P

The data on Fe-P in soil under, different cropping systems is presented in Table 3. The Fe-P of surface soils varied from 30.18 mg kg⁻¹ in Bajra-Groundnut to 59.52 mg kg⁻¹ in Sugarcane cropping sequence with a mean value of 33.81 mg kg⁻¹ and 50.68 mg kg⁻¹, respectively. The highest Fe-P mean values (from fig 2) were obtained in Sugarcane mono cropping system (50.68 mg kg⁻¹) followed by Paddy-Groundnut system (43.31 mg kg⁻¹) and Bajra-Groundnut system (33.81 mg kg⁻¹).

Higher amount of Fe-P in Sugarcane mono cropping system might be attributed to the presence of more organic carbon which provides organic acids during decomposition which leads to solubilisation of iron to form more of P as ferrous form as reported by Sacheti and Saxena (1973)^[12]. Utilization of Fe-P under two crop systems *viz.*, Paddy-Groundnut and Bajra-Groundnut systems resulted in low status of Fe-P compared to Sugarcane mono cropping system. From the table 4 it was revealed that, Fe-P showed positive and significant correlated with total-P ($r = 0.959^{**}$) and other forms of P ($r = 0.958^{**}$).

Ca-P

The data on Ca-P in soil under different cropping systems is presented in Table 3. The Ca-P of surface soils varied from 56.55 mg kg⁻¹ in Paddy-Groundnut system to 135.68 mg kg⁻¹ in Bajra-Groundnut system with a mean value of 61.29 mg kg⁻¹ and 108.26 mg kg⁻¹ respectively. The highest Ca-P mean values were obtained in Bajra-Groundnut system (108.26 mg kg⁻¹) followed by Sugarcane mono cropping system (83.85 mg kg⁻¹) and Paddy-Groundnut system (61.29 mg kg⁻¹) from fig 2. Highest values of Ca-P were obtained, in Bajra-Groundnut cropping, system due to high amount of CaCO₃. Similar findings were observed by Devra *et al.* (2014)^[5] and lowest values were recorded in Paddy-Groundnut cropping system might be due to low CaCO₃ and soluble Ca-P converted to other forms of P (Fe-P) under reduced condition. From the Table 4 it was revealed that Ca-P showed positive and non-significant correlation with saloid-P and, negatively correlated with all other P fractions. It showed negative non-significant relationship with Fe-P and Al-P which may be due to low Fe and Al activity at higher pH where Ca-P is the dominant fraction.

Total-P

The data on total-P in soil under different cropping systems is presented in Table 3. The total-P of surface soils varied from 221.52 mg kg⁻¹ in Bajra-Groundnut system to 582.42 mg kg⁻¹ in Sugarcane cropping sequence with a mean value of 285.58 mg kg⁻¹ and 490.28 mg kg⁻¹ respectively. The highest mean values were total-P obtained in Sugarcane mono cropping system (490.28 mg kg⁻¹) followed by Paddy-Groundnut system (373.94 mg kg⁻¹) and Bajra-Groundnut system (285.58 mg kg⁻¹) from fig 2. The range is quite large which might be due to variation in crop management practices.

Higher amount of total-P in Sugarcane mono cropping system might be due to continued long-term application of P fertilizers in the soil and low crop utilization leading to, accumulation of large reserves of residual P in surface layers. Similar results were also observed by Jalali and Matin (2013)^[8], while in Paddy-Groundnut and Bajra-Groundnut systems the utilization of P forms resulted in lower total-P.

From the Table 4 it was revealed that total-P showed positive and significant correlation with saloid-P ($r = 0.734^{**}$), Fe-P ($r = 0.959^{**}$) and other forms of P ($r = 0.974^{**}$). These indicate that these fractions are dependent on total-P. Similar findings were reported by Laxminarayana (2007) [12], Lungmuana *et al.* (2012) [13], Anjali and Dhananjaya (2017) [1] and Majumdar *et al.* (2004) [14] with saloid-P and Fe-P.

Other forms of P

The data on other forms of P in soil, under different cropping, systems is presented in Table 3. The other forms of P, of

surface soils, varied, from 125.7 mg kg⁻¹ in Bajra-Groundnut, system to 462.35 mg kg⁻¹ in Sugarcane cropping sequence with a mean value of 177.32 mg kg⁻¹ and 406.44 mg kg⁻¹ respectively. The highest other forms of P mean values were obtained in Sugarcane mono cropping system (406.44 mg kg⁻¹) followed by Paddy-Groundnut system (312.66 mg kg⁻¹) and Bajra-Groundnut system (177.32 mg kg⁻¹). It was revealed, that (Table 4) other P forms showed positive and significant correlation with Fe-P ($r = 0.958^{**}$), total-P (0.974) and negative significant relation with available P₂O₅ (-0.764*) and sal-P (-0.604*).

Table 3: Different P fractions (mg kg⁻¹) under different cropping systems in soils of Chittoor district

S. No.	Cropping system	Sal-P	Al-P	Fe-P	Ca-P	Total-P	Other P forms
1	Sugarcane mono cropping	21.49-38.11 (28.28)	31.96-42.38 (37.93)	44.87-59.52 (50.68)	67.37-120.07 (83.85)	381.04-582.42 (490.28)	313.67-462.35 (406.44)
2	Paddy-Groundnut	15.94-26.67 (21.60)	43.02-55.32 (49.68)	37.44-50.36 (43.31)	56.55-66.19 (61.29)	330.18-402.53 (373.94)	272.44-336.34 (312.66)
3	Bajra-Groundnut	19.97-24.89 (22.84)	35.76-51.07 (44.03)	30.18-37.54 (33.81)	92.46-135.68 (108.26)	221.52-351.61 (285.58)	125.7-215.93 (177.32)

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate the mean value.

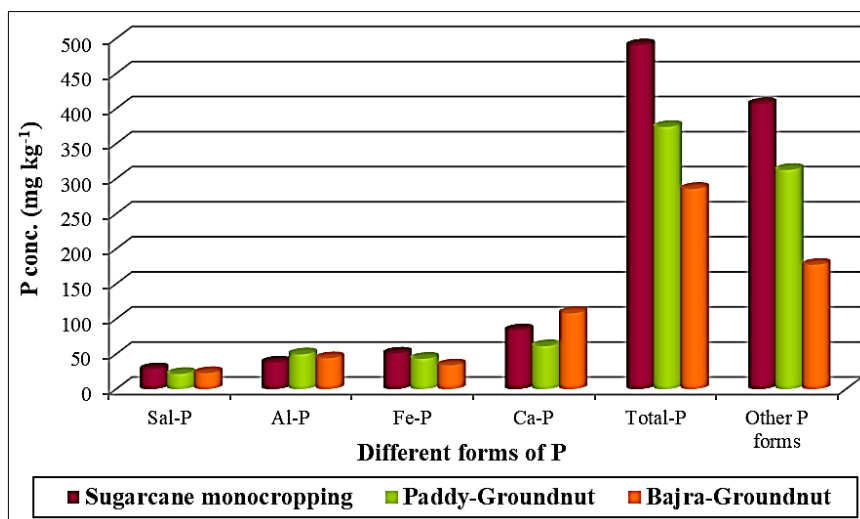


Fig 2: Forms of phosphorus under different cropping systems in soils of Chittoor district

Table 4: Correlation coefficient between soil properties and forms of phosphorus (mg kg⁻¹) under different cropping systems in soils of Chittoor district

	pH	EC	CaCO ₃ %	Avail-P ₂ O ₅	Sal-P	Al-P	Fe-P	Ca-P	Total-P	Other P forms
Avail-P ₂ O ₅	0.347	0.249	0.421	1						
Sal-P	-0.387	-0.351	0.601**	-0.222	1					
Al-P	0.407	0.377	0.385	0.571*	-0.063	1				
Fe-P	-0.220	-0.288	0.235	-0.650**	0.725**	-0.081	1			
Ca-P	-0.340	-0.021	0.603**	0.523*	0.396	-0.030	-0.217	1		
Total-P	-0.342	-0.324	0.187	-0.680**	0.734**	-0.151	0.959**	-0.117	1	
Other P forms	-0.246	-0.302	0.038	-0.764**	-0.604**	-0.137	0.958**	-0.341	0.974**	1

*Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed), ** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Conclusion

In soils of Chittoor district, the Ca-P was observed to be the predominant, P fraction under all major, cropping systems, due to high free CaCO₃ content. The highest mean values, for saloid-P (28.28 mg kg⁻¹), Fe-P (50.68 mg kg⁻¹), total-P (490.28 mg kg⁻¹) and, other, forms of P (406.44 mg kg⁻¹) were, recorded in Sugarcane mono cropping, system and available P₂O₅ (113.57 kg ha⁻¹) and Ca-P (108.26 mg kg⁻¹) were recorded, in Bajra-Groundnut cropping system. The sequential distribution of different forms of P under, major cropping systems in Chittoor district followed the

order:

1. Sugarcane mono cropping: Ca-P > Fe-P > Al-P > Sal-P
2. Paddy-Groundnut: Ca-P > Al-P > Fe-P > Sal-P
3. Bajra-Groundnut: Ca-P > Al-P > Fe-P > Sal-P

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