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Consequence of liquid bio-fertilizers and drought mitigating chemicals on soil physico-chemical properties and nutrient availability of mungbean [*Vigna radiata* (L.) Wilczek] under SE-Rajasthan

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Abstract

A field experiment was conducted at farm of agricultural research station Umedganj, Agriculture University Kota during Zaid-2020 to find out the effect of liquid bio fertilizers and drought mitigating chemicals on soil physico-chemical properties and nutrient availability after harvesting mungbean crop. The experiment comprised of ten treatment combinations viz. T₁ - 100% RDF (Control), T₂ - 100% RDF + Rhizobium (10 ml/kg seed) + water spray, T₃ - 100% RDF + Rhizobium (10 ml kg⁻¹ seed) + 2% KCl spray, T₄ - 100% RDF + Rhizobium (10 ml/kg seed) + 0.4% Sodium selenite spray, T₅ - 100% RDF + Rhizobium (10 ml/kg seed) + 2% KCl+ 0.4% Sodium selenite spray, T₆ - 100% RDF + P.S.B. (10 ml/kg seed) + Water spray, T₇ - 100% RDF + P.S.B. (10 ml/kg seed) + 2% KCl spray, T₈ - 100% RDF + P.S.B. (10 ml/kg seed) + 0.4% Sodium selenite spray, T₉ - 100% RDF + P.S.B. (10 ml/kg seed) + 2% KCl + 0.4% Sodium selenite spray, T₁₀ - 100% RDF + Rhizobium (10 ml/kg seed)+ P.S.B. (10 ml/kg seed) + 2% KCl + 0.4% Sodium selenite spray. The experiment was laid out in randomize block design and replicated thrice with mungbean, variety IPM-02-03 grown as test crop. Results showed that application of 100% RDF + Rhizobium (10 ml/kg seed)+ P.S.B. (10 ml/kg seed) + 2% KCl + 0.4% Sodium selenite spray significantly improved the soil physico-chemical properties, increased the nutrient availability in soil after harvesting the mungbean crop viz., organic carbon (0.53%), available nitrogen (244.61 kg ha⁻¹), available phosphorus (22.60 kg ha⁻¹), available potassium (436.61 kg ha⁻¹) Fe content (4.88 mg kg⁻¹), Mn content (3.68 mg kg⁻¹), Zn content (0.63 mg kg⁻¹) as compared to initial soil test values.

Keywords: Mungbean, *Rhizobium*, PSB, sodium selenite, KCl and physico-chemical properties

Introduction

Pulses, also known as grain legumes, are next to cereals in terms of agricultural importance. Pulses account 29.03 million hectare area with production of 24.42 million tonnes and productivity of 8.06 q/ha in the country (Anonymous 2020). Mungbean [*Vigna radiata* (L.) Wilczek], also known as greengram, stands third after chickpea and pigeonpea among pulses. It occupies 3.64 million hectare area and contributes 1.95 million tonnes in pulse production with productivity of 8.72 q/ha in the country (Anonymous, 2020) [2, 3]. The important greengram growing states are Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Bihar.

In Rajasthan, total area under mungbean was 23.26 lakh hectares with the production of 13.04 lakh tonnes and productivity of 561 kg ha⁻¹ (Anonymous, 2020) [2, 3]. It is mainly cultivated in arid and semi arid districts including Nagaur, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Sikar, Pali, Jhunjhunu and Ajmer. Despite of being such an important crop, the average productivity of greengram in the state is quite low compared to its production potential which is a matter of serious concern. Mungbean contains about 51.6% carbohydrate, 26-27% protein, 4-5% minerals, 3-4% vitamins (Kaul, 1982) [11]. Mungbean fodder contains an average about 17.5% crude protein, 22.5% crude fibre, 28.4% nutrient detergent fiber, 3.0% ether extract and 11.4% ash (Feedipedia, 2018) [7]. Liquid biofertilizer formulation is the promising and updated technology which inspite of many advantages over the agrochemicals left a considerable dispute among the farmer community in terms of several reasons, major being the viability of organism.

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Shelf life is the first and foremost problem of the carrier based biofertilizer which is up to three months and its does not retain throughout the crop cycle. Liquid biofertilizer on the other hand facilitate the long survival of the microorganism by providing the suitable medium which is sufficient for the entire crop cycle (Maheswari and Elakkiya, 2014) [15]. *Rhizobium* and PSB inoculants as liquid biofertilizers helps to increase yield of legume crop by fixing atmospheric nitrogen in root nodules and by converting the insoluble phosphate in to soluble form respectively. *Rhizobium* inoculant is recommended to ensure adequate nodulation and nitrogen fixation offers an economically attractive and ecologically sound means of reducing external inputs and improving the quality and quantity of internal resource of nitrogen. In mungbean, nitrogen fixation takes place through symbiotic association between the bacteria of genus *Bradyrhizobium* and mungbean crop (Raja and Takankhar, 2017) [17]. It is estimated that the nitrogen fixed by mungbean crop is approximately 35kg N ha⁻¹. Liquid formulation of biofertilizer is the promising and updated technology over the conventional carrier based production technology which has many advantages surmounting the hurdles over the later, the liquid inoculants developed were known to have population of *Rhizobium* species and PSB up to the levels of 10⁸ cells ml⁻¹ (Velineni *et al.*, 2011) [20].

Drought is one of the most common abiotic stresses for reducing the crop yield. Drought is a meteorological term and is commonly defined as period without significant rainfall. Drought stress changes the biochemical and physiological reaction, pigment composition and morphological characters of plants. In arid and semi-arid regions, water deficit is a major crop restraining factor. Limited amounts of water, low and irregular rainfall and hot summer promote drought stress which is the world leading intimidation that should be considered. Water scarcity and increasing demand create an urgent need for improved irrigation management to maximize the efficiency of available precious water resources (Ahmad *et al.*, 2015) [1]. The reactions of plants to water stress differ significantly at various organizational levels depending upon intensity and duration of stress as well as plant species and its growth stage. Water stress imposed at any of the growth stages declined the crop growth and stress at flowering stage being most inhibitive (Grover *et al.*, 2001) [9].

The application of stress mitigating chemicals might prove beneficial in crop tolerance to adverse conditions. Sodium selenite and potassium chloride spray was found significantly superior to mitigating the drought stresses (Devangan *et al.*, 2015) [4]. However, the physiological and biochemical basis of plants to unfavourable conditions induced by the application of stress mitigating chemicals are yet to be clearly understood. Application of these stress mitigating chemicals in conjunction with fertilizer doses might provide a best management practice in order to understand the proven technology.

Materials and Methods

The present investigation was conducted during the Zaid, 2020 at farm of agriculture research station Ummadganj, Agriculture University Kota. The Kota situated at 25.21° N latitude and 75.86° E longitudes at an altitude of 271 meters above mean sea level. The experimental area falls under Agro-climatic Zone V (Humid South Eastern Plains) of Rajasthan. Kota is characterized by sub-tropical conditions having hot and dry summer months (April to June) followed

by hot and humid month from July to September and cold winter during December to January. The average annual rainfall 575mm, about three fourth contribute from south-west monsoon during July to September. Winter rain receive during the months of December, January and February are scanty and occasionally. The soil of the experimental site was medium black (*Vertisols*) having clay loam texture, low in available nitrogen (220.5 kg ha⁻¹), medium in available phosphorus (17.5 kg ha⁻¹) and high in available potassium (421.8 kg ha⁻¹), pH (7.5), EC (0.36 dSm⁻¹) and low in organic carbon (0.43%). The experiment consisted of 10 treatments viz. T₁ - 100% RDF Control, T₂ - 100% RDF + *Rhizobium* (10 ml/kg seed) + water spray, T₃ - 100% RDF + *Rhizobium* (10 ml/kg seed) + 2% KCl spray, T₄ - 100% RDF + *Rhizobium* (10 ml/kg seed) + 0.4% Sodium selenite spray, T₅ - 100% RDF + *Rhizobium* (10 ml/kg seed) + 2% KCl + 0.4% Sodium selenite spray, T₆ - 100% RDF + P.S.B. (10 ml/kg seed) + Water spray, T₇ - 100% RDF + P.S.B. (10 ml/kg seed) + 2% KCl spray, T₈ - 100% RDF + P.S.B. (10 ml/kg seed) + 0.4% Sodium selenite spray, T₉ - 100% RDF + P.S.B. (10 ml/kg seed) + 2% KCl + 0.4% Sodium selenite spray, T₁₀ - 100% RDF + *Rhizobium* (10 ml/kg seed) + P.S.B. (10 ml/kg seed) + 2% KCl + 0.4% Sodium selenite spray. Mungbean crop sown using variety IPM 02-03 with 20kg ha⁻¹ seed rate in Zaid, 2020. The experiment was laid out in randomised block design and was replicated thrice. Observations recorded for soil physico - chemical properties viz: pH, EC, bulk density and organic carbon and nutrient availability viz: available nitrogen, available phosphorus, available potassium, Fe, Mn, Zn, Cu content in soil, following standard procedures.

Results and Discussion

Soil Physico-chemical Properties after harvesting the mungbean

The results regarding residual effect of liquid biofertilizers (*Rhizobium* and PSB) and spray of drought mitigating chemicals on soil pH, EC, Bulk density and organic carbon was presented in Table 1. The data showed that pH, EC and bulk density of soil was not affected significantly due to individual seed treatment with *rhizobium* and PSB levels but the lower soil pH was recorded under the treatment T₁₀ (100% RDF + *Rhizobium* (10 ml/kg seed) + P.S.B. (10 ml/kg seed) + 2% KCl + 0.4% Sodium selenite spray) (7.56) and T₆ (100% RDF + P.S.B. (10 ml/kg seed) + Water spray) (7.56%), similarly higher soil pH was observed with T₁ control (7.59). Singh *et al.* (2009) [19] revealed that the effect of various treatments on soil pH with addition of organic and inorganic fertilizer is not consistent. The slight decrease in soil pH with bio-inoculants treatments may be ascribed to the secretion of organic acids by PSB, *rhizobium* and azotobacter.

Electrical conductivity of the experimental soil ranged from 0.32 to 0.36 dS m⁻¹ and it was maximum for T₁– Control and minimum for T₆ (100% RDF + P.S.B. (10 ml/kg seed) + Water spray). Singh *et al.* (2007) reported that a change in EC values were very close margin due to combined application of bio-inoculants with chemical fertilizers. Further, Govindan and Thirumurugan (2003) [8] did not found any change in EC with the treatment of bio-inoculants. Similar results were also observed in bulk density which ranged from 1.30 to 1.34 Mg m⁻³ and data indicated that the difference in soil bulk density values were not reach up to the levels of significance due to seed treatment with *rhizobium* and PSB.

The result regarding residual effect of liquid biofertilizers and drought mitigating chemicals on organic carbon was

presented in Table 1. It is evident from the results that the organic carbon content in soil was influenced significantly due to individual seed treatment with Rhizobium and PSB. The treatment T₁₀ (100% RDF + *Rhizobium* (10 ml/kg seed) + P.S.B. (10 ml/kg seed) + 2% KCl + 0.4% Sodium selenite spray) recorded significantly higher (0.53%) content of organic carbon over all other treatments. The increase in organic carbon might be due to seed treatment with *rhizobium* and PSB increased the activity of microbes and support better root penetration and mungbean shedder leaves. Iraj *et al.* (2009) [10] also reported significant increase in organic carbon content with *rhizobium* or PSB as compared with control.

Availability of Nutrients in Soil after harvesting the mungbean

A critical examination of data showed that the application of different treatments of liquid biofertilizers with drought mitigating chemicals significantly increased the availability of major nutrients (N, P, & K) in Table 2 & Figure 1 and micronutrients (Fe, Mn and Zn), however effect on Cu content is non-significant in Table 3 & Figure 2 in soil after harvesting the crop. The application of T₁₀ (100% RDF + *Rhizobium* (10 ml/kg seed) + P.S.B. (10 ml/kg seed) + 2% KCl + 0.4% Sodium selenite spray) attained maximum value of these nutrients. Results showed that application of 100% RDF + *Rhizobium* (10 ml/kg seed) + P.S.B. (10 ml/kg seed) + 2% KCl + 0.4% Sodium selenite spray significantly improved

the nutrient availability in soil after harvesting the mungbean crop *viz.*, available nitrogen (244.61 kg ha⁻¹), available phosphorus (22.60 kg ha⁻¹), available potassium (436.61 kg ha⁻¹) Fe content (4.88 mg kg⁻¹), Mn content (3.68 mg kg⁻¹), Zn content (0.63 mg kg⁻¹) as compared to initial soil test values. These results were in close conformity to Sarawgi *et al.* (1999) [18], who reported that the application of microbial culture along with phosphorus enhances the N and P content in chickpea. The accumulation of organic carbon with combined inoculation might have also contributed in augment available soil nitrogen at upper horizon as suggested by Dubey (2001) [5]. Kumar *et al.*, (2010) [13] reported that the PSB are known to have ability to solubilize P from insoluble source. The PSB secretes the different organic acids which act on insoluble phosphate to convert them in to soluble phosphate near the root of the plant and hence availability of P is increased. Konthoujam *et al.* (2013) [12] who had indicated that the judicious integration of organic and inorganic sources of nutrition significantly improved the soil available N, P, K, and micronutrient and numerically change in soil pH, electrical conductivity and organic carbon content in soil. Foliar spray of 2% KCl + 0.4% Sodium selenite resulted in increased nutrient availability, this might be due to good roots development and availability of adequate soil moisture because of higher moisture use efficiency which resulted into more binding of nutrients to the *rhizosphere* (Pettigrew, 2008) [16].

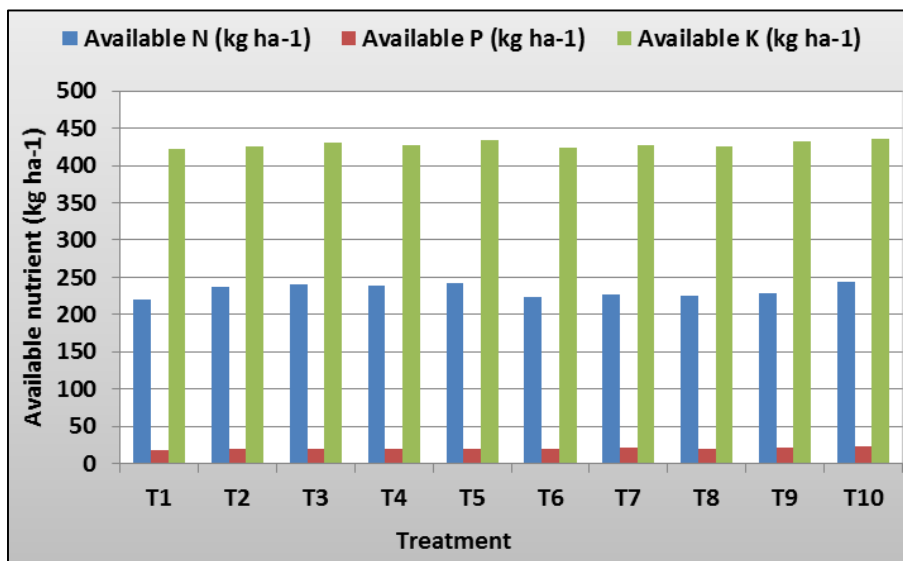


Fig 1: Effect of liquid bio-fertilizers and drought mitigating chemicals on available nutrient content in soil after harvesting of mungbean crop

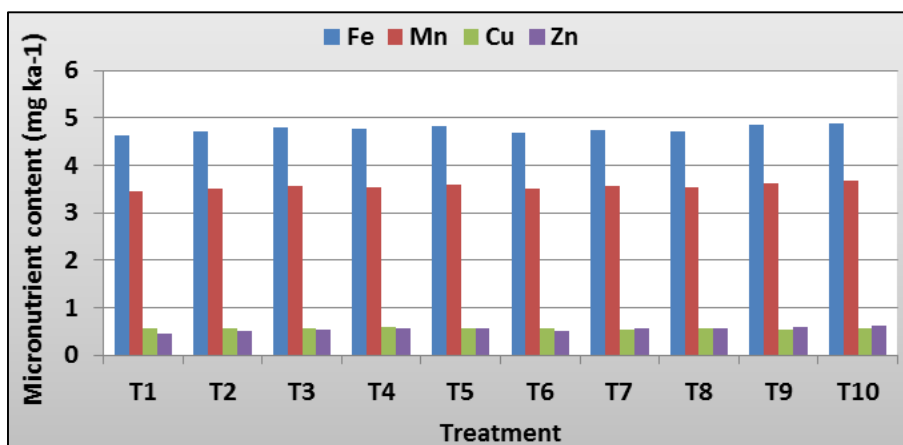


Fig 2: Effect of liquid bio-fertilizers and drought mitigating chemicals on micronutrient content in soil after harvesting of mungbean crop

Table 1: Effect of liquid bio-fertilizers and drought mitigating chemicals on physico-chemical properties of soil after harvesting the mungbean crop

	Treatment	pH	EC (dS m ⁻¹)	Organic carbon (%)	Bulk density (mg M ⁻³)
T ₁	100% RDF (Control)	7.59	0.36	0.43	1.34
T ₂	100% RDF + Rhizobium (10 ml/kg seed) + water spray	7.59	0.35	0.48	1.34
T ₃	100% RDF + Rhizobium (10 ml/kg seed) + 2% KCl spray	7.58	0.34	0.49	1.33
T ₄	100% RDF + Rhizobium (10 ml/kg seed) + 0.4% Sodium selenite spray	7.57	0.34	0.49	1.33
T ₅	100% RDF + Rhizobium (10 ml/kg seed) + 2% KCl + 0.4% Sodium selenite spray	7.57	0.34	0.51	1.30
T ₆	100% RDF + P.S.B. (10 ml/kg seed) + Water spray	7.56	0.32	0.47	1.33
T ₇	100% RDF + P.S.B. (10 ml/kg seed) + 2% KCl spray	7.58	0.33	0.48	1.32
T ₈	100% RDF + P.S.B. (10 ml/kg seed) + 0.4% Sodium selenite spray	7.59	0.33	0.48	1.33
T ₉	100% RDF + P.S.B. (10 ml/kg seed) + 2% KCl + 0.4% Sodium selenite spray	7.57	0.33	0.49	1.32
T ₁₀	100% RDF + Rhizobium (10 ml/kg seed) + P.S.B. (10 ml/kg seed) + 2% KCl + 0.4% Sodium selenite spray	7.56	0.34	0.53	1.31
	SEm ±	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.03
	CD at 0.05%	NS	NS	0.03	NS

Table 2: Effect of liquid bio-fertilizers and drought mitigating chemicals on available nutrient content in soil after harvesting the mungbean crop

	Treatment	Available N (kg ha ⁻¹)	Available P (kg ha ⁻¹)	Available K (kg ha ⁻¹)
T ₁	100% RDF (Control)	220.52	17.57	421.88
T ₂	100% RDF + Rhizobium (10 ml/kg seed) + water spray	236.40	18.77	425.59
T ₃	100% RDF + Rhizobium (10 ml/kg seed) + 2% KCl spray	239.91	19.22	430.47
T ₄	100% RDF + Rhizobium (10 ml/kg seed) + 0.4% Sodium selenite spray	238.47	19.01	427.14
T ₅	100% RDF + Rhizobium (10 ml/kg seed) + 2% KCl + 0.4% Sodium selenite spray	242.73	19.56	434.04
T ₆	100% RDF + P.S.B. (10 ml/kg seed) + Water spray	223.68	19.87	424.40
T ₇	100% RDF + P.S.B. (10 ml/kg seed) + 2% KCl spray	227.16	20.90	428.19
T ₈	100% RDF + P.S.B. (10 ml/kg seed) + 0.4% Sodium selenite spray	225.14	20.28	425.28
T ₉	100% RDF + P.S.B. (10 ml/kg seed) + 2% KCl + 0.4% Sodium selenite spray	228.22	21.50	431.98
T ₁₀	100% RDF + Rhizobium (10 ml/kg seed) + P.S.B. (10 ml/kg seed) + 2% KCl + 0.4% Sodium selenite spray	244.61	22.60	436.61
	SEm ±	3.00	0.59	1.05
	CD at 0.05%	8.90	1.71	3.11

Table 3: Effect of liquid bio-fertilizers and drought mitigating chemicals on micronutrient content (mg kg⁻¹) in soil after harvesting of mungbean crop

	Treatment	Micronutrient content (mg kg ⁻¹)			
		Fe	Mn	Cu	Zn
T ₁	100% RDF (Control)	4.63	3.46	0.58	0.46
T ₂	100% RDF + Rhizobium (10 ml/kg seed) + water spray	4.73	3.52	0.58	0.52
T ₃	100% RDF + Rhizobium (10 ml/kg seed) + 2% KCl spray	4.79	3.57	0.57	0.54
T ₄	100% RDF + Rhizobium (10 ml/kg seed) + 0.4% Sodium selenite spray	4.77	3.53	0.59	0.56
T ₅	100% RDF + Rhizobium (10 ml/kg seed) + 2% KCl + 0.4% Sodium selenite spray	4.82	3.61	0.58	0.57
T ₆	100% RDF + P.S.B. (10 ml/kg seed) + Water spray	4.70	3.50	0.56	0.51
T ₇	100% RDF + P.S.B. (10 ml/kg seed) + 2% KCl spray	4.74	3.58	0.55	0.56
T ₈	100% RDF + P.S.B. (10 ml/kg seed) + 0.4% Sodium selenite spray	4.71	3.55	0.58	0.57
T ₉	100% RDF + P.S.B. (10 ml/kg seed) + 2% KCl + 0.4% Sodium selenite spray	4.85	3.63	0.55	0.59
T ₁₀	100% RDF + Rhizobium (10 ml/kg seed) + P.S.B. (10 ml/kg seed) + 2% KCl + 0.4% Sodium selenite spray	4.88	3.68	0.57	0.63
	SEm ±	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01
	CD at 0.05%	0.07	0.03	NS	0.04

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