



ISSN (E): 2277- 7695
ISSN (P): 2349-8242
NAAS Rating: 5.23
TPI 2021; 10(9): 1711-1713
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www.thepharmajournal.com

Received: 13-07-2021

Accepted: 29-08-2021

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Response of row arrangement and PGR's on growth of linseed (*Linum usitatissimum*)

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Abstract

A field experimental study was conducted during *rabi* season of 2020 at Crop Research, Department of Agronomy, SHUATS, Prayagraj (U.P). The soil of experiment plot was sandy loam in texture, nearly neutral in soil reaction of pH - 6.9, low in organic carbon - 0.91%, available N - 301.26 kg/ha, available P - 37.23 kg/ha and available K - 271.47 kg/ha. Totally, nine treatments were developed with two spacings (20 cm x 5 cm and 30 cm x 5 cm) and two plant growth regulators (Gibberellic acid at 125 ppm and 250 ppm; Indole acetic acid at 1 ppm and 3 ppm) and one control plot. Based on the treatments, the experiment was carried out in a randomized block design and were replicated thrice. The results defined that plant height (52.25 cm), dry weight per plant (8.93 g) and seed yield (1.48 t/ha) was attained higher with combination of 20 cm x 5 cm spacing with gibberellic acid at 250 ppm. However, crop growth rate (10.31 g/m²/day) was obtained maximum values in 30 cm x 5 cm + GA₃ at 250 ppm and relative growth rate (0.0160 g/g/day) was in 30 cm x 5 cm + IAA at 3 ppm, respectively.

Keywords: Gibberellic acid, growth, indole acetic acid, linseed

Introduction

Linseed also called as flax, is commonly named as Alashi/ Alsi. *Usitatissimum* means 'most useful'. It is known as Agasi in Kannada, Javas or Alashi in Marathi, Alsi in Hindi and Ousahalu in Telugu. It is a self-pollinated crop mostly adapted to temperate climates of the world and is a native to the region from Eastern Mediterranean to India. Linseed was widely cultivated in ancient Ethiopia and ancient Egypt. Linseed is basically an industrial oilseed crop and every part is endowed with commercial and medicinal importance. It contains about 33-45% oil. Its oil is suitable for human consumption which is used as a nutritional supplement. Tolerant to both biotic and abiotic stresses which is an important feature of this crop. Because of this property, the survival and cultivation of linseed is prevailing in wide range of tropical, sub-tropical and temperate regions. Flax indeed has various benefits with seed used for industrial, food and feed purposes.

It is well known fact that inter and intra row spacing plays a crucial role in production of crops. Spacing is dependent upon the growth of a particular crop variety in a given agro-climatic condition. Adequate spacing ensures better crop growth and improves the yield and quality of crops (Chaudhary, 2013) [1] and depends on the crop nature, growth habitat, and environment. Gibberellic acid is generally used plant growth regulators and recently Indole acetic acid are new emerging plant growth regulators. In oilseed crops, PGR's perform significant responses on crop growth and yield. Plant growth regulators can be successfully working to enhance the yield in the economically important oil seed crops (Rastogi *et al.*, 2013) [7]. IAA has been found to increase the plant height, number of leaves per plant, pod size with consequent enhancement of karnel yield in groundnut (Lee, 1990) [5]. It also increases the flowering, fruit setting, dry weight of crops (Gurdev and Saxena, 1991) [3].

Keeping the above facts in view, the present experimentation was laid to find the response of linseed to different spacings and PGR's under eastern Uttar Pradesh condition.

Material and Methods

The experiment was laid out during *rabi*, 2020 at Crop Research Farm, Department of Agronomy, Naini Agricultural Institute, Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences, Prayagraj (U.P.) which is located at 25° 24' 42" N latitude, 81° 50' 56" E longitude and 98 m altitude above the mean Sealevel. The experiment consisted of nine treatments which were replicated thrice in a randomized block design with two spacings *viz.* 20 cm x 5 cm, 30 cm x 5 cm and two PGR's *viz.* GA₃ (125 and 250 ppm), IAA (1 and 3 ppm)

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and one control plot separately. The treatment combinations which are T₁: 20 cm x 5 cm + GA₃ at 125 ppm, T₂: 30 cm x 5 cm + GA₃ at 125 ppm, T₃: 20 cm x 5 cm + GA₃ at 250 ppm, T₄: 30 cm x 5 cm + GA₃ at 250 ppm, T₅: 20 cm x 5 cm + IAA at 1 ppm, T₆: 30 cm x 5 cm + IAA at 1 ppm, T₇: 20 cm x 5 cm + IAA at 3 ppm, T₈: 30 cm x 5 cm + IAA at 3 ppm and T₉: control. Fertilizers were applied as band placement for which 4-5 cm deep furrows were made along the seed rows with hand hoe. The nutrient sources were Urea, SSP and MOP to fulfill the requirement of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium and foliar sprays of PGR's were given at 30 DAS. Irrigation was based on the necessity and at the time of sowing. The growth attributes viz. plant height, dry weight, CGR and RGR were recorded with standard basis of observation. The data was analysed statistically by using analysis of variance as applicable in Randomized Block Design (Gomez and Gomez, 1984) [2].

Results and Discussion

Growth attributes

The data indicated that in Table 1, significantly higher plant height (52.25 cm) was recorded in 20 cm x 5 cm + GA₃ at 250 ppm and at par values was noticed in the treatment 30 cm x 5 cm + GA₃ at 250 ppm (51.78 cm), respectively. It might be due to unavailability of sufficient space and sunlight made the plant longer in search of sunlight, which make the plant longer in narrow spaced crops. Also along with GA₃ which stimulate organ growth through enhancement of cell elongation and cell division by inducing mitotic division and auxin positively influence GA₃, to promote cell elongation and increase plant length. Saied *et al.* (2018) also observed that mixture of more than one growth hormone increased plant height (8.3%).

The data pertaining that in Table 1 about dry weight of linseed with significant difference among treatments where there was significantly higher dry weight in treatment 20 cm x 5 cm + GA₃ at 250 ppm with 8.93 g. Treatments such as 30

cm x 5 cm + GA₃ at 250 ppm, 20 cm x 5 cm + IAA at 3 ppm and 30 cm x 5 cm + IAA at 3 ppm (8.58, 8.27 and 8.11 g) were for statistically at par. The significant improvement in the dry weight of plant seems to be due to profused branches indicating the ability of plant to generate leaf area continuously for longer period and also foliar application of GA₃ at 250 ppm might be due to GA₃ which enhanced the source-sink relationship in the plant and induced photo-assimilate translocation in the plant. Khan and Khan (2016) [4] also reported applications of IAA on soybean increased stem and total dry weight, respectively.

The data presented in Table 1 indicated that crop growth rate recorded maximum values in 30 cm x 5 cm + GA₃ at 250 ppm (10.31 g/m²/day). At early stage CGR increased might be due to active contribution of leaves in photosynthesis. At initial period, the dry matter accumulation was higher. Senescence of leaves caused decline in crop growth rate. An increase in CGR with the application of GA₃ (250 ppm) sprayed at flower initiation stage was observed by Ramesh and Ram Prasad (2013) [6].

The data presented in Table 1 indicated that 30 cm x 5 cm + IAA at 3 ppm treatment combination recorded highest relative growth rate (0.0160 g/g/day). GA₃ enhanced source and sink relationship and transformation of photosynthates very effectively and obviously more accumulation of dry weight were produced resulting in higher relative growth rate. Similar result was also given by Khan and Khan (2016) [4] who studied on soybean and observed that GA₃ and IAA increases the growth parameters like AGR, NAR, RGR and CGR than rest of treatments.

The data presented in Table 1, indicated that significantly higher seed yield (1.48 t/ha) was obtained with application of 20 cm x 5 cm + GA₃ at 250 ppm where 30 cm x 5 cm + GA₃ at 250 ppm (1.39 t/ha) found at par. Application of GA₃ at 150 ppm significantly reported higher seed yield in the genotype followed by GA₃ at 100 ppm and GA₃ at 200 ppm, respectively which was reported by Khan and Khan (2016) [4].

Table 1: Response of row arrangement and PGR's on growth attributing parameters of linseed at harvest

Treatments	Plant height (cm)	Dry weight (g)	CGR (100 DAS-at harvest)	RGR (100 DAS-at harvest)	Seed yield (t/ha)
20 cm x 5 cm + GA ₃ at 125 ppm	47.09	7.77	8.56	0.0143	1.30
30 cm x 5 cm + GA ₃ at 125 ppm	46.65	7.18	7.16	0.0130	1.24
20 cm x 5 cm + GA ₃ at 250 ppm	52.25	8.93	9.01	0.0128	1.48
30 cm x 5 cm + GA ₃ at 250 ppm	51.78	8.58	10.31	0.0159	1.39
20 cm x 5 cm + IAA at 1 ppm	49.41	7.51	7.42	0.0126	1.30
30 cm x 5 cm + IAA at 1 ppm	47.41	7.25	7.35	0.0130	1.27
20 cm x 5 cm + IAA at 3 ppm	49.85	8.27	8.41	0.0132	1.36
30 cm x 5 cm + IAA at 3 ppm	49.45	8.11	9.89	0.0160	1.35
Control	45.00	7.06	7.06	0.0120	1.19
S.Em+	0.69	0.33	2.09	0.0031	0.03
CD (P=0.05)	2.07	0.99	-	-	0.10

Conclusion

Based on the findings it is concluded that optimum spacing and application of plant growth regulators such as gibberellic acid is found more helpful for growth of linseed under Eastern U.P.

Acknowledgement

The authors are grateful to Department of Agronomy, Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences, Prayagraj - 211007, Uttar Pradesh, for providing us necessary facilities to undertake the research study.

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