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Study on the effect of organic manures and bio-fertilizers on growth, yield and quality of Potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L.)

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Abstract

The present investigation entitled “Study on the effect of organic manures and biofertilizers on growth, yield and quality of potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L.)” was conducted at Research area, College of Agriculture, Gwalior M.P. during Rabi 2020-2021 under agro-climatic and soil conditions of Northern Madhya Pradesh. Potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L.) is one of the most important vegetable crops widely grown in the world. It belongs to the family solanaceae and considered to be originated in South America. Potato is world’s fourth important food crop after wheat, rice and maize. The widely grown potato is an auto tetraploid with $2n=48$. It is a heavy feeder of plant nutrients having very high requirement of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and other nutrients. The organic manures not only supply the nutrients but also improve the physical environment for better plant and tuber growth. The manures are low analysis nutrient carriers yet play a significant role in the fertilizer economy. Farm yard manure (FYM) is the most common organic manure used in India. Biofertilizers (*Azotobacter* +PSB) have been recognized as cheapest fertilizer input for developing countries like India as source of supplement on the application of chemical fertilizer for better crop production. The experiment was laid out in the Randomized Block Design with three replications. Each replication was comprised of 11 treatment combinations. The following treatment combinations involving RDF dose of fertilizers, vermicompost, *Azotobacter* and PSB were applied before planting in potato variety Kufri Chipsona-1. The result clearly shows that huge variation was noticed among the different treatment studied in this investigation for all the morphological parameters, yield parameters and quality parameters as well as economic parameters of potato. Results showed that the treatment T₈ (75% RDF + 25% Vermicompost + *Azotobacter*+ PSB) is the best application of organic manure and biofertilizers with different level of RDF doses and had significant effect on morphological, yield and quality parameters as well as economic parameters of potato. Treatment T₈ (75% RDF + 25% Vermicompost + *Azotobacter*+ PSB) gave maximum morphological parameters, yield parameters, quality parameters and economics parameters of potato as compared to all other treatments, however the minimum morphological, yield, quality and economics parameters were observed in treatment T₄ (50% RDF + 25% FYM + 25% Vermicompost).

Keywords: Potato, biofertilizers, FYM, vermicompost, RDF, growth, yield

Introduction

Potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L.) is one of major crops contributing to the world’s food security. Potato is one of the most important field crops not only to its local consumption but also to increase income through its exportation in different countries in the world. It is a member of Solanaceae family. Post harvest improvement such as fast and cheap transportation, storage and processing will help to make potato production more profitable for farmers by improving their access to markets, raising local value addition. Several products like chips, flakes, French fries, finger chips and flour are made out of potato tubers. This also fits well in multiple cropping systems prevalent under tropical and subtropical agro-climatic conditions. Potato is being a high yielding, nutrient exhaustive and short duration crop needs higher quantities of fertilizers and pesticides as compare to other crops.

In India, The area and production of potato are 2164.05 thousand ha. and 46545.62 thousand metric tons/ha (Anon, 2018-19). In Madhya Pradesh the total area under potato cultivation is 1156.20 thousand ha. and production 3134.46 thousand metric tons (Anon, 2018-19).

Application of organic sources in conjunction with fertilizers ensures Organic agriculture is a holistic production management system which promotes and enhances agro-ecosystem health, including bio-diversity, biological cycles and soil-biological activity. It emphasizes the use of management practices in preference to the use of off-farm inputs, taking into account that regional conditions require locally adopted systems.

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Farm yard manure (FYM) is the most common organic manure used in India. Bio-fertilizers (*Azotobacter* + PSB) have been recognized as cheapest fertilizer input for developing countries like India as source of supplement on the application of chemical fertilizer for better crop production

Materials and Methods

The present investigation was carried out at the field Experimentation Centre, Department of Horticulture and Vegetable Science studies in post-graduation, R.V.S.K.V.V., Gwalior, (M.P) during Rabi season 2020-2021. The experiment was laid out in randomized block design (RBD) at Variety - Kufri Chipsona-1, plot size - 3 m x 3 m, distance between replications - 1.5 m, distance between plots - 0.5m. Recommended dose of fertilizers was 180:80:120 N, P₂O₅ and K₂O kg/ha, respectively. Date of planting was 10-11-2020. Pre-planting tuber seed dipping treatment was done with Mancozeb 0.2% solution for 10 minutes and spread at a cool and moist place so that to check fungal infection. Healthy, uniform medium sized tubers (35 – 45 mm or 45 – 50 g) at the rate of 30 - 35q/ha were used. Shallow furrows were opened 6 cm apart with the help of pickaxe manually and tubers were dibbled at a spacing of 60 cm row to row and 20 cm plant to plant, with three replication and eleven treatments which comprised of organic manures (farmyard and vermicompost) and biofertilizers (*Azotobacter* and PSB) and their combinations. Two biofertilizers were inoculated as soil application. Five plants were randomly tagged in each treatment as per replication and data was recorded according to morphological, quality, yield *viz.* days required for emerging plant, plant height at 60 DAP, number of compound leaves per plant at 60 DAP, fresh weight of shoots per plant (g), dry weight of shoots per plant, diameter of stem (cm) at 60 DAP and number of haulms per plant at 60 DAP, yield parameters (*viz.*, tubers yield per plot (kg), per hectare (q), number of tubers per plant at harvest, average diameter of tubers per plot and average tuber weight per plot), quality parameters (*viz.*, dry matter content per 100g of edible portion, TSS at harvest and starch content of tubers at harvest). Treatments were T₁ - 100%RDF (Dose/ha), T₂ - 75% RDF + 25% FYM, T₃ - 75% RDF + 12.5% FYM + 12.5% Vermicompost, T₄ - 50% RDF + 25% FYM + 25% Vermicompost, T₅ - 75% RDF + 12.5% FYM + 12.5% Vermicompost + *Azotobacter*, T₆ - 75% RDF + 12.5% FYM + 12.5% Vermicompost + PSB, T₇ - 75% RDF + 25% FYM + *Azotobacter* + PSB, T₈ - 75% RDF + 25% Vermicompost + *Azotobacter* + PSB, T₉ - 50%RDF + 12.5% FYM + 12.5% Vermicompost + *Azotobacter* + PSB, T₁₀ - 75%RDF + 25%FYM + PSB, T₁₁ - 75%RDF + 25% Vermicompost + *Azotobacter*. Farm yard manure (FYM) – 25t/ha, Vermicompost 10t/ha, Biofertilizers – *Azotobacter* 1liter/ha & PSB 1liter/ha each and RDF (180:80:120) NPK/ha.

Nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium were applied, through urea, single super phosphate and murate of potash, respectively. A uniform dose of 180 kg N/ha and 100 kg P₂O₅/ha was applied to all the plots. Vermicompost and potassium as per treatment were applied in respective plot before planting. Full quantity of phosphorus potassium fertilizer and vermicompost along with half dose of nitrogen was applied before planting while, the rest half nitrogen was applied in two split doses during was earthing up. After

planting of potato tubers, irrigation was given as per need of the crop. Over all, six irrigations were applied during entire crop season. Earthing up was done at 25 DAP to protect the tuber from sunlight and potato tuber moth. Weeding was done manually at different growth stages to check the growth of weeds. Imidachlorpid 0.2% (@ 6 ml /15litre water) or thiomethoxan 0.25% for control of Aphids and Jassid, alternately to keep the crop free from pest during crop growth period. Growth and yield observations were recorded at 60DAP and at harvest.

Harvesting of the crop was done treatment-wise on 30th March, 2021. Firstly one border row from both sides and two plants from both ends were harvested to eliminate the border effect from each plot. Harvesting was done by digging of plants with the help of sickle axe. After harvesting, tubers were separated according to the treatment and weighed on double pan balance for each treatment separately. After this, weight of tuber from each plot was converted from kilograms to tonnes/ha by multiplying with the appropriate factor. For different treatments total cost was calculated on the basis of prevailing market rates of fertilizer, field preparation, planting of seeds, labourers charge, cultural and intercultural operations etc.

Results and Discussion

Morphological parameters

It was evident from the result that the treatment T₈ (75% RDF + 25% Vermicompost + *Azotobacter* + PSB) is significantly superior to other dose of organic manures and biofertilizers with different levels of RDF and had significant effect on morphological parameters of potato. The maximum morphological parameters (*viz.*, plant height at 60 DAP, number of compound leaves per plant at 60 DAP, fresh weight of shoots per plant (g), dry weight of shoots per plant, diameter of stem (cm) at 60 DAP and number of haulms per plant at 60 DAP) were recorded under treatment T₈ (75% RDF + 25% Vermicompost + *Azotobacter* + PSB) and it was found significantly superior to other treatments and the minimum morphological parameters were found in treatment T₄ (50% RDF + 25% FYM + 25% Vermicompost), respectively. While the minimum days required for emerging plant was recorded under treatment T₈ (75% RDF + 25% Vermicompost + *Azotobacter* + PSB) and the maximum days required for emerging plant was recorded in treatment T₄ (50% RDF + 25% FYM + 25% Vermicompost) (Table 1). This could be due presence of enzymes, hormones, growth regulators along with plant nutrients in vermicompost while *Azotobacter* and PSB are biofertilizers which improves the nutrient up take and provide better condition for plant growth. Vermicompost promoting growth by enhanced biosynthesis and accumulation of proteins, amino acids and enzymes which are responsible for cell division and cell elongation thus resulted in improvement in length and width of leaves and diameter of stem. *Azotobacter* and PSB are improves the availability of nitrogen and phosphorus by nitrogen fixation and phosphorus solubilization. Similar results for most of the characters were also reported by Choudhary *et al.* (2010)^[6], Jaipaul *et al.* (2011)^[9], Kumar *et al.* (2015)^[13], Kumar *et al.* (2015)^[13], Shirzadi (2015), Singh *et al.* (2017), Koodi *et al.* (2017)^[10], Brijesh *et al.* (2017)^[5], Ramandeep *et al.* (2018)^[18], Ali *et al.* (2019)^[2], Ali *et al.* (2020)^[3], Saxena and Singh (2020)^[19] and Gangele *et al.* (2020)^[7].

Table 1: Effect of organic manures and biofertilizers on Morphological characters in Potato

Treatment Code	Days required for emerging plant	Plant height (cm) at 60 DAP	Fresh weight of shoots per plant (g)	Dry weight of shoots per plant (g)	Diameter of stem (cm) at 60 DAP	Number of haulms per plant at 60 DAP
T1	8.21	46.33	183.01	27.20	11.59	7.33
T2	11.80	37.37	170.39	21.87	7.52	5.67
T3	10.47	39.89	172.39	22.19	8.25	6.00
T4	13.01	32.02	165.01	20.02	6.50	5.00
T5	7.60	47.37	185.47	28.56	12.49	7.67
T6	9.58	42.05	175.04	24.63	9.89	6.67
T7	8.63	45.26	182.03	26.25	11.07	7.00
T8	7.00	48.00	188.06	29.01	13.00	8.00
T9	12.38	34.21	167.26	21.05	6.93	5.33
T10	10.25	41.41	174.25	24.11	9.12	6.33
T11	8.91	43.35	179.14	25.25	10.71	7.00
S.Em ±	0.242	0.549	1.014	0.500	0.248	0.486
CD 5%	0.714	1.618	2.992	1.475	0.732	1.434

Yield characters

The investigation revealed that the treatment T₈ (75% RDF + 25% Vermicompost + *Azotobacter*+ PSB) is the best application of organic manure and biofertilizers with different level of RDF. The maximum yield parameters (*viz.*, tubers yield per plot (kg), per hectare (q), number of tubers per plant at harvest, average diameter of tubers per plot and average tuber weight per plot) were found in treatment T₈ (75% RDF + 25% Vermicompost + *Azotobacter*+ PSB) and it was significantly superior to other treatments while the minimum yield parameters were recorded in treatment T₄ (50% RDF + 25% FYM + 25% Vermicompost) (Table 2). The application of vermicompost, *Azotobacter* and PSB might have significantly enhanced the availability of native and applied macro and micro nutrients, vitamins, enzymes, antibiotics,

growth hormones and insoluble nutrients to the plants, as consequence of which increase the yield of potato tubers and plant. Tuber yield was influenced to great extent by growth, nutrient and moisture supply. The increase in yield with the application of vermicompost, *Azotobacter* and PSB could be attributed to corresponding increase in leaf area and insoluble nutrients to soluble form, which was responsible for synthesizing photosynthate and increase in number and weight of tuber. The results are in confirmation with the results achieved by Kumar *et al.* (2011) [11], Narayan *et al.* (2013) [14], Kumar *et al.* (2015) [13], Sharma *et al.* (2015), Kumar and Singh (2016) [12], Singh *et al.* (2017), Koodi *et al.* (2017) [10], Islam *et al.* (2017) [8], Sikder *et al.* (2017) [20], Brijesh *et al.* (2017) [5], Ramandeep *et al.* (2018) [18], Ali *et al.* (2019) [2], Ali *et al.* (2020) [3] and Saxena and Singh (2020) [19].

Table 2: Effect of organic manures and biofertilizers on yield characters in Potato

Treatment Code	Tuber yield per plot (kg)	Tuber yield per hectare(q)	Number of tubers per plant at harvest	Average diameter of tubers (cm) per plot at harvest	Average tuber weight (g) per plot
T1	29.29	351.47	10.33	5.64	56.70
T2	16.01	192.09	7.00	4.57	45.76
T3	17.21	206.53	7.33	4.76	46.94
T4	12.59	151.12	6.00	4.03	42.04
T5	30.36	364.35	10.67	5.90	57.04
T6	21.57	258.81	8.67	5.03	49.74
T7	25.00	300.06	9.33	5.36	53.58
T8	31.93	383.20	11.00	6.00	58.01
T9	13.77	165.21	6.33	4.42	43.41
T10	19.37	232.41	8.00	4.87	48.47
T11	23.26	279.11	9.00	5.13	51.75
S.Em ±	1.460	17.522	0.584	0.102	0.488
CD 5%	4.308	51.692	1.724	0.300	1.440

Quality parameters

The result revealed that the treatment T₈ (75% RDF + 25% Vermicompost + *Azotobacter* + PSB) is significantly superior to other dose of organic manures and biofertilizers with different levels of RDF and had significant effect on quality parameters of potato. The maximum quality parameters (*viz.*, dry matter content per 100g of edible portion, TSS at harvest and starch content of tubers at harvest) were observed in treatment T₈ (75% RDF + 25% Vermicompost + *Azotobacter* + PSB) and it was significantly superior to other treatments. However, the minimum quality parameters were observed in treatment T₄ (50% RDF + 25% FYM + 25% Vermicompost) (Table 3). It might be due to application of vermicompost,

Azotobacter and PSB that played a positive role in affecting quality parameters of potato like dry matter content, TSS and starch content. The highest tuber TSS content might be due to maximum moisture content, dry weight of tuber because organic fertilizers carry almost all micro and macro nutrients that are required for the plants growth and the continued application of vermicompost increase photosynthesis of plant and due to enhancement of photosynthesis, sugar, starch and cellulose synthesis might have improved. These results are supported by the findings of Prasad (2010) [16], Jaipaul *et al.* (2011) [9], Abdel and Shams (2012) [1], Bhat *et al.* (2017) [4], Koodi *et al.* (2017) [10], Islam *et al.* (2017) [8], Brijesh *et al.* (2017) [5], Ram *et al.* (2017) [17] and Gangele *et al.* (2020) [7].

Table 3: Effect of organic manures and biofertilizers on Quality characters in Potato

Treatment Code	Dry matter content per 100g of edible portion	TSS (^o Brix) at harvest	Starch content (%) of tubers at harvest
T1	22.20	4.66	18.62
T2	19.85	4.56	16.03
T3	20.06	4.58	16.93
T4	19.50	4.50	15.02
T5	22.86	4.69	19.67
T6	20.55	4.60	17.94
T7	21.39	4.64	18.18
T8	23.02	4.70	20.06
T9	19.69	4.54	15.55
T10	20.35	4.59	17.27
T11	20.94	4.61	18.12
S.Em ±	0.272	0.010	0.172
CD 5%	0.803	0.030	0.507

Economics parameters

Results showed that that treatment T8 (75% RDF + 25% Vermicompost + Azotobacter+ PSB) is the best application of organic manure and biofertilizers with different level of RDF and had significant effect on economical yield of potato. The maximum cost of cultivation, gross income and net income was recorded in treatment T8 (75% RDF + 25% Vermicompost + Azotobacter+ PSB), while maximum B:C was found in treatment T5 (75% RDF + 12.5% FYM + 12.5%

Vermicompost + Azotobacter) and T8 (75% RDF + 25% Vermicompost + Azotobacter+ PSB). However, the minimum cost of cultivation was recorded in treatment T1 (100% RDF (Dose/ha)) while gross income, net income and B:C was recorded in treatment T4 (50% RDF + 25% FYM + 25% Vermicompost) (Table 4). Findings are in agreement with those of Verma *et al.* (2010) [22], Verma *et al.* (2011) [21], Kumar *et al.* (2011) [11] and Gangele *et al.* (2020) [7].

Table 4: Economics of the treatments in Potato

Treatment Details	Cost of cultivation (₹/ha)	Gross income (₹/ha)	Net income (₹/ha)	B:C ratio
T ₁ –100% RDF (Dose/ha)	122000	369044	247044	3.0
T ₂ –75% RDF + 25% FYM	125000	230503	105503	1.8
T ₃ –75% RDF + 12.5% FYM + 12.5% Vermicompost	128250	247841	119591	1.9
T ₄ –50% RDF + 25% FYM + 25% Vermicompost	134500	181349	46849	1.3
T ₅ –75% RDF + 12.5% FYM + 12.5% Vermicompost +Azotobacter	129750	437225	307475	3.4
T ₆ – 75% RDF + 12.5% FYM + 12.5% Vermicompost + PSB	130050	310570	180520	2.4
T ₇ – 75% RDF + 25% FYM +Azotobacter + PSB	128300	360067	231767	2.8
T ₈ –75% RDF + 25% Vermicompost + Azotobacter+ PSB	134800	459835	325035	3.4
T ₉ – 50% RDF + 12.5% FYM +12.5% Vermicompost + Azotobacter + PSB	128550	198247	69697	1.5
T ₁₀ – 75% RDF + 25%FYM + PSB	126800	278894	152094	2.2
T ₁₁ –75% RDF + 25% Vermicompost + Azotobacter	133000	334926	201926	2.5

Conclusion

From present investigation, it can be concluded that huge variation was noticed among the different treatment studied all the morphological parameters, yield parameters and quality parameters of potato. Results showed that the treatment T₈ (75% RDF + 25% Vermicompost + Azotobacter + PSB) is the best application of organic manure and biofertilizers with different level of RDF doses and had significant effect on morphological, yield and quality parameters, Treatment T₈ (75% RDF + 25% Vermicompost + Azotobacter + PSB) gave maximum morphological parameters, yield parameters, quality parameters and economics parameters of potato as compared to all other treatments, however the minimum morphological, yield, quality and economics parameters were observed in treatment T₄ (50% RDF + 25% FYM + 25% Vermicompost).

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