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Greenhouse effect and its relevance to abiotic stress in Horticultural Crops: A review

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Abstract

Global warming, caused by the increase in concentration of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere, has emerged as the most prominent environmental issue all over the world. These GHGs *viz.* carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O) trap the outgoing infrared radiations from the earth's surface and thus raise the atmospheric temperature. As a result, the temperature of atmosphere and oceans is going up, snow and ice are fast melting and sea level is rising. This global climate change will have considerable impact on the Horticultural crops, soils, livestock, fisheries and pests. Horticulture is crucial for ensuring food, nutritional and livelihood security of India. It engages workforce in gainful employment and accounts for a significant share in India's Agricultural gross domestic product (GDP). Several industries depend on horticultural production for their requirement of raw materials. Thus, the purpose of this review paper to summarize all the factors that affect horticultural production like fruits, Vegetables and plantation crops by the greenhouse gases and methane emission. So here, we review information on how horticultural crops face redox imbalance and problems caused by abiotic stresses through greenhouse gases and methane emission.

Keywords: Global warming, Climate change, Horticultural Crops, greenhouse gases (GHGs)

Introduction

Climate change is a change of climate over comparable period of time that is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere. The global mean temperature of the earth's surface has increased by about 0.74°C over last hundred years. The variation in surface temperature indicated that 1990's decade has been the warmest in the past millennium and 1998 was the warmest year. The rise in temperature is attributed to alarming increase in the atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases *viz.*, CO₂, CH₄, N₂O and chlorofluorocarbons mainly due to accelerated rate of industrialization. The expected carbon dioxide concentration in 2100 is estimated to be 100% higher than the one observed at the pre-industrial era. With global temperatures expected to rise by up to 6°C by the end of the 21st century compared to pre-industrial levels; it is unlikely that this Agro-climatic metric will remain stable (Singh, 2010) [8]. An orchard is characterized by an environment composed of light, temperature, water, humidity, wind, various atmospheric gases, soil nutrients and other conditions of the rhizosphere. During the growth of plants different climatic and stress factors are effective at the same time for the crop, *i.e.*, drought, heat, UV light, etc. Climatic factor alone can decide the physiological staging, for example, photosynthesis depends not only on radiation, but also on temperature, Carbon dioxide, water and nutritional elements. As shown by these authors, planting a crop in an eco-physiologically unfit place increases the costs of production and, thus, reduces the chance of high economic success. Taking into account environmental factors, at a given site, growing conditions decide on the size of the plant, the duration of phenological stages, the time and volume of the harvest.

Greenhouse effect occurs in the troposphere (the lower atmosphere layer), where life and weather occur. In the absence of greenhouse effect, the average temperature on Earth's surface is estimated around -19°C, instead of the current average of 14°C (Le Treut *et al.*, 2007) [4]. Greenhouse effect is produced by greenhouse gasses (GHG). GHG are those gaseous constituents of the atmosphere that absorb and emit radiation in the thermal infrared range (IPCC, 2014) [2]. Traces of GHG, both natural and anthropogenic, are present in the troposphere. The most abundant GHG in increasing order of importance are: water vapour, carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxides (NxO) and ozone (O₃) (Kiehl and

Trenberth, 1997) [3]. GHG percentages vary daily, seasonally, and annually. Methane (CH₄) is the main atmospheric organic trace gas. CH₄ is the primary component of natural gas, a worldwide fuel source. Significant emissions of CH₄ result from cattle farming and agriculture, but mainly as a consequence of fossil fuel use. Concentrations of CH₄ were multiplied by two since the pre-industrial era. The present worldwide-averaged concentration is of 1.8 μmol.mol⁻¹ (IPCC, 2014) [2]. Although its concentration represents only 0.5% that of CO₂, concerns arise regarding a jump in CH₄ atmospheric release. Indeed, it is 30 times more powerful than CO₂ as GHG (IPCC, 2014) [2]. CH₄ generates O₃ (see below), and along with carbon monoxide (CO), contributes to control the amount of OH in the troposphere (Wuebbles and Hayhoe, 2002) [9].

Impact of greenhouse gases on horticultural crops

Impact of elevated CO₂

Carbon dioxide is responsible for 20% of the thermal absorption (Schmidt *et al.*, 2010) [6]. Natural sources of CO₂ include organic decomposition, ocean release and respiration. Anthropogenic CO₂ sources are derived from activities such as cement manufacturing, deforestation, fossil fuels combustion such as coal, oil and natural gas, etc. Surprisingly, 24% of direct CO₂ emission comes from agriculture, forestry and other land use, and 21% comes from industry (IPCC, 2014) [2]. Atmospheric CO₂ concentrations climbed up dramatically in the past two centuries, rising from around 270 μmol.mol⁻¹ in 1750 to present concentrations higher than 385 μmol.mol⁻¹ (Mittler and Blum Wald, 2010; IPCC, 2014) [2, 5]. Around 50% of cumulative anthropogenic CO₂ emissions between 1750 and 2010 have taken place since the 1970s (IPCC, 2014) [2]. It is calculated that the temperature rise produced by high CO₂ concentrations, plus the water positive feedback, would increase by 3-5° C the global mean surface temperature in 2100 (IPCC, 2014) [2].

Empirical records provide incontestable evidence for the global rise in carbon dioxide (CO₂) concentration in the earth's atmosphere. Plant growth can be stimulated by elevation of CO₂; photosynthesis increases and economic yield is often enhanced. The application of more CO₂ can increase plant water use efficiency and result in less water use. After reviewing the available CO₂ literature, we offer a series of priority targets for future research, including: 1) a need to breed or screen varieties and species of horticultural plants for increased drought tolerance; 2) determining the amount of carbon sequestered in soil from horticulture production practices for improved soil water-holding capacity and to aid in mitigating projected global climate change; 3) determining the contribution of the horticulture industry to these projected changes through flux of CO₂ and other trace gases (i.e., nitrous oxide from fertilizer application and methane under anaerobic conditions) to the atmosphere; and 4) determining how CO₂-induced changes in plant growth and water relations will impact the complex interactions with pests (weeds, insects, and diseases). Such data are required to develop best management strategies for the horticulture industry to adapt to future environmental conditions. Empirical records provide incontestable evidence for the global rise in carbon dioxide (CO₂) concentration in the earth's atmosphere. Plant growth can be stimulated by elevation of CO₂; photosynthesis increases and economic yield is often enhanced. The application of more CO₂ can

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Because of the high level of emissions, the concentration of CO₂ is now as high as 398 μmol mol⁻¹ in the atmosphere. The carbon dioxide level is one of the most regulated growth factors for fruit trees. The increase of CO₂ concentration in the air near the leaf blade decreases stomatal aperture, stomatal conductance and transpiration; in consequence, photosynthesis and growth increase because of elevated water use efficiency. An increase in growth because of an elevated CO₂ requires higher water and fertilizer supply. This is because more nitrogen is required to ensure high crop productivity under climate change conditions. Kumar *et al.*, (2020) [1]. The horticultural crops having C₃ photosynthetic metabolism have shown beneficial effects indicated the increase in onion yield by 25-30% mainly due to increases in bulb size at 530 ppm CO₂ (Wurr *et al.* 1998; Wheeler 1996) [53, 54]. Tomato also showed 24% higher yield at 550 ppm CO₂ due to increase in number of fruits (Srinivas Rao 2010) [52]. In perennial crops like coconut studies indicate the increase in shoot height, leaf area and shoot dry matter due to elevated CO₂ to the tune of 36% over chamber control.

Impact of NO₂

The emission of atmospheric nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) has been a growing trend in many areas worldwide during the last few

decades Munzi *et al.*, 2009^[10], especially in some Asian countries Hu *et al.*, 2015^[11]. Due to the development of industrialized production and the continuous increase in automobile exhaust emissions, the NO₂ concentration will likely continue to increase, and the NO₂ level will continue to exceed the standard level of NO₂ pollution Hultengren *et al.*, 2004^[12]. Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) is a precursor of harmful secondary air pollutants such as ozone and particulate matter Rahmat *et al.*, 2013^[13], Brmejo-Orduna *et al.*, 2014^[14]. The use of ecological methods to reduce air concentrations, such as plant absorption and catabolism of atmospheric NO₂, is very important. At present, scholars hold different views towards the effects of NO₂ on plants. One hypothesis purport that, by being metabolized and incorporated in the nitrate assimilation pathway, NO₂ can form organic nitrogenous compounds in plants Stulen *et al.*, 1998^[16]. This process does not injure leaves Middelton *et al.*, 1958. Another hypothesis purports that most plants exhibit both low amounts of NO₂-N incorporation into total plant nitrogen (N) and resistance to NO₂ Morikawa *et al.*, 2001^[18]. Complex physiological responses can be triggered when plants are exposed to NO₂, including changes in antioxidant enzyme activity Liu *et al.*, 2015^[20], Norby *et al.*, 1989^[21]. N metabolic enzyme activity Vighi *et al.*, 2017^[22], Weber *et al.*, 1995^[23], and both the components and distribution of nitrogenous metabolic products in plant tissues.

The dissolution of low concentrations of NO₂ in water can result in the formation of nitrate and nitrite, both of which are used by plants during the normal process of nitrate metabolism; as such, NO₂ may act as an airborne fertilizer. However, high concentrations of NO₂ can lead to excessive accumulations of nitrite (NO₂⁻) Okano *et al.*, 1986^[25] and cell acidification Schmutz *et al.*, 1995^[26], which lead to negative responses such as the generation of reactive oxygen species (ROS) and inhibition of both N assimilation and plant growth, further causing acute damage to leaves, whole-plant chlorosis or even death. However, exposure of NO₂ to different plant species elicits different physiological responses. Therefore, the effects of NO₂ exposure on plants remain highly controversial, and a unified conclusion has not been reached. In addition, information concerning different plants that are highly tolerant to NO₂ and their natural recovery is scarce. To identify garden plants that exhibit good absorption and strong resistance, we studied the physiological responses of 41 garden plants exposed to specific NO₂ environments under controlled conditions in the laboratory; the plants were located in Jiangsu Province. Few studies have investigated whether these 41 plants species, which are commonly planted along roadsides in urban areas of many countries, have high NO₂ absorption capacity and/or are resistant to the effects of NO₂. Several studies have focused on the effects of NO₂ concentration on plant growth and reported both that low concentrations (0.1 µL/L) of NO₂ did not significantly influence the height, leaf area or dry weight of 1-year-old *Buxus Sinica* seedlings and that 0.5µL/L NO₂ significantly stimulated the leaf growth of *Populus Deltoides* and *Populus Nigra Italic a*; however, a higher NO₂ concentration (1 µL/L) significantly reduced the stem growth. When *Arabidopsis thaliana* plants were exposed to 0.85, 2, 4.25, and 9.4µL/L NO₂, the plants exhibited acute visible leaf injuries, and the plants eventually died. When those plants were treated with NO₂ concentrations between 2 and 4.25 µL/L, some injury occurred, but the plants remained alive;

furthermore, no significant differences were recorded between leaf growth and chlorophyll (Chl) content. Therefore, we chose 6 µL/L as the NO₂ fumigation concentration Sheng *et al.*, 2019^[27].

There is little research on the impact of nitrogen dioxide on agricultural production in developing countries. Although the study by Magazine *et al.* (1995) indicated that NO_x had no environmental impact on wheat and rice production in the suburbs of Lahore, which may be significant in urban and adjoining areas. The above study also examined the effects of NO_x, which studied the effects of SO₂ on four crops in Delhi and Varanasi. In winter, wheat yield was significantly negatively correlated ($p < 0.05$) with NO₂ concentrations ranging from 31 to 105 µg m⁻³ Marshall *et al.*, 1997^[28]. In Delhi the yields of both mustard and wheat were negatively correlated with NO, which ranged from 79 and 197 µg m⁻³ Marshall *et al.*, 1997^[28]. The transect study in Varanasi also raised the possibility that urban air pollution was having an impact on the nutritional quality, in addition to the yield of crops. The results showed significant negative relationships with SO₂ and NO₂ for carbohydrate and energy content, as well as for beans and wheat.

Impact of SO₂

Stress conditions, in particular air pollutants, alter physiological, biochemical, and morphological processes in plants by inhibiting net photosynthesis, reducing growth rates, and causing acute visible damage (Darrall, 1989; Ashraf and Harris, 2013)^[29, 30]. Photosynthesis is one of the first processes to be affected by high SO₂ concentration (Ziegler, 1972)^[50], and affected plants display an initial decrease in photosynthetic rate and an increased rate of respiration (Gheorghie and Ion, 2011)^[34]. The effects of SO₂ on physiological processes have been shown to be related to stomatal responses (Raschke, 1975; Rao *et al.*, 1983; Verma and Singh, 2006)^[42, 43, 49], likely because stomata cannot close properly when the plant is under environmental stress (Robinson *et al.*, 1998)^[44]. Furthermore, SO₂ can affect carbon allocation, and chlorophyll contents, which affect plant growth and productivity (Treshow, 1984; Aminifar and Ramroudi, 2014; Singh *et al.*, 2013)^[31, 46, 48], and affects plant growth by altering the photosynthetic rate and distribution of photosynthates (Khan and Khan, 1993)^[40]. It also affects the cell membrane structure and changes membrane permeability. The water use efficiency (WUE) of a plant is the ratio of carbon gain to water loss. Swanepoel *et al.* (2007)^[45] reported that long-term SO₂ exposure, even at low concentrations, reduced chlorophyll content and decreased WUE. However, high concentrations and short-term SO₂ exposure increased WUE. Chlorophyll content is known to be affected by environmental stress (Mcainsh *et al.*, 2002)^[41]. In agreement, a decrease in chlorophyll content has been proposed to indicate SO₂ injury (Gilbert, 1968; Haworth *et al.*, 2012)^[32, 35]. When SO₂ is absorbed by a plant, the degree of injury is classified as either acute or chronic (Thomas and Hill, 1935)^[47]. Acute injury occurs when high concentrations of SO₂ are absorbed over a relatively short period, whereas chronic injury is caused by long-term absorption of SO₂ at threshold concentrations. According to Robinson *et al.* (1998)^[45], when plants are exposed to low concentrations of SO₂, the absorbed SO₂ is oxidized and used to synthesize proteins. However, at high concentrations, it disrupts thylakoid function and interferes with the electron transport chain (Heber and Hueve,

1997) [37], which leads to the breakdown of physiological systems. It has been suggested that SO₂ injury depends on the rate of SO₂ absorption. SO₂ can enter the plant tissues either from soil via the roots or from the atmosphere via the leaves. Atmospheric SO₂ enters plant leaves through stomata, which can be opened or closed by guard cells. A raised SO₂ concentration usually causes stomatal changes, specifically stomata tend to close when there are long-term high SO₂ concentrations (Guderian, 2012) [33]. Following SO₂ exposure, guard cells accumulate sulfur and lose the ability to open or close the stomata (Knabe, 1976) [39]. Consequentially, SO₂ affects plant growth by altering the production and distribution of photosynthates (Khan and Khan, 1993) [41]. The inhibition of photosynthesis from excessive levels of sulphur can impair the reproductive process in plants, which may lead to a reduction in the number of flowers or fruits (Hetherington and Woodward, 2003) [38].

CH₄ emission

Methane is produced by microorganisms in a process called methanogenesis. Methane stored in rocks and soil stems from ancient biomass and the generation mechanisms are the not the same as for other fossil fuels. There are both natural and human sources of methane emissions. The main natural sources include wetlands, termites and the oceans. Natural sources create 36% of methane emissions. Human sources include landfills and livestock farming. But the most important source being the production, transportation and use of fossil fuels. Human-related sources create the majority of methane emissions, accounting for 64% of the total. Most of the methane releases come from paddy fields (91%) and less significantly from animal husbandry (7%) and the burning of agricultural wastes (2%). Methane is emitted during the production and transport of coal, natural gas, and oil. Methane emissions also result from livestock and other agricultural practices and by the decay of organic waste in municipal solid waste landfills.

Increased incidence of physiological disorders such as tip burn and blossom end rot. Due to temperature increase early maturity of Citrus, Grapes, Melons and Onion. Low fruit set in Citrus due to warm temp. Two recent warm spells triggered many springs flowering plants (e.g., Mango) to blossom up to 4 days earlier for every 1°C rises in average spring temperature. The traditional region (Hilly Mountain area of Himachal Pradesh) of apple and other temperate crops were found suitable for the cultivation because of prevalence of optimum temperature required for flowering & fruiting but gradually becoming warmer due to global warming and may likely to become unsuitable for the cultivation. (JNKV source Abiotic stress management in fruit crop).

Conclusion

Studies conducted by various researchers indicate the likely impact of climate change on various horticultural crops. The quantification of impacts of variations in Studies conducted by various researchers indicate the likely impact of climate change on various horticultural crops. The quantification of impacts of variations in temperature, excess and limited moisture conditions is the first step to prepare the horticulture sector for developing adaptation strategies under climate change scenarios. Concerted efforts are needed to study and assess the impacts on individual crops under the major agro-ecological regions and growing seasons. Efforts should be

intensified to develop new varieties suitable to different agro-ecological regions under changing climatic conditions. In comparison to annual crops, where the adaptation strategies can be realized relatively fast using a wide range of cultivars and species, changing planting dates or season, the planting and rearrangement of orchards requires a consideration of the more long-term aspects of climate change. Therefore, before resorting to any adaptation option, a detailed investigation on the impact of climate change on perennial crops is necessary.

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