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## Effect of integrated nutrient management on growth, yield and economics of direct seeded rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) under midland situations

**Anjali Dongre, Narendra Kumar, AK Thakur, PK Salam, T Chandrakar and DP Singh**

### Abstract

An experiment was carried out during *Kharif* season of 2021 at the Instructional cum Research Farm, S. G. College of Agriculture and Research Station, Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh, India. The soil in the experimental field was Inceptisol, which was acidic in nature, poor in organic carbon, low in available N and P, and medium in K. The experiment was carried out in randomized block design (RBD) with three replication consisted of nine treatments. The result revealed that treatment T<sub>5</sub> (100% NPK + 5t FYM/ha + *Azospirillum* and PSB) recorded significantly greater growth parameters and yield attributing characters viz., plant population, plant height, number of tillers, length of panicle, test weight, number of grains panicle<sup>-1</sup>, grain yield, straw yield and maximum gross and net income among all the treatments. But the highest B: C ratio was noted in treatment T<sub>1</sub> (100% RDF) which was on par with treatment T<sub>5</sub> (100% NPK + 5t FYM/ha + *Azospirillum* and PSB).

**Keywords:** INM, DSR, bio-fertilizers, FYM

### Introduction

Rice is the world's most important food crop, feeding millions of people every day. Rice is the main staple food for about 40% of the world's population. The majority of people who eat rice as their primary dietary source live in developing countries (Dunna and Roy, 2013) [9]. According to the ministry of agriculture second advance estimate, rice production in the *Kharif* season last crop year was anticipated to be 103.75 million tonnes, compared to the objective of 102.60 million tonnes (Anonymous, 2021) [2]. Rice production in India's northern state of Chhattisgarh reached above 6 million metric tonnes in financial year 2020 (Anonymous, 2022) [3]. Chhattisgarh State is popularly recognized as India's rice bowl, with rice accounting for more than 80% of total cultivated land. The majority of rice acreage is grown under the rain-fed rice situation. Dhamtari district has about 200 per cent cropping intensity among the 27 districts of Chhattisgarh State and the district's cropping pattern is Rice-Fallow. The district is ranked 11<sup>th</sup> in terms of area and 4<sup>th</sup> in terms of production in the state (Anonymous, 2013-14) [1].

Despite several limits, direct seeded rice culture is becoming an increasingly popular alternative to transplanting in India, and it is cultivated on approximately one-third of the country's total rice area. As transplanting is a time-consuming and expensive process, direct seeding is gaining popularity even in non-traditional rice growing areas. The introduction of early maturity cultivars, as well as the availability of selective herbicides, pushed many farmers to move from transplanting to direct seeding (Umashankar *et al.*, 2005) [30].

Integrated nutrient management of fertilizers and organic manures is thus one of the potential strategies for supporting soil health in relation to crop productivity (Bajpai *et al.*, 2006) [5]. These inorganic fertilizers give major plant nutrients; nevertheless, using a high dose of inorganic fertilizers is not a good management approach since it produces various difficulties such as reduced productivity, poor water quality, soil degradation, and so on. As a result, different plant nutrient sources can be utilized to keep our land healthy and agricultural output alive. As a result, more emphasis is being placed on the usage of nitrogenous fertilizers in conjunction with bio-inoculants such as *Azotobacter*, *Azospirillum*, and others (Rawat and Agrawal, 2010) [19]. Phosphorus solubilizing bacteria (PSB) has recently developed as an efficient component in the esuriently production system (Raki *et al.*, 2019) [18]. The green revolution has caused major environmental challenges.

Farmers are increasingly complaining about soil fertility, soil salinity and alkalinity, and ground water pollution, which may be attributed to improper fertilizer application (Sharma, 1993)<sup>[22]</sup>. In conclusion, if farmers implement integrated nutrient management correctly, it has significant benefits. Several researches have shown that INM has an effect on weed control, disease resistance, increased economic yield, and soil fertility improvement in paddy (Bhanuwati and Vaidya P., 2020)<sup>[7]</sup>.

### Material and Methods

The experiment was carried out during *Kharif* season of 2021 at the Instructional cum Research Farm, Shaheed Gundadhoor College of Agriculture and Research Station, Kumhrawand, Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh. The soil in the experimental field was Inceptisol, which was acidic in nature, poor in organic carbon, low in available N and P, and medium in K. The experiment was carried out in randomized block design (RBD) with three replication consisted of nine treatments *i.e.*, T<sub>1</sub>: 100% RDF, T<sub>2</sub>: 75% RDF, T<sub>3</sub>: 50% RDF, T<sub>4</sub>: 25% RDF, T<sub>5</sub>: 100% NPK + 5t FYM/ha + *Azospirillum* and PSB, T<sub>6</sub>: 75% NPK + 5t FYM/ha + *Azospirillum* and PSB, T<sub>7</sub>: 50% NPK + 5t FYM/ha + *Azospirillum* and PSB, T<sub>8</sub>: 25% NPK + 5t FYM/ha + *Azospirillum* and PSB, T<sub>9</sub>: Control. The recommended dose of fertilizer was 120:60:40 kg N: P: K ha<sup>-1</sup> for rice field by urea, single super phosphate and muriate of potash respectively applied to all plots except control. 50% of nitrogen, 100% phosphorus and potash were applied during sowing of crop and remaining half dose of nitrogen was applied at 25-30 DAS and 40-45 DAS. *Azospirillum* and PSB were applied with FYM as basal dose. All the data collected on various parameters were subjected to statistical analysis by applying the procedure for Randomized Block Design suggested by Gomez and Gomez (1984)<sup>[11]</sup>.

### Result and Discussion

Table 1 reveals that the growth, yield and yield attributes like plant population, plant height, number of tillers hill<sup>-1</sup>, panicle length, total number of grains panicle<sup>-1</sup>, and yield were significantly influenced by different integrated nutrient management treatments. Effect of different integrated nutrient management had not significantly influenced the plant population and test weight but statistically T<sub>5</sub> recorded maximum plant population and test weight, while minimum was recorded in control. The plant height recorded significantly highest in treatment T<sub>5</sub> among all the treatment which was found on par with treatment T<sub>1</sub>, T<sub>6</sub>, T<sub>2</sub>, T<sub>3</sub> and T<sub>7</sub> while the lowest plant height was found in control. This could be due to the increased solubility and quicker release of nitrogen by chemical fertilizer and organic manure, allowing direct seeded rice to utilize a better quantity of nutrients. On the other hand significantly increased plant height may be due to increased availability and consistent release of nutrients from organic sources, which helps to improve plant height (Shaikh *et al.*, 2017)<sup>[21]</sup>. This could be attributed to the fast release of nutrients from the inorganic source in combination with the organic supply, resulting in better vegetative development (Siddaram *et al.*, 2010)<sup>[23]</sup>. The effect of different integrated nutrient management had significant effect on number of tillers hill<sup>-1</sup>. Treatment T<sub>5</sub> recorded significantly maximum number of tillers at all the growth stages but it was found at par with treatment T<sub>1</sub> at all the

growth stages. The increased number of tillers could be attributed to increased nutrient availability, which favored the development of increased number of tillers (Harijan, 2019)<sup>[12]</sup>. The slower release of nutrients from organic sources during later stages of crop growth resulted in an increased number of tillers at harvest (Babu and Reddy, 2000)<sup>[4]</sup>. The number of tillers improved as the nitrogen supply increased (Basha *et al.*, 2016)<sup>[6]</sup>.

### Yield and Yield Attributes

Effect of different integrated nutrient treatment is presented in Table 2. Different integrated nutrient management had the significant effect on length of panicle. The data significantly reveals that treatment T<sub>5</sub> recorded significantly higher length but it was found at par with treatment T<sub>1</sub>, T<sub>2</sub>, T<sub>6</sub> and T<sub>7</sub>. While, minimum length of panicle was recorded in control. Panicle length was primarily attributed to improved photosynthate partitioning and assimilation, as seen by increased dry matter synthesis and translocation to the crop (Singh *et al.*, 2013)<sup>[25]</sup>. Treatment T<sub>5</sub> recorded the maximum number of filled grains panicle<sup>-1</sup> as well as total number of grains panicle<sup>-1</sup> and minimum number of filled grains and total number of grains panicle<sup>-1</sup> was found in control but it had statistically non-significant effect on number of chaffy grains panicle<sup>-1</sup>. This could be as a result of less nutrient loss through leaching and more photosynthates being available for improved grain filling (Reddy 2006 and Siddaram *et al.*, 2010)<sup>[20, 23]</sup>. It could be because organic manures, in addition to macro- and micronutrients, also have a solubilizing effect on native soil nutrients due to the action of organic acids formed during decomposition ((Pandey *et al.*, 2007; Tripathi and Verma 2008 and Chaudhary *et al.*, 2011)<sup>[17, 29, 8]</sup>. The different integrated nutrient management did not influence test weight significantly but numerically maximum weight of 1000 seeds observed in treatment T<sub>5</sub>, while the minimum weight was recorded in control. It may be due to the genetic makeup of the plant has a greater influence on test weight of individual grain than other environmental factors (Singh *et al.*, 2012)<sup>[24]</sup>.

The grain yield, straw yield and harvest index are presented in Table 3. Treatment T<sub>5</sub> recorded significantly higher grain yield which was found at par with treatment T<sub>1</sub>. However, lowest yield was recorded in control. The early stages of crop growth have been promoted by the nitrogen available in urea (Zaidi *et al.*, 2016)<sup>[32]</sup>. The increase in grain yield with the INM treatment could be attributed to better nutrient supply with more organics, which improved soil physico-chemical and biological aspects by giving microbes vital nutrients (Subha *et al.*, 2004)<sup>[28]</sup>. Straw yield was recorded significantly higher in treatment T<sub>5</sub> among all the treatments but it was on par with treatment T<sub>1</sub> and the lowest straw yield was recorded in control. The gain in straw yield and yield attributes under higher nutrient levels could be attributed to enhanced nutrient absorption and photosynthetic activity, resulting in more biomass build up. The improved yield features can be attributed to the soil's adequate and consistent nitrogen supply capacity and nutrient translocation to the sink (Subehia and Sepheya, 2012; Gautam *et al.*, 2013 and Mahmud *et al.*, 2016)<sup>[27, 10, 15]</sup>. The effect of integrated nutrient management on the harvest index was recorded significant effect on treatment T<sub>7</sub> but it was found at par with treatment T<sub>1</sub>, T<sub>2</sub>, T<sub>3</sub>, T<sub>4</sub>, T<sub>5</sub>, T<sub>6</sub> and T<sub>8</sub>. While, the lowest

harvest index was recorded in control. The higher harvest index was recorded as a result of higher rice grain yield per unit biological yield, which resulted in a higher harvest index (Stoop *et al.*, 2005 and Hussain *et al.*, 2003)<sup>[26]</sup>.

**Economics:** The economics of integrated nutrient management on direct seeded rice are presented in Table 4 shows that treatment T<sub>5</sub> recorded significantly maximum total cost of cultivation (43288 Rs ha<sup>-1</sup>) among all the treatments followed by T<sub>6</sub> (42185 Rs ha<sup>-1</sup>) and T<sub>7</sub> (41082 Rs ha<sup>-1</sup>). The lowest cost of cultivation was in control (31400 Rs ha<sup>-1</sup>). The highest gross income was found in treatment T<sub>5</sub> (102326 Rs ha<sup>-1</sup>) among all the treatments followed by treatment T<sub>1</sub> (94533 Rs ha<sup>-1</sup>) and treatment T<sub>6</sub> (82695 Rs ha<sup>-1</sup>) whereas, the lowest gross income (32527 Rs ha<sup>-1</sup>) was found in control. This was primarily due to increased grain and straw yields (Verma *et al.*, 2017)<sup>[31]</sup>. The highest net return recorded in treatment T<sub>5</sub> (59205 Rs ha<sup>-1</sup>) among all the treatments followed by treatment T<sub>1</sub> (57720 Rs ha<sup>-1</sup>) and treatment T<sub>6</sub> (40510 Rs ha<sup>-1</sup>). While, the lowest net income (1127 Rs ha<sup>-1</sup>) was found in control. This could be attributed to a 25% nitrogen savings (25 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup>) in the form of fertilizer combined with the cheapest source of organic manure (Nawlakhe and Jiotode, 2008)<sup>[16]</sup>. The maximum B: C ratio was calculated in treatment T<sub>1</sub> (2.57) followed by treatment T<sub>5</sub> (2.37) while the minimum B: C ratio was observed in control (1.04). This can be as a result of reduced cultivation costs (Koushal *et al.* 2011)<sup>[14]</sup>. This can also be due to improved yield and lower cultivation costs (Pandey *et al.* 2007)<sup>[17]</sup>.

**Table 1:** Effect of different integrated nutrient management on growth of direct seeded rice

Treatments	Plant population (m <sup>2</sup> )	Plant height (cm)	No. of tillers hill <sup>-1</sup>
T1	48.04	118.25	12.47
T2	47.27	116.33	9.11
T3	46.22	114.10	7.97
T4	45.08	105.12	7.29
T5	48.85	121.76	13.22
T6	47.78	117.08	9.39
T7	46.89	111.73	9.51
T8	46.00	109.10	8.88
T9	44.52	98.93	5.11
S.Em±	1.53	4.01	0.29
CD at 5%	NS	12.12	0.88
CV%	5.68	6.17	5.50

**Table 2:** Effect of different integrated nutrient management on yield attributes of direct seeded rice

Treatments	Panicle length (cm)	Test weight (g)	Number of filled grains Panicle <sup>-1</sup>	Number of chaffy grains Panicle <sup>-1</sup>	Number of total grains panicle <sup>-1</sup>
T1	27.28	28.73	177.66	22.67	200.33
T2	25.77	28.63	175.89	23.56	199.45
T3	24.79	28.59	182.00	25.22	207.22
T4	23.89	28.55	145.45	25.89	171.34
T5	28.50	28.75	229.44	23.33	253.11
T6	26.12	28.64	141.45	21.78	163.22
T7	25.35	28.61	197.78	22.00	219.78
T8	24.33	28.52	164.00	22.45	186.45
T9	21.30	28.48	99.89	20.78	120.67
S.Em±	1.11	0.18	6.96	1.74	7.55
CD at 5%	3.36	NS	21.06	NS	22.84
CV%	7.63	1.12	7.17	13.05	6.84

**Table 3:** Effect of integrated nutrient management on grain and straw yield, and harvest index of direct seeded rice

Treatments	Grains yield (q ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Straw yield (q ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Harvest Index (%)
T1	46.97	68.10	40.76
T2	33.13	47.37	41.13
T3	28.90	42.99	40.18
T4	24.65	35.98	40.62
T5	50.95	73.00	41.13
T6	41.07	60.26	40.55
T7	32.41	45.37	41.62
T8	25.61	39.95	39.02
T9	15.97	30.77	34.38
S.Em±	1.65	1.85	1.18
CD at 5%	5.00	5.61	3.58
CV	8.60	6.51	5.13

**Table 4:** Effect of integrated nutrient management on economics of direct seeded rice

Treatments	Cost of cultivation (Rs ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Gross income (Rs ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Net income (Rs ha <sup>-1</sup> )	B:C ratio (%)
T1	36813	94533	57720	2.57
T2	35710	66634	30925	1.87
T3	34607	58209	23602	1.68
T4	33504	49620	16116	1.48
T5	43288	102326	59205	2.37
T6	42185	82695	40510	1.96
T7	41082	65137	24055	1.59
T8	39979	51675	11696	1.29
T9	31400	32527	1127	1.04
S.Em±	-	-	-	0.08
CD at 5%	-	-	-	0.25
CV%	-	-	-	8.27

## Conclusion

Based on the results of the one-year trial, it is concluded that treatment T<sub>5</sub> (100% NPK + 5t FYM/ha + *Azospirillum* and PSB) was found most effective treatment for all the crop growth parameters and yield attributes of rice crop. But treatment T<sub>1</sub> (100% RDF) was found most economical due to higher B: C ratio among all the treatments.

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