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## Effect of phosphorus management on nutrient content and uptake in cowpea [*Vigna unguiculata* (L.) Walp.]

Rohit Kumar, SK Shah, Raju Lal Dhakar and HH Raval

**Abstract**

A field experiment comprising of nine treatments was conducted to evaluate the Phosphorus Management in Cowpea [*Vigna unguiculata* (L.) Walp] in Loamy Sand. Significantly highest seed yield (1497 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) and stover yield (2257 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) was recorded under the treatment T<sub>9</sub> (30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + enriched compost (1 t/ha) + Mycorrhiza), but it was remained at par with all the other treatments except T<sub>1</sub>, T<sub>2</sub> and T<sub>3</sub>. Treatment T<sub>9</sub> recorded significantly higher value of nitrogen content in seed (3.77%) and stover (0.698%); and potassium content in seed (1.57%) and stover (2.48%). Whereas, treatment T<sub>9</sub> recorded significantly higher value of phosphorus content in seed (0.65%) and stover (0.26%), it was remained at par with T<sub>2</sub> (PSB alone), T<sub>3</sub> (Mycorrhizae alone), T<sub>7</sub> (30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + enriched compost (1 t/ha) + PSB), T<sub>8</sub> (30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + Mycorrhiza). Treatment T<sub>9</sub> recorded significantly higher value of P uptake in seed (9.73 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) and stover (5.87 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>), it was remained at par with T<sub>6</sub> (30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + PSB), T<sub>7</sub> (30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + enriched compost (1 t/ha) + PSB), T<sub>8</sub> (30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + Mycorrhiza). The effect of phosphorus on available nitrogen and phosphorus was found significant. The available phosphorus in soil after harvest of cowpea (60.11 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) was found significant with Treatment T<sub>9</sub> and it was remained at par with T<sub>7</sub> (30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + enriched compost (1 t/ha) + PSB), whereas the lowest value of available P (48.36 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) was recorded in absolute control (T<sub>1</sub>).

**Keywords:** Cowpea, phosphorus, PSB, Mycorrhiza, castor shell compost, enriched compost, integrated phosphorus management, available phosphorus

**Introduction**

Cowpea [*Vigna unguiculata* (L.) Walp], belongs to family leguminosae and having chromosome number 2n = 22 generally contains about 23.14 percent protein, carbohydrates (56.8%), fibre (3.90%) and fat (1.3%) approximately in seeds on dry weight basis. Cowpea is predominantly grown in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. In Gujarat the crop crops are grown over an area of 9.08 lakh hectares with an annual production of 9.43 lakh metric tonnes and productivity of 1038 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>. Phosphorus helps in establishing seedling quickly and also hastens maturity as well as improves the quality of pulse crop by promoting the formation of lateral and fibrous roots, which facilitates to bacteria for nodulation and ultimately increases the atmospheric nitrogen fixation in leguminous crops.

Mycorrhizal fungi frequently stimulate plants to reduce root biomass while, simultaneously expanding nutrient uptake capacity by extending far beyond root surfaces and proliferating in soil pores that are too small for root hairs to enter. AM-fungi are known to be effective in increasing nutrient uptake, particularly phosphorus and biomass accumulation of many crops in low phosphorus soil. The Phosphorus Solubilising Bacteria (PSB) like *Pseudomonas* and *Bacillus* also enhances the availability of phosphorus to the plants by converting insoluble phosphorus from the soil in the soluble form. The PSB like *Pseudomonas striata* bacterial inoculation was found as equivalent to supply 50 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha through single super phosphate (Gaur *et al.*, 1980) [4]. The integrated use of enriched compost and inorganic fertilizers ensures higher productivity, minimizes expenditure on costly fertilizer inputs, improves physical properties of soil, Efficiency of added nutrients and at the same time ensures good soil health and is also an environment-friendly approach. In the light of above facts and paucity of adequate experimental evidences, the present investigation was conducted.

**Material and Method**

A field experiment was carried out at during *kharif* season of 2019 to study phosphorus management in cowpea [*Vigna unguiculata* (L.) Walp.] in loamy sand. The experiment was

laid out at Agronomy Instructional Farm, CPCA, SDAU, Sardarkrushinagar, District: Banaskantha, Gujarat. The experimental area was situated at 24° 19' N latitude and 72° 19' E longitude with an elevation of 154.52 metre above the mean sea level and falls under North Gujarat Agro-climatic Region. Climate of this region is sub-tropical monsoon type and falls under semi-arid region, in general, the monsoon is warm and moderately humid, winter is fairly cold and dry, while summer is largely hot and dry. The soil of the experimental plot was neutral in reaction, loamy sand in texture and normal in salt content, low in organic carbon & available nitrogen; and medium in available phosphorus & available potash. Nine treatments namely, T<sub>1</sub>: Absolute control (No. P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>); T<sub>2</sub>: PSB alone; T<sub>3</sub>: Mycorrhiza alone; T<sub>4</sub>: 40 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>; T<sub>5</sub>: 30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup> + enriched compost (1 t ha<sup>-1</sup>); T<sub>6</sub>: 30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup> + PSB; T<sub>7</sub>: 30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup> + enriched compost (1 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) + PSB; T<sub>8</sub>: 30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup> + Mycorrhiza and T<sub>9</sub>: 30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup> + enriched compost (1 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) + Mycorrhiza, where in source of P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> was DAP; RDF: 20: 40: 00 kg NPK ha<sup>-1</sup>, Mycorrhizae and PSB were used for seed treatment. Castor shell compost was enriched with 2% urea and 0.5% SSP and the nutrient content was 3.0% N, 1.0% P, 1.4% K was provided from Castor and Mustard Research Station, SDAU, Sardarkrushinagar. Cowpea var. GC 4 was sown on 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 using recommended seed rate of 20 kg/ha and keeping 45 cm distance between two rows and seeds were sown manually at the depth of about 4-5 cm. The PSB culture (*Bacillus coagulans*, PBA-16) was collected from

Bio-fertilizers project, Anand Agricultural University, Anand. Seeds were treated by sprinkling PSB @ 6 ml per 1 kg seeds and dried in the shade before sowing. Mycorrhiza culture (Arbuscular mycorrhiza 3000 IP/gm) (obtained from CPCA, SDAU, Sardarkrushinagar) was applied to the seed @ 40-50 ml water and 100 g mycorrhiza per kg seeds. All the seeds were treated uniformly and were dried in the shade before sowing.

## Result and Discussion

### Effect on growth parameters

#### Seed and stover yield (kg ha<sup>-1</sup>)

An appraisal of data given in Table showed that significantly highest seed yield (1497 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) and stover yield (2257 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) was recorded under the treatment 30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + enriched compost (1 t/ha) + Mycorrhiza (T<sub>9</sub>), but it was remained at par with all the other treatments except T<sub>2</sub> (PSB alone) and T<sub>3</sub> (Mycorrhiza alone) whereas the minimum seed (1052 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) and stover yield (1646 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) was recorded in absolute control (T<sub>1</sub>). This could be largely attributed to better growth of plant which resulted in adequate supply of photosynthates for development of sink under higher level of phosphorus availability. Positive responses in terms of yield attributes to phosphorus application have also been reported by Manna *et al.* (2001) [5], Nishanth and Biswas (2007) [9], Dania *et al.* (2013) [3], Meena and Biswas (2014) [6], Bhople *et al.* (2016) [2] and Abhishek (2018) [1].

**Table 1:** Effect of phosphorus on seed and stover yield of cowpea

Treatments	Yield (kg/ha)	
	Seed	Stover
T <sub>1</sub> : Absolute control (No. P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> )	1052	1646
T <sub>2</sub> : PSB alone	1237	1853
T <sub>3</sub> : Mycorrhiza alone	1247	1888
T <sub>4</sub> : 40 kg P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ha <sup>-1</sup>	1323	1976
T <sub>5</sub> : 30 kg P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ha <sup>-1</sup> + enriched compost (1 t ha <sup>-1</sup> )	1398	1981
T <sub>6</sub> : 30 kg P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ha <sup>-1</sup> + PSB	1424	2011
T <sub>7</sub> : 30 kg P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ha <sup>-1</sup> + enriched compost (1 t ha <sup>-1</sup> ) + PSB	1472	2168
T <sub>8</sub> : 30 kg P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ha <sup>-1</sup> + Mycorrhiza	1449	2124
T <sub>9</sub> : 30 kg P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ha <sup>-1</sup> + enriched compost (1 t ha <sup>-1</sup> ) + Mycorrhiza	1497	2257
S.Em. (±)	70.73	100.47
C.D. at 5%	206.46	293.25

### Nitrogen content (%) in seed and stover

The data given pertaining to nitrogen content (%) in seed and stover as influenced by different treatments are presented in Table 2 revealed that an application of 30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + enriched compost (1 t/ha) + Mycorrhiza (T<sub>9</sub>) recorded significantly higher value of N content in seed (3.77%) and stover (0.698%), it was remained at par with T<sub>5</sub> (30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + enriched compost), T<sub>6</sub> (30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + PSB), T<sub>7</sub> (30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + enriched compost (1 t/ha) + PSB), T<sub>8</sub> (30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + Mycorrhiza), while in absolute control (T<sub>1</sub>) gave the significant lowest N content in grain as well as straw. The increase in nutrient content by seed and stover might be due to increased yield of seed and stover under treatment 30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + enriched compost (1 t/ha) + Mycorrhiza (T<sub>9</sub>). The higher removal of nitrogen with this treatment might be due to the suitable soil environment which improved nutrient uptake as well as better development and activity of roots. This may be recognized due to mineralization of organic matter leads to the release of significant amount of ammonium ion, which is

a chief constituent of available nitrogen which helped higher concentration of nitrogen in seed and straw of cowpea crop. These results are in accordance with the results of those reported by Zaidi and Khan (2005) [10] and Abhishek (2018) [1].

### Phosphorus content (%) in seed and stover

The data given pertaining to phosphorus content (%) in seed and stover as influenced by different treatments are presented in Table 1 revealed that an application of 30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + enriched compost (1 t/ha) + Mycorrhizae (T<sub>9</sub>) recorded significantly higher value of N content in seed (0.65%) and stover (0.26%), it was remained at par with T<sub>2</sub> (PSB alone), T<sub>3</sub> (Mycorrhizae alone), T<sub>7</sub> (30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + enriched compost (1 t/ha) + PSB), T<sub>8</sub> (30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + Mycorrhiza), while in absolute control (T<sub>1</sub>) gave the significant lowest N content in seed as well as stover. The increase in the phosphorus content might be due to the increase in available phosphorus due chemical fertilizer and further addition of enriched compost

and mycorrhizae increase microbial population in soil which produced organic acids which leads to increase in solubility and availability of phosphorus in soil. These results are in accordance with the results of those reported by Bhople *et al.* (2016) [2] and Abhishek (2018) [1].

#### Potassium content (%) in seed and stover

The data given pertaining to potassium content (%) in seed and stover as influenced by different treatments are presented in Table 1 revealed that an application of 30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + enriched compost (1 t/ha) + Mycorrhiza (T<sub>9</sub>) recorded significantly higher value of K content in seed (1.57%) and

stover (2.48%), it was remained at par with all the other treatments except T<sub>2</sub> (PSB alone), while in absolute control (T<sub>1</sub>) gave the significant lowest K content in seed as well as stover. The increase in potassium content in seed and stover might be due to increased yield of seed and stover under treatment 30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + enriched compost (1 t/ha) + Mycorrhiza (T<sub>9</sub>). The higher removal of nutrients with this treatment might be due to better development of root and shoot with this treatment resulted in higher nutrient content. These results are in accordance with the results of those reported by Bhople *et al.* (2016) [2] and Abhishek (2018) [1].

**Table 2:** Effect of phosphorus on N, P and K content (%) in seed and stover of cowpea

Treatments	N content		P content		K content	
	Seed	Stover	Seed	Stover	Seed	Stover
T <sub>1</sub> : Absolute control (No. P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> )	3.59	0.581	0.55	0.20	1.47	2.30
T <sub>2</sub> : PSB alone	3.64	0.597	0.61	0.21	1.51	2.35
T <sub>3</sub> : Mycorrhiza alone	3.66	0.606	0.61	0.21	1.50	2.39
T <sub>4</sub> : 40 kg P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ha <sup>-1</sup>	3.68	0.588	0.57	0.21	1.49	2.39
T <sub>5</sub> : 30 kg P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ha <sup>-1</sup> + enriched compost (1 t ha <sup>-1</sup> )	3.70	0.600	0.57	0.22	1.52	2.40
T <sub>6</sub> : 30 kg P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ha <sup>-1</sup> + PSB	3.68	0.607	0.58	0.21	1.52	2.43
T <sub>7</sub> : 30 kg P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ha <sup>-1</sup> + enriched compost (1 t ha <sup>-1</sup> ) + PSB	3.72	0.621	0.63	0.24	1.53	2.46
T <sub>8</sub> : 30 kg P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ha <sup>-1</sup> + Mycorrhiza	3.67	0.617	0.62	0.24	1.51	2.46
T <sub>9</sub> : 30 kg P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ha <sup>-1</sup> + enriched compost (1 t ha <sup>-1</sup> ) + Mycorrhiza	3.77	0.698	0.65	0.26	1.57	2.48
S.Em. (±)	0.02	0.017	0.015	0.006	0.01	0.03
C.D. at 5%	0.08	0.048	0.044	0.017	0.05	0.10

#### Nitrogen uptake by seed and stover (kg ha<sup>-1</sup>)

The mean data of nitrogen uptake in seed and stover as influenced by different treatments are presented in Table 2 revealed that an application of 30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + enriched compost (1 t/ha) + Mycorrhizae (T<sub>9</sub>) recorded significantly higher value of N uptake in seed (56.44 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) and straw (15.80 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>), it was remained at par with T<sub>5</sub> (30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + enriched compost), T<sub>6</sub> (30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + PSB), T<sub>7</sub> (30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + enriched compost (1 t/ha) + PSB), T<sub>8</sub> (30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + Mycorrhiza), whereas the lowest uptake of N by seed (37.91 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) and stover (9.55 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) was recorded in absolute control (T<sub>1</sub>).

The increase in the nitrogen uptake was might be due to the increased yield of seed and stover under treatment 30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + enriched compost (1 t/ha) + Mycorrhizae (T<sub>9</sub>). The higher removal of nutrients with this treatment might be due to better development of root and shoot with this treatment resulted in higher nutrient uptake. These results are in accordance with the results of those reported by Zaidi and

Khan (2005) [10] and Abhishek (2018) [1].

#### Phosphorus uptake by seed and stover (kg ha<sup>-1</sup>)

The mean data of phosphorus uptake in seed and stover as influenced by different treatments are presented in Table 2 revealed that an application of 30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + enriched compost (1 t/ha) + Mycorrhizae (T<sub>9</sub>) recorded significantly higher value of P uptake in seed (9.73 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) and stover (5.87 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>), it was remained at par with T<sub>6</sub> (30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + PSB), T<sub>7</sub> (30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + enriched compost (1 t/ha) + PSB), T<sub>8</sub> (30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + Mycorrhiza), whereas the lowest uptake of P by seed (5.79 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) and stover (3.29 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) was recorded in absolute control (T<sub>1</sub>). The higher P uptake was might be due to the organic acids produced by the microbial population increased by enriched compost and mycorrhizae, which leads to the increased availability and uptake of phosphorus. These results are in accordance with the results of those reported by Bhople *et al.* (2016) [2] and Abhishek (2018) [1].

**Table 2:** Effect of phosphorus on nutrient uptake (kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) by seed and stover

Treatments	N uptake		P uptake		K uptake	
	Seed	Stover	Seed	Stover	Seed	Stover
T <sub>1</sub> : Absolute control (No. P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> )	37.91	9.55	5.79	3.29	15.48	38.05
T <sub>2</sub> : PSB alone	45.19	11.12	7.55	3.89	18.69	43.73
T <sub>3</sub> : Mycorrhiza alone	45.68	11.52	7.61	3.96	18.72	45.31
T <sub>4</sub> : 40 kg P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ha <sup>-1</sup>	48.82	11.66	7.54	4.15	19.71	47.23
T <sub>5</sub> : 30 kg P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ha <sup>-1</sup> + enriched compost (1 t ha <sup>-1</sup> )	51.87	11.89	7.97	4.36	21.39	47.77
T <sub>6</sub> : 30 kg P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ha <sup>-1</sup> + PSB	52.44	12.27	8.27	4.22	21.66	49.07
T <sub>7</sub> : 30 kg P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ha <sup>-1</sup> + enriched compost (1 t ha <sup>-1</sup> ) + PSB	54.80	13.44	9.28	5.20	22.68	53.55
T <sub>8</sub> : 30 kg P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ha <sup>-1</sup> + Mycorrhiza	53.32	13.18	8.98	5.10	22.02	52.28
T <sub>9</sub> : 30 kg P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ha <sup>-1</sup> + enriched compost (1 t ha <sup>-1</sup> ) + Mycorrhiza	56.44	15.80	9.73	5.87	23.65	56.20
S.Em. (±)	2.55	0.52	0.56	0.26	1.11	2.19
C.D. at 5%	7.43	1.51	1.63	0.75	3.23	6.38

### Potassium uptake by seed and stover (kg ha<sup>-1</sup>)

The mean data of potassium uptake in seed and stover as influenced by different treatments are presented in Table 2 revealed that an application of 30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + enriched compost (1 t/ha) + Mycorrhizae (T<sub>9</sub>) recorded significantly higher value of K uptake in seed (23.65 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) and stover (56.20 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>), it was remained at par with T<sub>5</sub> (30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + enriched compost), T<sub>6</sub> (30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + PSB), T<sub>7</sub> (30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + enriched compost (1 t/ha) + PSB), T<sub>8</sub> (30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + Mycorrhiza), whereas the lowest uptake of P by seed (15.48 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) and stover (38.05 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) was recorded in absolute control (T<sub>1</sub>). This increase in K uptake might be due to the fact that organic matter increased the efficiency of applied fertilizer and enriched compost increased the early assimilated nutrients to the plant and reduced the fixation of nutrients on the soil particles. Hence, availability of K increased and resulted in easy uptake by the crop.

### Effect on fertility status of soil at harvest

The data pertaining to pH, EC, organic carbon, available nitrogen, available phosphorus and available potassium content in soil after harvest of crop and their content and

uptake by grain and straw of cowpea affected by various treatments are furnished in Table 3.

### pH, EC and Organic carbon (%)

The data given in the Table 3 revealed that various treatments did not show significant effect on the soil pH and EC after harvest of crop. Numerically higher pH in soil after harvest (7.45) was obtained in T<sub>4</sub> (40 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha). The data pertaining to organic carbon (%) of soil after harvest of crop influenced by various treatments are presented in Table 3. Application of 30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + enriched compost (1 t/ha) + Mycorrhizae (T<sub>9</sub>) significantly resulted in higher value of organic carbon content in soil after harvest of cowpea (0.30%) and it was at par with T<sub>7</sub> (30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + enriched compost (1 t/ha) + PSB) while in absolute control (T<sub>1</sub>) gave significantly lowest organic carbon content in soil after harvest of cowpea. Maximum organic carbon (%) found in application of 30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + enriched compost (1 t/ha) + Mycorrhizae (T<sub>9</sub>) which stimulate the growth and activity of microorganisms and also lead to better root growth, resulting in higher production of biomass, crop stubbles and residue. Similar results were obtained by Moharana *et al.* (2020) [8].

**Table 3:** Effect of phosphorus on pH, EC, OC (%) available macro nutrients after harvest of cowpea

Treatments	pH	EC	OC	Avail N	Avail P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	Avail K <sub>2</sub> O
			(%)			
T <sub>1</sub> : Absolute control (No. P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> )	7.53	0.13	0.21	189.5	48.4	302.7
T <sub>2</sub> : PSB alone	7.40	0.16	0.25	193.4	49.2	304.1
T <sub>3</sub> : Mycorrhiza alone	7.30	0.17	0.25	194.4	49.8	307.7
T <sub>4</sub> : 40 kg P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ha <sup>-1</sup>	7.45	0.16	0.26	196.6	53.0	309.1
T <sub>5</sub> : 30 kg P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ha <sup>-1</sup> + enriched compost (1 t ha <sup>-1</sup> )	7.28	0.16	0.27	199.3	54.7	311.5
T <sub>6</sub> : 30 kg P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ha <sup>-1</sup> + PSB	7.44	0.16	0.25	202.4	57.8	312.9
T <sub>7</sub> : 30 kg P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ha <sup>-1</sup> + enriched compost (1 t ha <sup>-1</sup> ) + PSB	7.30	0.16	0.28	205.8	58.9	313.6
T <sub>8</sub> : 30 kg P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ha <sup>-1</sup> + Mycorrhiza	7.35	0.14	0.25	204.2	58.2	312.1
T <sub>9</sub> : 30 kg P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ha <sup>-1</sup> + enriched compost (1 t ha <sup>-1</sup> ) + Mycorrhiza	7.23	0.14	0.30	206.1	60.1	314.5
S.Em. (±)	0.071	0.005	0.003	2.18	0.97	3.17
C.D. at 5%	NS	NS	0.008	6.41	1.37	NS

### Available Nitrogen (kg ha<sup>-1</sup>)

An appraisal of data given in Table 3 showed the effect of phosphorus on available N was found significant. An application of 30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + enriched compost (1 t/ha) + Mycorrhizae (T<sub>9</sub>) recorded significantly higher value of available N (206.10 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) in soil after harvest of cowpea and it was remained at par with T<sub>6</sub> (30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + PSB), T<sub>7</sub> (30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + enriched compost (1 t/ha) + PSB), T<sub>8</sub> (30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + Mycorrhiza), whereas the lowest value of available N (189.50 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) was recorded in absolute control (T<sub>1</sub>). The higher value of available N might be due to higher quantity of enriched compost along with mycorrhizae resulted in buildup of nutrients in the soil and the inherent value of nitrogen and the build-up of nitrate and ammonium ion in the soil due to release of mineralizable nitrogen from the constituents in the compost by the nitrification process as reported by Abhishek (2018) [1].

### Available phosphorus (kg ha<sup>-1</sup>)

An appraisal of data given in Table 3 showed the effect of phosphorus on available P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> in soil after harvest of cowpea was found significant. An application of 30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + enriched compost (1 t/ha) + Mycorrhizae (T<sub>9</sub>) recorded significantly higher value of available P (60.11 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) in soil after harvest of cowpea and it was remained at par with T<sub>7</sub> (30

kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha + enriched compost (1 t/ha) + PSB), whereas the lowest value of available P (48.36 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) was recorded in absolute control (T<sub>1</sub>). The higher value of available P might be due to the addition of organics through enriched compost released organic acids which leads to the accumulation of more P in the soil pool. Similar findings were recorded by Meena and Biswas (2014) [6] and Meena *et al.*, (2017) [7].

### Available potassium (kg ha<sup>-1</sup>)

An appraisal of data given in Table 3 showed the effect of phosphorus on available K<sub>2</sub>O did not respond significantly. However, numerically higher value of available potassium (314.52 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) was recorded under treatment, whereas the minimum value of available K (302.69 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>).

### Conclusion

From the present study, it could be concluded that better seed yield and higher nutrient content and uptake could be secured by using integrated use of chemical fertiliser and entiched compost along with seed treatment using PSB or mycorrhiza also it improves the soil available nitrogen and phosphorus content of soil.

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