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## Effect of different levels of organic manure on yield and uptake of nutrients in Pea (*Pisum sativum* L.)

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**Abstract**

In the winter (Rabi) season of 2022-23, a field experiment was conducted at the Research farm, Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, AKS University, Sherganj, Satna (M.P.) to investigate the impact of organic manure on the yield and uptake of N, P, K in pea. The experiment comprised ten treatments employing a randomized block design with three replications. The study revealed that T<sub>9</sub> (40kg N/ha through VC 27.2q/ha) demonstrated that as the levels of organic manure increased, there was a consistent enhancement in root nodulation, yield attributing characters, and nutrient uptake in seeds. The highest number of root nodules (22.59), fresh and dry weight of root nodules (48.34 and 39.03, respectively), number of pods per plant (14.62), pod length (8.64 cm), number of grains per pod (7.56), pod weight (6.29 g) and yield (49.77 q/ha) of pea crop. Furthermore, the uptake of nitrogen (24.12 kg/ha), phosphorus (4.62 kg/ha) and potassium (6.69 kg/ha) were also highest in the same treatment (T<sub>9</sub>).

**Keywords:** Organic manure, pea, root nodulation, uptake and yield

**Introduction**

Pea (*Pisum sativum* L.) is a highly nutritious legume belonging to the *Fabaceae* family. Ethiopia is believed to be the primary place of origin of pea. It is a prominent leguminous crop grown for its mature, edible seeds, which are a significant part of human diets. Ranking as the third most vital pulse crop, right after pigeon pea and chickpea, peas are an abundant source of essential nutrients, boasting a protein content of 22.5%, carbohydrates at 62.1%, and an appreciable amount of vitamins, including vitamin A and C, as well as dietary fiber, antioxidants, and amino acids. Additionally, the straw produced by green peas serves as a valuable nutritional resource for livestock. Notably, peas, much like other legumes, harbour a beneficial partnership with symbiotic bacteria known as *Rhizobium* within specialized root nodules. These bacteria possess the unique capability to convert atmospheric nitrogen (N<sub>2</sub>) into ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>), thereby enriching the soil with essential nitrogen nutrients. In India, pea production in 2020 reached an estimated 4.6 million tons, marking a remarkable 7.9% increase from the previous year and a substantial 24.5% rise compared to the 10-year average of 3.7 million tons (Datt *et al.*, 2003) [1]. Uttar Pradesh stands out as the leading state for field pea cultivation, contributing approximately 49% of the nation's pea production. Madhya Pradesh follows closely as the second-largest pea producer in India.

Organic manure not only contribute to increased production, but they also improve the physical, chemical, and biological aspects of soil, leading to positive effects on moisture retention, nutrient preservation, soil fertility, productivity, and the soil's capacity to retain water. Vermicompost, a nutrient-rich organic manure, is produced through the natural decomposition of organic waste materials by earthworms. This unique process yields an enhanced quality of manure with numerous advantages for enhancing soil fertility, promoting robust pea plant growth, and maximizing yield. Vermicompost enriches the soil by supplying vital nutrients and micronutrients in a readily accessible form. It also boosts the microbial activity in the soil, fostering beneficial bacteria and fungi that contribute to the overall health of pea crops. Furthermore, consistent utilization of manures results in an elevation of the soil's organic carbon content. The application of organic manures over time enhances the accessibility of micronutrients such as iron, manganese, and zinc. Additionally, it greatly invigorates the soil's biological activity (Pawar *et al.*, 2017) [7]. This stimulation not only aids in the decomposition of organic matter but also promotes nitrogen fixation, enhances phosphorus solubility, and augments the availability of essential plant nutrients to crops.

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The introduction of nitrogen-based fertilizers diminishes soil organic carbon levels, and the restoration to their original state is achievable solely through the incorporation of organic manures. Therefore, keeping in view of the above-mentioned content, an investigation was proposed to find out the effect of organic manures on root nodulation, yield and uptake of nutrients in peas.

### Materials and Methods

During the *Rabi* season of 2022-2023, a field experiment was conducted to investigate the impact of organic manures on root nodulation, yield and nutrient uptake in pea. The trial took place at the Research Farm of the Department of Soil Science and Agriculture Chemistry, AKS University, Satna (M.P.). This region experiences a sub-tropical climate and falls within the semi-arid zone, characterized by a warm and moderately humid monsoon, a cold and dry winter, and a hot, arid summer. The experimental plot had clay loam soil with a slightly alkaline pH (7.5), an electrical conductivity (EC) of 0.16 dS/m, low organic carbon content (0.43%), and available nitrogen at 176.6 kg/ha. Additionally, the soil displayed available phosphorus of 12.5 kg/ha and available potash of 200.00 kg/ha. The experiment was carried out in Randomized Block Design with three replication and involved ten treatments, as follows: T<sub>1</sub>: control; T<sub>2</sub>: 5kg N/ha through Vermicompost 3.4q/ha; T<sub>3</sub>: 10kg N/ha through Vermicompost 6.8q/ha; T<sub>4</sub>: 15kg N/ha through Vermicompost 10.2q/ha; T<sub>5</sub>: 20kg N/ha through Vermicompost 13.6q/ha; T<sub>6</sub>: 25kg N/ha through Vermicompost 17q/ha; T<sub>7</sub>: 30kg N/ha through Vermicompost 20.4q/ha; T<sub>8</sub>: 35kg N/ha through Vermicompost 23.8q/ha; T<sub>9</sub>: 40kg N/ha through Vermicompost 27.2q/ha; T<sub>10</sub>: 45kg N/ha through Vermicompost 30.6q/ha. Pea var. KN-5 was sown on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022, following the recommended seeding rate of 80 kg/ha and a spacing of 30×10 cm. The seeds were manually sown at a depth of approximately 4-5 cm. The data on various aspects were collected and statistically analysed at 5% significance level.

### Results and Discussion

#### Root nodulation

Data in Table 1 indicated that the incorporation of organic manures into the soil brought significant variation in root nodulation in pea crop. Maximum number of root nodules (22.59) were obtained from T<sub>9</sub> (40kg N/ha through Vermicompost 27.2q/ha); however, it was at par with T<sub>6</sub> (25kg N/ha through Vermicompost 17q/ha). Fresh weight of nodules (48.34 g) was also higher in T<sub>9</sub> (40kg N/ha through Vermicompost 27.2q/ha) but statistically similar to all the treatments except control (T<sub>1</sub>) while dry weight of nodules (39.03 g) was higher in the treatment T<sub>9</sub> (40 kg N/ha through Vermicompost 27.2 q/ha) which was statistically similar to

T<sub>6</sub>, T<sub>10</sub>, T<sub>5</sub> and T<sub>8</sub>. The higher number and weight of root nodules might be on account of more availability of nutrients due to the incorporation of 40 kg N/ha through Vermicompost 27.2 q/ha. The findings are also in agreement with the findings of Nishith *et al.* (2016) [6].

#### Yield attributes and yield

The data arranged in Table 1 indicated that yield attributes and yield of pea were significantly influenced by the organic manures. A higher number of pods per plant (14.62) was observed under treatment T<sub>9</sub> (40kg N/ha through Vermicompost 27.2q/ha) which was at par with T<sub>7</sub> and T<sub>10</sub>. The maximum pod length (8.64) was observed in T<sub>9</sub> (40kg N/ha through Vermicompost 27.2q/ha); however, it was at par with Treatment T<sub>10</sub>, T<sub>8</sub> and T<sub>7</sub>. A significantly higher weight of pod (6.29 g) was recorded under T<sub>9</sub> (40kg N/ha through Vermicompost 27.2q/ha) which was statistically similar to T<sub>6</sub> and T<sub>5</sub>. The treatment T<sub>9</sub>(40kg N/ha through Vermicompost 27.2q/ha) was effective in terms of the number of pods per plant (7.56) but this treatment was comparable to T<sub>10</sub>, T<sub>8</sub> and T<sub>7</sub>. In terms of grain yield, the highest grain yield (49.77 q/ha) was obtained under T<sub>9</sub> (40kg N/ha through Vermicompost 27.2q/ha); however, it was at par with T<sub>10</sub>, T<sub>8</sub>, T<sub>7</sub>, T<sub>6</sub> and T<sub>5</sub>. All the aforementioned yield-defining traits and yield of pea were obtained to be lowest under the Control treatment (T<sub>1</sub>). Augmented availability of nutrients might have resulted in better yield attributes and yield of pea due to better photosynthetic activity resulting from improved growth. The findings are in agreement with the findings of Gopinath *et al.* (2011) [3], Dubey *et al.* (2012) [2], Ray *et al.* (2014) [9], Nishith *et al.* (2016) [6] and Kharadi *et al.* (2020) [4].

#### Uptake of nutrients

The beneficial effect of organic manures on the uptake of nutrients was evident. Higher uptake of Nitrogen (24.12 kg/ha) by pea was displayed in Treatment T<sub>9</sub> (40 kg N/ha through Vermicompost 27.2 q/ha). However, the uptake of Nitrogen under T<sub>5</sub> and T<sub>6</sub> was statistically at par with T<sub>9</sub>. Similarly, the highest uptake of Phosphorus (4.62 kg/ha) was recorded in T<sub>9</sub> (40 kg N/ha through Vermicompost 27.2 q/ha) which was statistically similar to T<sub>6</sub>, T<sub>5</sub>, T<sub>8</sub> and T<sub>10</sub>. In terms of uptake of Potassium, it was highest (6.69 kg/ha) in T<sub>9</sub> (40 kg N/ha through Vermicompost 27.2 q/ha) but was comparable to all the treatments except T<sub>1</sub> and T<sub>2</sub>. The uptake of N, P and K was lowest under T<sub>1</sub>. Due to the increased availability of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium in sufficient amounts during the crop's growth and reproductive stages which was provided by organic manures—the crop underwent a higher N, P and K content uptake with these treatments. The findings are also in agreement with the findings of Nishith *et al.* (2016) [6].

**Table 1:** Effect of different levels of organic manure on root nodulation, yield and uptake of nutrients in pea.

Treatments	Root nodulation			Yield attributes and yield					Uptake of nutrients (kg/ha)		
	Number of nodules per plant	Fresh weight of nodules (g)	Dry weight of nodules (g)	Number of pods per plant	Length of pod (cm)	Weight of pod (g)	Number of grains per pod	Yield (q/ha)	Nitrogen uptake	Phosphorus uptake	Potassium uptake
T <sub>1</sub>	14.7	46.06	35.78	11.63	7.19	3.45	5.67	33.70	19.94	3.36	4.86
T <sub>2</sub>	15.63	47.26	36.96	12.33	7.50	3.83	5.89	43.83	20.03	3.69	5.34
T <sub>3</sub>	18.07	47.37	37.36	12.44	7.55	4.75	6.10	45.81	21.13	4.13	5.98
T <sub>4</sub>	16.32	47.49	37.82	12.54	7.59	4.23	6.20	45.92	20.28	3.88	5.62
T <sub>5</sub>	19.66	47.60	38.05	12.64	7.62	5.93	6.31	46.50	22.38	4.32	6.94

T <sub>6</sub>	21.21	47.71	38.19	12.96	7.65	6.03	6.41	46.88	22.90	4.51	6.53
T <sub>7</sub>	17.40	48.10	37.62	13.79	8.36	4.51	7.35	47.04	20.74	4.02	5.83
T <sub>8</sub>	19.42	48.19	37.98	14.11	8.52	5.21	7.43	48.11	21.81	4.28	6.20
T <sub>9</sub>	22.59	48.34	39.03	14.62	8.64	6.29	7.56	49.77	24.12	4.62	6.69
T <sub>10</sub>	18.75	48.25	38.11	13.77	8.60	5.06	7.52	49.18	21.48	4.22	6.11
S.Em±	0.75	0.41	0.39	0.40	0.28	0.23	0.24	1.21	0.66	0.19	0.39
C.D. (P=0.05)	2.19	1.19	1.12	1.15	0.81	0.38	0.71	3.54	1.93	0.55	1.14

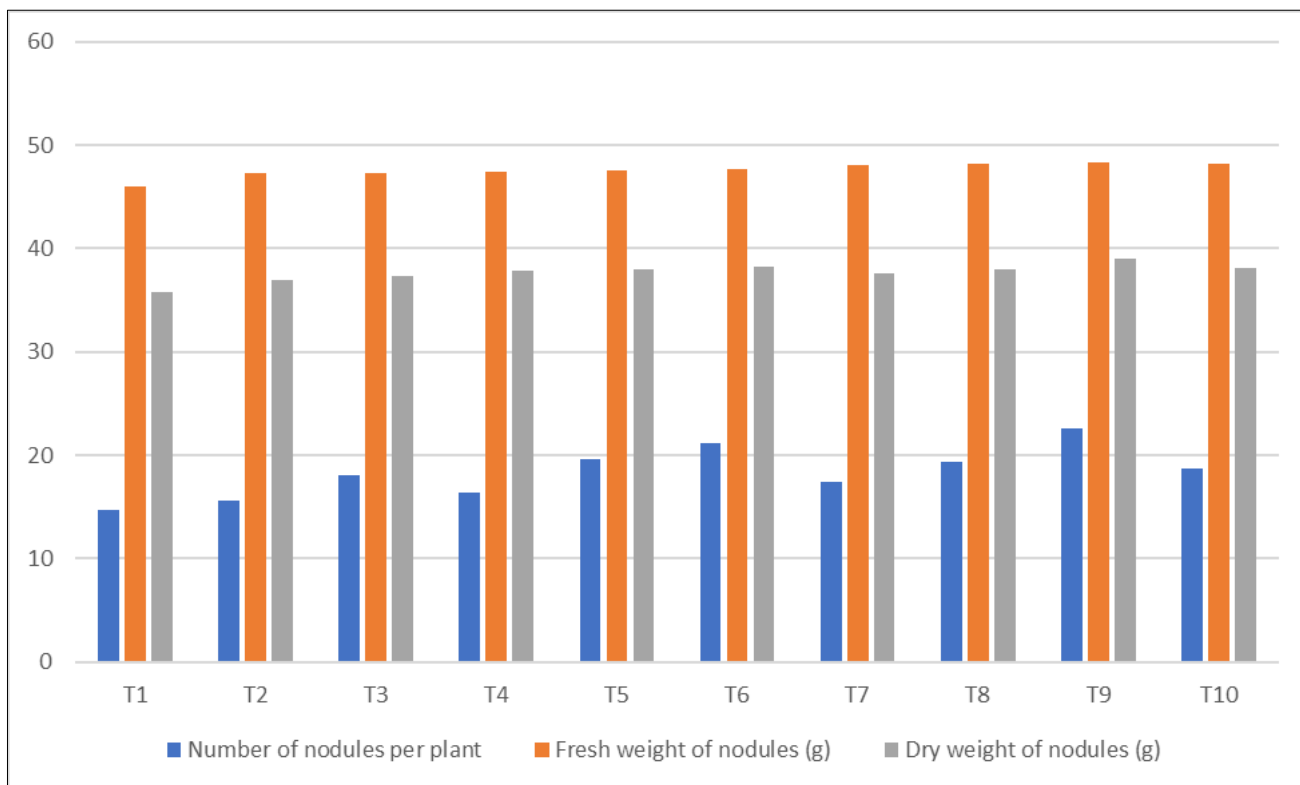


Fig 1: Effect of different levels of organic manure on root nodulation of pea

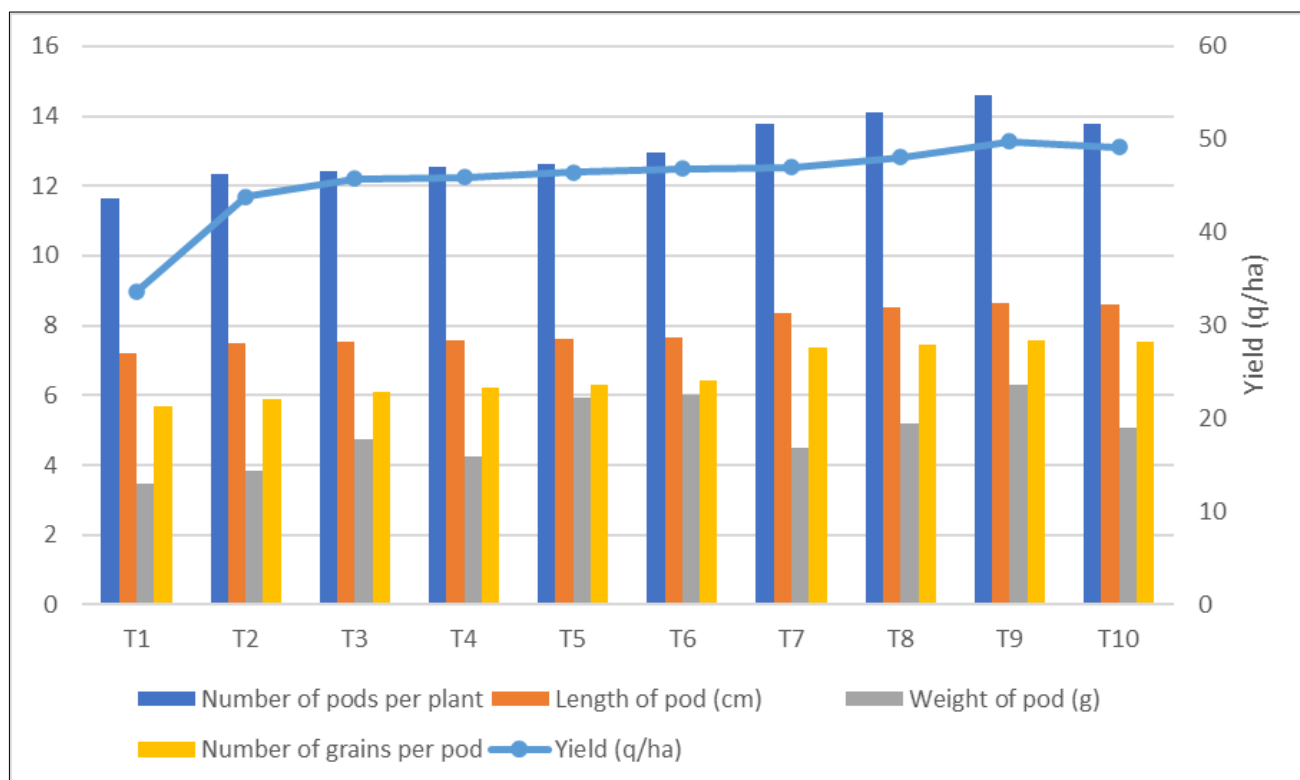
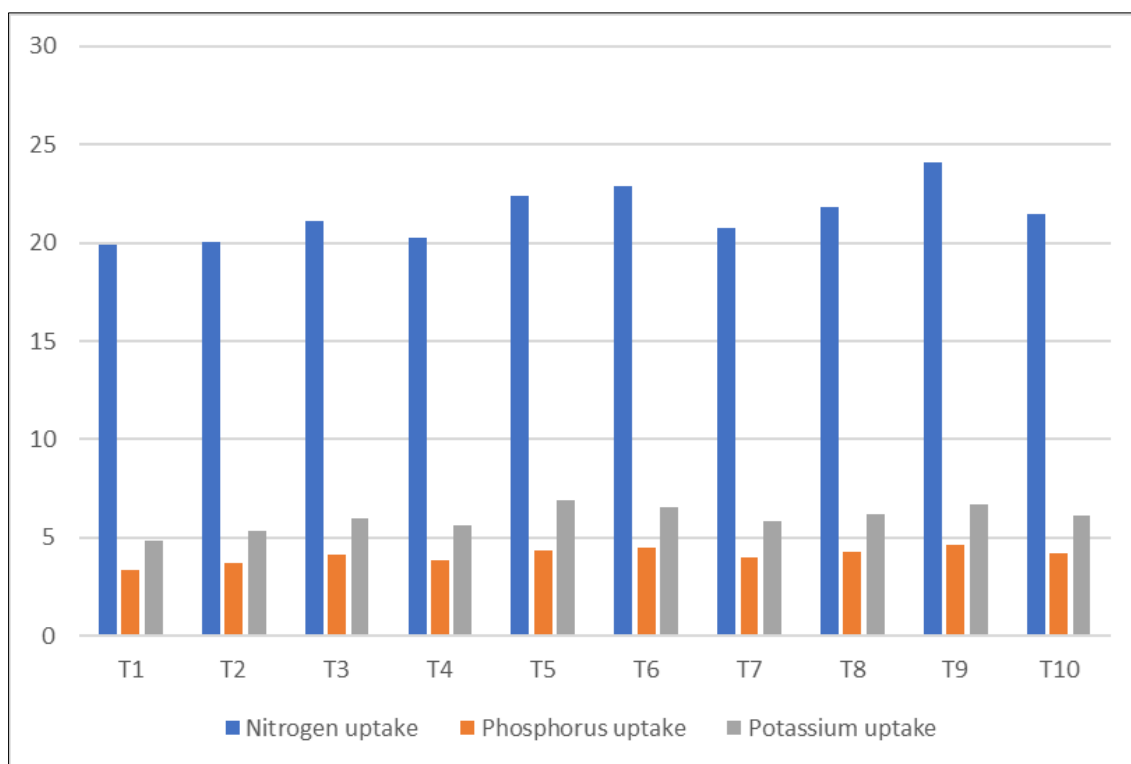


Fig 2: Effect of different levels of organic manure on yield attributes and yield of pea



**Fig 3:** Effect of different levels of organic manure on uptake of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium by grains of pea

### Conclusion

The conclusive findings strongly support that the application of 40kg N/ha through Vermicompost (27.2q/ha) resulted in the highest yield and favourable yield attributing characteristics for Pea crop. Notably, this approach not only registered a superior yield of 49.77q/ha but also demonstrated significant enhancements in other yield parameters. Moreover, the utilization of this treatment showcased a remarkable uptake of nutrients-nitrogen (24.12kg/ha), phosphorus (4.62kg/ha), and potassium (6.69kg/ha) in Pea seeds.

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