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## Effect of levels and numbers of nano urea application with different fertilizer dose on productivity of rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) in Vertisols of Chhattisgarh

**Sanjay Kumar, Rajendra Lakpale, Panch Ram Mirjha, Satish Yadav and Prashant Uraon**

### Abstract

The present investigation entitled “Effect of levels and numbers of nano urea application with different fertilizer dose on transplanted rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) in Vertisols of Chhattisgarh” was conducted at Research Cum Instructional Farm, Dau Kalyan Singh College of Agriculture and Research Station, Bhatapara (C.G.) during *Kharif* season 2022, to find out the effect of levels and numbers of nano urea on growth and yield of rice. The treatment comprised of four nano urea application as main plot *viz.*, N<sub>1</sub>: 4 ml 20 DAT, N<sub>2</sub>: 8 ml 20 DAT, N<sub>3</sub>: 4 ml 20 DAT + 4 ml 40 DAT and N<sub>4</sub>: 8 ml 20 DAT + 8 ml 40 DAT with three fertilizers application treatment as sub plot *viz.*, F<sub>1</sub>: Control, F<sub>2</sub>: 50% RDF and F<sub>3</sub>: 100% RDF. The experiment was laid out in split plot design with three replications. The yield attributes like number of tillers hill<sup>-1</sup>, number of panicle hill<sup>-1</sup>, panicle length (cm), number of grain panicle<sup>-1</sup>, weight of 1000 grain (g), grain and straw yield (kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) of rice were found significantly superior under treatment N<sub>4</sub>: 8 ml 20 DAT + 8 ml 40 DAT followed by N<sub>3</sub>: 4 ml 20 DAT + 4 ml 40 DAT. Among the fertilizer application, parameters cited above were recorded significantly higher in treatment F<sub>3</sub>:100% RDF. N content in grain and straw, protein content, N-uptake and Nitrogen use efficiency were also recorded maximum in above treatments.

**Keywords:** Levels, nano urea, fertilizer dose, *Oryza sativa* L.

### Introduction

The primary target of nanofertilizers in field of agronomy is to increase the plant yield efficiency and diminish losses of nutrients (Ingale *et al.*, 2013) [3]. Nano-fertilizers with nano formulated particles can directly supply essential plant nutrients and can be delivered at the time and dose required by crops to the rhizosphere (Subramanian and Tarafdar, 2011) [10]. In this context, IFFCO introduced its nanotechnology-based product *i.e.*, Liquid Nano-Urea Fertilizer which is currently the best alternative to urea fertilizer. One bottle of nano-urea (500 ml) is equivalent to a bag of urea fertilizer (45 kg), 10% lower than a bag of conventional urea. It can bring down the import of urea fertilizers. One nano urea liquid particle is 30 nano meters in diameter, with 10,000 times higher surface area to volume size than normal granular urea. Subsidy burden to government; reduce transport & storage costs and usage of urea fertilizer subsequently to reduce the cost of nitrogen fertilizer. IFFCO claimed that nano-urea could raise yields by 8%.

### Materials and Methods

The experiment was conducted at the Instructional Farm Dau Kalyan Singh College of Agriculture and Research Station Bhatapara (C.G.) during *Kharif* season 2022. The field had an even topography and good drainage system. The Experiment was laid out in Split Plot Design (SPD) with three replications. The treatment comprised of four nano urea application as main plot *viz.*, N<sub>1</sub>: 4 ml 20 DAT, N<sub>2</sub>: 8 ml 20 DAT, N<sub>3</sub>: 4 ml 20 DAT + 4 ml 40 DAT and N<sub>4</sub>: 8 ml 20 DAT + 8 ml 40 DAT with three fertilizers application treatment as sub plot *viz.*, F<sub>1</sub>: control, F<sub>2</sub>: 50% RDF and F<sub>3</sub>: 100% RDF. Rice variety “IGKVR-1” (Rajeshwari) was transplanted as a test crop on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

### Result and Discussion

#### Yield attributes

The significant effect of nano urea and fertilizer application was recorded on Number of

panicle  $\text{hill}^{-1}$ , Panicle length (cm), No. of grains panicle $^{-1}$  and Test weight (g) of rice are presented in Table 1. Among the nano urea application treatments, the highest Number of panicles, Panicle length, No. of grains and Test weight was recorded 11.03  $\text{hill}^{-1}$ , 23.49 cm, 152.4 panicle $^{-1}$  and 30.23 g respectively in treatment  $N_4$ - 8 ml (20 DAT) + 8 ml (40 DAT), which was at par with treatment  $N_3$ - 4 ml (20 DAT) + 4 ml (40 DAT), including Number of panicle  $\text{hill}^{-1}$  (9.68), Panicle length (cm) (22.23), No. of grains panicle $^{-1}$  (143.6), and Test weight (g) (29.50). On the other hand, the lowest Number of panicles, Panicle length, No. of grains and Test weight was observed in the control treatment  $N_1$ - 4 ml (20 DAT). The findings of this study demonstrate the significant influence of nano urea application treatments on rice yield parameters. Treatment  $N_4$ , with a higher application rate and two split doses, resulted in the highest values for all the measured parameters. This suggests that a higher dose of nano urea, combined with a split application at different growth stages, can effectively promote rice productivity. Similar results were also observed by Sahu *et al.* (2022) [9] and Gewaily *et al.* (2019) [12]. Among the fertilizer application treatments, treatment  $F_3$ - 100% RDF demonstrated the highest values for all measured yield parameters, including the number of panicles, panicle length, number of grains per panicle, and test weight. This indicates that providing the full recommended dose of fertilizer (RDF) significantly enhances rice yield. Still showed significant improvements in all yield parameters compared to the control treatment. The observed increases in yield parameters were statistically significant compared to other fertilizer treatments, underscoring the significance of proper fertilization practices in maximizing rice productivity. Also, similar results were reported by Jassim *et al.* (2019) [5] and Lahari *et al.* (2021) [6]. In conclusion, the study showed that nano urea application and fertilizer application have a significant effect on the Number of panicles, Panicle length, No. of grains and Test weight of rice. The results of the study suggest that the application of  $N_4$ - 8 ml (20 DAT) + 8 ml (40 DAT) and  $F_3$ - 100% RDF can be effective in increasing the Number of panicles, Panicle length, No. of grains and Test weight of rice.

## Yield

### Grain yield (Kg ha $^{-1}$ )

Among the nano urea application treatments, highest grain yield was recorded in treatment  $N_4$ - 8 ml (20 DAT) + 8 ml (40 DAT) (5611 kg ha $^{-1}$ ), which was at par with the treatment  $N_3$ - 4 ml (20 DAT) + 4 ml (40 DAT) (4867 kg ha $^{-1}$ ). On the other hand, the lowest grain yield was observed in the treatment  $N_1$ - 4 ml (20 DAT) (3989 kg ha $^{-1}$ ). The higher grain yield observed in treatments  $N_4$  and  $N_3$  can be attributed to the effective application of nano urea at specific growth stages. The doses of nano urea in treatments  $N_4$ - 8 ml (20 DAT) + 8 ml (40 DAT) and  $N_3$ - 4 ml (20 DAT) + 4 ml (40 DAT) likely provided a continuous and balanced supply of nutrients, resulting in increased crop growth and productivity. In contrast, the control treatment lacked the additional nutrient supplementation provided by nano urea, leading to lower yields. The results emphasize the importance of proper nutrient management through nano urea application for maximizing rice yield and optimizing harvest quality. The finding of present study is in accordance with those of Midde and Ferumal (2021) [7] and Valojai *et al.* (2021) [12]. Regarding the fertilizer application (F), in the treatment the highest grain

yield index was recorded in treatment  $F_3$ - 100% RDF (5668 kg ha $^{-1}$ ). And the increase was statistically significant compared to other fertilizer treatments. Treatment  $F_3$ - 100% RDF also showed significant increases in yield parameters compared to the control treatment, indicating the importance of providing a substantial amount of fertilizer. The control treatment, lacking fertilizer application, exhibited the lowest yields. These findings highlight the critical role of proper fertilizer application in optimizing rice yield. The interaction effect between nano urea and fertilizer application on grain yield of rice was found significant. The results obtained in the present study are supported by the works of Valojai *et al.* (2021) [12] and Rathore *et al.* (2022) [8].

### Straw yield (Kg ha $^{-1}$ )

Among the nano urea application treatments, highest straw yield was recorded in treatment  $N_4$ - 8 ml (20 DAT) + 8 ml (40 DAT) (7236 kg ha $^{-1}$ ) which was at par with the treatment  $N_3$ - 4 ml (20 DAT) + 4 ml (40 DAT) (6846 kg ha $^{-1}$ ). On the other hand, the lowest straw yield was observed in the treatment  $N_1$ - 4 ml (20 DAT) (5644 kg ha $^{-1}$ ). The controlled release of nitrogen in these treatments promoted vigorous plant growth, resulting in higher straw yields. Conversely, the lowest straw yield in the control treatment  $N_1$ - 4 ml (20 DAT) suggests that the absence of nano urea limited nutrient supply, leading to reduced straw production. The finding of present study is in accordance with those of Midde and Ferumal (2021) [7] and Valojai *et al.* (2021) [12]. Regarding the fertilizer application (F), in the treatment the highest straw yield was recorded in treatment  $F_3$ - 100% RDF (7492 kg ha $^{-1}$ ). On the other hand, the lowest straw yield was observed in the control treatment  $F_1$ - Control (5242 kg ha $^{-1}$ ). The treatment  $F_3$ - 100% provided optimal nutrient supply, promoting vigorous plant growth and resulting in higher straw yields. Conversely, the lowest straw yield in the control treatment  $F_1$ - Control suggests that the absence of fertilizer severely limited straw production. The interaction effect between nano urea and fertilizer application on straw yield of rice was found significant. The results obtained in the present study are supported by the works of Valojai *et al.* (2021) [12] and Rathore *et al.* (2022) [8].

### Biological Yield (Kg ha $^{-1}$ )

Among the nano urea application treatments, highest biological yield was recorded in treatment  $N_4$ - 8 ml (20 DAT) + 8 ml (40 DAT) (12847 kg ha $^{-1}$ ) which was at par with the treatment  $N_3$ - 4 ml (20 DAT) + 4 ml (40 DAT) (11833 kg ha $^{-1}$ ). On the other hand, the lowest biological Yield was observed in the treatment  $N_1$ - 4 ml (20 DAT) (9633 kg ha $^{-1}$ ). The finding of present study is in accordance with those of Midde and ferumal (2021) [7] and Valojai *et al.* (2021) [12]. Regarding the fertilizer application (F), in the treatment the highest biological Yield was recorded in treatment  $F_3$ - 100% RDF (13159 kg ha $^{-1}$ ). On the other hand, the lowest biological yield was observed in the treatment  $F_1$ - Control (8508 kg ha $^{-1}$ ). The interaction effect between nano urea and fertilizer application on biological yield of rice was found significant. The results obtained in the present study are supported by the works of Valojai *et al.* (2021) [12] and Rathore *et al.* (2022) [8].

### Harvest index (%)

Among the nano urea application treatments, highest harvest index was recorded in treatment  $N_4$ - 8 ml (20 DAT) + 8 ml (40 DAT) (43.76%) which was at par with the treatment  $N_3$ - 4

ml (20 DAT) + 4 ml (40 DAT) (40.53%). On the other hand, the lowest harvest index was observed in the treatment N<sub>1</sub>- 4 ml (20 DAT) (40.95%). The higher harvest index observed in treatments N<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>3</sub> can be attributed to the effective application of nano urea at specific growth stages.

Regarding the fertilizer application (F), in the treatment the highest harvest index was recorded in treatment F<sub>3</sub>- 100% RDF (43.15%). On the other hand, the lowest harvest index was observed in the control treatment F<sub>1</sub>- Control (38.09%). Treatment F<sub>3</sub>- 100% RDF also showed significant increases in yield parameters compared to the control treatment, indicating the importance of providing a substantial amount of fertilizer. The interaction effect between nano urea and fertilizer application on harvest index of rice was found significant. The results obtained in the present study are supported by the works of Valojai *et al.* (2021)<sup>[12]</sup> and Rathore *et al.* (2022)<sup>[8]</sup>.

### Plant Chemical analysis

#### Nitrogen content in grain and straw

Among the nano urea application treatments, highest nitrogen content in grain and straw was recorded 1.10% and 0.65% respectively in treatment N<sub>4</sub>- 8 ml (20 DAT) + 8 ml (40 DAT), which was at par with treatment N<sub>3</sub>- 4 ml (20 DAT) + 4 ml (40 DAT), including nitrogen content in grain and straw was recorded 1.07% and 0.62% respectively. While the lowest nitrogen content in grain and straw was observed 1.03 and 0.55 respectively in the treatment N<sub>1</sub>- 4 ml (20 DAT). Among the fertilizer application treatments, the highest Nitrogen content in grain and straw was recorded in treatment F<sub>3</sub>- 100% RDF, 1.10% and 0.65% respectively, which was at par with the treatments F<sub>2</sub>- 50% RDF at Nitrogen content in grain (%) (1.07%). While the lowest Nitrogen content in grain and straw was observed in the control treatment F<sub>1</sub>- Control, 1.03 and 0.55 respectively. And the increase was statistically significant compared to other fertilizer treatments.

#### Protein % in grain

Among the nano urea application treatments, highest protein % in grain was recorded 6.90% respectively in treatment N<sub>4</sub>- 8 ml (20 DAT) + 8 ml (40 DAT), which was at par with treatment N<sub>3</sub>- 4 ml (20 DAT) + 4 ml (40 DAT) in grain was recorded 6.72% respectively. While the lowest protein % in grain observed 6.46 respectively in the treatment N<sub>1</sub>- 4 ml (20 DAT). Among the fertilizer application treatments, the highest nitrogen content in protein % in grain was recorded in treatment F<sub>3</sub>- 100% RDF (6.87%). Which was at par with the

treatments F<sub>2</sub>- 50% RDF (6.70%). While the lowest protein % in grain was observed in the control treatment F<sub>1</sub>- Control (6.48%).

#### Total N- uptake in grain and straw

The variations in nitrogen uptake in grain and straw among the different nano urea and fertilizer application treatments can be attributed to the nutrient levels provided to the rice plants. Treatment N<sub>4</sub>- 8 ml (20 DAT) + 8 ml (40 DAT) and treatment N<sub>3</sub>- 4 ml (20 DAT) + 4 ml (40 DAT) resulted in the highest nitrogen uptake, indicating that the specific application of nano urea at appropriate growth stages enhanced the uptake of nitrogen by the plants. Similarly, treatment F<sub>3</sub>- 100% RDF and F<sub>2</sub>- 50% RDF provided optimal fertilizer doses, resulting in higher nitrogen uptake. In contrast, the control treatments showed the lowest nitrogen uptake, reflecting the absence or inadequate nitrogen supply. These findings highlight the importance of proper nano urea and fertilizer application for enhancing nutrient uptake and ensuring optimal growth and productivity in rice crops. The finding of present study is in accordance with those of Barkha *et al.* (2019)<sup>[11]</sup> and Sahu *et al.* (2022)<sup>[9]</sup>.

#### Nitrogen use efficiency of rice

Among the nano urea application treatments, highest nitrogen use efficiency was recorded 8.04 kg kg<sup>-1</sup> in treatment N<sub>4</sub>- 8 ml (20 DAT) + 8 ml (40 DAT), which was at par with treatment N<sub>3</sub>- 4 ml (20 DAT) + 4 ml (40 DAT). While the lowest nitrogen use efficiency was observed 4.20% in the treatment N<sub>1</sub>- 4 ml (20 DAT). Among the fertilizer application treatments, the highest nitrogen use efficiency was recorded in treatment F<sub>3</sub>- 100% RDF (8.59 Kg kg<sup>-1</sup>), which was at par with the treatments F<sub>2</sub>- 50% RDF at nitrogen use efficiency (kg kg<sup>-1</sup>) (8.50 kg kg<sup>-1</sup>). While the lowest nitrogen use efficiency was observed in the control treatment F<sub>1</sub>- Control (0%). The study showed that nano urea application and fertilizer application have a significant effect on the Nitrogen content in grain and straw, protein % in grain and nitrogen use efficiency of rice. The results of the study suggest that the application of N<sub>4</sub>- 8 ml (20 DAT) + 8 ml (40 DAT) and F<sub>3</sub>- 100% RDF can be effective in increasing the Nitrogen content in grain and straw, protein % in grain and nitrogen use efficiency of rice. The results obtained in the present study are supported by the works of Scholar, P.G. and Nagar (2021)<sup>[11]</sup>, Rathore *et al.* (2022)<sup>[8]</sup>, Sahu *et al.* (2022)<sup>[9]</sup>.

**Table 1:** Number of panicles, Panicle length, No. of grains and Test weight of rice as influenced by nano urea and fertilizer applications.

Treatments	Number of panicle hill <sup>-1</sup>	Panicle length (cm)	No. of Grains panicle <sup>-1</sup>	Test weight (g)
<b>Nano Urea Application</b>				
N1- 4 ml (20 DAT)	7.21	20.78	126.9	28.07
N2- 8 ml (20 DAT)	8.36	21.26	135.2	29.07
N3- 4 ml (20 DAT) + 4 ml (40 DAT)	9.68	22.23	143.6	29.50
N4- 8 ml (20 DAT) + 8 ml (40 DAT)	11.03	23.49	152.4	30.23
SEm±	0.49	0.43	3.2	0.27
CD (0.05)	1.70	1.49	11.2	0.95
<b>Fertilizer Application</b>				
F1- Control	6.37	19.99	126.4	27.92
F2- 50% RDF	9.65	22.36	140.7	29.02
F3- 100% RDF	11.20	23.48	151.4	30.08
SEm±	0.51	0.35	2.3	0.32
CD (0.05)	1.52	1.06	6.9	0.96

**Table 2:** Grain yield, straw yield, biological yield and harvest index of rice as influenced by nano urea and fertilizer applications

Treatments	Grain yield (Kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Straw yield (Kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Biological yield (Kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Harvest Index (%)
<b>Nano Urea Application</b>				
N1- 4 ml (20 DAT)	3989	5644	9633	40.95
N2- 8 ml (20 DAT)	4348	6289	10636	40.47
N3- 4 ml (20 DAT) + 4 ml (40 DAT)	4867	6846	11833	40.53
N4- 8 ml (20 DAT) + 8 ml (40 DAT)	5611	7236	12847	43.76
SEm±	218	136	299	1.24
CD (0.05)	754	470	1036	NS
<b>Fertilizer Application</b>				
F1- Control	3267	5242	8508	38.09
F2- 50% RDF	5176	6778	12045	41.04
F3- 100% RDF	5668	7492	13159	43.15
SEm±	75	121	159	0.60
CD (0.05)	226	362	477	1.80

**Table 3:** Nitrogen content in grain and straw, protein % in grain, N-uptake and nitrogen use efficiency of rice as influenced by nano urea and fertilizer applications.

Treatments	N content in grain (%)	N content in straw (%)	Protein content in grain (%)	Total N-uptake kg ha <sup>-1</sup>		NUE (Kg kg <sup>-1</sup> )
				Grain	Straw	
<b>Nano Urea Application</b>						
N1- 4 ml (20 DAT)	1.03	0.55	6.46	49.13	35.18	4.20
N2- 8 ml (20 DAT)	1.06	0.58	6.65	52.77	38.87	4.13
N3- 4 ml (20 DAT) + 4 ml (40 DAT)	1.07	0.62	6.72	58.71	44.09	6.43
N4- 8 ml (20 DAT) + 8 ml (40 DAT)	1.10	0.65	6.90	62.55	49.33	8.04
SEm±	0.01	0.01	0.06	1.57	1.26	1.71
CD (0.05)	0.03	0.03	0.22	5.44	4.35	NS
<b>Fertilizer Application</b>						
F1- Control	1.03	0.55	6.48	48.46	35.07	0
F2- 50% RDF	1.07	0.60	6.70	55.85	41.49	8.50
F3- 100% RDF	1.10	0.65	6.87	63.06	49.06	8.59
SEm±	0.01	0.01	0.07	1.09	0.96	1.18
CD (0.05)	0.03	0.02	0.21	3.25	2.88	3.54

## Conclusion

Yield attributing and yield characters- Number of panicles, Panicle length, No. of grains panicle<sup>-1</sup>, Test weight, grain yield, straw yield, biological yield was obtained under application of nano urea N<sub>4</sub>- 8 ml (20 DAT) + 8 ml (40 DAT) and 100% Fertilizer application (F<sub>3</sub>), and N<sub>3</sub> + F<sub>3</sub>. N content in grain and straw, protein content, N-uptake and Nitrogen use efficiency were recorded highest in above treatments. Hence, it can be concluded that application of nano urea @ 8 ml (20 DAT) + 8 ml (40 DAT) or N<sub>3</sub> with 100% fertilizer application is beneficial for higher rice productions.

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