



E-ISSN: 2278-4136
P-ISSN: 2349-8234
JPP 2018; 7(1): 2175-2177
Received: 17-11-2017
Accepted: 18-12-2017

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Studying the influence of long term INM practices on yield and quality of Ragi crop

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Abstract

Ragi is nutritionally potential upland cereal dry land crop known for its multifarious uses. The long term experiment (6 years) on upland irrigated system was initiated during 2010 with 10 different INM treatments, namely (1) Absolute control, (2) BFs, (3) ½ STD + BFs, (4) STD, (5) STD + FYM, (6) STD + BC, (7) STD + FYM + BFs, (8) STD + VC + BFs, (9) STD + FYM + Lime + BFs and (10) STD + VC + Lime + BFs. The grain yield of ragi due to long term (6 years) INM practices varied between 1.14 and 2.72t ha⁻¹, lowest in absolute control and highest in STD+FYM+Lime+BFs. Use of BFs alone increased the grain yield by 30% and its integration with 1/2 STD by 57 percent compared over control. However, this yield were not in acceptable level. Without fertilizers application (control) there was 48% yield loss compared to the yield of 2.19 t ha⁻¹ due to STD. Alone organics (FYM/VC) addition either alone or with BFs or further with BFs + lime increased the grain yield by 10,16.4 and 22 percent compared to the grain yield of 2.19 t ha⁻¹ due to STD.

Keywords: INM practices, Ragi crop, nutritionally potential

Introduction

The role of seed, fertilizers, water, land, sunshine and plant protection measures are well known for the increase in crop production. Among these, fertilizers contribute more than 50 percent. Fifty years of fertilizer use history express concern on declining fertilizers use efficiency or decline in partial factor of productivity. The units of additional economic yield per unit of fertilizer nutrient-12kg of food grains per Kg of NPK during 1960- 69 declined to 9 kg per Kg NPK by 2012. Fertilizers of cores of rupees are spent in agriculture every year, which is not used efficiently. The nutrients once lost to environment dangerously enrich either hydrosphere or biosphere. The dark side of fertilizer use creates doubt on sustainable agricultural development. The integrated nutrient management is the solution.

Materials and Methods

The Study entitled "Influence of long term integrated nutrient management practices on the productivity, grain quality and post-harvest soil properties of ragi crop" Was carried out with the help of field experiment. The techniques of investigation followed and the materials used for conducting the experiment have been described in this chapter.

Field experimentation

The Field trial is in continuation in the campus of College of Agriculture, OUAT, Bhubaneswar since 2010 with ragi crop, located at 25°15' N latitude and 80°52' E longitude altitude of 25.9 m. Above mean Sea level (MSL), which is 60 kms west of the Bay of Bengal. The experimental site experiences a high temperature in summer (44 °C) and mild temperature during winter season. The annual rainfall is about 1505 mm, out of which more than 85 percent is received between months of July to October. The mean annual maximum temperature is 27.4 °C and maximum temperature. The present crop ragi was 15th crop in the sequence. This crop had inherited residual effects 14 crops grown in the succession. The four succeeding crops were green gram, maize, cabbage, cowpea followed by present crop ragi (under discussion).

Soil of the experimental site

The soil, was loamy sand in texture at the beginning, It was strongly acidic in reaction (pH_w (1:2:5) was 5.18). The organic carbon status was low (2.7g kg⁻¹ soil). The available nitrogen was low 207 kg ha⁻¹. The Bray's I P was high. The ammonium acetate ex extractable K was low, so also the C_aCl₂ extractable sulphur.

Table 1: Treatment details

T ₁	Absolute control
T ₂	100% NPK
T ₃	100% NPK + FYM @ 5 t ha ⁻¹
T ₄	100% NPK + vermicompost @ 2.5 kg/ha
T ₅	100% NPK + (FYM) + Biofertilizer
T ₆	100% NPK + vermicompost @ 2.5 kg ha ⁻¹ + biofertilizer
T ₇	100% NPK + (FYM) + Line + Biofertilizer
T ₈	100% NPK + vermicompost @ 2.5 kg/ha + lime + biofertilizer
T ₉	Biofertilizers
T ₁₀	50% NPK + Biofertilizers

Field experimentation

The test crop received N-P-K-S @ 52-15-32-10 kg ha⁻¹ in the form of urea, Navaratna (20-20-0-13) and MOP respectively, The FYM and vermicompost were applied @ 5.0 and 2.5 kg ha⁻¹ and biofertilizers like Azotobacter, Azospirillum and PSB were applied @ 4 kg each ha⁻¹ inoculated to pre-limed vermicompost.

Source of fertilizer

The test crop received N -P-K-S @ 52-15-32-10 kg ha⁻¹ in the form of urea, Navaratna (20-20-0-13) and MOP respectively. The FYM and vermicompost and were applied @ 5.0 and 2.5 kg ha⁻¹ and biofertilizers like Azotobacter, and PSB were

applied @ 4 kg each ha⁻¹ inoculated to pre-limed vermicompost.

Yield and yield attributing characters**Plant height**

About 10 plants from each plot were selected. The height was measured. The average height of 10 plants was considered as the height of the crop plant under each treatment.

Biological yield

Ragi crop was harvested at maturity (105 days). Then plants were oven dried at 70 °C temperature. The data expressed as kg ha⁻¹ for biomass calculation.

Grain yield

The sundry weight of grains was measured in an electric balance. The grain yield was expressed in kg ha⁻¹.

Results and Discussion

The data related to the productivity of ragi crop has been presented in Table 2. The grain and stover yields of ragi under the influence of nutrient management practices ranged from 1.14 to 2.24 and from 2.92 to 4.06 t ha⁻¹. The total dry matter production varied between 4.06 and 4.72 t ha⁻¹ lowest with no nutrient control and highest with soil test dose (STD) + FYM (F) + Lime (L) + Biofertilizers (BFs).

Table 2: Productivity of ragi crop under the influence of long term INM practices

SL. No.	Practices	Grain (t ha ⁻¹)	Stover (t ha ⁻¹)	Total	HI (%)	RAE (%)	Stover : Grain ratio
1	Control	1.14	2.92	4.06	28.1	-	1:2.5
2	BF	1.37(200)	2.72	4.09	33.5	22	1:2.0
3	½ STD + BF	1.79(57)	2.88	4.67	38.3	62	1:1.6
4	STD	2.19	3.73	5.92	37.0	100	1:1.7
5	STD + F	2.44(10)	3.62	6.06	40.3	124	1:1.48
6	STD + VC	2.35(10)	3.67	6.02	39.1	115	1:1.56
7	STD + F + BF	2.60(16.4)	3.74	6.34	41.0	139	1:1.44
8	STD + VC + BF	2.50(16.4)	3.98	6.48	38.6	130	1:1.59
9	STD + L + F + BF	2.72(22)	4.00	6.72	41.0	151	1:1.47
10	STD + L + VC + BF	2.62(22)	4.06	6.68	39.2	141	1:1.55
	LSD (P=0.05)	0.119	0.38	0.41	-	-	-
	CV (%)	4.0	6.2	5.8	-	-	-

*For RAE the grain yield due to STD has been taken as 100

Grain quality

The information on grain quality of ragi has been presented in Table 3. The protein content of ragi grains varied widely between 56 and 93 g kg⁻¹, lowest with no-nutrient control and highest with STD + VC + L +BFs Integration of inorganic sources of nutrients (either ½ STD) with BFs or application of

full dose of it significantly increased the grain protein content. Combining organics addition either alone (15.7%), or with organics + BFs (25%) or organics + BFs + Lime (32%) increased the protein in grain compared over 70 mg protein kg⁻¹ of grain produced with STD.

Table 3: Grain quality of ragi under the influence of INM practices

SL. No.	Packages	Protein g/kg	Grain Quality of ragi									
			Mineral Salts									
			P	K	Ca	Mg	S	Mn	Fe	Zn	Cu	
1	Abs. Cont.	56	2.5	5.3	2.8	2.2	0.3	56	63	16	5	
2	BFs	57	2.6	5.5	2.9	2.0	0.4	81	68	20	6	
3	½ STD + BF	75	2.9	5.8	3.7	2.1	0.6	85	65	21	8	
4	STD	70	2.8	5.1	3.2	2.0	0.5	78	72	16	6	
5	STD + F	77	3.0	5.3	3.5	1.9	0.6	82	50	18	8	
6	ST + VC	84	3.0	5.2	3.5	1.9	0.6	90	43	20	7	
7	STD+F+BF	88	3.5	5.8	3.6	2.0	0.7	97	53	20	9	
8	STD+VC+BF	87	3.5	5.6	3.6	2.2	0.8	97	43	22	10	
9	STD+F+L+BF	92	3.6	6.0	4.0	2.2	0.8	98	66	23	10	
10	STD+VC+L+BF	93	3.7	6.1	3.9	2.4	0.9	104	46	24	11	
	LSD (P 0.05)	2.1	0.14	0.32	0.2	0.11	0.09	2.2	1.6	1.1	0.5	

The mineral salts like P, K, Ca, Mg, S in ragi grain produced out of different INM packages varied between 205 and 3.7 gkg⁻¹, 5.3 and 6.1 gkg⁻¹, 2.8 and 9.0 gkg⁻¹, 1.9 and 2.4 gkg⁻¹, and 0.3 and 0.9 gkg⁻¹ grain, respectively the INM practices favored higher content of major mineral salt content in the grain. The above dance of major mineral salts in ragi grain followed the order: K > Ca > P > Mg > S. Similarly the micro mineral salts contents like Mn, Zn and Cu in ragi grains ranged from 56 to 104 mgkg⁻¹, 16 to 24 mgkg⁻¹ and from 5 to 11 mgkg⁻¹ of the grain respectively. The POPs having integration of organics alone, or organics with BFs or organics with BFs and liming of acid soil positively influenced the micro mineral salt contents. The abundance of micro minerals in ragi grain followed the order: Mg > Fe > Zn > Cu.

Discussion

The 10 different long term POPs for ragi crop provided differential growing environment for the crop, which resulted in differential yields. Use of no or long input sources could not supplement the requirement to produce profitable yields. Long term STD practices alone was not sufficient to meet the crop demand for sustained yield with positive fertility balance in soil due to poor physical, chemical, nutritional and microbial activity. However integration of organic sources brought significant improvement in crop environment *Azctobater*, *Azosprillum* in term of physical, chemical, nutritional and biological parameters to produce more with better post-harvest soil status compare to STD alone.

Integration BFs use (& PSM) with STD + organics, brought significant changes in crop performance in terms of yield, less grain to stover ratio, nutrient uptake, their recoveries and had positives nutrient balance in post-harvest soil, except nitrogen and sulphur. In addition to N₂ fixation, the di- az- otrophs- z through their secretion of growth promoting hormone (IAA, GA and Cytokinins) influenced root growth, the basic and fundamental for better crop growth to produce the potential yields. The PSM beside P solubilazition also helped secreting hormone with regulate plant growth (Pattanayak and Rao. 2014) [4].

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