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Effect of fertilizer levels on yield, economics and nutrient dynamics in sapota [Manilkara achras (Mill.) Forsberg] cv. Kalipatti

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Abstract

The experiment was carried out at Farm of Department of Horticulture, College of Horticulture, Dapoli, Dist. Ratnagiri, Maharashtra during the year 2018 in 40 years old sapota (cv. Kalipatti) orchard to study the effect of fertilizer levels on yield of sapota and nutrient status. The application of treatment T₄ i.e. 6 Kg each NPK + 400 Kg FYM Tree⁻¹ Year⁻¹ in three splits i.e., $\frac{1}{3}$ in June, $\frac{1}{3}$ in September and $\frac{1}{3}$ in January resulted in significantly highest yield per hectare (4.09 ton) with maximum net return (Rs. 38605.47/ ha) and B /C ratio (1.23)during experimentation. The significantly highest available N (229.36 Kg/ha) analysed in treatment T₃ i.e. 4.5 Kg each NPK+ 300 Kg FYM Tree⁻¹ Year⁻¹ in two splits i.e., $\frac{1}{2}$ in June and $\frac{1}{2}$ in September, and maximum available P and K (59.27 and 581.36 Kg/ha respectively.) were recorded with treatment T₄ i.e. 6 Kg each NPK + 400 Kg FYM Tree⁻¹ Year⁻¹ in three splits i.e., $\frac{1}{3}$ in June, $\frac{1}{3}$ in September and $\frac{1}{3}$ in January.

Keywords: Sapota, Kalipatti, yield, economics, nutrient status

Introduction

Sapota [*Manilkar aachras* (Mill.) Forsberg.Syn *Acharas sapota* L.] is a evergreen, major tropical fruit, popularly known as '*chiku*' in India. Sapota fruit is a fleshy berry, variable in shape, size and weight (75 to 150 g). The fruit when fully ripen is delicious and eaten as dessert fruit. The pulp is sweet and melting. The fruit skin can also be eaten since it is richer than the pulp in nutritive value.

In sapota, 'Kalipatti' is the leading variety of Maharashtra, Gujarat and North-Karnataka states (Chundawat and Bhuva, 1982) having dark green leaves, spreading habit and oval fruit of outstanding quality. The fruit is fleshy berry, variable in shape, size and weight (75-150g) with 1 or 2 seeds per fruit. The skin is thin, rusty brown somewhat scurfy looking like Iris potato and the pulp soft, melting, crumbling with a sandy or granular texture. Immature fruits are astringent, while ripe fruits are sweet and tasty.

The application of organic and inorganic sources of nutrient may be helpful in increasing the vegetative as well as reproductive growth of sapota, which may ultimately result in better production of good quality fruits. Being an irrigated crop, the split application of fertilizers may be helpful for improving nutrient use efficiency and expected yield. Keeping this fact in view the present investigation "Effect of fertilizer levels on yield of sapota [*Manilkara achras* (Mill.) Forsberg] cv. Kalipatti." was carried out.

Material and Methods

The experiment was carried out at Farm of Department of Horticulture, College of Horticulture, Dapoli, Dist. Ratnagiri, Maharashtra during the year 2018 in 40 years old sapota (cv. Kalipatti) orchard planted at 12.5m X 12.5m. The uniformly grown trees were selected and the experiment was laid in RBD design comprising five replications and four treatments *viz.* 1.5 Kg Each NPK + 100Kg FYM Tree⁻¹Year⁻¹ in June month (T₁), 3 Kg each NPK +200Kg FYM Tree⁻¹Year⁻¹ in June. (Recommended dose – check- T₂), 4.5 Kg each NPK + 400 Kg FYM Tree⁻¹Year⁻¹ in two splits i.e., $\frac{1}{2}$ in June and $\frac{1}{2}$ in September (T₃) and 6 Kg each NPK + 400 Kg FYM Tree⁻¹Year⁻¹ in three splits i.e., $\frac{1}{3}$ in June, $\frac{1}{3}$ in September and $\frac{1}{3}$ in January (T). Each treatment was imposed on two trees in every replication. The recommended cultural practices were adopted for management of orchard. The matured fruit were harvested periodically from each treatment separately and weight was recorded and converted on hectare basis. The soil properties of the experimental plot were studied prior and after the experiment following the standard procedures. The economics of each treatment was calculated.

The data obtained was analysed statistically as per the method suggested by Panse and Sukhatme (1985)^[6].

Results and Discussion

The data on yield and economics of sapota fruits cv. Kalipatti as influenced by the fertilizer levels presented in Table 1 indicate that application of graded dose of fertilizers significantly enhanced the productivity of trees by increasing the yield per hectare. The significantly maximum yield/ha (4.09t) was recorded in T_4 which was followed by T_3 (3.12 t/ha), T₂ (2.19 t/ha) and lowest yield (1.32 t/ha) was recorded in T_1 . The significant increase in fruit yield and yield attributing parameters in sapota with application of graded dose of NPK along with organic manure may be due to vigorous shoot growth and higher retention percentage. The beneficial role of graded dose of fertilizers along with organic manure in improving soil physical, chemical and biological properties is well known which intern helps in better nutrient absorption by plant and resulting in higher yield. Similar effects were recorded in sapota by Dalal et al. (2004) [3], Hebbara et al. (2006) [4], Satisha et al. (2014) [7], Meena (2016)^[5] and Cheena *et al.* (2018)^[1].

| Treatments | Yield (t/ha) | Expenditure incurred (Rs/ha) | Gross return (Rs/ha) | Net profit (Rs/ha) | B:C ratio |
|--|--------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| T ₁ (1.5 Kg Each NPK + 100Kg FYM Tree ⁻¹ Year ⁻¹ in June) | 1.32 | 56132.52 | 66000.00 | 9867.48 | 1.18 |
| T ₂ (3 Kg each NPK +200Kg FYM Tree ⁻¹ Year ⁻¹ in June) | 2.19 | 92260.29 | 109400.00 | 17139.71 | 1.19 |
| T ₃ (4.5 Kg each NPK+ 300 Kg FYM Tree ⁻¹ Year ⁻¹ in two splits i.e., ½ in June and ½ in September) | 3.12 | 128866.88 | 156000.00 | 27133.12 | 1.21 |
| T ₄ (6 Kg each NPK + 400 Kg FYM Tree ⁻¹ Year ⁻¹ in three splits i.e., ¹ / ₃ in June, ¹ / ₃ in September and ¹ / ₃ in January) | 4.09 | 165894.53 | 204500.00 | 38605.47 | 1.23 |
| Range | 1.32 - 4.09 | | | | |
| Mean | 2.68 | | | | |
| SEm ± | 0.01 | | | | |
| CD @ 5% | 0.03 | | | | |

Table 2: Effect of fertilizers on chemical properties of soil before experiment and after harvest in sapota cv. Kalipatti

| Treatments pH | | EC (dSm ⁻¹ at | Organic Carbon | Available Nitrogen | Available Phosphorous | Available Potassium |
|-------------------|------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| | - | 25°C) | (%) | (Kg/na) | (Kg/na) | (Kg/na) |
| T_1 | 5.65 | 0.14 | 16.00 | 215.46 | 53.18 | 549.22 |
| T_2 | 5.67 | 0.15 | 16.20 | 224.60 | 55.10 | 556.64 |
| T ₃ | 5.66 | 0.15 | 16.12 | 229.36 | 57.57 | 577.60 |
| T_4 | 5.63 | 0.14 | 16.30 | 227.60 | 59.27 | 581.36 |
| | 5.63 | 0.14 | 16.00 | 215.46 | 53.18 | 549.22 |
| Range | - | - | — | - | — | — |
| - | 5.67 | 0.15 | 16.30 | 229.36 | 59.27 | 581.36 |
| Mean | 5.65 | 0.14 | 16.16 | 224.25 | 56.28 | 566.21 |
| SEm ± | 0.01 | 0.003 | 0.07 | 0.42 | 0.47 | 0.49 |
| CD @ 5% | NS | NS | NS | 1.29 | 1.46 | 1.51 |
| Before experiment | 5.68 | 0.13 | 15.6 | 219.52 | 54.60 | 560 |

The data presented in Table 1 revealed that the treatment T_4 resulted maximum net return (Rs. 38605.47/ ha) and B /C ratio (1.23) during experimentation. It was followed by T_3 (net return Rs. 27133.12 / ha and B /C ratio 1.21), T₂ (net return Rs. 17139.71/ha and B /C ratio 1.19) and minimum in T_1 (net return Rs. 9867.48/ha and B /C ratio 1.18).

Initial value of pH (5.68), EC (0.13 dSm⁻¹), OC (15.16%) and available NPK (219.52, 54.60, 560 Kg/ha respectively) presented in Table 2. Further, it revealed that the different fertilizer treatments has non-significant effect on pH, EC and Organic Carbon of soil and their average values are 5.65, 0.14 dSm⁻¹, 16.12 per cent, respectively after harvest. However the available N,P and K was significantly influenced due to fertilizer treatments.

The higher available N was estimated in T₃ (229.36 Kg/ha) which is significantly maximum and it was followed by T₄ (227.60 Kg/ha) and T_2 (224.60 Kg/ha) the lowest (215.46 Kg/ha) was in T1. The available P was calculated significantly maximum in T_4 (59.27 Kg/ha) and it was followed by T_3 (57.57 Kg/ha) and T_2 (55.10 Kg/ha) the lowest (53.18 Kg/ha) was in T1. The estimated value of available K was significantly higher in T₄ (581.36 Kg/ha) and it was followed by T_3 (577.60 Kg/ha) and T_2 (556.64 Kg/ha) the lowest (549.22 Kg/ha) was in T1. The application of higher dose of nutrients in graded form improved the fertility status of soil.

The results are supported by findings of Shivakumar, et al. (2012)^[8] in papaya.

From the present investigation it is inferred that the application of fertilizer dose of 6 Kg each NPK + 400 Kg FYM Tree⁻¹ Year⁻¹ in three splits i.e., ¹/₃ in June, ¹/₃ in September and ¹/₃ in January (T₄) has enhanced yield by 86.75 percent over recommended dose with Highest Benefit: Cost ratio.

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