

Original Research Article

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## Effect of Land Configuration and Bio-organic on Exchangeable Cations and Exchangeable Sodium Percentage of Soil after Harvest of Chickpea (*Cicer arietinum* L.) Under Costal Salt Affected Soils

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### ABSTRACT

#### Keywords

Bio-organic, Chickpea, Costal salt affected soils, Exchangeable cations, ESP, Land configuration.

#### Article Info

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A study was conducted to evaluate “Effect of land configuration and bio-organic on exchangeable cations in soil after harvest of chickpea (*Cicer arietinum* L.) under costal salt affected soils” during *rabi* seasons of 2014-15 and 2015-16 at Coastal Soil Salinity Research Station, NAU, Danti. Twelve treatment combinations comprised of three levels of land configuration (L<sub>1</sub>: Flat bed, L<sub>2</sub>: Raised bed and L<sub>3</sub>: Ridge and furrow) in main plot and four levels of bio-organic [B<sub>1</sub>: No organic fertilizer + bio-fertilizer (*Rhizobium* + PSB), B<sub>2</sub>: FYM @ 10 t ha<sup>-1</sup> + bio-fertilizer (*Rhizobium* + PSB), B<sub>3</sub>: Biocompost @ 5 t ha<sup>-1</sup> + bio-fertilizer (*Rhizobium* + PSB) and B<sub>4</sub>: Vermicompost @ 2 t ha<sup>-1</sup> + bio-fertilizer (*Rhizobium* + PSB)] in sub plot were evaluated in split plot design with four replications. The results indicated that land configuration treatments failed to produce significant effect on exchangeable cations (Ca<sup>+2</sup> + Mg<sup>+2</sup>, K<sup>+</sup> and Na<sup>+</sup>) whereas, application of FYM @ 10 t ha<sup>-1</sup> + bio-fertilizer (*Rhizobium* + PSB) (B<sub>2</sub>) was appreciably improved the exchangeable cations *i.e.*, Ca<sup>+2</sup> + Mg<sup>+2</sup> and K<sup>+</sup> and considerably decreased exchangeable Na<sup>+</sup> ion and ESP in soil after harvest of chickpea crop over rest of the treatments.

### Introduction

In India, salt affected soils occupy about 9.38 million ha of cultivated land of which around 41 per cent is sodic *i.e.*, 3.88 million ha and 5.5 million ha are saline soils (including coastal) (IAB, 2000). These occur from Jammu and Kashmir (Ladakh region) in North to Kanyakumari in South and Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the East to Gujarat in the West. In Gujarat, an area of 1.69 million ha is affected by either salinity or sodicity or both (Minhas *et al.*, 1998). On account of

account of higher proportion of exchangeable Na<sup>+</sup> on exchange complex, the high clay containing soils of south Gujarat exhibit poor physical conditions *viz.*, low permeability, crusting and hardening of surface soil upon drying and cracking. As a result of this, restricted air and water movement in soil and poor root growth is observed. The extent of adverse effect of soil sodicity is dependent upon the texture of soil (Velayutham and Bhattacharya, 2000). Expanding problems of

soil salinity and water logging have become serious issues of concern as they affect productivity and threaten the very sustainability of agriculture under coastal salt affected soils, where rice is predominant during *khariif*. High substrate salinity is a major limiting factor for crop production in coastal habitats.

Chickpea (*Cicer arietinum* L.) is third most extensively growing grain legume. Besides being a valuable source of energy and protein to Indian diet, the crop also plays an important role in the maintenance of soil fertility. As with many other pulses, chickpea is a salt-sensitive crop and yield is seriously reduced particularly by chloride salinity as well as carbonate and bicarbonate of sodium. High salinity decreases substrate water potential and thus restricts water and nutrient uptake by the roots, high salinity may also cause ionic imbalance and toxicity in plants. Seed germination is delayed and reduced, seedling emergence and vegetative plant growth are suppressed under saline conditions (Yadav *et al.*, 1989). So far, there is a need to find out scientific approaches for sustainable and profitable production of chickpea on salt affected soils to meet the increasing demand.

## Materials and Methods

The study was conducted during *rabi* 2014-15 and 2015-16 at Coastal Soil Salinity Research Station (21° 03' 02" N latitude, 72° 44' 29" E longitude, three metre above mean sea level), Navsari Agricultural University, Danti. The experiment comprising of twelve treatment combinations comprised of three levels of land configuration (L<sub>1</sub>: Flat bed, L<sub>2</sub>: Raised bed and L<sub>3</sub>: Ridge and furrow) in main plot and four levels of bio-organic [B<sub>1</sub>: No organic fertilizer + bio-fertilizer (*Rhizobium* + PSB), B<sub>2</sub>: FYM @ 10 t ha<sup>-1</sup> + bio-fertilizer (*Rhizobium* + PSB), B<sub>3</sub>: Biocompost @ 5 t ha<sup>-1</sup> + bio-fertilizer (*Rhizobium* + PSB) and B<sub>4</sub>: Vermicompost @ 2 t ha<sup>-1</sup> + bio-fertilizer

(*Rhizobium* + PSB)] in sub plot were evaluated in split plot design with four replications. Before the commencement of the experiment, composite soil sample (0-15 cm depth) was collected and covering entire area of experimental field before sowing. The soil sample was air-dried, grind and passed through 2 mm sieve and analyzed for different physico-chemical properties (Table 1) and same method also used for analysis of exchangeable cations and ESP after harvest of crop. As per the soil properties during the cropping seasons of 2014-15 and 2015-16, the soil of the experimental field was clayey in texture, medium in OC and highly saline-sodic, so this type of soil moderately suitable for growing of chickpea crop. Required quantity of organic manure *i.e.*, FYM, biocompost and vermicompost were worked out for gross plot area as per treatment. FYM, biocompost and vermicompost were applied in respective treatments after preparing beds, mix it by using *kudali* and then ridge and furrow and raised beds were prepared. FYM, biocompost and vermicompost @ 10, 5 and 2 t ha<sup>-1</sup>, respectively were applied in respective treatments just before sowing of crop and bio-fertilizer (*Rhizobium* + PSB) as seed treatment was applied as per treatment.

## Results and Discussion

### Effect of land configuration

Land configuration treatments did not cause significant variation on exchangeable cations (Ca<sup>+2</sup> + Mg<sup>+2</sup>, K<sup>+</sup> and Na<sup>+</sup>) in soil after harvest of crop (Table 2) during both the years of study. Although, numerically increased exchangeable cations *i.e.*, Ca<sup>+2</sup> + Mg<sup>+2</sup> and K<sup>+</sup> and decreased exchangeable Na<sup>+</sup> in soil after harvest of chickpea crop under ridge and furrow method (L<sub>3</sub>). The value of exchangeable cations more might be due to more crop residues remain in soil which may increase organic matter in soil ultimately increased exchangeable cations *i.e.*, Ca<sup>+2</sup> +

Mg<sup>+2</sup> and K<sup>+</sup> and decreased exchangeable Na<sup>+</sup> in soil by the displacement of Ca<sup>+2</sup> and Mg<sup>+2</sup> ions.

Exchangeable sodium percentage (Table 2) in soil after harvest of chickpea was not influenced statistically due to land configuration treatments during both the years. Looking to the results, reduction of ESP in soil was to the tune of 6.36 and 5.96 per cent during 2014-15 and 2015-16, respectively due to ridge and furrow sowing treatment than flat bed. The decrease in ESP may be attributed to displacement of Na<sup>+</sup> by Ca<sup>+2</sup> and Mg<sup>+</sup> ions on exchangeable complex due to increased solubilization of CaCO<sub>3</sub> by the carbonic acid produced as a result of the microbial decomposition/humification of organic matter. Higher root proliferation might have been another important cause as the CO<sub>2</sub> exhaled by roots as a result formation

of carbonic acid. These findings corroborate the results obtained by Rathod *et al.*, (2004) in gattan panic under broad bed and furrow method.

**Effect of bio-organic**

The data further revealed that different treatments of bio-organic brought out significant influenced on exchangeable cations (Ca<sup>+2</sup> + Mg<sup>+2</sup>, K<sup>+</sup> and Na<sup>+</sup>) in soil after harvest of chickpea during the crop growing seasons of 2014-15 and 2015-16. Significantly higher exchangeable cations *i.e.*, Ca<sup>+2</sup> + Mg<sup>+2</sup> with 48.7 and 49.4 cmol(p<sup>+</sup>) kg<sup>-1</sup> and K<sup>+</sup> with 2.98 and 3.14 cmol(p<sup>+</sup>) kg<sup>-1</sup> were recorded under treatment B<sub>2</sub> [FYM @ 10 t ha<sup>-1</sup> + bio-fertilizer (*Rhizobium* + PSB)] during first year and second year, respectively.

**Table.1** Physico-chemical properties of the experimental site

Sr. No.	Particular	2014-15	2015-16	Analytical method employed
<b>A.</b>	<b>Mechanical analysis</b>	<b>Content in soil</b>		
1.	Sand (%)	12.15	12.21	International pipette method (Piper, 1966)
2.	Silt (%)	21.45	21.25	
3.	Clay (%)	66.40	66.55	
4.	Texture	clayey	clayey	
<b>B.</b>	<b>Chemical analysis</b>			
1.	pH <sub>(2.5)</sub>	8.64	8.59	Potentiometric (Jackson, 1967)
2.	EC <sub>(2.5)</sub> (dS m <sup>-1</sup> )	1.39	1.35	Conductometric (Jackson, 1967)
3.	Organic carbon (%)	0.51	0.56	Walkley and Black s rapid titration method (Jackson, 1967)
4.	Exchangeable Cations [cmol(p <sup>+</sup> ) kg <sup>-1</sup> ]			
I	Ca <sup>+2</sup> + Mg <sup>+2</sup>	37.78	40.52	Complexometric titration (Jackson, 1967)
ii	Na <sup>+</sup>	5.33	5.25	Flame photometric method (Jackson, 1967)
iii	K <sup>+</sup>	2.45	2.54	
5.	ESP	11.70	10.87	

**Table.2** Effect of land configuration and bio-organic on exchangeable cations and exchangeable sodium percentage in soil after harvest of chickpea

Treatment	Exchangeable cations [cmol(p <sup>+</sup> )/kg]						ESP (%)	
	Ca <sup>+2</sup> + Mg <sup>+2</sup>		K <sup>+</sup>		Na <sup>+</sup>		2014-15	2015-16
	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16		
<b>(a) Main plot [Land configuration (L)]</b>								
L <sub>1</sub> : Flat bed	43.1	44.4	2.75	2.79	5.07	4.97	10.04	9.60
L <sub>2</sub> : Raised bed	43.3	45.2	2.79	2.84	5.04	4.93	9.92	9.39
L <sub>3</sub> : Ridge and furrow	44.7	46.3	2.82	2.89	4.90	4.87	9.44	9.06
S.Em.±	0.71	0.63	0.04	0.03	0.07	0.06	0.17	0.12
CD (P=0.05)	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
C.V.%	6.48	5.54	5.96	4.17	5.44	4.48	6.77	5.24
<b>(b) Sub plot [Bio-organic (B)]</b>								
B <sub>1</sub> : No organic fertilizer + bio-fertilizer ( <i>Rhizobium</i> + PSB)	38.9	41.2	2.56	2.64	5.10	5.18	10.98	10.58
B <sub>2</sub> : FYM @ 10 t ha <sup>-1</sup> + bio-fertilizer ( <i>Rhizobium</i> + PSB)	48.7	49.4	2.98	3.14	4.86	4.63	8.60	8.10
B <sub>3</sub> : Biocompost @ 5 t ha <sup>-1</sup> + bio-fertilizer ( <i>Rhizobium</i> + PSB)	45.6	47.2	2.80	2.88	4.97	4.89	9.33	8.91
B <sub>4</sub> : Vermicompost @ 2 t ha <sup>-1</sup> + bio-fertilizer ( <i>Rhizobium</i> + PSB)	41.7	43.3	2.73	2.80	5.08	5.00	10.29	9.79
S.Em.±	0.59	0.63	0.04	0.03	0.06	0.05	0.13	0.11
CD (P=0.05)	1.7	1.8	0.11	0.09	0.16	0.16	0.39	0.31
Interaction (L×B)	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
C.V.%	4.69	4.85	4.89	3.64	3.82	3.81	4.73	3.99

Whereas, the lower values of exchangeable  $\text{Na}^+$  were 4.86 and 4.63  $\text{cmol}(\text{p}^+) \text{kg}^{-1}$  also noted under treatment  $\text{B}_2$  during both the years, respectively but, it was remain at par with treatment  $\text{B}_3$ . This might be due to solubilization of native  $\text{CaCO}_3$  and  $\text{MgCO}_3$  by the production of organic acids during decomposition of organic matter and also release potassium from FYM resulted in an increase of exchangeable cations. Similar findings were also reported by Deshpande *et al.*, (2015).

It was clear from the data (Table 2) that exchangeable sodium percentage of soil after harvest of chickpea was significantly influenced by different bio-organic treatments during both the years. Among the bio-organic treatments, application of FYM @ 10 t  $\text{ha}^{-1}$  + bio-fertilizer (*Rhizobium* + PSB) ( $\text{B}_2$ ) recorded significantly the lowest exchangeable sodium percentage of soil after harvest of chickpea which were 8.60 and 8.10 per cent during 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year of study, respectively. Significantly the highest values of exchangeable sodium percentage of soil were recorded under treatment  $\text{B}_1$  [no organic fertilizer + bio-fertilizer (*Rhizobium* + PSB)] during both the years. The ESP of soil decreased up to 27.67 and 30.62 per cent during 2014-15 and 2015-16, respectively under treatment  $\text{B}_2$  as compared to treatment  $\text{B}_1$ .

The decrease in ESP may be attributed to higher organic matter which may increased exchangeable cations due to microbial decomposition/humification of organic matter produced organic acid resulted in solubilization of  $\text{CaCO}_3$  and  $\text{MgCO}_3$ , these cations displacement of  $\text{Na}^+$  ions on exchangeable complex. Higher root proliferation might have been another important cause as the  $\text{CO}_2$  exhaled by roots result as a formation of carbonic acid. Dubey and Datt (2014) have also reported similar results.

### Interaction effect

Interaction effect due to land configuration and bio-organic did not bring any remarkable variation on exchangeable cations ( $\text{Ca}^{+2}$  +  $\text{Mg}^{+2}$ ,  $\text{K}^+$  and  $\text{Na}^+$ ) as well as exchangeable sodium percentage in soil after harvest of chickpea crop during both the years of experimentation (Table 2).

From the present study, it was concluded that sowing of chickpea on ridge and furrow with FYM @ 10 t  $\text{ha}^{-1}$  + bio-fertilizer (*Rhizobium* + PSB) in costal salt affected soils of south Gujarat improves the exchangeable cations like  $\text{Ca}^{+2}$  +  $\text{Mg}^{+2}$  and  $\text{K}^+$  and reduced the exchangeable  $\text{Na}^+$  and exchangeable sodium percentage in soil.

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