

Original Research Article

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## Influence of Plant Growth Regulators and Jeevamrut on Morphological and Yield Parameters of Pigeonpea (*Cajanus cajan* L.)

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### ABSTRACT

#### Keywords

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A field experiment was conducted during *kharif* season 2018-19 and 2019-20 at Experimental field of Department of Agricultural Botany., Dr. Panjabro Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola (M. S.). The experiment comprised of single variety of pigeonpea i.e. PKV (TARA) laid out in randomized block design with four replications, provided with eight treatments of two growth regulators i.e. GA<sub>3</sub>-25, 50 and 75 ppm and NAA-25, 50 and 75 ppm concentrations including jeevvrut@ 500 L ha<sup>-1</sup> and control. Plant growth regulators at different concentrations were applied through foliar spray at flower and pod initiation stages and soil application of jeevamrut was carried out at 30, 60, 90 and 120 DAS. Results indicated that two applications of 75 ppm GA<sub>3</sub> at flower and pod initiation stages recorded significantly more plant height, leaf area plant<sup>-1</sup>, total dry matter production<sup>-1</sup> and yield and yield attributes followed by NAA-75 ppm and by soil application of jeevamrut @ 500 L ha<sup>-1</sup>.

### Introduction

Pigeonpea is one of the major pulse crop cultivated in India. This crop is widely grown in India and India is the largest producer and consumer of pigeonpea in the world. It is a widely adapted, hardy and drought tolerant crop with a large temporal variation (90-300 days) for maturity. In India, pigeonpea is grown on 45.22 lakh hectares with production

of 38.51 lakh tons with a productivity of 859 kg/ha (Anonymous, 2020-21). Pre-mature abscission of flowers is one of the most serious problems in pigeonpea (Fakir 1997) and other legumes (Wiebold *et al.*, 1981). Pigeonpea produces large number of flowers, of which as much as 90% are shed (Wasike *et al.*, 2005). Therefore, the low yield of pigeonpea is due to poor pod set resulting from high flower and pod drops.

The low yield in pigeonpea is also due to excessive vegetative growth, indeterminate growth habit, poor source-sink relationship, poor pod set resulting from high flower and pod drops. Therefore, it is very necessary to compensate the high degree of flower abscission in pigeonpea and increase the pod yield. Plant growth regulators (PGR's) are considered as new generation of agro chemicals after fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides to augment seed yield and quality. They are also known to enhance the source sink-relationship and stimulate the translocation of photo assimilates thereby resulting in better retention of flowers and fruits. Secondly, indigenous liquid organic manures such as beejamrutha, jeevamrutha, panchagavya, amruthpani, liquid biogas, biogas slurry etc., play major role in improving growth and yield of crops. These solutions are rich source of useful and effective microorganisms and also contain both macro nutrients and essential micro nutrients, many vitamins, essential amino acids, growth promoting substances like indole acetic acid (IAA), gibberellic acid (GA) (Palekar, 2006; Sreenivasa *et al.*, 2010). Taking above view into consideration the present investigation was carried out with the objective to study the responses of plant growth regulators and jeevamrut on morphological and yield attributes in pigeonpea.

## **Materials and Methods**

The present investigation was conducted under field condition during *kharif* season 2018-19 and 2019-20 at Experimental field of Department of Agricultural Botany., Dr. Panjabro Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola (M. S.). The experiment comprised of single variety of pigeonpea i.e. PKV (TARA) laid out in randomized block design with four replications, provided with eight treatments of two growth regulators i.e. GA<sub>3</sub>-25, 50 and 75 ppm and NAA-25, 50 and 75 ppm

concentrations including jeevvruth and control. Spraying of growth regulators was done at flower initiation stage (stage 1) and pod initiation stage (stage 2) and soil application of jeevamrut was done at 30 60 90 and 120 DAS. The plot size was 4.6m x 4.0m. Seeds of pigeonpea were sown at spacing of 60 cm between rows and 20cm between plants. After the emergence of seedling, only one healthy seedling was maintained per hill to obtain uniform planting density. N, P and K fertilizers in the form of urea, single super phosphate and muriate of potash were applied @ 25 kg N + 50 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> + 20 kg K<sub>2</sub>O ha<sup>-1</sup> to the gross plots. Half dose of N and a complete dose of P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and K<sub>2</sub>O were given as a basal dose at sowing while the remaining N was applied at 18 days after sowing. Plant protection measures were adopted as and when needed. Spray of quinalphos 25 EC @ 1000 ml ha<sup>-1</sup> was done to reduce the infestation of pod borer for growth regulators treatments and for jeevamrut treatments spraying of decoction prepared from plant samples and cow urine was done to reduce the infestation of insects. Observations were recorded at different stages i.e. 60, 90, 120DAS and at Maturity. Harvesting in all treatments was undertaken after maturity of crop.

## **Results and Discussion**

### **Morphological parameters**

In the present investigation plant height plant<sup>-1</sup>, recorded substantial increase at 120 DAS and at maturity i.e. after the two foliar applications of 75 ppm GA<sub>3</sub> (208.66 cm) at flower and pod initiation stages followed by foliar application of NAA 75ppm (204.96cm) at flower and pod initiation stages and soil application of jeevamrut @ 500 L ha<sup>-1</sup> at 30, 60, 120 DAS (204.87 cm) as shown in Table 1. These results are in conformity with researchers those reported that, application of

growth regulator also enhances the absorption and transport of nutrients. Hence, it facilitates fast availability of nutrient and growth of the plant. These might be the reasons for increasing the plant height in the present investigation. Increase in plant height may be due to the fact that GA<sub>3</sub> increased the growth of plant by increasing intermodal length and due to cell division, cell enlargement and enhanced apical dominance indirectly by increasing auxin content and thus indirectly helped to increase the seed yield. Similar results were obtained by Giri *et al.*, (2018) and Yogita Chinnmalwar *et al.*, (2017) in pigeonpea.

Data regarding leaf area was recorded at 30 days interval from 60, 90, 120 DAS and at maturity. It was observed that leaf area per plant progressively increased up to 120 DAS,

later on it decline towards the maturity as shown in Table 2. At 60 DAS the data regarding leaf area per plant was found non significant. At 90 DAS significantly higher leaf area was noted by treatment (T<sub>4</sub>) foliar application of GA<sub>3</sub>-75 ppm at flower initiation and pod initiation stages. (36.533 dm<sup>2</sup>). However, at 120 DAS significantly superior leaf area plant<sup>-1</sup> was exhibited by the treatment (T<sub>7</sub>) foliar application of NAA-75ppm (54.644dm<sup>2</sup>) at flower initiation and pod initiation stages followed by spraying of GA<sub>3</sub>-75ppm (T<sub>4</sub>) treatment (49.851 dm<sup>2</sup>) and T<sub>8</sub> treatment (44.795 dm<sup>2</sup>) i.e. soil application of jeevamrut-@ 500 L ha<sup>-1</sup>. It is observed that leaf area significantly increased after application of treatments. Similar results were obtained by Sutar V. K. (2019) in pigeonpea and Korade *et al.*, (2019) in wheat.

**Table.1** Effect of Plant Growth Regulators and Jeevamrut on Plant height plant<sup>-1</sup> at maturity (cm)

Plant height			
Treatments	Kh-2018-19	Kh-2019-20	Pooled
T <sub>1</sub> (Control)	173.95	192.35	183.15
T <sub>2</sub> -GA <sub>3</sub> -25PPM	182.14	223.56	202.85
T <sub>3</sub> -GA <sub>3</sub> 50PPM	184.46	225.18	204.82
T <sub>4</sub> -GA <sub>3</sub> . 75PPM	188.60	228.71	208.66
T <sub>5</sub> -NAA-25PPM	183.62	222.05	202.83
T <sub>6</sub> -NAA-50PPM	184.37	223.78	204.07
T <sub>7</sub> -NAA-75PPM	185.27	224.65	204.96
T <sub>8</sub> -Jeevamrut @ 500 L ha <sup>-1</sup>	179.51	230.23	204.87
Mean	182.74	221.31	202.03
SE(m)±	0.969	0.999	0.725
CD at 5%	2.851	2.937	2.133

**Table.2** Effect of Plant Growth Regulators and Jeevamrut on Leaf area in pigeonpea (dm<sup>2</sup>)

Treatments	Leaf area											
	Kh-2018-19				Kh-2019-2020				Pooled			
	60DAS	90DAS	120DAS	At maturity	60DAS	90DAS	120DAS	At maturity	60DAS	90DAS	120DAS	At maturity
<b>T<sub>1</sub> (Control)</b>	14.547	27.155	36.339	24.094	14.793	28.638	38.566	26.036	14.670	27.896	37.453	25.065
<b>T<sub>2</sub>-GA<sub>3</sub>-25PPM</b>	14.348	29.241	40.154	27.921	14.448	30.102	41.253	29.171	14.398	29.671	40.703	28.546
<b>T<sub>3</sub>-GA<sub>3</sub>50PPM</b>	14.852	29.497	41.960	31.004	15.835	42.897	42.160	34.501	15.344	36.197	42.060	32.752
<b>T<sub>4</sub>-GA<sub>3</sub>-75PPM</b>	14.621	30.906	49.897	38.306	14.944	42.160	49.805	45.542	14.783	36.533	49.851	41.924
<b>T<sub>5</sub>-NAA-25PPM</b>	14.956	30.336	42.922	30.984	15.201	30.197	44.958	33.434	15.078	30.266	43.940	32.209
<b>T<sub>6</sub>-NAA-50PPM</b>	15.710	29.197	45.583	34.507	15.098	29.397	42.897	35.452	15.404	29.297	44.240	34.979
<b>T<sub>7</sub>-NAA-75PPM</b>	14.668	30.086	54.019	36.742	15.741	30.611	55.269	41.714	15.204	30.348	54.644	39.228
<b>T<sub>8</sub>-Jeevamrut @ 500 L ha<sup>-1</sup></b>	14.686	29.561	41.931	31.031	15.017	30.548	47.659	41.593	14.852	30.054	44.795	36.312
<b>Mean</b>	14.799	29.497	44.101	31.824	15.135	33.069	45.321	35.930	14.967	31.283	44.711	33.877
<b>SE(m) ±</b>	0.278	0.322	0.232	0.093	0.381	0.439	0.793	1.361	0.298	0.303	0.414	0.686
<b>CD at 5%</b>	NS	0.946	0.682	0.274	NS	1.292	2.333	4.004	NS	0.891	1.217	2.016

**Table.3** Effect of Plant Growth Regulators and Jeevamrut on dry weight plant<sup>-1</sup> in pigeonpea (g)

Treatments	Dry weight plant <sup>-1</sup>											
	2018-19				2019-20				Pooled			
	60DAS	90DAS	120DAS	At maturity	60DAS	90DAS	120DAS	At maturity	60DAS	90DAS	120DAS	At maturity
<b>T<sub>1</sub> (Control)</b>	27.67	139.66	200.88	254.49	28.92	141.16	203.19	254.49	28.07	140.32	202.33	253.92
<b>T<sub>2</sub>-GA<sub>3</sub>-25PPM</b>	28.47	140.93	200.28	262.39	29.25	141.93	201.09	268.85	28.87	141.40	200.69	271.77
<b>T<sub>3</sub>- GA<sub>3</sub> 50PPM</b>	28.55	140.68	247.17	329.90	29.11	136.68	248.42	314.62	28.75	138.64	247.79	334.47
<b>T<sub>4</sub>-GA<sub>3</sub>-75PPM</b>	28.46	140.93	257.96	403.48	28.61	141.68	260.46	405.84	28.55	141.40	259.21	403.22
<b>T<sub>5</sub>-NAA-25PPM</b>	28.14	140.38	242.51	314.38	29.14	141.13	246.74	314.40	28.64	140.67	244.62	314.63
<b>T<sub>6</sub>-NAA-50PPM</b>	28.18	140.57	247.43	322.58	29.18	142.07	247.94	323.33	28.68	140.67	248.24	326.71
<b>T<sub>7</sub>-NAA-75PPM</b>	28.15	140.61	298.11	402.13	29.16	141.86	309.11	405.07	28.65	140.89	298.10	404.63
<b>T<sub>8</sub>-Jeevamrut @ 500 L ha<sup>-1</sup></b>	28.60	139.70	247.34	359.43	29.14	137.20	249.09	359.43	29.07	137.89	248.21	357.02
<b>Mean</b>	28.28	140.43	242.71	331.10	29.06	140.46	245.44	330.75	28.66	140.22	248.04	333.30
<b>SE(m) ±</b>	0.215	0.357	10.311	9.098	0.135	0.783	9.637	4.132	0.104	0.342	9.950	4.379
<b>CD at 5%</b>	NS	NS	30.326	26.758	NS	2.303	28.342	12.152	0.307	1.005	29.264	12.880

**Table.4** Effect of Plant Growth Regulators and Jeevamruton number of pods plant<sup>-1</sup>, number of seeds pod<sup>-1</sup> and 100 seed wt. (g) in Pigeonpea

Treatments	2018-19					2019-20					Pooled				
	No. of Pods per Plant	No. of seeds per pod	100 seed wt. (g)	Seed Yield q/ha	Harvest Index	No. of Pods per Plant	No. of seeds per pod	100 seed wt. (g)	Seed Yield q/ha	Harvest Index	No. of Pods per Plant	No. of seeds per pod	100 seed wt. (g)	Seed Yield q/ha	Harvest Index
<b>T<sub>1</sub> (Control)</b>	190.43	2.72	9.23	17.70	32.01	192.43	2.73	9.32	18.34	32.17	191.43	2.72	9.27	18.02	32.09
<b>T<sub>2</sub>-GA<sub>3</sub>-25PPM</b>	208.23	3.31	9.31	18.48	33.51	230.41	3.41	9.33	19.33	33.45	219.32	3.36	9.32	18.90	33.49
<b>T<sub>3</sub>-GA<sub>3</sub> 50PPM</b>	233.52	3.34	9.39	18.83	32.38	238.51	3.61	9.43	19.79	32.17	236.02	3.47	9.41	19.31	32.24
<b>T<sub>4</sub>-GA<sub>3</sub>-75PPM</b>	248.40	3.85	9.85	20.38	33.72	250.58	3.86	9.86	22.25	34.12	249.69	3.89	9.86	21.31	33.93
<b>T<sub>5</sub>-NAA-25PPM</b>	225.40	3.46	9.31	18.85	33.44	228.53	3.59	9.32	19.27	33.48	226.97	3.52	9.31	19.06	33.46
<b>T<sub>6</sub>-NAA-50PPM</b>	231.65	3.59	9.38	18.83	32.32	233.65	3.60	9.39	19.57	32.42	232.60	3.59	9.38	19.20	32.37
<b>T<sub>7</sub>-NAA-75PPM</b>	241.26	3.76	9.42	19.07	32.36	244.20	3.78	9.44	19.99	32.44	242.73	3.77	9.43	19.53	32.41
<b>T<sub>8</sub>-Jeevamruth-@ 500 L ha<sup>-1</sup></b>	233.52	3.64	9.53	18.62	33.63	247.61	3.72	9.64	20.92	34.86	240.56	3.68	9.58	19.77	34.25
<b>Mean</b>	226.31	3.46	9.43	18.85	32.92	233.24	3.54	9.47	19.93	33.14	229.78	3.50	9.45	19.39	33.03
<b>SE(m) ±</b>	1.22	0.07	0.08	0.064	0.16	1.37	0.09	0.08	0.209	0.14	0.88	0.06	0.06	0.101	0.12
<b>CD at 5 %</b>	3.59	0.21	0.22	0.188	0.48	4.04	0.26	0.23	0.615	0.43	2.58	0.18	0.20	0.297	0.34

Total dry matter production rate plant<sup>-1</sup> progressively increased from 90 DAS up to maturity. At maturity the range of total dry matter was varied from 253.92 to 403.22 g. A marked increase in total dry production plant<sup>-1</sup> was observed after the foliar application of growth regulators at flower initiation and pod initiation stages and soil application of jeevamrut at 30, 60, 90 and 120 DAS as shown in Table 3. Statistical analysis showed that foliar application of NAA-75ppm (T<sub>7</sub>) i.e.404.63 g at flower initiation and pod initiation stages exhibited significantly higher total dry matter per plant followed by treatment (T<sub>4</sub>) foliar application of GA<sub>3</sub>-75ppm (403.22 g) and by soil application of jeevamrut- @ 500 L ha<sup>-1</sup> (357.02 g) as compared to control (253.92 g) and rest of the treatments. Whereas, foliar application of GA<sub>3</sub>-75ppm (T<sub>4</sub>) i.e. 403.22 g at flower initiation and pod initiation stages was at par with foliar application of treatment NAA-75ppm (T<sub>7</sub>) i.e. 404.63 g at flower initiation and pod initiation stages. Similar results were obtained by Upaydhyay and Rajan (2015) in soybean and Nabi *et al.*, (2016) in cowpea.

### **Yield and yield parameters**

Application of GA<sub>3</sub>-75ppm recorded significantly more number of pods plant<sup>-1</sup> and seeds pod<sup>-1</sup> (249.69 and 3.89) followed by treatment (T<sub>7</sub>), foliar application of NAA-75ppm (242.73 and 3.77) at flower and pod initiation stages and by treatment (T<sub>8</sub>) soil application of jeevamrut@ 500 L ha<sup>-1</sup> (240.56 and 3.68) at 30, 60, 90, and 120 DAS and as compared to control (191.43 and 2.72) and rest of the treatments. Application of GA<sub>3</sub>-75ppm (9.86 g) at flower and pod initiation stages recorded significantly highest 100 seed weight plant<sup>-1</sup> followed by T<sub>8</sub>treatment soil application of jeevamrut@ 500 L ha<sup>-1</sup> (9.58 g) at 30, 60, 90, and 120 DAS and by treatment T<sub>7</sub>, foliar application of NAA-75ppm (9.43 g) at flower and pod initiation stages as compared to control (9.27 g) and rest of the

treatments.

Application of GA<sub>3</sub>-75ppm (21.31 q) at flower and pod initiation stages recorded significantly highest seed yield ha<sup>-1</sup> (q) followed by T<sub>8</sub> treatment, soil application of jeevamrut- @ 500 L ha<sup>-1</sup> (19.77q) at 30, 60, 90, and 120 DAS and by treatment (T<sub>7</sub>) foliar application of NAA-75ppm (19.53 q) at flower and pod initiation stages as compared to control (18.02 q) and rest of the treatments. However in case of harvest index the treatment (T<sub>8</sub>) soil application of jeevamrut- @ 500 L ha<sup>-1</sup> (34.25 %) at 30, 60, 90, and 120 DAS recorded significantly highest harvest index followed by treatment (T<sub>4</sub>) foliar application of GA<sub>3</sub>-75ppm (33.93 %) at flower and pod initiation stages as compared to control and rest of the treatments as shown in Table 4. Seed yield is influenced by morphological parameters such as plant height, total dry matter production, leaf area, number of branches and test weight which are considered as yield contributing parameters. Seed yield is combined effect of yield attributing characters and physiological efficiency of plant during the investigation. Partitioning of assimilates in the plant during reproductive development is important for flower, fruit and seeds. Thus, crop yield can be increased either by increasing the total dry matter production or by increasing the proportion of economic yield (harvest index) or both (Gardner *et al.*, 1988). Similar findings were in agreement with Giri *et al.*, (2018) and Jadhav *et al.*, (2017) in pigeonpea. The positive response of organic formulations was also reported by Deekshith Gowda *et al.*, (2018) in groundnut.

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