

Original Research Article

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Effect of Different Integrated Approaches of Organic and Inorganic Fertilization on Growth of Onion (*Allium cepa* L.)

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

FYM, Treatment,
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The experiment was carried out to find out the effect of organic, inorganic sources of nutrients on growth of Garlic. The treatment combinations involving three levels of organic manure i.e. O₁- FYM (farm yard manure@20.t/ha, O₂-Vermicompost@10.t/ha, O₃-Poultry manure@05.t/ha, three levels of In-organic fertilizer i.e. I₁- Control, I₂-100% RDF (NPK-150:80:60), I₃-50% RDF (NPK-75:40:30) and Bio-enhancers in three levels i.e. B₁- Panchgavya (45 and 60 DAT), B₂- Jivamrit-500 lit. /ha (with every irrigation), B₃- Bijamrit- seed treatment + seedling treatment. Practices were given in Agrifound Dark Red variety. plant height (cm), number of leaves per plant, leaf area per plant (cm²), fresh weight of shoot per plant (g), dry weight of shoot per plant (g), fresh weight of bulb per plant (g), dry weight of bulb per plant (g), chlorophyll content of fresh leaves (mg/100g).were observed by the maximum at 30,60and 90DAS were observed under the treatment I₂(100% RDF (NPK-150:80:60) at all the growth stages.

Introduction

There are many bulb crops grown around the world among which one of the most important bulb crop is Onion. Onion (*Allium cepa* L., 2n = 16) is from the Amaryllidaceae family and it was originated in the central part of the Asian continent. It is an essential part of almost all the kitchens in the Indian subcontinent. Onion is used in most of the curries prepared in India. It is used in salad, spices, sauces, vegetables etc. In our country it is cultivated as annual crop for the production of Onion bulbs and biennial crop for the production of seeds.

Onion bulb has flesh with concentric scales enclosed in wrapping just like various leaves are wrapped one over the other. These scales are connected to the base through stem disc. The outermost layer has roots in it which is connected to the stem providing nutrients from the soil through various layers to the stem. In general terms it can be said that the bulb is basically the stem.

The edible part of the stem is 'bulb' which grows underground. These bulbs are used as condiments and vegetable. The raw part of this onion plant i.e. green leaves and stem which is whole green plant is used directly in

various forms. It is called as spring onions. Colourful pink-purple onions are used in salad and cooking. Onion is widely used due to its flavour and health promoting properties.

India earns foreign exchange through onion export. The onion export is mainly to Singapore, Malaysia, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Mauritius, Philippines, Indonesia & Gulf countries.

Organic fertilizers can also be used for the production of Onion. Natural fertilizers like Farm Yard Manure (FYM), compost and poultry manure are the most commonly used in agriculture. FYM is the extensively used inorganic source of plant nutrient. Poultry manure is the richest source of plant nutrients followed by bio-gas slurry, composts, goat manure and FYM, besides vermin-compost which is rich in nutrients, organic matter, vitamins, microbes and growth promoters. The addition of manures in combination with fertilizers may be helpful to maintain the organic carbon content in soil. Use of chemical fertilizers alone cannot keep the pace with the present time in maintenance of soil health for sustaining the productivity.

Use of Bio-enhancers is a new concept in organic agriculture. The bio enhancers in common use are *Amrit Pani*, *Bijamrita*, *Jiwamrita*, *Panchgavya*, *Vermi wash* etc. In fact, these are rich source of microbial consortia, macro and micronutrients and plant growth promoting substances including immunity enhancers.

Materials and Methods

A field experiment on Effect of different integrated approaches of organic and inorganic fertilization on growth of onion (*Allium cepa* L.) was carried out during Kharif season 2016 and 2017 at Mahatma Gandhi Chitrakoot Gramodaya Vishwa Vidyalaya, Chitrakoot,

District Satna (M.P.). The research work was conducted in the Factorial Completely Randomized Block Design with three replications. Each replication was comprised of 27 treatment combinations. The treatment combinations involving three levels of organic manure i.e. O₁- FYM (farm yard manure@20.t/ha, O₂-Vermicompost@10.t/ha, O₃-Poultry manure@05.t/ha, three levels of Inorganic fertilizer i.e. I₁- Control, I₂-100% RDF (NPK-150:80:60), I₃-50% RDF (NPK-75:40:30) and Bio-enhancers in three levels i.e. B₁- Panchgavya (45 and 60 DAT), B₂- Jivamrit-500 lit. /ha (with every irrigation), B₃- Bijamrit- seed treatment + seedling treatment were given in Agrifound Dark Red variety. The climate of the region is semi-arid and sub-tropical having extreme winter and summer. During the winter months, the temperature drops down to as low as 2°C while in the summer months the temperature extend above 47°C, hot desiccating winds (Loo) are regular symptom during summers while, there may be infrequent spell of frost during the winter months. The soil of the investigation field was clay loam with good drainage and uniform texture with medium NPK status. Observations were recorded according to standard procedure on plant height (cm), number of leaves per plant, leaf area per plant (cm²), fresh weight of shoot per plant (g), dry weight of shoot per plant (g), fresh weight of bulb per plant (g), dry weight of bulb per plant (g), chlorophyll content of fresh leaves (mg/100g).

Results and Discussion

Among growth parameters, plant height (cm), number of leaves per plant, leaf area per plant (cm²), fresh weight of shoot per plant (g), dry weight of shoot per plant (g), fresh weight of bulb per plant (g), dry weight of bulb per plant (g) and chlorophyll content of fresh leaves were studied at 30,60 and 90 DAP in onion (Table 1 and 2).

Significantly maximum plant height were observed under the treatment O₂ (Vermicompost@10.t/ha), while the minimum plant height was observed under the treatment O₃ (Poultry manure@05.t/ha) at 30, 60 and 90 days after planting, respectively. Vermicompost helps in providing more and balanced amount of different types of nutrients in less time for onion plant than goat manure. The probable reasons for plant height may be sufficient use of organic matter to increase in water holding capacity and nutrient availability. Similar results have been reported by Jayathilake *et al.*, 2003, Reddy and Reddy 2005, Naik *et al.*, 2013, Chavan *et al.*, 2016.

In case of inorganic fertilizer maximum plant height was recorded in I₂(100% RDF (NPK-150:80:60)), while minimum plant height was recorded in I₁ (Control) at 30, 60 and 90 days after planting, respectively. This might be due to application of NPK which are good for proper growth and development of root area of plant. The NPK contribute significantly to the proper growth and development of plant. Nitrogen is the most indispensable of all mineral nutrients for growth and development of the plant as it is the basis of fundamental constituents of all living matter. Phosphorus plays a important role in the photosynthesis it is a constituent of adenosine tri-phosphate (ATP), the energy molecule. Similarly, the role of potassium in stomata operating and thereby governing the entry of CO₂ is widely known. Potassium is essential to controlling water property in the plants and in enhancing the drought tolerance. The findings are in close harmony with the result of Jayathilake *et al.*, 2003, Reddy and Reddy 2005, Naik *et al.* 2013, Chavan *et al.*, 2016.

As regards to bio-enhancers, maximum plant height was recorded under B₂ (Jivamrit-500 lit./ha with every irrigation), while minimum plant height was recorded under B₃ (Bijamrit-

seed treatment + seedling treatment) at 30, 60 and 90 days after planting, respectively. The probable cause for proper growth of plants and enhancing the height of plants might be due to growth enzymes available in Jivamrit such enzymes act to enhance cell division. The findings are in close harmony with the result of Chadha *et al.*, 2020a, Chadha *et al.*, 2020b, Pathak and Ram 2013, Kumar *et al.*, 2018.

Interaction effect of the different factors was found to significant except the interaction of IxB and O_xIxB at 90 days after planting which was non- significant during first year. Interaction effect of the different factors was found to significant at all the stages during second year and pooled.

Significantly maximum number of leaves per plant were observed under the treatment O₂ (Vermicompost@10.t/ha), while the minimum number of leaves per plant was observed under the treatment O₃ (Poultry manure@05.t/ha) at 30, 60 and 90 days after planting, respectively. The probable reasons for increased number of leaves per plant may be due to incorporation of Vermicompost which helps in availability of more and balanced amount of different types of nutrients require for increase number of leaves per plant. The probable reasons for plant height may be ample use of organic matter to increase in water holding capacity and nutrient availability. Similar results have been reported by Jayathilake *et al.*, 2003, Reddy and Reddy 2005, Jawadagi *et al.*, 2012, Chavan *et al.*, 2016.

In case of inorganic fertilizer maximum number of leaves per plant was recorded in I₂ (100% RDF (NPK-150:80:60)), while minimum number of leaves per plant was recorded in I₁ (Control) at 30, 60 and 90 days after planting, respectively. A sufficient use of primary nutrients through inorganic

fertilizers at their recommended doses might have led to formation of soil solution rich in almost all ions required to be essentially to the plants. It is again an established fact that among other things, the nutrients acquisition power of a plant greatly depends on the concentration of the ions in soil solution. It can therefore, be assumed that the plants growing in the plots with all major nutrients enjoyed a situation congenial for their growth and development. Similar results have been reported by Jayathilake *et al.*, 2003, Reddy and Reddy 2005, Jawadagi *et al.*, 2012, Chavan *et al.*, 2016.

As regards to bio-enhancers, maximum number of leaves per plant was recorded under B₂ (Jivamrit-500 lit. /ha with every irrigation), while minimum number of leaves per plant was recorded under B₃ (Bijamrit-seed treatment + seedling treatment) at 30, 60 and 90 days after planting, respectively. The possible reason for this may be due to effective micro organism (EMO) cultures in Jivamrit could synthesize phytohormones i.e., auxins and other growth regulators that stimulated plant growth. Jivamrita is rich source of macro, micro nutrients, *Trichoderma*, *Pseudomonas*, nitrogen fixers and phosphate solubilizers. Jivamrit which colonize in the leaves increase the ammonia uptake and boost total nitrogen supply which are stimulated in number of leaves per plant. The findings are in close harmony with the result of Chadha *et al.*, 2020a, Chadha *et al.*, 2020b, Pathak and Ram 2013, Kumar *et al.*, 2018.

Interaction effect of the different factors was found to significant except the interaction of OxI, IxB, BxO and OxIxB at 60 days after planting which was non significant during first year. Interaction effect of the different factors was found to significant except the interaction of OxI, IxB, BxO and OxIxB at 30 days after planting and IxB, BxO at 60 during

second year. Interaction effect of the different factors was found to significant except the interaction of IxB and BxO at 30 days after planting and IxB and BxO and OxIxB at 60 days after planting which was non-significant pooled.

Significantly maximum leaf area per plant were observed under the treatment O₂ (Vermicompost@10.t/ha), while the minimum leaf area per plant was observed under the treatment O₃ (Poultry manure@05.t/ha) at 30, 60 and 90 days after planting, respectively. The probable reasons for increased leaf area per plant may be due to cumulative effect of continuous supply of nutrients, vitamins and growth promoting substances available in vermicompost which ultimately lead to boost cell division. These results were in close conformity with the findings of Reddy and Reddy 2005, Jawadagi *et al.*, (2012).

In case of inorganic fertilizer maximum leaf area per plant was recorded in I₂ [100% RDF (NPK-150:80:60)], while minimum leaf area per plant was recorded in I₁ (Control) at 30, 60 and 90 days after planting, respectively. A sufficient use of primary nutrients through inorganic fertilizers at their recommended doses might have led to formation of soil solution rich in almost all ions required to be essentially to the plants. It is again an established fact that among other things, the nutrients acquisition power of a plant greatly depends on the concentration of the ions in soil solution. It can therefore, be assumed that the plants growing in the plots with all major nutrients enjoyed a situation congenial for their growth and development. Similar results have been reported by Reddy and Reddy 2005, Jawadagi *et al.*, 2012.

As regards to bio-enhancers, maximum leaf area per plant was recorded under B₂ (Jivamrit-500 lit./ha with every irrigation),

while minimum leaf area per plant was recorded under B₃ (Bijamrit- seed treatment + seedling treatment) at 30, 60 and 90 days after planting, respectively. The possible reason for this may be due to effective micro organism (EMO) cultures in Jivamrit could synthesize phytohormones i.e., auxins and other growth regulators that stimulated plant growth. Jivamrita is rich source of macro, micro nutrients, *Trichoderma*, *Pseudomonas*, nitrogen fixers and phosphate solublizers. Jivamrit which colonize in the leaves increase the ammonia uptake and boost total nitrogen supply which is stimulated in leaf area per plant. The findings are in close harmony with the result of Chadha *et al.*, 2020a, Chadha *et al.*, 2020b, Pathak and Ram 2013, Kumar *et al.*, 2018.

Interaction effect of the different factors was found to significant at all the stages during both the years and pooled.

Significantly maximum fresh weight of shoot per plant were observed under the treatment O₂ (Vermicompost@10.t/ha), while the minimum fresh weight of shoot per plant was observed under the treatment O₃ (Poultry manure@05.t/ha) at 30, 60 and 90 days after planting, respectively. The probable reason may be due to continues supply of primary and secondary nutrients through vermicompost leads to enhanced fresh weight of shoot per plant. These results were corroborated with the findings of Pachauri *et al.*, (2005), Patidar *et al.*, (2019).

In case of inorganic fertilizer maximum fresh weight of shoot per plant was recorded in I₂ [100% RDF (NPK-150:80:60)], while minimum fresh weight of shoot per plant was recorded in I₁ (Control) at 30, 60 and 90 days after planting, respectively. This may be due to use of macro and micro nutrients, enhanced the photosynthetic activity, chlorophyll formation, nitrogen metabolism and auxin

amount in the plants which increasing the plant growth finally fresh weight of shoot per plant. The findings are also in agreement with the findings of Pachauri *et al.*, 2005, Patidar *et al.*, (2019).

As regards to bio-enhancers, maximum fresh weight of shoot per plant was recorded under B₂ (Jivamrit-500 lit. /ha with every irrigation), while minimum fresh weight of shoot per plant was recorded under B₃ (Bijamrit- seed treatment + seedling treatment) at 30, 60 and 90 days after planting, respectively. Jivamrit combination is adjudged as the best organic nutrition practice for sustainability by its overall performance on growth, productivity, quality of crops. These results were corroborated with the findings of Chadha *et al.*, 2020a, Chadha *et al.*, 2020b, Pathak and Ram 2013, Kumar *et al.*, 2018.

Interaction effect of the different factors was found to significant at all the stages during first year. Interaction effect of the different factors was found to significant except the interaction of IxB, BxO and OxIxB at 90 days after planting which was non- significant during second year. Interaction effect of the different factors was found to significant except the interaction of IxB and BxO at 90 days after planting which was non- significant in pooled.

Significantly maximum dry weight of shoot per plant were observed under the treatment O₂ (Vermicompost@10.t/ha), while the minimum dry weight of shoot per plant was observed under the treatment O₃ (Poultry manure@05.t/ha) at 30, 60 and 90 days after planting, respectively. The probable reason may be due to continues supply of primary and secondary nutrients through vermicompost leads to enhanced dry weight of shoot per plant. These results were corroborated with the findings of Jawadagi *et al.*, (2012).

Table.1 Effect of different integrated approaches of organic and inorganic fertilization on plant height (cm), number of leaves per plant, leaf area per plant (cm²), fresh weight of shoot per plant (g) of onion

Treatment Symbols	Plant height (cm)			Number of leaves per plant			Leaf area per plant (cm ²)			Fresh weight of shoot per plant (g)		
	30 DAS	60 DAS	90 DAS	30 DAS	60 DAS	90 DAS	30 DAS	60 DAS	90 DAS	30 DAS	60 DAS	90 DAS
O₁	36.854	41.637	45.373	14.779	17.858	18.925	105.103	129.834	142.68	18.842	21.056	27.702
O₂	37.685	42.496	46.919	15.357	18.386	19.391	108.871	134.499	147.796	19.551	21.8	28.599
O₃	33.588	40.859	43.891	13.093	16.371	17.603	86.947	101.73	115.982	15.654	17.783	24.468
SEm ±	0.013	0.021	0.033	0.061	0.072	0.023	0.039	0.034	0.053	0.037	0.035	0.087
CD_{5%}	0.038	0.059	0.094	0.172	0.203	0.067	0.11	0.095	0.149	0.104	0.1	0.246
I₁	32.710	40.393	43.078	12.655	16.001	17.259	84.274	96.995	111.4	14.716	16.831	23.524
I₂	38.895	42.598	47.152	16.118	19.073	20.006	116.064	145.294	157.336	21.036	23.327	30.141
I₃	36.522	42.000	45.953	14.455	17.541	18.653	100.583	123.774	137.722	18.295	20.481	27.105
SEm ±	0.013	0.021	0.033	0.061	0.072	0.023	0.039	0.034	0.053	0.037	0.035	0.087
CD_{5%}	0.038	0.059	0.094	0.172	0.203	0.067	0.11	0.095	0.149	0.104	0.1	0.246
B₁	35.892	41.928	45.827	14.298	17.446	18.553	100.199	121.495	135.21	18.102	20.296	27.031
B₂	37.12	44.675	50.659	14.980	18.052	19.095	104.885	129.55	142.271	18.816	21.051	27.809
B₃	35.115	38.389	39.697	13.951	17.117	18.271	95.837	115.018	128.978	17.129	19.291	25.929
SEm ±	0.013	0.021	0.033	0.061	0.072	0.023	0.039	0.034	0.053	0.037	0.035	0.087
CD_{5%}	0.038	0.059	0.094	0.172	0.203	0.067	0.11	0.095	0.149	0.104	0.1	0.246

Table.2 Effect of different integrated approaches of organic and inorganic fertilization on dry weight of shoot per plant (g), fresh weight of bulb per plant (g), dry weight of bulb per plant (g), chlorophyll content of fresh leaves (mg/100g)of onion

Treatment Symbols	Dry weight of shoot per plant (g)			Fresh weight of bulb per plant (g)			Dry weight of bulb per plant (g)			Chlorophyll content of fresh leaves (mg/100g)		
	30 DAS	60 DAS	90 DAS	30 DAS	60 DAS	90 DAS	30 DAS	60 DAS	90 DAS	30 DAS	60 DAS	90 DAS
O₁	0.913	2.461	3.738	7.279	18.833	108.555	5.831	14.346	20.286	1.431	1.792	1.726
O₂	1.021	2.654	3.908	7.566	19.199	108.928	6.083	14.506	20.775	1.561	1.955	1.796
O₃	0.564	1.687	2.94	6.23	17.027	106.659	4.769	13.819	17.686	1.164	1.436	1.484
SEm ±	0.036	0.072	0.036	0.073	0.073	0.062	0.077	0.04	0.028	0.036	0.036	0.036
CD 5%	0.103	0.204	0.103	0.206	0.207	0.177	0.22	0.113	0.081	0.103	0.102	0.103
I₁	0.529	1.544	2.759	6.108	16.584	106.233	4.581	13.738	17.258	1.143	1.375	1.432
I₂	1.185	3.034	4.326	8.047	19.894	109.653	6.54	14.754	21.614	1.676	2.122	1.919
I₃	0.784	2.225	3.5	6.92	18.581	108.257	5.562	14.179	19.876	1.337	1.687	1.655
SEm ±	0.036	0.072	0.036	0.073	0.073	0.062	0.077	0.04	0.028	0.036	0.036	0.036
CD 5%	0.103	0.204	0.103	0.206	0.207	0.177	0.22	0.113	0.081	0.103	0.102	0.103
B₁	0.83	2.224	3.532	7.04	18.33	108.039	5.549	14.216	19.619	1.386	1.732	1.673
B₂	0.939	2.525	3.76	7.314	18.843	108.553	5.863	14.388	20.258	1.483	1.872	1.747
B₃	0.728	2.054	3.294	6.721	17.887	107.55	5.271	14.067	18.87	1.287	1.58	1.587
SEm ±	0.036	0.072	0.036	0.073	0.073	0.062	0.077	0.04	0.028	0.036	0.036	0.036
CD 5%	0.103	0.204	0.103	0.206	0.207	0.177	0.22	0.113	0.081	0.103	0.102	0.103

In case of inorganic fertilizer maximum dry weight of shoot per plant was recorded in I₂[100% RDF (NPK-150:80:60)], while minimum dry weight of shoot per plant was recorded in I₁ (Control) at 30, 60 and 90 days after planting, respectively. This may be due to use of macro and micro nutrients, enhanced the photosynthetic activity, chlorophyll formation, nitrogen metabolism and auxin amount in the plants which increasing the plant growth finally dry weight of shoot per plant. The findings are also in agreement with the findings of Jawadagi *et al.*, (2012).

As regards to bio-enhancers, maximum dry weight of shoot per plant was recorded under B₂ (Jivamrit-500 lit. /ha with every irrigation), while minimum dry weight of shoot per plant was recorded under B₃ (Bijamrit- seed treatment + seedling treatment) at 30, 60 and 90 days after planting, respectively. Jivamrit combination is adjudged as the best organic nutrition practice for sustainability by its overall performance on growth, productivity, quality of crops. These results were corroborated with the findings of Chadha *et al.*, (2020a), Chadha *et al.*, (2020b), Pathak and Ram (2013), Kumar *et al.*, (2018).

Interaction effect of the different factors was found to significant except the interaction of OxIxB at 60 days after planting which was non-significant during first year. Interaction effect of the different factors was found to significant except the interaction of OxI, IxB, BxO and OxIxB at 30 days after planting, OxIxB at 60 and 90 days after planting which was non-significant during second year. Interaction effect of the different factors was found to significant except the interaction of IxB, BxO and OxIxB at 30, 60 and 90 days after planting which was non-significant pooled.

Significantly maximum fresh weight of bulb per plant were observed under the treatment O₂ (Vermicompost @ 10.t/ha), while the minimum fresh weight of bulb per plant was observed under the treatment O₃ (Poultry manure @ 05.t/ha) at 30, 60 and 90 days after planting, respectively. The probable reason may be due to

continues supply of primary and secondary nutrients through vermicompost leads to enhanced fresh weight of bulb per plant. These results were corroborated with the findings of Pachauri *et al.*, (2005), Patidar *et al.*, (2019).

In case of inorganic fertilizer maximum fresh weight of bulb per plant was recorded in I₂(100% RDF (NPK-150:80:60)), while minimum fresh weight of bulb per plant was recorded in I₁(Control) at 30, 60 and 90 days after planting, respectively. This may be due to use of macro and micro nutrients, enhanced the photosynthetic activity, chlorophyll formation, nitrogen metabolism and auxin amount in the plants which increasing the plant growth finally fresh weight of bulb per plant. The findings are also in agreement with the findings of Pachauri *et al.*, (2005), Patidar *et al.*, (2019).

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Interaction effect of the different factors was found to significant except the interaction of IxB, BxO and OxIxB at 60 and 90 days after planting which was non- significant during first year. Interaction effect of the different factors was found to significant except the interaction of IxB, BxO and OxIxB at 30, 60 and 90 days after planting which was non-significant during second year and pooled.

Significantly maximum dry weight of bulb per plant were observed under the treatment O₂ (Vermicompost@10.t/ha), while the minimum dry weight of bulb per plant was observed under the treatment O₃ (Poultry manure@05.t/ha) at

30, 60 and 90 days after planting, respectively. The probable reason may be due to continues supply of primary and secondary nutrients through vermicompost leads to enhanced dry weight of bulb per plant. These results were corroborated with the findings of Jayathilake *et al.*, (2003), Jawadagi *et al.*, (2012).

In case of inorganic fertilizer maximum dry weight of bulb per plant was recorded in I₂(100% RDF (NPK-150:80:60)), while minimum dry weight of bulb per plant was recorded in I₁ (Control) at 30, 60 and 90 days after planting, respectively. This may be due to use of macro and micro nutrients, enhanced the photosynthetic activity, chlorophyll formation, nitrogen metabolism and auxin amount in the plants which increasing the plant growth finally dry weight of bulb per plant. The findings are also in agreement with the findings of Jayathilake *et al.*, (2003), Jawadagi *et al.*, (2012).

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Interaction effect of the different factors was found to significant except the interaction of IxB, BxO and OxIxB at 30 days after planting and OxI, IxB, BxO and OxIxB at 60 days after planting which was non-significant. Interaction effect of the different factors was found to significant except the interaction of OxI, IxB, BxO and OxIxB at 30 and 60 days after planting which was non-significant. interaction effect of the different factors was found to significant except the interaction of OxI, IxB,

BxO and OxIxB at 30 days after planting and OxIxB at 60 days after planting which was non-significant.

Significantly maximum chlorophyll content of fresh leaves were observed under the treatment O₂ (Vermicompost@10.t/ha), while the minimum chlorophyll content of fresh leaves was observed under the treatment O₃ (Poultry manure@05.t/ha) at 30, 60 and 90 days after planting, respectively. The probable reason may be due to continues supply of primary and secondary nutrients through vermicompost leads to enhanced chlorophyll content of fresh leaves. The findings are also in agreement with the findings of Jayathilake *et al.*, (2003), Jawadagi *et al.*, (2012).

In case of inorganic fertilizer maximum chlorophyll content of fresh leaves was recorded in I₂(100% RDF (NPK-150:80:60)), while minimum chlorophyll content of fresh leaves was recorded in I₁ (Control) at 30, 60 and 90 days after planting, respectively. Adequate absorption of key nutrients leads to ample growth and development of plants due to which more chlorophyll is produced in the leaves. The findings are also in agreement with the findings of Jayathilake *et al.*, (2003), Jawadagi *et al.*, (2012).

As regards to bio-enhancers, maximum chlorophyll content of fresh leaves was recorded under B₂ (Jivamrit-500 lit. /ha with every irrigation), while minimum chlorophyll content of fresh leaves was recorded under B₃ (Bijamrit- seed treatment + seedling treatment) at 30, 60 and 90 days after planting, respectively. Different types of beneficial bacteria available in Jivamrit and hormones produced as a result of their activity, leads to proper growth of plants. Chadha *et al.*, (2020a), Chadha *et al.*, (2020b), Pathak and Ram (2013), Kumar *et al.*, (2018).

Interaction effect of the different factors was found to significant except the all interaction at 60 days after planting which was non-significant during first year. Interaction effect of

the different factors was found to significant except the interaction of OxI, IxB, BxO and OxIxB at 30, 60 and 90 days after planting which was non-significant during second year. Interaction effect of the different factors was found to significant except the interaction of IxB, BxO and OxIxB at 30 days after planting and OxI, IxB, BxO and OxIxB at 60 and 90 days after planting which was non-significant.

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