

Original Research Article

<https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2017.609.453>

Effect of Sulphur Fertilization in Combination of Farmyard Manure on Sesame (*Sesamum indicum* L.)

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

Sesame, Sulphur, Farmyard manure.

Article Info

Accepted:

10 July 2017

Available Online:

10 September 2017

An experiment have been conducted at college farm, college of agriculture, Rajendranagar during *kharif* season of 2014 to study the effect of different levels of sulphur on growth, yield and yield attributes of *kharif* sesame with application of farmyard manure. The experiment was laid out in split-plot design with two main treatments viz., M₁- RDF (40-60-40 kg NPK ha⁻¹), M₂- RDF along with application of 25% N through farmyard manure and three sub treatments viz., S₁- 10 kg S ha⁻¹, S₂- 20 kg S ha⁻¹ and S₃- 30 kg S ha⁻¹. Application of RDF along with 25 % N through FYM recorded highest plant height, dry matter production, number of branches plant⁻¹, number of capsules plant⁻¹, number of seeds capsule⁻¹, seed and stover yield over application of RDF alone. Among sulphur levels application of 30 kg sulphur ha⁻¹ recorded highest number of capsules plant⁻¹, number of seeds capsule⁻¹, seed and stover yield over application of sulphur @ 10 and 20 kg ha⁻¹.

Introduction

Sesame (*Sesamum indicum* L.) is one of the most important oil seed crops belongs to *Pedaliaceae* family and extensively grown in different parts of the world and it ranks fourth among oil seed crops in the world. Sesame occupies 19.42 lakh hectares area with production and productivity of 0.58 mt and 303 kg ha⁻¹ respectively during 2013 constituting 6.1 per cent and 2.8 per cent of area and production of total oilseeds in India (*Indiastat.com*). Telangana accounts for 0.24 lakh hectares with production and productivity of 0.09 lakh tonnes and 360 kg ha⁻¹ respectively.

Sesame is drought resistant crop, which can be easily grown under rainfed conditions and it has been grown all over the world for thousands of years and said to be ancient crop in India. Sesame is a versatile crop with high quality edible oil having diversified usage. Sesame contains 46.55% oil, 20-25% protein also contains vitamins, amino acids and polyunsaturated fatty acids. Sesame can play an important role to fulfill the local demand of edible oil. As sesame is short duration and photo insensitive crop with wider adaptability, it can be cultivated throughout the year.

In view of population growth, the requirement of edible oil is increasing day by day. It is therefore highly expected that the production of edible oil should be increased considerably to fulfill the increasing demand. The production may be increased by increasing the area under oil seed crop or increasing yield per unit area. But in the present condition scope of expansion of oilseeds is narrow. So, there is consensus that increasing yield vertically is more reasonable way to increase total production.

Prolonged use of chemical fertilizers alone in intensive cropping systems leads to unfavourable soil fertility, harmful effects on soil physico-chemical and biological properties and undermine sustainable crop production. Deficit of organic matter makes the situation worst for oil seed crops. The fact that crop deficiencies of sulphur have been reported with increase in frequency over the past several years' greater attention has been focused on the importance of sulphur in plant nutrition (Scherer, 2001).

Materials and Methods

The present experiment on sesame was conducted during *khariif* 2014 at College Farm, College of Agriculture, Rajendranagar, Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad. The soil of the experimental site was sandy loam in texture with pH of 7.9, electrical conductivity 0.41 dSm^{-1} , low in organic carbon (0.40 %), available nitrogen (175 kg ha^{-1}), medium in available phosphorus (36 kg ha^{-1}) and high in available potassium (342 kg ha^{-1}) and low in available sulphur (19.7 kg ha^{-1}). The experiment was laid out side by side in a split-plot design with 6 treatments comprised of two main plot treatments *i.e.*, M_1 - Recommended Dose of Fertilizer and M_2 - Recommended Dose of Fertilizer along with 25% N through farm yard manure with three sub-plot treatments in

each experiment *i.e.* three sulphur levels (10 kg ha^{-1} , 20 kg ha^{-1} and 30 kg ha^{-1}) replicated four times. Full dose of P_2O_5 and K_2O along with half of the nitrogen in all the treatments was applied as basal. Remaining nitrogen was applied at 30 DAS.

Results and Discussion

Plant height

Persual of the data on plant height revealed that application of RDF along with application of 25% N through farmyard manure recorded significantly higher plant height (109.6 cm) over application of RDF alone. Application of FYM with RDF might have stimulated plant growth by improving seed germination, enhanced seedling growth and nutrient uptake compared to availability of nutrients through RDF alone.

Similar results were reported by Barik and Fulmali (2011). Among sub treatments and the highest plant height (115.7 cm) was found in S_3 *i.e.* 30 kg S ha^{-1} and it was significantly superior over S_2 *i.e.* 20 kg S ha^{-1} (109.4 cm) and S_1 *i.e.* 10 kg S ha^{-1} (104.0 cm) at harvest. Increase in plant height with increasing sulphur level might be resulted from synthesis of sulphur containing amino acids, proteins and activity of proteolytic enzymes. Similar results were obtained by Pavani *et al.*, (2013).

Dry matter production

Data on dry matter production was found to be maximum ($17.8 \text{ g plant}^{-1}$) with M_2 *i.e.* application of RDF along with 25% N through FYM when compared to application of RDF alone ($14.4 \text{ g plant}^{-1}$). Higher dry matter production with organic and inorganic sources could be attributed to enhanced assimilatory surface area which helped in the development of efficient photosynthetic system with better availability of nutrients and moisture produced higher dry matter.

Table.1 Effect of sulphur levels and farmyard manure on growth and yield of sesame (*Sesamum indicum* L.)

Treatments	Plant height (cm)	Dry matter Production (g plant ⁻¹)	No. of branches plant ⁻¹	No. of capsules plant ⁻¹	No. of seeds capsule ⁻¹	1000 seed weight (g)	Seed yield (kg ha ⁻¹)	Stover yield (kg ha ⁻¹)
Main treatments								
M ₁ : RDF	105.8	14.4	6.6	66.5	64.0	2.6	520	1091
M ₂ : RDF + 25 % N through FYM	109.6	17.8	8.5	72.8	70.0	2.7	631	1289
SEm±	0.81	0.13	0.19	1.06	1.00	0.02	4.0	10.9
CD (P=0.05)	3.65	0.98	0.66	4.79	4.54	NS	12.5	49.00
Sub treatments (Sulphur levels)								
S ₁ : 10 kg ha ⁻¹	104.0	13.2	6.8	64.4	62.2	2.7	459	1010
S ₂ : 20 kg ha ⁻¹	109.4	16.8	7.4	73.7	67.1	2.7	549	1156
S ₃ : 30 kg ha ⁻¹	115.7	20.7	8.5	75.0	69.1	2.7	626	1283
SEm±	1.53	0.85	0.18	0.43	0.7	0.02	12.0	14.0
CD (P=0.05)	4.72	2.85	0.56	1.35	2.08	NS	37.2	43.3
Sub treatment at same level of main treatment								
SEm±	2.17	0.15	0.25	0.62	0.95	0.04	17.0	19.8
CD (P=0.05)	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
Main treatment at same/different level of sub treatment								
SEm±	1.94	0.18	0.28	1.18	1.14	0.03	14.4	19.5
CD (P=0.05)	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS

These findings are in conformity with those of Patel and Puraji (2003). The data pertaining to number of branches plant⁻¹ of sesame was significantly influenced by main treatments and sub treatments at all crop growth stages. The data on number of branches plant⁻¹ was found to be maximum (8.5) under M₂ *i.e.* RDF along with 25% N through FYM when compared to sole application of RDF (6.6). Highest number of branches plant⁻¹ was observed (8.5) in S₃ *i.e.* application of 30 kg S ha⁻¹ treatment which was significantly superior over S₁ *i.e.* 10 kg S ha⁻¹ (6.8) and S₂ *i.e.* 20 kg S ha⁻¹ (7.4) (Table 1).

Number of branches plant⁻¹

The data pertaining to number of branches plant⁻¹ of sesame was significantly influenced by main treatments and sub treatments at all crop growth stages. The data on number of branches plant⁻¹ was found to be maximum (8.5) under M₂ *i.e.* RDF along with 25% N through FYM when compared to sole application of RDF (6.6). Highest number of branches plant⁻¹ was observed (8.5) in S₃ *i.e.* application of 30 kg S ha⁻¹ treatment which was significantly superior over S₁ *i.e.* 10 kg S ha⁻¹ (6.8) and S₂ *i.e.* 20 kg S ha⁻¹ (7.4).

Number of capsules plant⁻¹

Number of capsules plant⁻¹ indicated that application of RDF along with 25 % N through FYM recorded higher number of capsules plant⁻¹ over application RDF alone. Higher number of capsules plant⁻¹ with application of RDF along with 25 % N through FYM may be attributed to availability of macro and micro nutrients and improve favourable conditions for plant growth which ultimately resulted in higher yield. These results were corroborated with Yadav *et al.*, (2009). Among sub plot treatments, the treatment fertilized with 30 kg S ha⁻¹ (S₃) had produced the highest number of capsules

plant⁻¹ (75.0) significantly superior over other treatments fertilized with S₂ *i.e.* 20 kg S ha⁻¹ (73.7) and S₁ *i.e.* 10 kg S ha⁻¹ (64.4). Similar results were reported by Nagavani *et al.*, (2001).

Number of seeds capsule⁻¹

The treatment M₂ (RDF along with 25 % N through FYM) recorded higher number of seeds capsule⁻¹ (70.0) over application of RDF (64.0) alone. It was clearly indicated that there is a need for adding organic manures to the soil in conjunctive with inorganic fertilizers, which increased the availability of nutrients considerably resulting in positive effect on growth parameters. These results agreed with the findings of Babalad (1999). Among sub treatments S₃ *i.e.* application of 30 kg S ha⁻¹ has recorded significantly higher number of seeds capsules⁻¹ (69.1) and it is significantly superior over S₂ *i.e.* application of 20 kg S ha⁻¹ (67.1) and S₁ *i.e.* application of 10 kg S ha⁻¹ (62.2). From above findings, yield attributing characters were greatly affected by increasing sulphur application up to certain level. The similar findings were also reported by Chaubey *et al.*, (2000). Interaction effect of number of seeds capsule⁻¹ of sesame crop as influenced by main and sub treatments were non-significant. 1000 seed weight of sesame found non-significant with both main as well as sub treatments. The interaction affect was also found non-significant.

Yield (kg ha⁻¹)

Seed and stover yield revealed that application of RDF along with 25 % N through FYM recorded significantly higher seed yield (631 kg ha⁻¹) and stover yield (1175 kg ha⁻¹) over application of RDF alone. Higher seed yield and stover yield of sesame was obtained with RDF along with 25% N through FYM significantly improved soil

physico-chemical characters via modifying the soil environment, for sustained nutrient supply, better aeration and microbial activity influencing nutrient uptake and improving growth and yield components and ultimately yield of sesame. The results are in line with Maheshbabu *et al.*, (2008). Within the sub plots, the seed yield (626 kg ha⁻¹) and stover yield (1283 kg ha⁻¹) of sesame was significantly higher with S₃ (fertilized with 30 kg S ha⁻¹) followed by S₂ *i.e.* 20 kg S ha⁻¹ (549 kg ha⁻¹ seed yield and 1152 kg ha⁻¹ stover yield). The seed yield (459 kg ha⁻¹) and stover yield (1010 kg ha⁻¹) of sesame crop with S₁ *i.e.* 10 kg S ha⁻¹ was found to be lower. Cumulative influence of S application maintained balance source-sink relationship and ultimately resulted in increased seed yield and stover yield of sesame. The results were in close conformity with the findings of Ganeshmurthy (1996) and Hussain *et al.*, (2011). Interaction effect of seed yield and stover yield of sesame crop as influenced by main and sub treatments was found to be non-significant.

From the present investigation, it can be concluded that application of RDF (40-60-40 kg N P K ha⁻¹) along with 25 % N through FYM for sesame crop was ideal for obtaining higher growth, yield attributes and yield. Among different levels of sulphur, application of sulphur @ 30 kg ha⁻¹ was found ideal for sesame in order to obtain higher growth, yield attributes and yield.

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How to cite this article:

Mamatha, K., G.E.Ch. Vidya Sagar, P. Laxmi Narayana and Padmaja, G. 2017. Effect of Sulphur Fertilization in Combination of Farmyard Manure on Sesame (*Sesamum indicum L.*). *Int.J.Curr.Microbiol.App.Sci*. 6(9): 3679-3684. doi: <https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2017.609.453>