

Original Research Article

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Long Term Influence of Organic and Inorganic Fertilization on Soil Enzyme Activities in Calcareous Soil under Rice Wheat Cropping System

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ABSTRACT

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A long term field experiment was conducted during *rabi* 1988-89 at Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa, Samastipurin split plot design with three replications. The treatment comprised of four levels of inorganic fertilizers in main plot and four levels of organic manure in sub-plot. Soil samples were drawn 15 days before transplanting and harvesting of rice. Under both the situation (15 days before transplanting and harvesting) integrated management of organics and chemical fertilizers were found to increase the urease enzymatic activity at 15 days before harvesting of rice. The maximum value of 114.5 mg of urea hydrolysed kg⁻¹ soil ha⁻¹ was recorded at 150 per cent NPK + compost + crop residue treatment whereas under 15 days before transplanting, the same treatment resulted 177.6 mg of urea hydrolysed kg⁻¹ soil ha⁻¹ indicating more urease activities at 15 days before transplanting. The effectiveness of the organic treatment on urease activity was found in the order: compost +crop residue>compost>crop residue> no manure. NPK 100 per cent with compost and crop residue was found most effective in increasing the urease activity of soil.

Introduction

Compost and crop residue plays and important role in improving the physical, chemical and biological properties of soil. Soil enzymes are considered to be the contributor of soil microbial activity as well as soil quality in soil environment (Liu *et al.*, 2010). It also plays an important role in organic matter decomposition and in the dynamics of nutrient transformation in soil. Some enzymes only facilitates the breakdown of organic matter e.g. hydrolase, glucosidase while others are involved in nutrient mineralization e.g. amidase, urease etc. Enzyme activities are potential indicators of

soil quality because they are sensitive, rapid and inexpensive representatives of the potential metabolic activity of the soil (Liang *et al.*, 2014).

Rice wheat cropping system is an important cropping system of North Bihar. But a negative or stagnant growth in total productivity factor was recorded over a period of time in 94 districts in the rice-wheat production system of the Indo-Gangetic Plains (Raman, 2005). Such decreasing might be due to depletion of soil nutrients and loss of soil fertility. Restoring of soil fertility with

the addition of synthetic fertilizer is no more considered as an ideal approach. Supplementation of synthetic fertilizer with organic residue from plant and animal sources are also advocated. But such supplementation has its own limitations. The ideal approach will be the strengthening of soil microbial activity. Therefore, complementary use of organic and inorganic fertilizers and their management for efficient and economic use of fertilizers and maintenance of soil enzymatic activity is very important. Keeping in view of these facts, research programme was formulated to assess the effect of long term application of compost, crop residue and inorganic fertilizer on soil enzyme (urease) activity.

Materials and Methods

A long term field experiment was started during *rabi* 1988-89 in calcareous soil with rice-wheat sequence. The details of the materials used and method adopted for carrying out the present study are described as below. The experimental site is located at 25°59' North latitude and 85°48' East longitude with an altitude of 52.92 meters above mean sea level. The climate of the experimental area is sub-tropical with a mean annual precipitation of 1270 mm and mean annual temperature of 25.3°C. The crop reported in this report was 34th crop of rice (*cv.* Rajshree) in *kharif* season, 2005 with continuous application of compost @ 10 t ha⁻¹ and/or crop residue of the respective plot alone or in combination with different levels of NPK. The experiment was conducted in a split plot design with four levels of NPK namely; No NPK, 50% NPK, 100% NPK & 150% NPK in the main treatment and organic sources such as no manure, compost, crop residue and compost + crop residue in subplot treatment. The treatments were replicated thrice. The recommended N, P₂O₅ and K₂O doses were 120, 60 and 40 kg ha⁻¹. The physio-chemical properties of surface soil (0-

15 cm) analysed at the start of the experiment are presented in table 1. The average nutrient composition of compost and wheat straw applied in the experiment are presented in table 2. Urease activity was measured following the method of Tabatabai and Bremer, 1972. Five gram of soil was incubated with 9.0 ml THAM buffer, 0.2 ml toluene and 1 ml of 0.2% of urea solution at 37°C for 2 hours. Then 50 ml KCl AgSO₄ solution was added, shaking was done for 30 minutes and soil suspension was filtered. Taking 20 ml of aliquot from filtrate, NH₄-N was determined by steam distillation method (Keeney and Nelson, 1982).

Results and Discussion

Fifteen (15) days before transplanting total urease activity of soil was significantly influenced by application of organic manure and chemical fertilizers over control (Table 3). The total urease activity varied from 92.5 to 117.6 mg of urea hydrolysed kg⁻¹ soil ha⁻¹ in different treatments. The maximum activity was recorded with compost + crop residue (110.2 mg of urea hydrolysed kg⁻¹ soil ha⁻¹) treatment which was significantly higher followed by compost (107.7 mg of urea hydrolysed kg⁻¹ soil ha⁻¹), crop residue (106.5 mg of urea hydrolysed kg⁻¹ soil ha⁻¹) and no manure (102.6 mg of urea hydrolysed kg⁻¹ soil ha⁻¹) treatments, respectively. This can be attributed to greater input of root biomass due to better crop productivity (Liu *et al.*, 2010).

The urease activity increased by 4.99, 3.80 and 7.40 percent over control (102.6 mg of urea hydrolysed kg⁻¹ soil ha⁻¹) with the addition of compost, crop residue and compost + crop residue, respectively, whereas, inorganic treatments received 50, 100 and 150 percent NPK increased the total urease activity by 5.29, 12.62 and 16.90 percent over control (98.2 mg of urea hydrolysed kg⁻¹ soil ha⁻¹), respectively.

Table.1 Physio-chemical properties of soil of experimental plot

Sl. No.	Particulars	Value obtained
1.	Sand (%)	46.85
2.	Silt (%)	41.35
3.	Clay (%)	11.8
4.	Texture	Sandy loam
5.	pH (1:2 Soil: water)	8.5
6.	Electrical conductivity (dSm ⁻¹) at 25°C	0.80
7.	Organic carbon (%)	0.35
8.	Available N (kg ha ⁻¹)	219.0
9.	Available P ₂ O ₅ (kg ha ⁻¹)	17.5
10.	Available K ₂ O (kg ha ⁻¹)	114.2
11.	Free CaCO ₃ (%)	21.6

Table.2 Mean nutrient composition of various organic manures used

Organic manure	Organic Carbon (%)	N (%)	P (%)	K (%)	C:N
Compost	38.2	1.2	0.92	1.83	31.6
Wheat straw	50.9	0.5	0.07	1.69	101.8

Table.3 Influence of organic and inorganic fertilizers on urease activity (mg of urea hydrolysed Kg⁻¹ soil ha⁻¹) in rice soil (34th crop) under rice-wheat cropping system

Fertilizer Level	Organics Sources									
	15 days before harvesting of rice					15 days after harvesting of rice				
	No Manure	Compost	Crop Residue	Compost + Crop Residue	Mean	No Manure	Compost	Crop Residue	Compost + Crop Residue	Mean
No NPK	92.5	99.2	98.5	102.8	98.2	89.2	97.6	96.8	98.2	95.4
50% NPK	97.3	105.4	103.8	107.2	103.4	95.6	101.8	100.4	106.5	101.0
100% NPK	108.4	111.2	109.6	113.4	110.6	99.4	105.6	104.8	111.4	105.3
150% NPK	112.3	115.3	114.2	117.6	114.8	103.8	107.2	107.6	114.5	108.2
Mean	102.6	107.6	106.5	110.2		97.6	103.0	102.4	107.6	
Sources		S.Em _±		CD at 5%			S.Em _±		CD at 5%	
Fertilizer (F)		0.85		2.96			0.84		2.93	
Organics (M)		0.86		2.51			0.94		2.75	
F × M		1.72		NS			1.84		NS	

Further it was observed that under 15 days before harvesting, the incorporation of compost, crop residue and compost + crop residue resulted higher mean urease activity over control in order 97.7 to 103.0 mg of urea hydrolysed kg⁻¹ soil ha⁻¹, 97.7 to 102.4 mg of urea hydrolysed kg⁻¹ soil ha⁻¹ and 97.7 to 107.6 mg of urea hydrolysed kg⁻¹ soil ha⁻¹, respectively. The percent increase was to a

tune of 5.42, 4.81 and 10.13 more over control (97.7 mg of urea hydrolysed kg⁻¹ soil ha⁻¹) at compost, crop residue and compost + crop residue, respectively. Under same situation application of mineral fertilizers also exerted significant increase in the mean value of urease activity. It ranged from 95.4 to 108.2 mg urea hydrolysed kg⁻¹ soil ha⁻¹ with increased levels of fertilizers. The percent

increase was 3.87, 10.37 and 13.41 over control (95.4mg of urea hydrolysed kg⁻¹ soil ha⁻¹) at 50, 100 and 150 percent NPK application, respectively. A perusal of the data in table 3 clearly indicated that levels of fertilizer and different sources of organic manure significantly influenced the urease activity under 15 days before transplanting and harvesting. Application of balanced amount of nutrients and manures improved the MBC status of soil which corresponds to higher enzyme activities (Mandal *et al.*, 2007). But decreases in urease activity at all treatments were observed under 15 days before harvesting as compared to 15 days before transplanting. The soil enzyme urease was positively related to FYM application Hasan (2000). The increase in urease activity might be due to higher microbial population and their activity in organic and inorganic treatment. The soil urease is increased by urea concentration (Pal and Chhonka, 1979). The critical examination of data revealed that 150 percent NPK with compost + crop residue contributed higher urease activity in the soil which was almost similar to 100 percent NPK + compost + crop residue. Thus, 100 percent NPK + compost + crop residue may be the best for economic treatment. Increase in urease activity (Raju *et al.*, 2013 and Lakshmi *et al.*, 2014) with addition of organic manure with or without mineral fertilizer is well documented as we have received same set of result.

Over and above the effects of chemical fertilizers and organic manure either alone or in combination enhanced enzymatic activities in the soil. The integrated effect of inorganic and organic exerted more beneficial on soil enzymatic activities.

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