

Original Research Article

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Performance of Mole Drain System for Soybean (*Glycine max*) -Wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) Cropping System of Madhya Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

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A field experiments was conducted during *rabi* seasons of 2015-16 for wheat crop and during *kharif* season 2016 for soybean crop to assess growth parameters and economics of mole drain system in vertisols of Shajapur district of Madhya Pradesh. Mole drain system was found better in terms of growth parameters; yield attributes and economics parameters comparison with the control. The net return is the best index of profitability of wheat and soybean crop and higher net return per ha Rs 43256 and Rs 37516 was recorded for wheat and soybean crop respectively under mole drain system where as lower net return per ha of Rs 38006 and Rs 23016 was recorded for wheat and soybean crop respectively under control.

Introduction

Drainage is an effective tool in combating the negative effects of salinity and water logging (Vardhan *et al.*, 2014). Vertisols (clay soils) occupy over 320 mha (2.5%) of the global land area and found under a wide range of climates with major part (about 83%) under semiarid and arid conditions. Vertisols offer good prospects of production when adequately drained since they suffer from flooding, surface ponding and or waterlogging. Moling is a temporary method of drainage where soil conditions are suitable

mole function efficiently for the few first years and then gradually deteriorate. Mole drainage alone, on the hand, usually offers a good solution to drainage problems in most clayed soils. Soil loosening by deep ploughing or subsoiling to improve hydraulic conductivity is only justified in situation where mole drainage would be unsuccessful. The major soil properties influencing the suitability of soils for pipeless drainage are clay content, clay mineralogy, nature of exchangeable cations, type of deposit and bulk density (Spoor *et al.*, 1982).

Jha (1992) and Jha and Koga (1995) carried out a field experiment in conjunction with soybean crop in the central plain of Bangkok to examine the impact of pipeless drainage on soil properties and plant growth. Pipeless drainage were installed at a depth of 55 cm, spaced 2 m apart and at 1% slope by using a mole plough having a torpedo of 8.5 cm and an expander of 9.5 cm in diameter. The effects of pipeless drainage on soil physical and chemical properties were found to be very significant: basic infiltration rate increased by about 2.7 fold, porosity increased by 14% at 25 cm depth and by 19% at 40 cm depth, soil aeration improved markedly, saturated hydraulic conductivity increased by 34 fold at 25 cm depth and by 61 fold at 40 cm depth, and pipeless drains with liming showed long-lasting improvement in soil pH and E_C in the lower soil profile. Because of these improvements in the soil properties it was found that the soybean crop responded very well to pipe less drainage. There was about 46% increase in grain yield and 118% increase in the dry matter per plant.

K.V.Ramana Rao *et al.*, (2009) a 4- year (2004-2009) field experiment was carried out at Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering (CIAE), Bhopal feasibility of mole drainage for draining excess rain water in *vertisols*. A 56 PS wheel tractor was used in the drawing of mole drains at 2, 4 and 6 m spacings and at a constant depth of 0.60 m at grade of 0.8 %. The soil moisture content was 22.5% at moling depth. The quantity of drained water from the plots under each of drain spacing was monitored using water meter. The drained area between each was 480 m², 960 m² and 1080 m² for 2, 4 and 6 m drain spacings respectively. The crop yields increased by about 50% in the mole drained plots as compared to the control. The field capacity of mole plough during formation of mole drains at 2,4 and 6 m drain spacing were 0.14,0.28 and 0.42 ha/h respectively while the

cost per ha for construction of mole drains at 2,4 and 6 m drain spacing were Rs 3200, Rs 1800 and Rs 1200 respectively. Dhakad *et al.*, (2015) concluded that observation on physiological parameters like days to germination, days to 50 % flowering and days to 75 % maturity showed non-significant differences due to different treatments (spacing of mole drain, depth of mole drain and interaction of these two) and maximum values of all the parameters were observed under mole drain spacing S_1 (2 m) and mole drain depth D_1 (0.4 m) in most of the cases. Dhakad *et al.*, (2016) concluded that net return is the best index of profitability of crop production and higher net return Rs 64725 per ha and Rs 28325 per ha were recorded for lentil and soybean crop respectively under mole drain areas whereas, the lower net return Rs 31300 per ha and Rs 11900 per ha was recorded under control (No mole drain system) for these crops. From the study, it can be concluded that the mole drains are best option for the water logged *vertisols* and it is the most appropriate, profitable and productive practice in these soils not only for *kharif* crops but also for *rabi* crops. Considering the above aspects an attempt has been made under the present study to effect of mole drainage on soybean -wheat cropping system on *vertisols* of Madhya Pradesh.

Materials and Methods

The study area is located in the farmer's fields in the village Duglay, Tilabadgoving and Chhapri in Shajapur district of Madhya Pradesh. The dimensions of the mole plough designed and developed at CIAE include a leg with 1250 × 250 × 25 mm and a foot of 63 mm with 75 mm bullet or expander diameter. With a 3 point linkage the plough can be mounted on a four wheeled drive 75 HP tractor. The mole drains formed at 2 m spacing with 0.6 m depth along with 50 m length and soil moisture content was 22.8 %

at time of mole drain formation at moling depth. The field experiments were conducted during *rabi* 2015-16 for wheat crop and during *kharif* 2016 for soybean to assess the effect of mole drainage system on growth characters and yield of wheat & soybean crop.

Following growth and yields parameters were recorded for lentil and soybean crop

Plant population

Plant population per running meter was recorded converted in to plants/ ha

Plant height

Plant height at harvest stage was recorded. In each plot five plants were selected randomly and tagged for periodic observation. The height (cm) was measured from the ground surface to the main stem apex.

Root studies

Root is a major part of the plant which provides anchoring and active participation in nutrient, moisture uptake and play effective role in fixation of atmospheric nitrogen. For root studies, observation on root length and root nodules was recorded.

Root length

Five plants were selected randomly from each plot and the length of root was taken in cm. The observation on root length was taken at 60 days after sowing for soybean crop only.

Root nodules per plant

As the root nodules play a vital role in the productivity, five random plants dug up randomly in each plot and the root was washed for counting the number of nodules for soybean crop only.

No. of seeds per pod

Total number of seeds removed in 10 randomly selected pods and total seed numbers were counted and averaged.

Seed Index (weight of 100 seeds)

The seed samples from the produce of each plot were taken and samples comprising of 100 seeds were drawn irrespective by shape and size from the produce and weight of these seeds was recorded.

Seed yield

The crop were harvested plot-wise and then threshed after the sun drying. The seed yield of each plot was recorded and converted into kg/ha

Net monetary returns

Net monetary returns were obtained by subtracting cost of cultivation from gross monetary returns. Net monetary returns are considered to be a good indicator of suitability of a particular cropping system as this represents the accrued net income to the farmer. Net monetary returns (Rs/ha) = Gross monetary return (Rs/ha) – Cost of cultivation (Rs/ha)

Benefit: cost ratio (B: C ratio)

It is the ratio of gross return to cost of cultivation and is expressed as returns per rupee invested. Benefit cost ratio = Gross monetary return (Rs/ha)/Cost of cultivation (Rs/ha) The data collected on various characters of selected crop was processed and subjected to statistical analysis by t test as suggested William Sealy Gosset (Fisher Box, Joan 1987). First, all the growth and yield attributes of selected crop was analyzed and then the results were over for both the years

and analyzed. Statistical analysis was carried out by analyze the difference between two treatments using the 't' test of significance and the formula for t test is given below

$$t = \frac{\bar{X}_1 - \bar{X}_2}{\sqrt{\frac{S_1^2}{n_1} + \frac{S_2^2}{n_2}}}$$

Where,

\bar{x}_1 = Mean of first set of values

\bar{x}_2 = Mean of second set of values

S_1 = Standard deviation of first set of values

S_2 = Standard deviation of second set of values

n_1 = Total number of values in first set

n_2 = Total number of values in second set.

Finally, the calculated 't' value is compared with the theoretical value from a 't' table at 5% probability level. Based on the comparison of calculated 't' value with the theoretical 't' value from the table, we conclude: If the calculated 't' value is greater than the theoretical 't' value, then the difference between the two treatments is significant. If the calculated 't' value is less than the theoretical 't' value, then the difference between the two treatments is not significant.

Results and Discussion

Performances of mole drainage system for wheat crop

The higher productivity of 4513 kg/ha observed in the treatments with mole drains at 2 m spacing with 0.6 m depth, whereas it was found lower under control (4015 kg/ha) wheat crop. Higher net return (Rs 43256 per ha) and B: C ratio (2.66) was recorded mole drainage system whereas the lower net return (Rs 38006 per ha) and B:C ratio (2.51) per ha was

recorded under the control plot wheat crop (Table 1). The increase in plant growth parameters and yield might be due to proper aeration and plant growth parameters were better in mole drains plot as compared to control.

Performances of mole drainage system for soybean crop

Performance parameters were found significantly better in mole drainage system as compared to control for soybean crop. Root is a major part of the soybean crop which provides anchoring and active participation in nutrient, moisture uptake and play effective role in fixation of atmospheric nitrogen.

For root studies, observation on root length and number of root nodules per plant were recorded and analysed statistically through the t test (Table 2).

Root characters of soybean crop was significantly higher in mole drainage system as compared to control in which number of root nodules per plant was 67.7 % more in mole drainage and these root nodules are responsible for the fixation of atmospheric nitrogen in the soil.

The higher productivity of 1683 kg ha⁻¹ observed mole drainage system whereas lower productivity under control (1263 kg ha⁻¹) for soybean crop.

The net return is the best index of profitability of soybean crop production and higher net return (Rs 37516 per ha) and B: C ratio (2.75) was recorded under mole drainage system whereas lower net return of (Rs 11900 per ha) and B: C ratio (2.09) was recorded under control. Ramana Rao *et al.*, (2009) and Dhakad *et al.*, (2016) also reported similar findings in their studies on mole drainage technology.

Table.1 Growth characteristics and yield of wheat for mole drainage system

S.No.	Parameters	Mole drainage system	Control	Increase in % control	CD at 5%
1.	Plant height (cm) at harvest	84.1	79.2	6.19	S
2.	Root length at 60 DAS (cm)	15.1	12.9	17.05	S
3.	Total tillers per m row	153.2	146.8	4.36	S
4.	No. of effective tillers per m row	140.2	134.2	4.47	S
5.	Seed yield (kg/ha)	4513	4015	12.40	S
6.	Net monetary returns (Rs/ha)	43256	38006	13.81	S
7.	Benefit: cost ratio	2.66	2.51	5.98	S

Table.2 Growth characteristics and yield of soybean for mole drainage system

S.No.	Parameters	Mole drainage	Control	Increase in % control	CD at 5%
1.	Plant population (No.m ⁻²) at harvest	46.22	36.11	28.00	S
2.	Plant height (cm) at harvest	59.8	42.6	40.38	S
3.	Root Length (cm) at 60 DAS	22.14	14.86	48.99	S
4.	Number of root nodules/plant at 60 DAS	33.11	21.34	55.15	S
5.	Number of seeds per pod	2.52	2.31	9.09	S
6.	Seed yield weight per plant (g)	5.36	4.63	15.77	S
7.	Seed Index (g)	11.11	11.08	0.27	NS
8.	Seed yield (kg/ha)	1683	1263	33.25	S
9.	Net monetary returns (Rs/ha)	37516	23016	63.00	S
10.	Benefit: cost ratio	2.75	2.09	31.58	S

In conclusions, effect of mole drainage system in wheat and soybean crop found better in all comparison over control due to safe removal of excess rain water, timely sowing of crops, proper aeration in root zone of crop in wheat and soybean crop. Net return and B:C ratio of mole drain system were found most profitable during kharif as well as rabi.

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