

Original Research Article

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Effect of Moisture Regime and Nutrient Management System on Yield and Economics of Wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.)

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ABSTRACT

The field experiment was conducted at Agronomy Research Farm of Narendra Deva University of Agriculture and Technology, Kumarganj, Faizabad (U.P.) during *Rabi* season of 2014-15 and 2015-16. Sixteen treatments comprised of four levels of moisture regime (a) I1; 0.6 IW/CPE ratio (b) I2; 0.8 IW/CPE ratio (c) I3; 1.0 IW/CPE ratio and (c) I4; 1.2 IW/CPE ratio and four levels of fertilizers ((a) 100% RDF through inorganic fertilizers (120:60:40 kg NPK ha⁻¹) (b) 75% NPK+ 25% N through FYM (90:45:30 kg NPK ha⁻¹) (c) 50% NPK+ 50% N through FYM (60:30:20 kg NPK ha⁻¹) (d) 25% NPK+75% N through FYM (30:15:10 kg NPK ha⁻¹) were tested in a split plot design with three replications. The growth attributes *viz.*, number of shoots, plant height, dry matter accumulation and yield attributing characters *viz.*, number of grains spike⁻¹, number of spike m², length of spike, test weight, grain and straw yield, harvest index, nutrients uptake by crop was significantly increased 75% RDF (90:45:30 kg NPK/ha +25% N through FYM along with I4; 1.2 IW/CPE ratio moisture regime which was at par with 100% RDF(120:60:40 kg NPK/ha)along with I4; 1.2 IW/CPE ratio moisture regime and significantly higher over rest of the treatment as well as economics of various treatments were recorded. Moisture regime of 1.0 IW/CPE ratio (5-6irrigations) was found suitable for achieving higher yield of wheat with 75% RDF (90:45:30 kg NPK/ha +25% N through FYM followed by 100% RDF (120:60:40 kg NPK/ha) was found suitable higher growth and yield of wheat crop. On the basis of results obtained, application of 75% RDF (90:45:30 kg NPK/ha +25% N through FYM, nutrient supply system and I4; 1.2 IW/CPE ratio moisture regime found to be more suitable for higher yield of wheat variety Malviya 234. Wheat cultivar Malviya 234 accrued the maximum net return with B:C ratio of 2.76 under 1.0 IW/CPE moisture regime (I3) with 100% RDF through inorganic fertilizers (120:60:40 kg NPK ha⁻¹).

Keywords

Wheat, Moisture regime, Nutrient, Varieties, Growth, Economics, Yield

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Introduction

Wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) is a staple food of the world and falls under Poaceae family. It is primarily grown in temperate regions and also at higher altitude under tropical climatic

areas in winter season. It is the single most important cereal crop that has been considered as integral component of the food security system of the several nations Wheat is the single, most important cereal crop that has been considered as integral component of the

food security system of the several nations. It ranks first in the world among the cereals both in area with 225.43 mha and production with 708.0 mt. In India, total area under wheat is 29.90 mha with the production and productivity of 93.90 mt and 3.14 t ha⁻¹ respectively (Anonymous, 2014).

The normal time for sowing of dwarf wheat in irrigated tracts starts in the beginning of November. Medium to long duration varieties taking 135-145 days to mature should be sown in the first fortnight of November while, short duration varieties (120-125 days) may be sown in the second fortnight of November (Singh *et al.*, 1984 and Shaktawat, 1986). The productivity of wheat in eastern U.P. is very low (25 q ha⁻¹) and it might be due to adoption of cereal-cereal (Rice-Wheat) cropping system, poor management in balanced fertilization, etc. Increasing level of production can be achieved by increasing level of fertilizer, but continuous use of chemical fertilizers alone may lead diminishable yield even with the recommended dose of fertilizer application. Besides chemical fertilizer alone may also lead to same detrimental effect on physical and chemical properties of soil and may not be so remunerable unless the fertility of soil is maintained at sustainable level by application of organic manures. Therefore to maintain fertility and productivity of soil at sustainable level for long duration, there is a need to adopt the concept of integrated nutrient management. Organic manures such as farmyard manure are to be considered and integral component and may help to recover soil health in cropping system (Ranwa and Singh, 1999) as they improve soil fertility and physical properties. Organic matters in soil improve physical condition of soil for better performance of microorganism and physical status at soil (Kumar and Tripathi, 1990).

Irrigation water is a major constraint for assumed crop production. Evapo-transpiration

by a full crop cover is closely associated with the evaporation from an open pan. At present irrigation is very costly input so will be used very judiciously. Parihar *et al.*, (2003) suggested a relatively more practical meteorological approach of IW/CPE, the ratio between a fixed amount of irrigation water (IW) and Cumulative Pan Evaporation, as a basis for irrigation scheduling to crops. IW/CPE approach merits special consideration on account of its simplicity of operation. IW/CPE is taken for applying water to wheat and for comparative study treatments at critical growth stages, Patel and Upadhyaya, (1993) reported that the higher grain yield with IW: CPE ratio 1.2 of 6cm irrigation, resulted in improved yield attributes, viz. effective tiller per meter row length, spikelets per spike, number of grains per spike, grain weight per spike and 1000-grain weight.

Materials and Methods

A field experiment was conducted at Main Research Farm, Department of Agronomy of Narendra Deva University of Agriculture and Technology, Kumarganj, Faizabad (U.P.) India. The farm is located 42 km away from Faizabad city on Faizabad- Raebareilly road at 26.47° N latitude and 82.12° E longitude and about 113 metres above the mean sea level. Sixteen treatments comprised of four levels of moisture regime (a) I1; 0.6 IW/CPE ratio (b) I2; 0.8 IW/CPE ratio (c) I3; 1.0 IW/CPE ratio and (c) I4; 1.2 IW/CPE ratio and four levels of fertilizers (a) 100% RDF through inorganic fertilizers (120:60:40 kg NPK ha⁻¹) (b) 75% NPK+ 25% N through FYM (90:45:30 kg NPK ha⁻¹) (c) 50% NPK+ 50% N through FYM (60:30:20 kg NPK ha⁻¹) (d) 25% NPK+75% N through FYM (30:15:10 kg NPK ha⁻¹) were tested in a split plot design with three replications. The wheat variety Malviya 234 was sown in 20 cm row to row distance on 16 Nov., during both years. Fertilization was done by using inorganic fertilizers and

FYM as per treatments (level of inorganic fertilizers; 100%, 75%, 50% and 25%) and was added at time of sowing while full dose N was applied as basal and rest half nitrogen was top dressed in two splits after first irrigation and second 45 DAS were done as when required during 2014-15 and 2015-16. Whereas first irrigation of all treatments done at CRI stage (21DAS) after that as per IW/CPE ratio treatments. From the individual plot the crop of net plot area was harvested for taking observation. The final seed weight was recorded in kg per plot and converted into q/ha.

Results and Discussion

The data pertaining to different moisture regimes and varieties, plant growth and yield given in Table 1 reveal that the growth and yield of wheat was affected by moisture regimes.

Effect on crop growth

Data on progressive plant height at the successive stages of crop growth as influenced by various nutrient supply system and moisture have been summarized in Table 1. In general, plant height increased successfully up to 90 DAS stage. There after the rate of increased in plant height was nominal at harvest stage of the crop.

It is evident from the data that the effect of nutrient supply system was not visible at 30 DAS stage, after this, it exhibited significant effect on plant height at 60, 90 DAS stage and at harvest stage. At all the stages of growth, the tallest plants were recorded with an irrigation practice of I₄ (IW/CPE of 1.2) which was at par with I₃ (IW/CPE of 1.0) and the shortest plants with I₁ (IW/CPE of 0.6) and I₂ (0.8 IW/CPE ratio). The higher plant height were counted it could be attributed to the fact that due to proper combinations of inorganic

and organic source of nutrient in F₂ (75% NPK+ 25% N through FYM) would certainly increased the amount of availability to the individual plant and hence resulted in taller plants while the plants were shortest stature with F₄ (25% NPK+ 75% N through FYM). These findings were in close conformity with those of Zhong *et al.*, (2015), Mohsin *et al.*, (2014), Singh *et al.*, (2012), Naser *et al.*, (2000), Khola *et al.*, (1989).

Higher dry matter production was due more plant height and increased LAI together produced higher dry matter production. Dry matter production of wheat tended to increase progressively with advance in the age of the crop. The total dry matter production of I₃ (1.2 IW/CPE Ratio) was higher with the crop nutrient level of F₂ (75% NPK+ 25% N through FYM) which was at par with F₁ and significant over with F₃ and F₄ which resulted in the lowest dry matter accumulation.

These findings were in agreement with Zhong *et al.*, (2015), Mohsin *et al.*, (2014), Singh *et al.*, (2012), Naser *et al.*, (2000), Khola *et al.*, (1989).

Effect on yield and yield attributing parameter

The yield attributes character like number of spike, length of spike and number of grain per spike was recorded with the highest level of irrigation tried i.e., IW/CPE ratio of 1.2 (I₄) which was at par with IW/CPE ratio of 1.0 while significantly higher than with IW/CPE ratio of 0.6 (I₁) and 0.8 IW/CPE ratio, among the nutrient management tried, the yield attributes was recorded with F₂ (75% NPK+ 25% N through FYM), which was at par with F₁. This might be due to better growth of individual plant in F₂ and F₁ which resulted in utilization of accumulated photosynthates and influenced the growth and development of yield attributes.

Table.1 Growth parameter and yield and yield attributing parameter as influenced by Moisture regime and Nutrients supply system on wheat crop

Treatment	Plant height (cm)				Dry matter accumulation (g m ⁻²)				Number of spike/m ²	Length of spike (cm)	Grain spike ⁻¹	Grain yield (q/ha)	Straw yield (q/ha)	Test weight (g)
	30 DAS	60 DAS	90 DAS	At harvest	30 DAS	60 DAS	90 DAS	At harvest						
Nutrients supply system														
F ₁	23.73	49.75	79.95	80.75	67.92	458.02	767.20	971.85	279.95	7.92	35.53	29.95	39.75	36.17
F ₂	25.50	53.49	86.02	86.87	73.08	492.50	825.00	1045.02	301.02	8.52	30.22	32.22	41.27	36.93
F ₃	26.00	54.62	87.70	88.58	74.50	502.38	841.48	1065.90	307.03	8.67	38.97	32.85	41.19	37.20
F ₄	26.73	56.20	90.30	91.18	76.75	517.13	866.23	1097.25	316.05	8.93	40.12	33.81	42.84	37.50
SEm±	0.67	1.04	2.27	2.28	1.87	11.06	21.152	22.49	7.78	0.19	1.07	0.68	4.11	0.92
C.D. (P=0.05)	1.97	3.05	6.68	6.69	5.48	32.44	62.03	65.97	22.83	0.56	3.14	2.00	1.06	NS
Seed rate (kg ha⁻¹)														
S ₁	24.20	50.85	81.68	82.50	69.44	467.89	783.71	992.75	285.96	8.09	36.29	30.95	39.63	36.65
S ₂	25.78	54.05	86.86	87.74	73.75	497.43	833.24	1055.48	304.01	8.59	38.59	32.54	41.90	37.15
S ₃	26.50	55.64	89.44	90.30	76.00	512.21	857.99	1086.79	313.06	8.85	39.75	33.49	42.26	37.05
SEm±	0.58	0.90	1.97	1.97	1.62	9.58	18.31	19.48	6.74	0.16	0.92	0.59	0.92	0.80
C.D. (P=0.05)	1.71	2.64	5.78	5.79	4.75	28.098	53.72	57.13	19.77	0.48	2.72	1.73	2.71	NS

(Note: I₁:6 cm irrigation at 0.6 IW/CPE; I₂:6 cm irrigation at 0.8 IW/CPE; I₃:6 cm irrigation at 1.0 IW/CPE; I₄:6 cm irrigation at 1.2 IW/CPE); (F₁: 100% RDF through inorganic fertilizers (120:60:40 kg NPK ha⁻¹); F₂: 75% NPK+ 25% N through FYM (90:45:30 kg NPK ha⁻¹); F₃: 50% NPK+ 50% N through FYM (60:30:20 kg NPK ha⁻¹); F₄: 25% NPK+ 75% N through FYM (30:15:10 kg NPK ha⁻¹))

Table.2 Economics as influenced by Moisture regime and Nutrients supply system on wheat crop

Treatment	Total cost of cultivation	grain yield (q/ha)	Straw yield (q/ha)	Gross return (Rs/ha)	Net return (Rs/ha)	Rs/return (B:C ratio)
I ₁ F ₁	33644	38.83	57.67	96645	63001	1.87
I ₁ F ₂	34057	38.42	56.67	95328	61271	1.80
I ₁ F ₃	34470	39.45	58.67	98242	63773	1.85
I ₁ F ₄	34883	37.02	52.67	90403	55520	1.59
I ₂ F ₁	34644	46.18	67.00	113752	79109	2.28
I ₂ F ₂	35057	40.74	60.67	101521	66464	1.90
I ₂ F ₃	35470	46.75	68.00	115285	79815	2.25
I ₂ F ₄	35883	39.47	57.00	97019	61136	1.70
I ₃ F ₁	35644	53.63	80.33	133986	98342	2.76
I ₃ F ₂	36057	43.79	63.33	107705	71648	1.99
I ₃ F ₃	36470	54.83	80.67	135894	99424	2.73
I ₃ F ₄	36883	41.89	58.67	101604	64721	1.75
I ₄ F ₁	36644	55.34	80.00	136089	99446	2.71
I ₄ F ₂	37057	47.98	72.33	120227	83170	2.24
I ₄ F ₃	37470	56.01	81.33	138011	100541	2.68
I ₄ F ₄	37883	46.28	65.33	112628	74745	1.97

(Note: I₁:6 cm irrigation at 0.6 IW/CPE; I₂:6 cm irrigation at 0.8 IW/CPE; I₃:6 cm irrigation at 1.0 IW/CPE; I₄:6 cm irrigation at 1.2 IW/CPE); (F₁: 100% RDF through inorganic fertilizers (120:60:40 kg NPK ha⁻¹); F₂: 75% NPK+ 25% N through FYM (90:45:30 kg NPK ha⁻¹); F₃: 50% NPK+ 50% N through FYM (60:30:20 kg NPK ha⁻¹); F₄: 25% NPK+ 75% N through FYM (30:15:10 kg NPK ha⁻¹))

This might be due to more vigorous and luxuriant vegetative growth, which in turn favoured a better partitioning of, assimilates from source to sink. Similar results were obtained by Pal *et al.*, (2001), Singh *et al.*, (2007), Das and Guha (1998) and Khiriya and Singh (2003).

Higher thousand grain weight was recorded with IW/CPE ratio of 1.2 (I₄) which was at par with IW/CPE ratio of 1.0 and 0.8 IW/CPE ratio (I₂) while significantly higher than IW/CPE ratio of 0.6 (I₁) and 0.8 ratio, which has resulted in lower grain weight. With F₂ (75% NPK+ 25% N through FYM) as regards the nutrient management practices, the higher no of grain per spike of wheat was recorded with the nutrient management of F₂ which was at par with F₁. This was followed by F₃, which was comparable with lowest no of grain per spike F₄, which produced the lowest hundred seed weight. Better growth of individual plant in F₂ result in better utilization of accumulated photosynthates which influenced the growth and development of yield attributes. This finding was in conformity with the work of Pal *et al.*, (2001), Singh *et al.*, (2007), Pradhan *et al.*, (2013), and Khiriya and Singh (2003).

The higher seed yield was recorded with the highest level of irrigation tried i.e., IW/CPE ratio of 1.2 (I₄), which was however comparable with 0.8 IW/CPE ratio (I₃) and 0.6 (I₁), which has resulted in lower seed yield. Higher seed yield due to irrigation might be accounted to their favourable influence on the crop growth and yield attributes. As regards the nutrient management practices, highest seed yield was recorded with a nutrient management of F₂, which was at par with F₁ followed by F₃ and F₄ with significant difference between them, which produced the lowest seed yield. The same was obvious through the findings of Pal *et al.*, (2001), Saren *et al.*, (2004), Singh *et*

al., (2007), Pradhan *et al.*, (2013), Kakar *et al.*, (2015), Zagonel *et al.*, (2002) Talashikar *et al.*, (1999).

Among the irrigation levels tried, IW/CPE ratio of 1.2 (I₄) recorded the higher straw yield which was however, comparable with 0.8 IW/CPE ratio (I₃). The lowest straw yield was recorded with IW/CPE ratio of 0.6 (I₁). Increased straw yield might be due to better vegetative growth and higher dry matter production. Higher straw yield was recorded with F₂, which was at par with F₁. F₃ and F₄ produced the lowest straw yield. This is due to increased number of plants per unit area and increased growth of plants i.e, plant height, leaf area, dry matter production in F₂. Similar results were obtained by Pal *et al.*, (2001), Sheoran *et al.*, (2015), Zagonel *et al.*, (2002) Talashikar *et al.*, (1999).

Effect on economics

Data presenting to cost of cultivation in table 2. Obviously reveal that it varied with variation in the nutrient management and moisture regime. The maximum cost of cultivation of Rs.37057 ha⁻¹ was recorded with I₄ F₂ while the minimum cost of cultivation of Rs.33644 ha⁻¹ was recorded with I₁ F₁.

Gross return increased with increase in grain yield and straw yield of wheat. The maximum Gross return of Rs.138011 ha⁻¹ were recorded with I₄ F₃, the minimum of Gross return Rs.90403 ha⁻¹ were recorded with I₁ F₄. and also the maximum Net returns of Rs.100541 ha⁻¹ was recorded with I₄ F₃, the minimum Net returns of Rs. 58496 ha⁻¹ were recorded with I₁ F₄. Increased net returns were recorded with increase in level of irrigation and nutrient management.

This was due to higher magnitude of increase in yield though the cost of irrigation and inorganic fertilizer was higher.

The maximum Net return per rupee invested of 2.76 was recorded with I₃ F₁, the minimum Net return per rupee invested 1.59 was recorded with I₁ F₄. I₁ F₃ has high Net return per rupee invested due to higher yields and less no of irrigations.

Nutrient management system with 100% RDF (120:60:40 kg NPK/ha followed by 75% RDF (90:45:30 kg NPK/ha +25% N through FYM) was found suitable higher growth and yield of wheat crop. Moisture regime of 1.0 IW/CPE ratio (5-6 irrigations) was found suitable for achieving higher yield of wheat. Interaction between moisture regime and nutrient management was found significant on dry accumulated 90 at DAS,120 DAS, at harvest; No. of spikes; grain yield; straw yield; nutrient uptake (NPK) and water use efficiency during both the year of investigation.

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