

Original Research Article

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Consumptive Use of Water, Soil Moisture Use Rate and Water Productivity of Blackgram as Influenced by Foliar Nutrition under Limited Irrigation

Kaviti Vijaya Lakshmi*, S. Prathibha Sree, N. Venkata Lakshmi,
P. Madhu Vani and K. Chandrasekhar

Department of Agronomy (Water Management), Advanced post graduate centre,
Lam, Guntur-522034, India

*Corresponding author

ABSTRACT

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A field experiment was conducted on sandy loam soils of Agricultural Research Station, Jangamaheswarapuram during *rabi*, 2016-17. The experiment was laid out in split plot design and replicated thrice. The treatments comprised of four main plots *viz.*, No irrigation (I_1), Irrigation at 0.3 (I_2), 0.4 (I_3) and 0.5 IW/CPE ratios (I_4) and four sub plot treatments *viz.*, foliar spray of 2% urea (F_1), 2% DAP (F_2), 1% KNO_3 (F_3) and 2% 19-19 (F_4) twice at pre flowering pod filling stages. The results indicated that the consumptive use of water and daily soil moisture use rate were significantly affected by irrigation and foliar nutrition treatments and the highest were recorded with irrigation at 0.5 IW/CPE followed by 0.4 and 0.3 IW/CPE ratios. Among the foliar treatments, foliar spray with 2 % DAP recorded the highest consumptive use and soil moisture use rate but on a par with 2 % urea twice at pre flowering and pod filling stages. The highest water productivity was recorded in control plot followed by 0.3 and 0.5 IW/CPE ratios coincided with pod filling (57 DAS) and pre flowering stages (33 DAS). The lowest was recorded with 0.4 IW/CPE coincided with pod formation stage (43 DAS). Foliar application of 1 % KNO_3 recorded the highest water productivity which was significantly superior to other foliar treatments.

Introduction

Pulses are wonderful gift of nature with unique ability of biological nitrogen fixation, deep root system, mobilization of insoluble soil nutrients and bringing qualitative changes in soil properties. Blackgram (*Vigna mungo* L.), also known as urd bean, mash and black maple is a short duration pulse crop grown in many parts of India. It is one of the highly prized pulse crops with regard to its antiquity and its use as a source of human food. In

Andhra Pradesh, blackgram is grown in an area of 3.17 lakh ha with a production of 2.16 lakh tonnes and productivity of 866 kg ha⁻¹ during the year 2015-16 (Agriculture action plan 2015-16, Department of Agriculture, A.P). Water productivity is the cornerstone of any demand management strategy. Definition of water productivity is scale dependent. In Krishna-Godavari and North coastal zones of Andhra Pradesh, blackgram is mostly grown as a relay crop, where in sprouted seeds are broadcasted in standing rice crop two to three

days before its harvest. The blackgram sown in this system survives entirely on residual moisture and fertility only. The traditional practice of broadcasting of seeds in the standing crop of rice does not ensure uniform plant population and severe weed infestation under zero tilled conditions deprives the crop of its major requirements of nutrients and moisture which results in poor crop growth and culminates yield loss up to an extent of 45 to 60 per cent. Water productivity can be analyzed at the plant level, field level, farm level, system level and basin level, and its value would change with the changing scale of analysis (Molden *et al.*, 2001).

Materials and Methods

A field experiment was conducted during *rabi*, 2016-17 at Agricultural Research Station, Jangamaheswarapuram, Gurazala, Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh on sandy loam soil. The weekly mean maximum temperatures during crop period, 2016-17 ranged from 29.4°C to 33.9°C against the average of 32.3°C. The mean minimum temperatures for the corresponding period were 20.2°C to 25.6°C as against the average of 22.2°C. The weekly mean relative humidity ranged between 77.4 and 92.5 per cent with an average of 85.2 per cent (Table 1). A total rainfall of 240.4 mm was received during the crop growth period with 13 rainy days. The experiment was laid out in a split plot design and replicated thrice.

The main plot treatments comprising of No irrigation (I₁), Irrigation at 0.3 IW/CPE (I₂), 0.4 IW/CPE (I₃) and 0.5 IW/CPE ratios (I₄) and four sub plot treatments *viz.*, foliar spray of 2% urea (F₁), 2% DAP (F₂), 1% KNO₃ (F₃) and 2% 19-19-19 (F₄) twice at pre-flowering pod filling stages. PU-31 blackgram variety was sown on 20-09-2016 at a spacing of 30 cm × 10 cm. A common depth of 5 cm irrigation water was applied at each irrigation

based on CPE values which were worked out for each irrigation schedule based on IW/CPE ratios. No irrigation was given to control plot (I₁). Irrigations were given to I₂, I₃ and I₄ treatments when the CPE values reached to 166.66 mm, 125 mm and 100 mm, respectively. Consumptive use of blackgram was estimated thermo gravimetrically taking soil samples before and after each irrigation up to a depth of 60 cm in four layers consisting of 0-15, 15-30, 30-45 and 45-60cm as described by Dastane, 1967. The daily moisture use rate (mm day⁻¹) was worked out from the soil moisture depleted from the root zone during the given sampling interval and the number of days in the interval. Crop water productivity needs to be assessed in terms of both kilogram of crop per cubic metre of water diverted or depleted (kg m⁻³) and net or gross present value of the crop produced per cubic metre of water (Kijne *et al.*, 2003).

Results and Discussion

Consumptive use of water

The influence of irrigation and foliar nutrition treatments on consumptive use of water was found to be significant. Irrigation at 0.5 IW/CPE recorded the highest consumptive use of water (225.3 mm) which was significantly superior to other treatments. Among sub plot treatments, the highest consumptive use of water (Table 3) was recorded with foliar spraying of 2 % DAP (189.8 mm) which was on a par with 2 % urea (188.8 mm) and the lowest was recorded by application of 2 % 19-19-19 (173.3 mm) which was comparable with 1 % KNO₃ (175.2 mm). The interaction effect of irrigation levels and foliar nutrition treatments on consumptive use of water was found to be non-significant. The increase in consumptive use of water might be due to optimum soil moisture availability and foliar spraying of water soluble fertilizers at critical stages of crop growth stages. Similar results

were recorded by Ravindran nayar and Singh (1985) and Gaur and Choudhary (1993).

Soil moisture use rate

Irrigation at 0.5 IW/CPE ratio recorded significantly the highest soil moisture use rate (Table 3) (3.04 mm) followed by 0.4 IW/CPE and 0.3 IW/CPE ratios (2.77 and 2.05 mm, respectively). The highest soil moisture use rate was recorded in the plots those received

foliar spray with 2 % DAP (2.53 mm). However, foliar spray with 2 % DAP and 2 % urea (2.51 mm) were at par with each other and significantly superior over foliar spray with 1 % KNO₃ (2.33 mm) and 2 % 19-19-19 (2.31 mm). The interaction effect of irrigation treatments and foliar nutrition on moisture use rate of blackgram, was found to be non-significant. Similar results in chickpea were reported by Ravindran nayar and Singh (1985) and Prabhakar and Saraf (1991).

Table.1 Weather data averaged weekly during the period of blackgram crop (17.09.2016 to 16.12.2016)

Standard Meteorologic alweek	Date and Month	Mean Temperature (°C)		Me an RH (%)	Actual Rainfall (mm) (2016)	Normal Rainfa ll (mm) (1988-2016)
		Max.	Min.			
38	Sep 17 - 23 Sep 2016	32.4	24.4	87.8	172.5	63.0
39	Sep 24 - 30 Sep 2016	32.5	24.1	88.0	14.4	36.0
40	Oct 01 - 07 Oct 2016	33.9	25.6	79.7	6.8	49.6
41	Oct 08 - 14 Oct 2016	33.6	25.4	89.3	45.3	21.5
42	Oct 15 – 21 Oct 2016	33.1	22.1	80.3	-	14.0
43	Oct 22 – 28 Oct 2016	33.7	21.2	77.4	-	26.7
44	Oct 29 - 04 Nov 2016	32.4	22.4	81.0	0.3	35.5
45	Nov 05 - 11 Nov 2016	31.8	20.4	80.4	-	5.1
46	Nov 12 – 18 Nov 2016	32.3	21.2	92.5	-	7.6
47	Nov 19 – 25 Nov 2016	31.7	20.4	86.2	-	2.3
48	Nov 26 - 02 Dec 2016	32.0	20.7	85.0	-	3.2
49	Dec 03 – 09 Dec 2016	31.0	20.2	90.5	1.1	6.7
50	Dec 10 - 16 Dec 2016	29.4	20.7	90.0	-	2.3
Total		419.8	288.8	1108.1	240.4	273.5
Mean		32.3	22.2	85.2		

Table.2 Water productivity (kg m^{-3}) of blackgram as influenced by foliar nutrition under limited irrigation

Irrigation levels (I)		Water productivity (kg m^{-3})				Mean
		Foliar spray (F)				
		F ₁ (2% Urea)	F ₂ (2% DAP)	F ₃ (1% KNO ₃)	F ₄ (2% 19-19-19)	
I ₁	Control	0.42	0.50	0.52	0.48	0.48
I ₂	0.3 IW/CPE ratio	0.41	0.42	0.48	0.42	0.43
I ₃	0.4 IW/CPE ratio	0.34	0.35	0.41	0.43	0.38
I ₄	0.5 IW/CPE ratio	0.36	0.42	0.51	0.42	0.43
Mean		0.38	0.42	0.48	0.44	
		SEm ±	CD (p=0.05)	CV (%)		
Irrigation levels (I)		0.01	0.03	5.9		
Foliar spray (F)		0.01	0.03	7.1		
Interaction		0.02	NS			

Table.3 Influence of foliar nutrition on seed yield, consumptive use of water and soil moisture use rate of blackgram under limited irrigation

Treatment	Seed yield (kg ha^{-1})	Consumptive use of water (mm)	Soil moisture use rate (mm day^{-1})
Irrigation levels:			
I ₁ -Control	610	126.8	1.81
I ₂ -0.3 IW/CPE ratio	710	164.4	2.05
I ₃ -0.4 IW/CPE ratio	790	210.7	2.77
I ₄ -0.5 IW/CPE ratio	959	225.3	3.04
SEm ±	21	3.0	0.05
CD (p=0.05)	74	10.3	0.19
CV (%)	9.7	5.7	7.6
Foliar spray:			
F ₁ -2% urea	704	188.8	2.51
F ₂ -2% DAP	782	189.8	2.53
F ₃ -1% KNO ₃	833	175.2	2.33
F ₄ -2% 19-19-19	749	173.3	2.31
SEm ±	23	4.1	0.06
CD (p=0.05)	67	11.7	0.18
CV (%)	10.4	7.6	8.8
Interaction (I × F):			
SEm ±	46	8.1	0.12
CD (p=0.05)	NS	NS	NS

Water productivity

Among the different main plot treatments, non-irrigated plot recorded the highest water productivity (0.48 kg m^{-3}) in blackgram (Table 2) which was significantly superior over 0.5 IW/CPE and 0.4 IW/CPE ratios. Irrigation at 0.3 IW/CPE ratio coincided with pod filling stage (57 DAS) and 0.5 IW/CPE ratio coincided with pre flowering stage (33 DAS) recorded water productivity of 0.43 kg m^{-3} which was significantly superior to 0.4 IW/CPE ratio coincided with pod formation stage (43 DAS).

Foliar spray with 1 % KNO_3 recorded the highest water productivity (0.48 kg m^{-3}) which was significantly superior to other foliar nutrition treatments. Foliar spray with 2 % 19-19-19 and 2 % DAP were comparable with each other. The interaction effect of irrigation and foliar nutrition on water productivity was found to be non-significant.

Water productivity is used principally to evaluate the function of irrigation systems as the amount of 'crop per drop'. Highest water productivity in control plot might be due to production of relatively higher seed yields with minimum water use. This finding is in conformity with Shiva Dhar and Singh (1995) and Pramanik *et al.*, (2009).

In conclusion, the study revealed that irrigation at 0.5 IW/CPE ratio and foliar spray of 1 % KNO_3 twice at pre flowering and pod filling stages was found to be better in increasing the yield, consumptive use of water and water productivity of blackgram.

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