

Original Research Article

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## Effect of Various Strains of Mycorrhizae on Growth and Yield of Chilli (*Capsicum annuum* L.)

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### ABSTRACT

#### Keywords

Mycorrhiza, Warm, Alkaloid capsaicin, Mutualistic

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Experiments were carried out to study the effect of Mycorrhizae on growth and yield of chilli (*Capsicum annuum* L.) cv. Bhagya Laxmi. The highest number of fruits per plant (76.43) and highest fruit length (10.61 cm) were in the treatment T2 soil application with Myc 100 @ 250 g/ha×1 application at 20 DAT. The Myc 100 is the best product for increasing all yield parameters at its application at 250 g for soil application at 20 DAT.

### Introduction

Chilli (*Capsicum annuum* L.) is an important spice as well as vegetable crop of India. The chilli plants are generally bushy 60-80 cm high and requires warm and humid climate for growth and dry weather during maturity. Chilli has two important commercial quality parameters, red color due to pigment capsanthin and pungency attributed by capsaicin (Tian *et al.*, 2014). Chilli has medicinal value, besides its richness in vitamin C due to the fact that an alkaloid capsaicin can be extracted from it. Its per capita consumption in India ranges from 50gms-60gms per day (Prabhavathi *et al.*, 2013). Fresh green chillies contain more vitamin C than citrus fruits and beside this

fresh red Chilli contain more vitamin A than carrots (Osuna Garcia *et al.*, 1998; Than *et al.*, 2008). The symbiotic and mutualistic relationship between the fungus and the roots of higher plants is called mycorrhiza. As evidenced by fossil mycorrhiza found in carbonaceous deposits mycorrhizal fungi appears to have been co-evolved with plants for over 400 million years (Berch *et al.*, 1985). It is exceptional for a plant not to possess a mycorrhizal root system in natural ecosystem. Therefore, it could be said that mycorrhizal association is very common or almost universal phenomenon in plant kingdom (Bagyaraj, 2011). The mycelium of the mycorrhizal fungus can however access these phosphorus sources, and make them available to the plants they colonize. Mycorrhizal

mycelia can explore a greater volume of soil, providing a larger surface area for absorption as they are very smaller in diameter than the smallest root. The uneasily available soil micronutrients, which are tightly bound to soil for example organic nitrogen, phosphorus, iron etc. can be dissolved by the enzymes released by mycorrhiza, and it clearly signifies that why non mycorrhizal plants require relatively large amount of fertilization.

## Materials and Methods

Experiment was conducted at Vegetable Research Farm, Department of Horticulture, Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi during Rabi season 2016-17 with chilli (*Capsicum annum* L.) cv. Bhagya Laxmi in a Completely randomized Block Design (CRBD) with nine treatments combination given in (Table 1) and replicated thrice. Temperature ranged from 16.5 to 29°C during the trial period. The Bulk density, Soil pH, Organic carbon, Electrical conductivity, Available Nitrogen, Available P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and Available K<sub>2</sub>O of the soil samples taken from the experimental field were 1.36 g cm<sup>-3</sup>, 7.12, 0.495 %, 0.45 dSm<sup>-1</sup>, 282.4 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>, 20.16 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> and 168.0 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> respectively. The seeds of chilli variety Bhagya Laxmi were raised on nursery beds and 30 days old seedlings were transplanted at a spacing of 60 × 50 cm in a plot size 3 × 5 m. The usual agronomic practices were followed as per the endorsed package of practices. To ease the experiment, some plants were randomly selected (five plants were selected for the present investigation) and tagged for recording of observations. Several yield parameters like number of fruits per plant, fruit length, fruit diameter, average fruit weight, fruit yield per plot and fruit yield per hectare were observed and analyzed by using the statistical analysis as described by Panse and Sukhatme (1985). Analysis of variance for all treatment in Complete Randomized Block Design (CRBD) was carried out and ANOVA

table was used to test the hypothesis.

## Results and Discussion

The normal growth and development of crop is directly linked to the economic yield of plant. The use of mycorrhiza is a wise option which can prove to be very effective in increasing agricultural production and quality along with good soil health and reduced health hazards arising from excessive use of chemicals. For increasing the agricultural production, mycorrhiza can supplement very efficiently with chemical fertilizers as it increases the availability of nutrients (phosphorus, organic nitrogen, iron, etc.) to the plant. In the experiment, effect of different strains of mycorrhizae were studied like for number of fruits per plant it was found that treatment T2 - Soil application with Myc100 @ 250 g/ha × 1 application at 20 DAT (76.43) was highest over T1- Untreated control (57.09) which was similar to (Hadad *et al.*, 2012) on tomato as well as (Gurumurthy *et al.*, 2014) on chilly, (Castillo *et al.*, 2013) on chilean pepper plants and (Manjarrez-Martinez *et al.*, 1999) on chilly who reported increased photosynthetic rate and stomatal conductance in mycorrhiza treated plants was the possible reason for the increased number of fruits per plant, for fruit length also treatment T2 - Soil application with Myc100 @ 250 g/ha × 1 application at 20 DAT (10.61 cm) was highest over T1- Untreated control (8.83 cm) this was because the use of mycorrhizal products significantly increased the length of fruit and this might be due to increased absorption of nutrients such as Phosphorus, Copper, Iron and zinc and the results were in favour with the finding of (Castillo *et al.*, 2013) on the Chilean pepper plants, for fruit diameter the maximum fruit diameter was noticed in treatment T2- Soil application with Myc100 @ 250 g/ha × 1 application at 20 DAT with value of 1.18 cm and minimum in treatment.

**Table.1** Effect of various mycorrhizal products on yield parameters of chilli (*Capsicum annuum* L.) cv. Bhagya Laxmi

| Treatment  | Number of fruits per plant | Fruit length (cm) | Fruit diameter (cm) | Average fruit weight (g) | Fruit yield per plant (g) | Fruit yield per plot (kg) | Fruit yield per hectare (q/ha) |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Untreated control  | 57.09                      | 8.83              | 0.91                | 2.73                     | 156.56                    | 7.83                      | 62.62                          |
| Soil application with Myc100 @ 250 g/ha × 1 application at 20 DAT            | 76.43                      | 10.61             | 1.18                | 3.25                     | 211.88                    | 10.59                     | 84.75                          |
| Soil application with Rhizo Myco 100 @ 250 g/ha × 1 application at 20 DAT    | 67.71                      | 10.10             | 0.99                | 2.84                     | 188.81                    | 9.44                      | 75.53                          |
| Soil application with Rhizo Myxo 100 @ 250 g/ha × 1 application at 20 DAT    | 64.63                      | 9.10              | 0.95                | 2.65                     | 186.99                    | 9.35                      | 74.80                          |
| Soil application with Bolt Gr. @ 10 kg/ha ×1 application at 20 DAT           | 70.19                      | 10.18             | 1.05                | 3.18                     | 199.25                    | 9.96                      | 79.70                          |
| Foliar application with Ratchet @ 300 ml /ha ×1 application at 30 DAT        | 68.95                      | 10.14             | 1.05                | 2.93                     | 191.17                    | 9.56                      | 76.47                          |
| Foliar application with Ratchet @ 300 ml/ha ×2 application at 30 and 60 DAT  | 70.75                      | 10.58             | 1.06                | 3.21                     | 205.06                    | 10.25                     | 82.02                          |
| Foliar application with Ratchet @ 450 ml/ha × 1 application at 30 DAT        | 61.71                      | 8.91              | 0.93                | 2.64                     | 183.55                    | 9.18                      | 73.42                          |
| Foliar application with Ratchet @ 450 ml/ha × 2 application at 30 and 60 DAT | 65.27                      | 9.77              | 0.98                | 2.87                     | 187.55                    | 9.38                      | 75.02                          |
| SE(d)  | 2.27                       | 0.55              | 0.07                | 0.47                     | 5.12                      | 0.26                      | 2.05                           |
| CD at 5%   | 4.8                        | 1.16              | 0.15                | 1.00                     | 10.86                     | 0.54                      | 4.34                           |

T1- Untreated control (0.91 cm), for average fruit weight treatment T2 - Soil application with Myc100 @ 250 g/ha × 1 application at 20 DAT (3.25 g) was highest over T1- Untreated control (2.73 g) this may be due to tissue phosphorus which gets increased, resulting in proper formation of nucleic acids and due to cell division average fruit weight might have increased and these results are in agreement with the findings of (Hadad *et al.*, 2012; Alawathugoda, 2014) in tomato and (Castillo *et al.*, 2013) in Chilean pepper, for fruit yield per plant treatment T2- Soil application with Myc100 @ 250 g/ha × 1 application at 20 DAT (211.88g) was noticed to be superior over treatment T1- Untreated control (156.56 g) and this may be because of the increased nutrient uptake particularly of phosphorus by plant, for fruit yield per plot treatment T2- Soil application with Myc100 @ 250 g/ha × 1 application at 20 DAT (10.59 kg) was noticed to be superior over treatment T1- Untreated control (7.83 kg) and this may be due to the increased nutrient uptake the yield per plant in experimental plot increased which resulted in increased yield per plot, for fruit yield per hectare also treatment T2- Soil application with Myc100 @ 250 g/ha × 1 application at 20 DAT (84.75 q/ha) was noticed to be superior over treatment T1- Untreated control (62.62 q/ha) and the significant increase in fruit yield per hectare was due to better nutrient absorption of plants which resulted in better vegetative growth and increased plant biomass. These results are in accordance with the earlier work of (Malik and Kumar 2009; Mujica *et al.*, 2010).

From the present investigation it can be inferred that the best product for increasing all the yield parameters was Myc100 and the optimum concentration for its application is 250 g/ha as soil application at 20 DAT. In most of the cases, foliar application with Ratchet @ 300 ml/ha application at 30 and 60 DAT was statistically at par with Soil application of Myc100 @ 250 g/ha 20 DAT.

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