

Original Research Article

<https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2020.905.199>

The Effect of Different Levels of Zinc on Morpho-Physiological Parameters, Seed Yield Attributing Characters and Seed Quality of Wheat

Devendra Kumar Singh¹, Meera Shrivastava¹, Vivek Kumar Patel²,
Ankit Singh^{3*} and Abhay Kumar⁴

¹Department of Seed Science, Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh) - 208002, India

²Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, Acharya Narendra Deva University of Agriculture and Technology Kumarganj, Ayodhya (Uttar Pradesh) – 224229, India

³Department of Agronomy, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa, Samastipur (Bihar) - 848125, India

⁴Department of Agricultural Biotechnology and Molecular Biology, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa, Samastipur (Bihar) - 848125, India

**Corresponding author*

ABSTRACT

Intensive and multiple cropping, cultivations of crop varieties with heavy nutrient requirement and unbalanced use of chemical fertilizers especially nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizers reduced quality of grain production and the appearance of micronutrient deficiency in crops. Experiment was conducted on variety K307 and K1006. Five doses of zinc viz. 0.0%, 0.5%, 1%, 1.5% and 2% zinc solution were sprayed at two stages of crop i.e. 60 & 90 DAS was applied. Observations were recorded on morph-physiological characters, yield and yield attributing characters. Result showed that the application of zinc affected significantly to all the parameters except days to heading, chlorophyll intensity, chlorophyll fluorescence, plant height, spike length and leaf area index at 60 and 90 DAS, number of tillers per m⁻², seed yield per plot, 1000 seed weight, standard germination per cent, seedling length and seedling vigour index and most of the yield and quality related parameters were significantly affected by application of 2% zinc solution have been found to be most appropriate for increasing seed yield and seed quality of wheat variety K307 and K1006. Variety K1006 was found better and superior for grain yield per plot, number of tillers m⁻², number of seed per spike and other yield attributing parameters.

Keywords

Crop varieties,
chemical fertilizers,
quality of grain

Article Info

Accepted:
15 April 2020
Available Online:
10 May 2020

Introduction

Wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) is the leading food crop in world farming. It is main food crop in temperate zone and extended up to warm regions of temperate and sub tropics to tropical low lands. One of the most ancient crop of the world. Wheat is the second most important staple food next to rice, consumed by nearly 35% of the world population and providing 20% of the total food calories. Wheat occupies about 32% of the total acreage under cereals in the world. The main wheat growing countries include China, India, USA, Russia, France, Canada, Germany, Turkey, Australia and Ukraine. In India, wheat is mainly grown in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana, Bihar, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Gujarat. Globally, probable demand for wheat by the year 2020 is forecast at around 950 million tonnes per year. This target will be achieved only, if global wheat production is increased by 2.5% per annum.

The importance of micronutrients application in increasing crop production has been recognized in India and it is becoming evident that without the use of the micronutrient, it is not possible to get the maximum benefits of NPK fertilizers and high yielding varieties of wheat (Shukla and Warsi, 2000). the growth and yield of plant is determine by the availability of some specific mineral nutrients that are absolutely essential for the completion of their life cycle (Marshner, 1995) .excess or deficiency of certain elements from the crop can affect its yield, quality and subsequent post-harvest life .

Zinc is an essential micronutrient for plant growth and is absorbed by the plant roots in the form of Zn^{2+} . It is involved in Fhydrogenase and carbonic anhydrase, synthesis of cytochrome and the stabilization of ribosomal fractions and auxin metabolism

(Tisdale *et al.*, 1984). Zinc deficiency also decreases nutritional quality of wheat grain and contributes to health problems in human beings, mainly in developing countries where cereals are major staple food (Kalayci *et al.*, 1999).

Any deficiency of zinc in the soil affects crop metabolic activity and resulted in poor grain yield. The Zn mobility in plants causes some intervenalchlorosis mostly in the younger leaves. Both high and low zinc are disadvantageous for growing crops. Owing due to high demand of zinc by rice plant, a little amount of zinc is left in the soil which is supposed to be least available to wheat crop. Under such circumstances growth yielding ability and seed quality of wheat is badly affected. Hence, it is obvious to find out suitable level of zinc requirement for optimal growth, better yield and seed quality of the crop.

Materials and Methods

The experiment was conducted at Nawabganj Farm, Kanpur during the year 2017-18 and seed quality was assessed in the laboratory of the department of seed science and technology, Chandra Shekhar Azad university of Agriculture and technology, Kanpur to investigate Effect of foliar application of zinc on seed yield and quality of wheat seed (*Triticum aestivum* L.). The experimental design was a Factorial randomized complete block design with three replicates. Treatments were control two varieties and five Zn Application- 0.0% Zn, 0.5%Zn , 1.0%Zn , 1.50%Zn , 2.0% Parameters such as grain yield (kg/ha), seed Zn concentration (mg/kg) were evaluated. Nawabganj Farm, Kanpur is situated in the Gangetic alluvial belt of central uttar Pradesh and located between 25⁰ 26' to 26⁰ 28' North Latitude and 79⁰ 31' to 80⁰ 34' East Longitude at elevation of 127.00 meter above Mean Sea Level.

Days to heading

Days taken for heading were recorded from the date of sowing in each treatment of every replication separately.

Plant height

Ten plants were selected randomly at the time of maturity in each treatment of every replication. Plant height was measured from the base of the plants to the tip of the panicle and expressed in cm.

Leaf area index (LAI)

Leaf Area Index was calculated by formula given by Watson (1947).

$$LAI = LA/P$$

Where,

LA = Leaf Area

P = Occupied Land Area

Chlorophyll intensity (CI)

Chlorophyll Intensity was determined by chlorophyll meter SPAD 502.

Chlorophyll fluorescence (CF)

Chlorophyll Fluorescence was measured by Pulse Amplified Portable Chlorophyll Meter.

Number of Tillers sqm^{-1}

In the centre of each plot of every replication, a square ring was placed. The tillers fall inside the ring were counted. The observation was recorded at the time of harvesting.

Spike length

Ten spikes were selected randomly at the time of maturity in each treatment of every

replication. Spike length was measured in cm from lower spike node up to tip of the panicle and averaged.

Number of seeds spike⁻¹

Ten spikes were selected randomly at the time of maturity in each treatment of every replication.

After this process each spike of every replication was hand threshed separately and number of seeds spike⁻¹ was counted and averaged.

Biomass yield plot⁻¹

At field maturity experimental plot of each treatment of every replication was harvested by sickle. Harvested lot each plot was weighed in kg.

Grain yield per plot (kg)

At field maturity experimental plot of each treatment of every replication was harvested by sickle and it was threshed and cleaned. Seed lot of each plot was weighed in kg.

1000 seed weight

A composite sample of about 100 g was drawn from graded seed lot of each treatment of every replication from which 1000 seeds were randomly taken out and counted. The counted samples were weighed in g up to two decimal places with the help of digital balance.

Results and Discussion

Effect on day to heading and plant height

The value related to effect of zinc on day to heading and plant height in variety K307 and K1006 were recorded.

Effect of variety

The data regarding effect of variety on day to heading the variety K1006 significantly superior as compared to K307 and the effect of variety on plant height was non-significant deference. Numerically variety K1006 (84.95cm) was superior as compared to K307 (84.76 cm).

Effect of doses

The different doses of zinc did not show the any significant effect on day to heading and plant height was significant effected by zinc application. However, Numerically treatment Zn₀ (0% zinc solution) exhibited least plant height (83.52 cm) while maximum (86.61 cm) was reported in treatment Zn₄ (2% zinc solution) table-1 and it was at par to Zn₃(1.5%) with value of 85.24 cm.

Interaction effect

Interaction of doses and variety did not show the any significant effect on days to heading and Interaction of variety and zinc showed significant differences with respect to plant height. Statistically minimum plant height (82.92 cm) was measured in K307xZn₀ and maximum (86.85 cm) was recorded in the combination K307xZn₄. The combination K307xZn₄ and K1006xZn₄ was showed at par.

Effect on leaf area index at 60 and 90 das

Effect of variety

The two different wheat varieties showed significant effect on leaf area index at 60 DAS. The variety K1006 (2.56) exhibited significant difference from the variety K307 (2.48) and leaf area index at 90 days after sowing (DAS) were statistically analysed non-significant difference was found between

variety K307 and K1006.

Effect of doses

The zinc application had significant effect on leaf area index at 60 DSA. The dose Zn₄ (2% zinc solution) had differed significantly from the rest of the doses applied. Enhancement in the leaf area index at 60 DAS was accompanied by increase in doses of zinc. Highest LAI at 60 DAS (2.58) and 90 DAS (3.61) was observed in Zn₄ (2%) while lowest (2.47) and (3.49) was found in control.

Interaction effect

Interaction of zinc and variety showed significant differences with respect to leaf area index at 60 DAS and 90 DAS. Statistically lowest (2.46) and (3.48) was recorded in K307xZn₀ and maximum (2.63) and (3.63) was recorded in the combination K1006xZn₄.

Effect on chlorophyll intensity and chlorophyll fluorescence

Effect of variety

It is obvious from the two different wheat variety showed significant effect on chlorophyll intensity. It is perceptible from in variety K307 (46.16) exhibited superior from the variety K1006 (41.69) and the varietal effect was show non-significant in chlorophyll fluorescence.

Effect of doses

It is clear that the application of zinc significantly influence the chlorophyll intensity and maximum chlorophyll intensity (45.53%) and chlorophyll fluorescence w(0.758) was recorded in Zn₄ (2% zinc solution) as compare to control Zn₀ (40.77%) and (0.737).

Interaction effect

Interaction of zinc and variety showed significant differences with respect to chlorophyll intensity and chlorophyll fluorescence. Statistically lowest (38.20%) and (0.733) was recorded in K1006xZn0 and maximum (49.47%) and (0.761) was recorded in the combination K307xZn4. Similar result found in Zhao *et al.*, (2003), Nataraja *et al.*, (2006).

Effect on biological yield and seed yield per plot (kg)

Effect of variety

The data obtained on biological yield per plot were statistically analysed. Both the varieties did not show any significant difference on biological yield per plot. However, numerically K1006 was superior over K307 and both the varieties had showed significant effect on seed yield per plot (kg). The variety K1006 (2.29kg) was statistically superior over the K307 (1.92kg).

Effect of doses

It is clear from the table-5 that zinc application has significant effect on biological yield. The treatment Zn₁, Zn₂, Zn₃, and Zn₄ showed statistically superiority over the control Zn₀. Increasing trends in biological yield per plot were observed as the zinc doses were increased. Maximum biological yield was observed in Zn₄ (9.91kg) and (2.43 kg) as compared to control (8.29kg) and (1.68kg).

Interaction effect

Interaction of zinc and variety showed the significant effect on biological yield. Maximum biological yield was observed in K307xZn4 (10kg) while minimum was recorded in K1006xZn0 (8.08kg and the

interaction of zinc doses and variety did not influence the seed yield per plot. Similar results have been reported by Singh *et al.*, (1999), Sharma and Bapat (2000), Yadav *et al.*, (2002).

Effect on 1000 grain weight (gm) and number of tillers m⁻²

Effect of variety

It is obvious from the the variety K307 and K1006 showed significant effect on 1000 grain weight (gm) number of tillers per m⁻². The variety K1006 (42.87gm) and (349.3) was superior as compare K307 (41.27gm) and (340.2).

Effect of doses

The zinc application has influenced the 1000 grain weight and number of tillers per m². Treatment Zn₀, Zn₁, Zn₂, Zn₃, and Zn₄ showed significant difference to each other while all these treatments differed significantly from the treatment Zn₄. Increasing trends in 1000 seed weight and number of tillers per m² was observed as the zinc level increased. Respectively maximum (43.65gm) and (353.75) was reported in the treatment Zn₄ as compare to control (40.9gm) regarding 1000 grain weight was recorded.

Interaction effect

The interaction of zinc doses and varieties showed significant effect on 1000 seed weight and number of tillers per m⁻². Statistically maximum 1000 seed weight (44.30gm) and number of tillers per m⁻² (357) was measured in K1006xZn4 and minimum (39.90gm) and (327) was recorded in the combination K307xZn0. Similar results have been reported by Singh *et al.*, (1999), Sharma and Bapat (2000), Dewal and Pareek (2004), Sharma and Agarwal (2008)

Table.1 Effect of different doses of zinc on Days to heading and Plant height (cm) of wheat variety K307 and K1006

Variety Doses	Day to heading			Plant height (cm)		
	K307	K1006	Mean	K307	K1006	Mean
Zn ₀ (0% solution)	83	85	84.0	82.92	84.12	83.52
Zn ₁ (0.5% solution)	83	84	83.5	84.60	84.48	84.54
Zn ₂ (1% solution)	84	83	83.5	84.19	84.54	84.36
Zn ₃ (1.5% solution)	83	84	83.5	85.25	85.23	85.24
Zn ₄ (2% solution)	84	84	84.0	86.85	86.38	86.61
Mean	83.4	84.0		84.76	84.95	
	SE (diff)	CD (0.05)		SE (diff)	CD (0.05)	
V	0.32	0.67		0.36	NS	
D	0.51	NS		0.57	1.21	
VxD	0.71	NS		0.81	1.71	

Table.2 Effect of different doses of zinc on Leaf area index at 60 and 90 DAS of wheat variety K307 and K1006

Variety Doses	Leaf area index at 60 DAS			Leaf area index at 90 DAS		
	K307	K1006	Mean	K307	K1006	Mean
Zn ₀ (0% solution)	2.46	2.48	2.47	3.50	3.48	3.49
Zn ₁ (0.5% solution)	2.45	2.56	2.50	3.55	3.60	3.57
Zn ₂ (1% solution)	2.50	2.55	2.52	3.55	3.60	3.57
Zn ₃ (1.5% solution)	2.48	2.60	2.54	3.57	3.57	3.57
Zn ₄ (2% solution)	2.53	2.63	2.58	3.60	3.63	3.61
Mean	2.48	2.56		3.55	3.57	
	SE (diff)	CD (0.05)		SE (diff)	CD (0.05)	
V	0.01	0.03		0.01	NS	
D	0.02	0.04		0.01	0.02	
VxD	0.03	0.06		0.02	0.03	

Table.3 Effect of different doses of zinc on Chlorophyll intensity and Chlorophyll fluorescence of wheat variety K307 and K1006

Variety Doses	Chlorophyll intensity			Chlorophyll fluorescence		
	K307	K1006	Mean	K307	K1006	Mean
Zn ₀ (0% solution)	43.35	38.20	40.77	0.733	0.741	0.737
Zn ₁ (0.5% solution)	48.97	41.20	45.08	0.749	0.745	0.747
Zn ₂ (1% solution)	44.05	41.60	42.82	0.752	0.747	0.749
Zn ₃ (1.5% solution)	45.00	45.85	45.42	0.753	0.748	0.750
Zn ₄ (2% solution)	49.47	41.60	45.53	0.761	0.756	0.758
Mean	46.168	41.69		0.749	0.747	
	SE (diff)	CD (0.05)		SE (diff)	CD (0.05)	
V	0.72	1.51		0.00	NS	
D	1.14	2.39		0.01	0.01	
VxD	1.61	3.38		0.01	0.01	

Table.4 Effect of different doses of zinc on Biological yield plot⁻¹ (Kg) and Weight of seed yield plot⁻¹(kg) of wheat variety K307 and K1006

Variety Doses	Biological yield plot ⁻¹ (kg)			Weight of seed yield plot ⁻¹ (kg)		
	K307	K1006	Mean	K307	K1006	Mean
Zn ₀ (0% solution)	8.50	8.08	8.29	1.50	1.87	1.68
Zn ₁ (0.5% solution)	8.53	8.87	8.70	1.67	2.37	2.02
Zn ₂ (1% solution)	8.58	9.47	9.02	2.05	2.37	2.21
Zn ₃ (1.5% solution)	9.03	9.50	9.26	2.03	2.37	2.20
Zn ₄ (2% solution)	10.00	9.83	9.91	2.37	2.50	2.43
Mean	8.92	9.15		1.92	2.29	
	SE (diff)	CD (0.05)		SE (diff)	CD (0.05)	
V	0.16	NS		0.10	0.20	
D	0.25	0.53		0.15	0.32	
VxD	0.36	0.75		0.21	NS	

Table.5 Effect of different doses of zinc on 1000 grain weight (gm) and No. of tillers m⁻² fluorescence of wheat variety K307 and K1006

Variety Doses	1000 grain weight (gm)			No. of tillers m ⁻²		
	K307	K1006	Mean	K307	K1006	Mean
Zn ₀ (0% solution)	39.90	41.90	40.9	327.0	340.5	333.75
Zn ₁ (0.5% solution)	40.40	42.90	41.65	333.5	349.0	341.25
Zn ₂ (1% solution)	41.25	42.85	42.05	347.5	350.0	348.75
Zn ₃ (1.5% solution)	41.80	42.40	42.1	342.5	350.0	346.25
Zn ₄ (2% solution)	43.00	44.30	43.65	350.5	357.0	353.75
Mean	41.27	42.87		340.2	349.3	
	SE (diff)	CD (0.05)		SE (diff)	CD (0.05)	
V	0.56	1.40		1.40	2.95	
D	0.89	2.22		2.22	4.67	
VxD	1.26	3.14		3.14	6.60	

Table.6 Effect of different doses of zinc on Spike length (cm) and number of seed per spike of wheat variety K307 and K1006

Variety Doses	Spike length (cm)			No of seed per spike		
	K307	K1006	Mean	K307	K1006	Mean
Zn ₀ (0% solution)	8.72	8.42	8.42	40.65	41.25	40.95
Zn ₁ (0.5% solution)	8.81	8.45	8.63	45.88	49.78	47.83
Zn ₂ (1% solution)	8.95	8.57	8.76	46.50	50.10	48.30
Zn ₃ (1.5% solution)	8.46	8.53	8.49	49.25	51.25	50.25
Zn ₄ (2% solution)	8.56	8.79	8.67	50.10	51.25	50.67
Mean	8.7	8.5		46.47	48.72	
	SE (diff)	CD (0.05)		SE (diff)	CD (0.05)	
V	0.07	0.15		0.29	0.62	
D	0.11	NS		0.47	0.98	
VxD	0.16	0.33		0.66	1.38	

Effect on spike length (cm) and number of seed per spike

Effect of variety

The variety K307 and K1006 showed significant effect on spike length (cm) and number of seed per spike. The variety K1006 (8.7) and (48.72) was superior as compared to K307 (8.5) and (46.47).

Effect of doses

The effect of zinc doses did not show any significant effect on the spike length (cm) and the application of zinc had significant effect on number of seed per spike. Control Zn₀ (0% Zn solution), Zn₁ (0.5% Zn solution), Zn₂ (1% Zn solution), Zn₃ (1.5% Zn solution) and Zn₄ (2% Zn solution) produced 40.95, 47.83, 48.30, 50.25 and 50.67 number of seed per spike, respectively.

Maximum Zn₄ (50.67) number of seed per spike was recorded as compared to control (40.95). Non-significant difference between Zn₃ (50.25) and Zn₄ (50.67). According to doses slightly increase the number of seed per spike.

Interaction effect

Interaction of variety and zinc doses showed significant effect on the spike length (cm) and number of seed per spike. Statistically maximum (8.95cm) and (51.25) was measured in c and minimum (8.42cm) and (40.65) was recorded in the combination K1006xZn₀ (table-6).

The treatment combination K307xZn₂ and K307xZn₁ showed at par. Similar results have been reported by Singh *et al.*, (1999), Sharma and Bapat (2000), Kasturi Krishna and Ahlawat (2000), Sharma and Agarwal (2008).

References

- Dewal, G. S. and Pareek, R. G. (2004). Effect of phosphorus, sulphur and zinc on growth, yield and nutrient uptake of wheat (*Triticumaestivum* L.). *Ind. J. Agron.*, 49(3): 160-162.
- Kalayci, M.; Torun, B.; Eker, S.; Aydin, M.; Ozturk, L. and Cakmak, I. (1999). Grain yield, zinc efficiency and zinc concentration of wheat cultivars grown in a zinc-deficient calcareous soil in field and greenhouse. *Field Crops Res.*, 63: 87-98.
- Kasturikrishna, S. and Ahlawat, I.P.S. (2000). Effect of moisture stress and phosphorus, sulphur and zinc fertilizers on growth and development of pea (*Pisumsativum*L.). *Indian J. Agron.*, 45 (2): 353-356.
- Marshner, H. (1995). Mineral Nutrition of Higher Plants 2nd edition, Academic Press, London, pp.889.
- Nataraja, T. H.; Halepyati, A. S.; Pujari, B. T. and Desai, B. K. (2006). Influence of phosphorus levels and micronutrients on physiological parameters of wheat (*Triticum durum* L.). *Karnataka J. of Agric. Sci.* 19 (3): 685-687.
- Sharma, B. L. and Bapat, P. N. (2000). Levels of micronutrient cations in various plant parts of wheat as influenced by zinc and phosphorus application. *J. of the Indian Society of Soil Sci.* 48 (1): 130-134.
- Sharma, Reena; Agarwal, Abha and Kumar, Sanjeev (2008). Effect of micronutrients on protein content and productivity of wheat (*Triticumaestivum* L.). *Vegetos.* 21 (1):51-53.
- Shukla, S. K. and Warsi, A. S. (2000). Effect of sulphur and micronutrients on growth, nutrients content and yield of wheat (*Triticumaestivam* L.). *Indian J. Agric. Res.*, 34 (3): 203-205.
- Singh, R. S. P.; Pandey, R. D. and Thakur, S. S. (1999). Effect of different nutrient

- levels, zinc and FYM on wheat yield. *J. of Applied Bio.* 9 (1): 38-40.
- Tisdale, S. L.; Nelson, W. L. and Beaten, J. D. (1984). *Zinc in Soil Fertility and Fertilizers*, 4th Ed., Macmillan Publishing Company, New York, USA pp: 382-391.
- Watson, D.J. (1947). Comparative physiological studies on growth of field crops. I. Variation in net assimilation rate and leaf area between species and varieties and within years. *Ann. Bot.*, 11: 41-76.
- Yadav, K. K.; Chhipa B. R.; Yadav, B. L.; Jat, N. L.; Pathan, A. R. K. and Panwar, N. R. (2002). Response of wheat to zinc fertilization under irrigation with different RSC water. *Annuals Plant Soil Res. Inch*: 151-154.

How to cite this article:

Devendra Kumar Singh, Meera Shrivastava, Vivek Kumar Patel, Ankit Singh and Abhay Kumar. 2020. The Effect of Different Levels of Zinc on Morpho-Physiological Parameters, Seed Yield Attributing Characters and Seed Quality of Wheat. *Int.J.Curr.Microbiol.App.Sci.* 9(05): 1765-1773. doi: <https://doi.org/10.20546/ijemas.2020.905.199>