

Original Research Article

Assessment of the performance of high yielding blackgram varieties in Dharmapuri district, Tamil Nadu, India

Abstract

An on farm trial was conducted to study the performance of improved blackgram varieties under rainfed condition of Dharmapuri district. The trial was conducted in five farmers' holdings spread over in palacode and morappur blocks. The varieties included in the study were VBN 8, TBG 104 and VBN 5. The crop was raised and maintained by following the recommended package of practices. Results of the study revealed that the variety TBG 104 recorded higher grain yield of 8.22 q/ha, it was followed by VBN 8 (7.78 q/ha) and lower in farmers practice i.e., VBN 5 (6.90 q/ha). Per cent incidence of yellow mosaic virus disease was lower in TBG 104 (2.67) and higher in farmers practice (15.3). The highest net return (Rs. 21870/ha) and benefit cost ratio (2.14) were realized with TBG 104 and the lowest net return (Rs. 16990/ha) and benefit cost ratio (1.97) were realized with farmers practice i.e., VBN 5. Hence it is concluded from the present study that Blackgram variety TBG 104 can be recommended for cultivation in large scale in Dharmapuri district for realizing higher yield and income by farming community.

Key Words : Blackgram, Grain yield, Yellow mosaic virus, Net return, Benefit cost ratio

1. Introduction

Blackgram (*Vigna mungo* L.) also known as urd bean is one of the most important grain legume crop cultivated in India. It contains high protein (26%), carbohydrates (60%), fat (1.5%) and substantial amount of minerals, amino acids and vitamins. It is also called as 'poor man's meat' particularly for the vegetarian population of the Indian subcontinent [1]. Being a short duration legume crop, it can grow under adverse weather conditions and marginal soils. It improves soil fertility by fixing atmospheric nitrogen (22 kg/ha) in soil through symbiotic association. Also, it is used as nutritive green fodder for dairy animals. It is a good green manure crop also acts as a cover crop and thereby prevents soil erosion.

In Dharmapuri district, it is cultivated in an area of about 6000 ha with average yield of 721 kg ha⁻¹. About 90 per cent of the area under blackgram is being cultivated under rainfed condition during *kharif* season. Prevailing weather parameters such as rainfall, temperature, soil moisture and solar radiation during the different crop growth stages play an important role in deciding the yield of blackgram. The productivity of blackgram under rainfed condition is low due to occurrence of moisture stress, continuous cultivation of older varieties and incidence of yellow mosaic virus disease. Due to the uncertainty in rainfall, occurrence of moisture stress at critical crop growth stages leads to reduction in yield. Apart from moisture stress, lack of knowledge on the availability of suitable high yielding varieties, non availability of good quality seeds, poor filling of pods, incidence of yellow mosaic virus and leaf crinkle disease also affect the blackgram productivity. Hence, on farm trial was conducted to assess the performance of improved blackgram varieties in farmers' holdings with the local variety.

2. Materials and Methods

To overcome the problems, an on farm trial was conducted to assess the suitability of varieties for rainfed situation of Dharmapuri district. The technological options includes Blackgram varieties *viz.*, TO 1 - Farmers Practice (VBN 5), TO 2 - VBN 8, TO 3 - TBG 104 were taken for the study. Blackgram VBN 8 was released from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University during 2016. It has 65-70 days duration and resistant to yellow mosaic virus disease. Blackgram TBG 104 is released from Regional Agricultural Research Station, Tirupati during 2016. It has 75-80 days duration, photo insensitive and resistant to yellow mosaic virus disease. The crop was raised in five locations during *kharif* season 2017 coinciding with south west monsoon. During that season, the district received 395 mm rainfall which was 9.4 per cent higher than the normal rainfall. The soil of the trial plots were sandy loam in texture, non saline, slightly alkaline in soil reaction, low in available nitrogen (<280 kg/ha) and medium in available phosphorus (11-22 kg/ha) and potassium (118-280 kg/ha). The seeds were treated with *Rhizobium* @ 20 g/kg seed and *Trichoderma viride* @ 4 g/kg seed at the time of sowing and the seeds were sown at 30 x 10 cm spacing. Integrated nutrient management practices including basal application of FYM @ 12.5t/ha, recommended dose of NPKS @ 25:50:25:20 kg/ha, soil application of TNAU pulses micronutrient mixture @ 7.5 kg/ha were followed. Foliar spraying of pulse wonder @ 5 kg/ha at peak flowering stage was done. Integrated pest and disease management practices

were followed as per the TNAU crop production guide 2014. Incidence of yellow mosaic virus and leaf crinkling disease was observed during the crop growth stages. At the time of harvest, the growth and yield characters such as number of pods per plant, number of seeds per pod, 100 seed weight (g) and grain yield (q/ha) were recorded both under demonstration and farmers practice. Economic analysis was done by calculating cost of cultivation, gross income, net income and benefit cost ratio.

3. Results and Discussion

The data on incidence of disease, growth and yield parameters were presented in Table 1. The results revealed that the plant height (49.2 cm), number of pods (29.6/plant), pod length (5.28 cm) and number of seeds (8.00/pod) were higher in TBG 104. The lower plant height (38.2 cm), number of pods (21.9/plant), pod length (4.90 cm) and number of seeds (6.64/pod) were observed in farmers practice i.e., VBN 5. Significantly higher 100 seed weight (5.24 g) was observed in TBG 104 and lower (4.26 g) in farmers practice. The variation in plant growth and yield attributes among the varieties might be due to their genetic variability. Similar results were reported by Goswami et al. [2], Verma et al. [3] and Bhowaland and Bhowmik [4] in Greengram.

Besides, per cent incidence of yellow mosaic virus (2.67) and leaf crinkling disease (2.33) was lower in TBG 104. The per cent incidence of yellow mosaic virus (15.3) and leaf crinkling disease (18.6) was higher in farmers practice.

Table 1: Growth performance of the improved varieties of Blackgram

Parameters	TO 1 - Farmers Practice (VBN 5)	TO 2 - VBN 8	TO 3 – TBG 104
Plant height (cm)	38.2	43.6	49.2
Days to 50% flowering	36	32	38
Number of pods per plant	21.9	26.4	29.6
Pod length (cm)	4.90	5.24	5.28
Number of seeds per pod	6.64	7.66	8.00
100 Seed weight (g)	4.26	4.81	5.24
Seed colour	Black	Black	Greenish Black
Yellow Mosaic Virus	15.3	3.33	2.67

incidence (%)			
Leaf crinkling incidence (%)	18.6	4.00	2.33

The data on grain yield indicated that, irrespective of the locations among the blackgram varieties TBG 104 recorded higher grain yield in all the five locations (Figure 1). The mean data revealed that, the variety TBG 104 recorded higher grain yield of 8.22 q/ha, it was followed by VBN 8 (7.78 q/ha) and lower in farmers practice i.e., VBN 5 (6.90 q/ha) (Table 2). The overall increase in growth and yield attributes is mainly due to the lower incidence of pest and diseases. Similar findings of yield variation over different varieties were reported by Reddy et al. [5], Archana et al. [6] and Sunil et al. [7] in blackgram.

Blackgram variety TBG 104 also realized the higher net return (Rs. 21870/ha) and benefit cost ratio (2.14). The farmers practice i.e., VBN 5 realized the lower net return (Rs. 16990/ha) and benefit cost ratio (1.97). The reason for higher net income and benefit cost ratio might be due to higher grain yield obtained in TBG 104 variety. Similar findings were reported by Sangeetha et al. [8] in chickpea.

Figure 1. Grain yield of Blackgram varieties

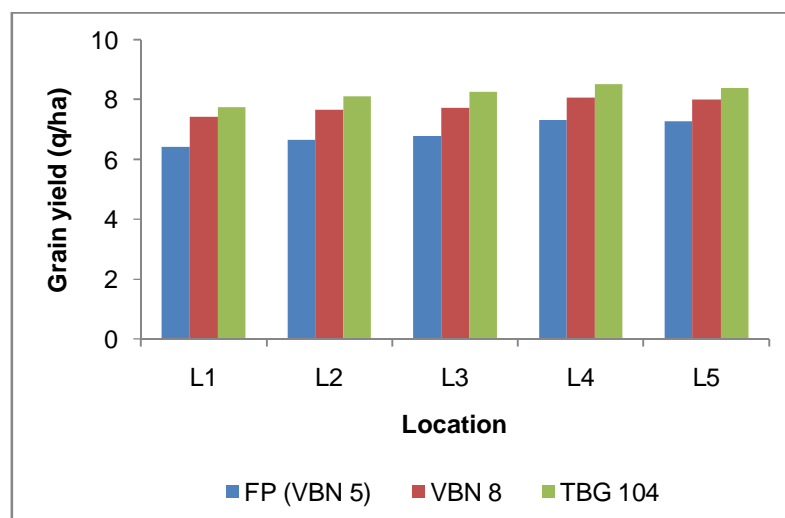


Table 2: Grain yield and economics of improved varieties of Blackgram

Technology Option	No. of trials	Grain yield (q/ha)	Net return (Rs./ha)	B:C Ratio
TO 1 : Farmers practice (VBN 5)	5	6.90	16990	1.97
TO 2 : Cultivation of VBN 8		7.78	19690	2.02
TO 3 : Cultivation of TBG 104		8.22	21870	2.14

4. Conclusion

Based on the study, the blackgram variety TBG 104 performed superior with respect to yield and income of the farmers. Farmers opined that the seeds of the variety TBG 104 are bold and plants are bushy. It also, showed resistance to yellow mosaic virus and leaf crinkling disease. Hence, blackgram variety TBG 104 can be recommended for large scale cultivation under rainfed condition during *kharif* season for realizing higher return.

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