

Original Research Article

Effect of orientation and distance of moringa tree on growth and yield of cabbage

ABSTRACT

A field experiment was conducted at the moringa based experimental farm of the Department of Agroforestry and Environment, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University (BSMRAU), Gazipur during November 2020 to September 2021. The aim of the study was to assess how well cabbage performed and adapted to various orientations and distances from the moringa tree. The experiment was carried out in Randomized Complete Block Design (RCBD) with three replications. Four different orientations along with one control plot were used as factor A and different distances from tree base was treated as factor B. The data of some eco physiological parameters like maximum light intensity and soil temperature were noticed in south orientation and the widest distance from tree base. The highest soil moisture was found at north orientation. Most of the growth parameters showed better performance in open field compared to shade condition. In case of interaction effect, south orientation and the widest distance (180 cm) from moringa tree base showed the highest number of outer leaf, head length, width, head diameter, head length, and head weight compared to other orientations and distances. Concurrently, the maximum total yield and marketable yield were recorded from 180 cm in south orientation whereas the lowest yield was found the closest distance (80 cm) and east orientation. The marketable yield of south, west, north, and east orientations were reduced by 8.43, 14.87, 23.86 and 31.52% as compared to open field. At 130 cm and 80 cm distance the yield were reduced by 16.42 and 32.26% as compared to 180 cm distance from tree base. The current findings suggested that cabbage may be grown in partial shade in moringa-based agroforestry production systems without enduring significant yield losses.

Keywords: Agroforestry system, cabbage, moringa, orientation, yield.

1. INTRODUCTION

Cropland agroforestry is considered as a production technique where agricultural crops are grown in combination with tree species in a same piece of land to maximum utilization of natural resources like land, sunlight, water owing to get more profit. This farming technique has been expanded in a large scale to meet the food demand of Bangladesh [1]. Crop land agroforestry includes various multipurpose tree species which are grown along with various annual crops like, rice, wheat, and other seasonal vegetables in farmer's land. The system provides food, fuel, timber, construction materials, raw materials etc. Soil conservation and improvement has been one of the another most important functions of this systems [2].

Correspondingly, human nutrition is crucial for the overall development of a country. Vegetables could be really important in this regard. Vegetables are often abundant in vitamins, minerals and vital amino acids. According to Food and Agriculture Organization, the average recommended per capita vegetable consumption is 250g whereas Bangladesh only consumes 75g of vegetables on average per person, including sweet potatoes [3, 4]. It would take more than 10 million tons of vegetables to meet the minimum daily requirement of 250g of vegetables per person per day. Although, the area and production of vegetable have expanded over the past few years, yet the supply and demand still vary considerably. Farming systems face a number of difficulties, including changing weather patterns, poor management, a shortage of good planting materials, and others. So, to produce vegetables along with fruit and/or forest trees is the best alternative to meet the entire requirement. However, the agroforestry production system is complex and is affected by many factors. Plant ecophysiology should be understood to know how plant adopt themselves under different environmental stress like shade, extreme high or low temperature, drought or waterlogging stress.

Moringa oleifera (Drumstick) is an important vegetable in many tropical and sub-tropical countries including Bangladesh. It is highly drought-tolerant and due to its medicinal and nutritional qualities, it is one of the most adaptable and valuable multifunctional trees in the world. Consequently, it has been referred to as a "miracle tree" and "mother's best friend tree" globally [5]. Its leaves and roots are sufficiently high in protein, fiber, calcium, phosphorus, potassium, sulfur, iron, ascorbic acid, carotene, choline, thiamine, riboflavin, and nicotinic acid [6]. In Bangladesh, moringa is an important homestead species that is irregularly planted beside roads across the country. Intriguingly, moringa trees can able to penetrate a substantial amount of the light accessibility and nutrient dynamics also improved by leaf litter to understory vegetables like cabbage because of their deciduous and light crown nature [7]. The cropland agroforestry system could incorporate this species as a key multifunctional tree.

Likewise moringa, cabbage (*Brassica oleracea*) is commercially important vegetable crops in Bangladesh and it contains considerable amount of vitamins and minerals. It is reported that consumption of cabbage downregulate the risk of diabetes, obesity, heart disease, and overall mortality [8]. Though, some sporadic field research has been done on moringa based agroforestry system; but no systematic and long term field researches were done due to lack of permanent structures. Nevertheless, the planting orientations and distance from the tree base have the greatest impact on the yield of agricultural crops in agroforestry systems. In an agroforestry system, crops are grown in the appropriate orientation which will increase

crop productivity through harvesting maximum solar radiation and also reduce the shade effect. Additionally, crop yields are higher at larger distances from tree bases compared to those at closer distances. As distance increases from the tree base, Photo-synthetic Active Radiation (PAR) availability also increases whereas below-ground resources competition are reduced [9]. Therefore, a study was undertaken to estimate the yield and yield attributes of cabbage considering different orientations and also find out the optimum distance from tree base for having better yield of cabbage under moringa based agroforestry systems.

2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

2.1 Experimental site and Climatic condition

The field experiment was conducted at the moringa based research farm of the Department of Agroforestry and Environment, BSMRAU, Gazipur, Bangladesh during the period from November 2020 to September 2021. The experimental location is 8.2 meters above sea level and is situated in the center of Madhupur Tract's (24°29' N latitude, 90°26' E longitude). The experimental location is situated in a sub-tropical climate with abundant rainfall from April to September and little else during the rest of the year. The soil is silty-clay loam in texture which belongs to Salna series of Shallow Red-Brown Terrace soil. The average relative humidity in both case (morning and noon) were fluctuated. However, Average relative humidity at morning was always higher than noon.

2.2 Experimental design and layout

The experiment was carried out in a two factor Randomized Complete Block Design (RCBD) with three replications. The experiment was followed in concentrated ring method (Fig.1). The treatments are as follows:

Factor A: Four orientations of the tree i.e. East, West, North and South; Factor B: Distance of cabbage from the tree base (80 cm, 130 cm and 180cm). An individual moringa tree was considered as a single replication. There was a control plot of cabbage that received full sunlight without tree species.

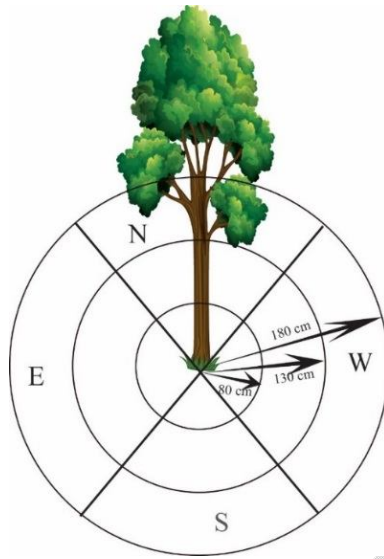


Fig. 1. Layout of the study area.

2.3 Moringa orchad establishment

The field was cleared and prepared during the second week of June 2015. The 12 m × 8 m block/plot for each tree was marked by measuring tape having five-meter distance from the plot. Twenty pits were prepared in each block 60 cm × 60 cm × 60 cm in size. Moringa stem-cuttings were collected from different districts of Bangladesh. The collected stem-cuttings were transplanted in pits during first week of July 2015. The spacing of all trees was 4 m × 4 m.

2.4 Planting materials and seedling establishment

The cabbage (Atlas-70) seeds were sown in bed on 24th October 2020. The soil of the bed was prepared finely for smooth seed germination Thirty-two (32) days old, healthy, uniform seedlings were transplanted on 26th November 2020, maintaining row to row and plant to plant spacing of 70 cm × 60 cm, respectively. Post transplanting irrigation was given for successful seedling establishment. Dead and weak plants were uprooted and gaps were filled with healthy seedlings of same age preserved in seedbed.

2.5 Data collection

Twenty plants were selected from each plot for data collection. Data of light intensity, soil moisture and soil temperature were taken at field condition. The observed plant parameters were number of outer leaves (plant^{-1}), fresh weight of outer leaves (g plant^{-1}), dry weight of outer leaves (g plant^{-1}), Outer leaf length (cm plant^{-1}), outer leaf width (cm plant^{-1}), head length (cm plant^{-1}), head diameter (cm plant^{-1}), head weight (kg plant^{-1}), head dry weight (kg

plant⁻¹), total weight (t ha⁻¹), marketable yield (t ha⁻¹). Harvesting was done by treatment wise after judging the compactness of cabbage head. Harvesting was started from February to March 2021. The soil moisture was taken by using soil moisture meter-DSMM 500. The soil temperature was taken by using a thermometer. Light intensity data was measured from canopy area of moringa plant by using a TES 1335 light meter.

2.5 Statistical Analysis

All data were subjected to analyses of variance (ANOVA) using STATISTIX 10 Software. The comparisons of treatment means were made using Least Significant Difference (LSD) at 5 % level of probability ($p = 0.05$).

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Light availability, soil moisture and soil temperature at different orientation and distance

In an open field and at different orientations, there were notable variations in light intensity. Light availability in an agroforestry system was significantly lower than in an open field on all measurement dates. At 30 days after planting (DAP), the highest light was available in open field followed by south, west, north and east orientations. The most of the light was observed at south orientation at 60 DAP among the various orientations. In case of 70 DAP, the maximum light was found in south orientation (1024 lux) which was significant with north orientation (Fig. 2a).

Additionally, the light intensity varied significantly depending on the distance from the tree base. At 30, 40, 50, 60 and 70 DAP, the maximum light was available at 180 cm distance from tree base followed by 130 cm, 80 cm distance. At 70 DAP, relatively better light (1447.33 lux) intensity was obtained at 180 cm distance from tree base than other level of distances (Fig. 2b).

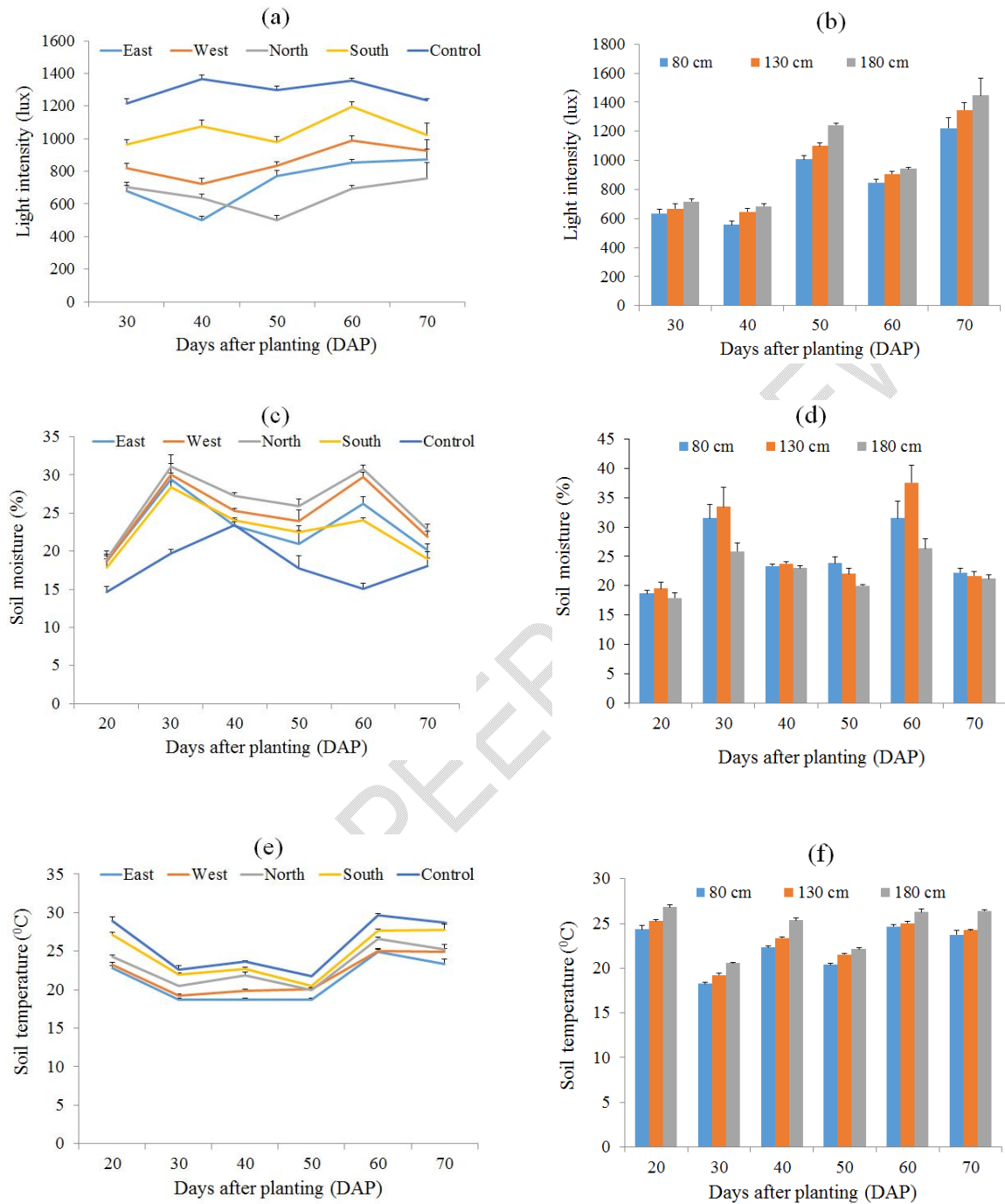


Fig. 2. Light intensity, soil moisture content and soil temperature at different orientations and open condition i.e. control (a) and different distance from tree base (b). Data represents mean \pm SE of 3 independent replicates and means followed by uncommon letter(s) differ significantly by LSD at 5% level.

As shown in Figure 2c, at all the measurement dates (20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70 DAP), soil moisture content was higher in agroforestry system than open field condition, although there was some variation among the orientations. The highest soil moisture (32%) was noted at north orientation followed by west, east and south orientations at 60 DAP. At 70 DAP the maximum soil moisture (22.11 %) was recorded at north orientation and lowest in south orientation (21.26 %) (Fig. 2c). The north orientation recorded the most soil moisture on maximum days, whereas the south orientation recorded the lowest soil moisture. The soil moisture was high in different orientations compared to open field due to shade condition which reduce the evaporation and preserve the soil moisture [10].

In most of the case soil moisture was decreased with increasing the distance from tree base, having a bit inconsistency. At 70 DAP, the maximum soil moisture was found at 80 cm (22.25%) and minimum 180 cm (21.18%) from tree base which was statistically different to each other (Fig. 2d). In maximum case the soil moisture was the highest at 130 cm that is medium distance from tree base and lowest at 180 cm from tree base.

In general, soil temperature was relatively higher in open field than agroforestry fields regardless of orientations. At 50 DAP, the maximum soil temperature was noted in open field followed by south, north and west orientations that were insignificant to each other (Fig. 2e). Among the different orientations, the maximum soil temperature was found in south orientation (27.64^oC) and minimum in east orientation (23.37^oC) at 70 DAP (Fig. 2e).

Taking into accounts the soil moisture, at different DAP, relatively higher soil temperature was recorded at 180 cm distance from tree base than the other levels of distance at different time of observations (Fig. 2f). However, the highest soil temperature (26.40^oC) was found at 180 cm and the lowest (23.75^oC) was at 80 cm distance from tree base at 70 DAP. The present results are consistent with those documented in hedgerow-tomato intercropping [10], bale-based agroforestry system [11].

3.2 The effect of different orientations and distances on leaf characteristics of cabbage

3.2.1 Number of outer leaves per plant

Number of outer leaves per plant of cabbage at different orientations under moringa based agroforestry systems and open condition showed significant variation at harvesting dates. Among different orientations the east (12.67) orientation showed better performance which is significantly similar with south (12.64) and north (12.08) orientations except west (11.17) orientation (Fig. 3a). Nevertheless, open field produced the highest number of outer leaves

per plant than shade condition. It might be due to maximum photosynthesis in open condition, which influenced production of more outer leaf. It has been reported that shading reduced leaf number and leaf thickness of okra [12].

As the distance from the tree base increased, the number of outer leaves gradually increased. At harvesting time, the highest number of outer leaves per plant (14.36) and the lowest (9.82) were found at the far (180cm) and closest (80cm) distance from tree base, respectively (Fig 3b). This might be due to corresponding increase of light level. The reduced synthesis of photosynthates under low light conditions may be the cause of the lower number of outer leaves per plant under the lowered light conditions for a longer period [13]. It can be also explained that competition between trees and crops for natural resources (such water and nutrients) in the areas closest to the moringa tree's base might be another reason for lower number of outer leaves [14, 15].

3.2.2. Outer leaf length and width per plant

Significantly the highest outer leaf length per plant was noted in control i.e. open field (33.66cm) and the lowest at east (23.55cm) orientation followed by south, west and north orientations, respectively (Fig. 3c). In general, outer leaf length per plant was decreased with increasing distance from tree base. At harvesting time, significantly maximum (27.65cm) and minimum (23.67cm) outer leaf length per plant was found at the far (180cm) and closest (80cm) distance from tree base, respectively (Fig. 3d).

The west orientation showed significantly the highest outer leaf width per plant (25.65cm), while the east orientation had the lowest outer leaves width per plant (22.78cm), which was identical to the north and south orientations, respectively (Fig. 3e). The open field i.e. control, exhibited the utmost value (33.33cm) for the width of the outer leaves per plant of cabbage. Closest distance from tree base showed negative effect on outer leaf width per plant in cabbage. At harvesting time, significantly the highest outer leaf width per plant (25.33cm) and the lowest (22.58cm) was found at the far (180cm) and closest (80cm) distance from tree base that was insignificant to each other, respectively (Fig. 3f). Under shaded conditions, there may be a downregulation of cell division and growth [16].

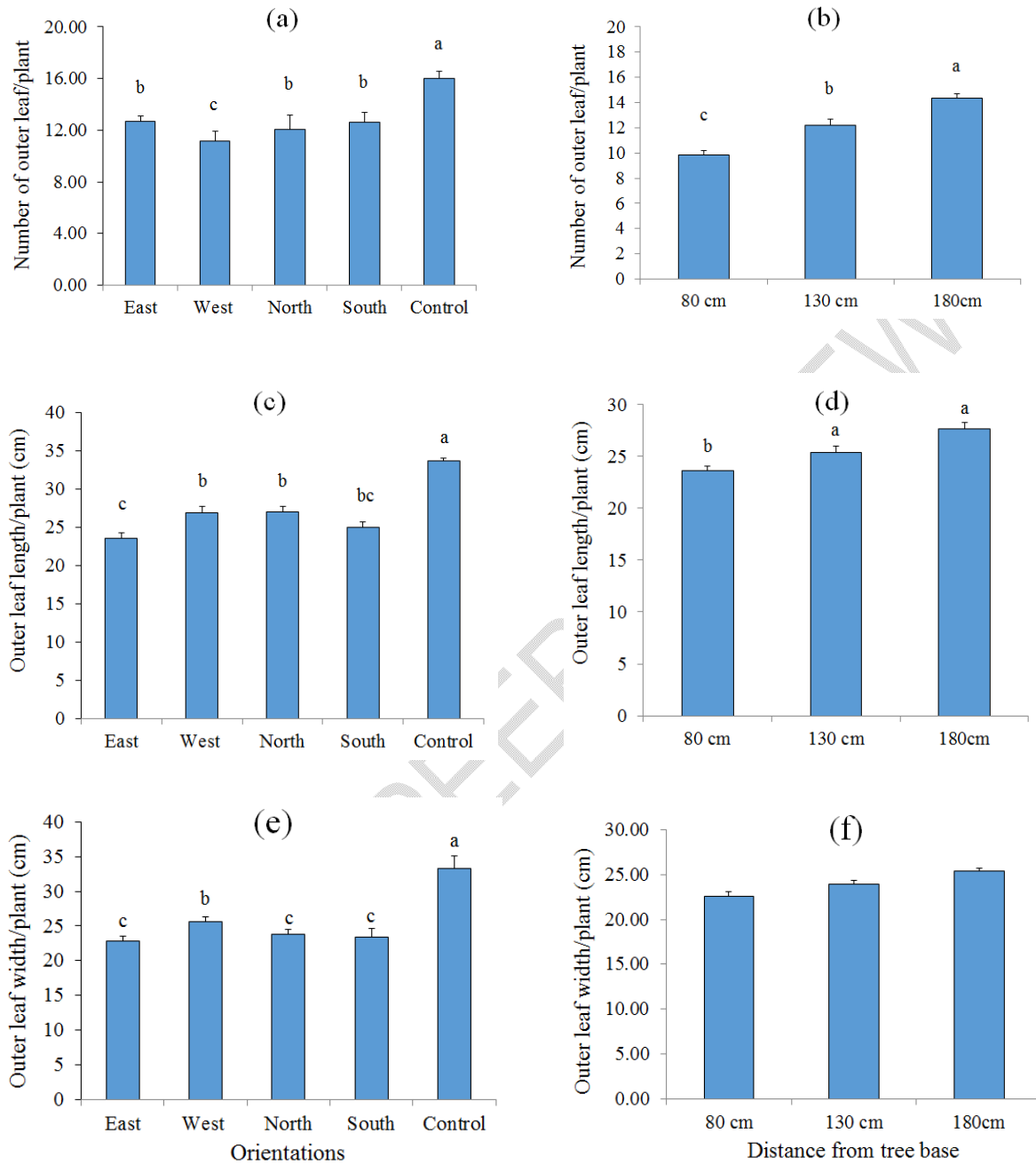


Fig. 3. Effect of different orientations and distances from tree base on number of outer leaf (a, b), outer leaf length (c, d) and outer leaf width (e, f) per plant of cabbage. Data represents mean \pm SE of 3 independent replicates and means followed by uncommon letter(s) differ significantly by LSD at 5% level.

3.2.3 Fresh and dry weight of outer leaves per plant

Fresh and dry weight of outer leaf of cabbage per plant were affected at different orientations under moringa based agroforestry systems and open condition (Fig. 4). In case of different orientations, the highest fresh weight of outer leaves per plant (0.604g) were noted in south orientation followed by north (0.578g), east (0.542g) and west (0.537g) orientations (Fig 4a). Similarly, the highest (0.155g) dry weight of outer leaves per plant were observed in open field which was identical with south orientation (Fig. 4b). The south orientations outperformed every other orientations in terms of the fresh and dry weights of the outer leaves per plant. These could be explained that, south orientation reduces the influence of shade and provides adequate light, which helps to boost crop productivity [17]. The results of the current investigation were also supported by Meer *et. al.*, (2021) [10] in tomato.

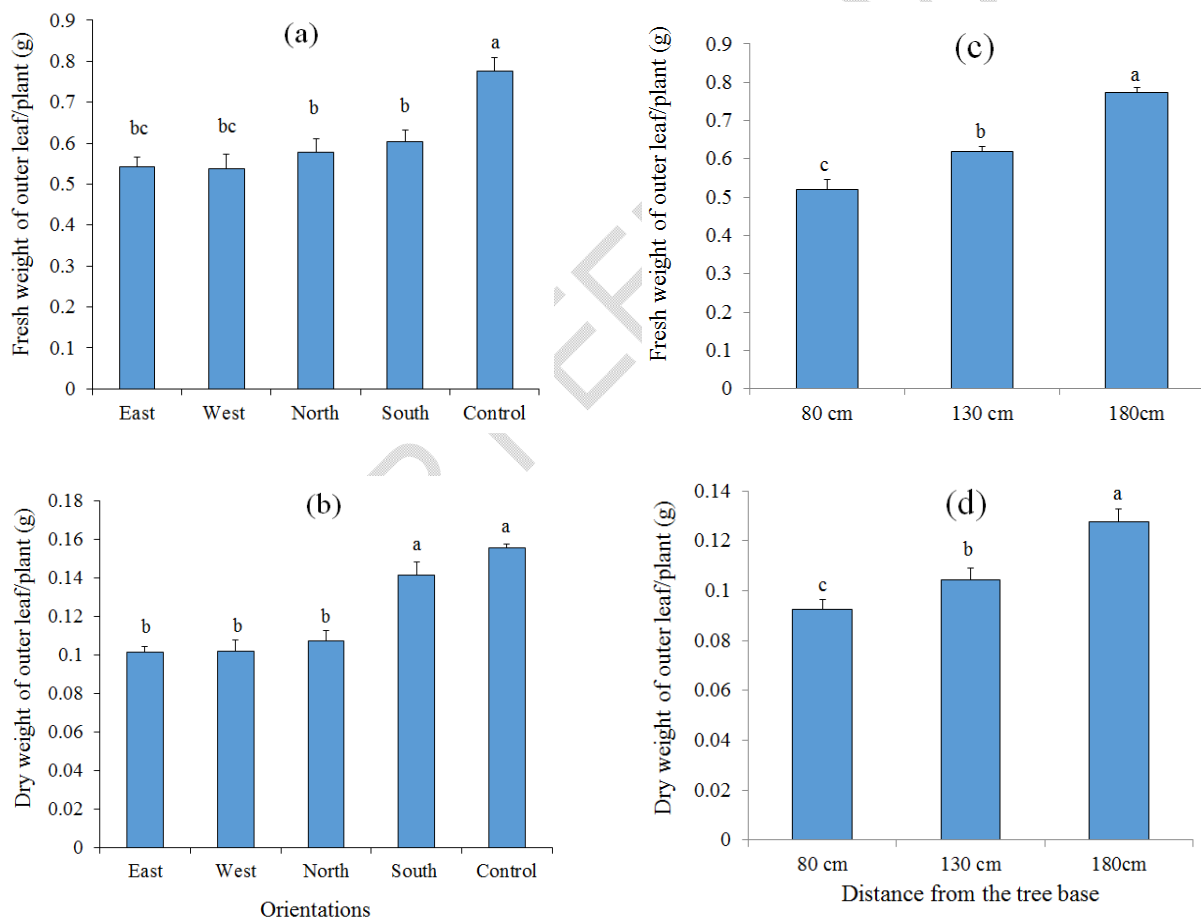


Fig. 4. Effect of different orientations and distances from tree base on fresh (a, c) and dry (b, d) weight per plant of cabbage. Data represents mean \pm SE of 3 independent

replicates and means followed by uncommon letter(s) differ significantly by LSD at 5% level.

At harvesting time, the maximum (180cm) distance yielded considerably greater fresh weight (0.7731g), but the closest (80cm) distance from the tree base produced less (0.5210g) outer leaves per plant (Fig. 4c). Likewise, significantly the highest dry weight of outer leaves per plant (0.127g) was noticed at longest distance (180cm) and lowest (0.092g) at closest (80cm) distance from tree base, respectively (Fig. 4d). This finding aligned with the research findings of Sayed *et. al.*, (2009) [18] and Khatun *et. al.*, (2009) [19] in Telsur (*Hopea odorata*) and Civit (*Swinfonia floribunda*).

3.3. Combined effect of orientation and distance on leaf characteristics of cabbage

The variation in number of outer leaf, fresh and dry weight of outer leaf, outer leaf length and width per plant of cabbage due to the combined effects of different orientations and distances from tree base has been presented in Table 1.

The highest number of outer leaf per plant of cabbage i.e. 16, 15.33, 14.67 were recorded at control, 180 cm in south and north orientations, respectively which were significantly similar to each other. But, the lowest number of outer leaves (9) was noted 80cm in west orientation that was insignificant with 80 cm in north orientation.

Considering the interaction effect of orientations and distances, the maximum fresh (1.037g) and dry (0.114g) weight of outer leaf per plant of cabbage were recorded at open field condition i.e. control. In case of combined effect of orientations and distances, the fresh weight was higher (0.782g) at 180 cm in south which was identical with 180cm west (0.718), 130cm south (0.709) orientations under moringa based agroforestry system, respectively. However, dry weight of outer leaves per plant was found to be highest at 180cm in south (0.099g) and west (0.091g) and 130 cm in south (0.88g) orientations whereas lowest was noticed at 80cm in east (0.048g) and north (0.051g) orientations, respectively (Table 1).

In case of outer leaf length per plant of cabbage, the maximum length was recorded in control (36cm). The second highest value were obtained at 180cm in south and west orientations. The lowest outer leaf length (20.10cm) per plant of cabbage was noted at 80cm distance in east orientation regardless of measurement dates (Table 1).

The combined effect of 180cm in south orientation showed the uppermost outer leaf width per plant (27.66cm) of cabbage that insignificantly followed by 180cm in west orientations under moringa based agroforestry system, respectively. The highest increment of outer leaf width per plant of cabbage were recorded in control (33.33cm) (Table 1). The increased

development of different yield aspects could be attributed to the increased light availability, which promoted photosynthesis and metabolic processes and raised the production of cabbage [11].

Table 1. Combined effect of different orientation and distance from tree base on leaf characteristics of cabbage in association with moringa tree

Interaction	NOL	FWOL(g)	DWOL(g)	OLL(cm)	OLW(cm)
80 cm × East	11.06efg	0.402ef	0.048ef	20.10e	21.33f
80cm × West	9.00 g	0.451de	0.060de	24.66cde	21.05f
80cm × North	9.06 g	0.405ef	0.051def	21.00e	23.00cde
80 cm × South	10.16 fg	0.474de	0.059de	23.00de	20.66f
130 cm × East	12.96 cde	0.512d	0.069cd	23.33de	22.33def
130cm × West	11.00 efg	0.623cd	0.076c	25.81cd	26.00bc
130 cm × North	11.83 def	0.555d	0.071cd	25.00cd	25.33c
130 cm × South	13.10 cde	0.709bc	0.088b	24.66cde	25.50c
180 cm × East	13.96 bcd	0.527d	0.072cd	25.33cd	23.66cd
180 cm × West	13.50 bcd	0.718b	0.091b	29.00b	26.00bc
180 cm × North	14.67 ab	0.687c	0.077c	25.00cd	23.00cde
180 cm × South	15.33 a	0.782b	0.099b	29.33b	27.66b
Control	16.00 a	1.037a	0.114a	36.00a	33.33a
CV (%)	5.29	6.91	4.44	6.79	4.47

Values are means ± standard errors ($n = 3$). Different alphabetical letters with the same column indicates significant differences among various treatments according to a least significant difference test (LSD) ($P < 0.05$). NOL- Number of outer leaves, FWOL- Fresh weight of outer leaf, DWOL- Dry weight of outer leaf, OLL- Outer leaf length, OLW- Outer leaf width.

3.4. The effect of different orientation and open field on head characteristics per plant

5.1 Head length per plant

Head length is one of the important yield contributing attributes of cabbage. Head length per plant at different orientations under moringa based agroforestry system and open condition showed drastic variation during harvesting. In case of different orientations, significantly the highest (15.38cm) and the lowest (11.35cm) head length per plant were noted in south and east orientations, respectively. But open field showed the maximum head length (17cm) of cabbage under moringa based agroforestry systems (Fig.5a). The varying shade levels have a substantial impact on head length.

Mostly, the important yield attributes of cabbage was decreased with increasing distance from tree base. It was observed that the uppermost head length per plant (12.92cm) was obtained at 180cm distance from tree base. But, the lowermost (10.50cm) was observed at 80cm distance from tree base (Fig. 5b). This might be due to corresponding increase of light level. Similar to our findings, Kittur *et. al.*, (2016) [20] discovered that the maximum turmeric yield was noticed at widely spaced bamboo trees, while the closet spacing recorded the minimum yield.

5.2 Head diameter per plant

Head diameter per plant had significant variation at different orientations under moringa based agroforestry system and open condition at harvesting time. The average head diameter per plant was 19.50cm for the south orientation, followed by west (18.61cm), north (18.36cm) and east (17.53cm) orientations, respectively (Fig. 5c). Remarkably, it was noticed that all three distances from the tree base (180cm, 130cm, and 80cm) had nearly identical head diameters per plant, measuring 20.01cm, 18.44cm, and 17.95cm, respectively (Fig. 5d).

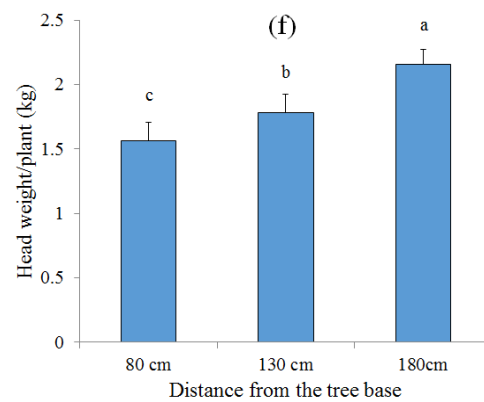
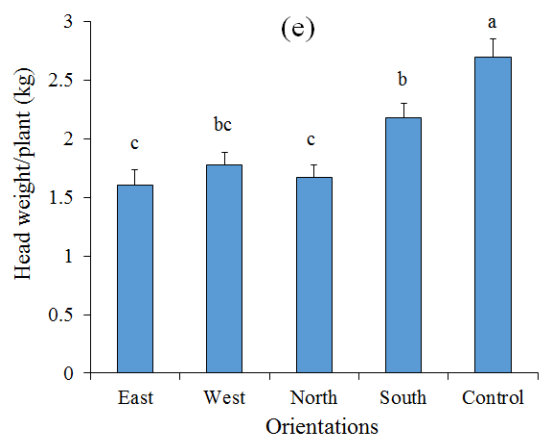
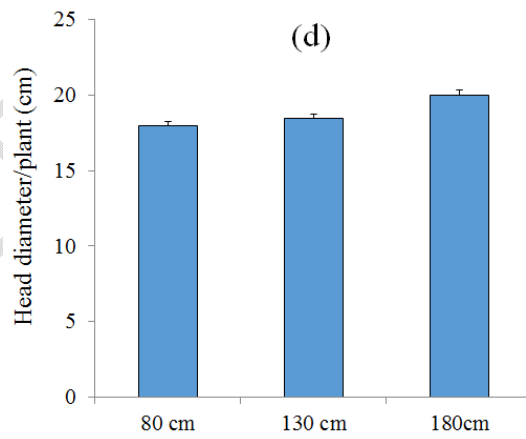
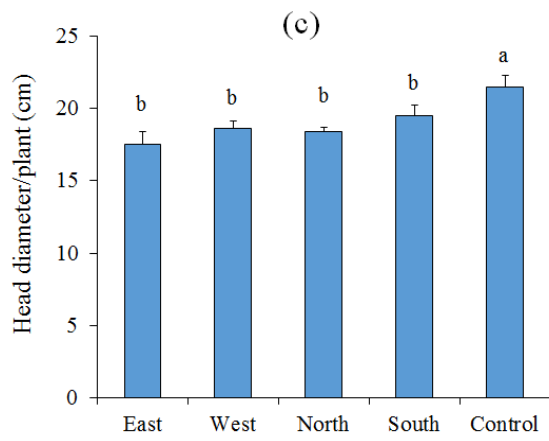
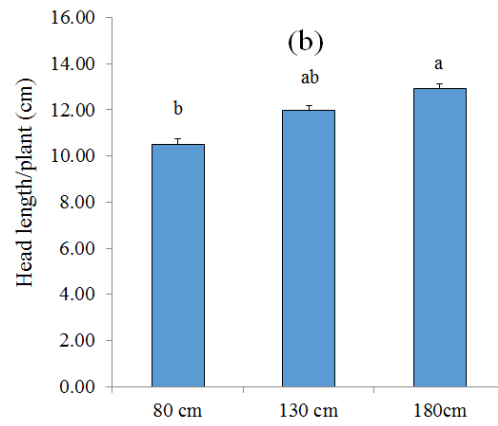
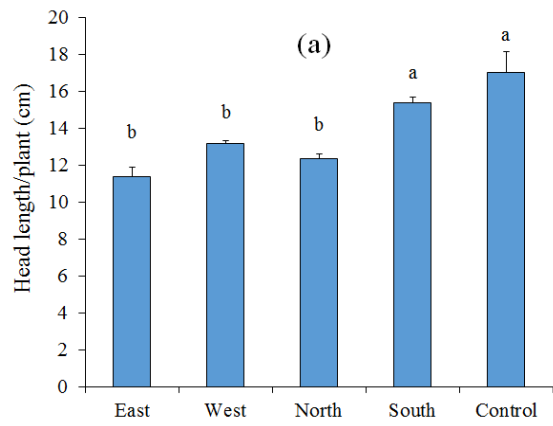


Fig. 5. Effect of different orientations and distances from tree base on head length (a, b), head diameter (c, d) and head weight (e, f) per plant of cabbage. Data represents mean \pm SE of 3 independent replicates and means followed by uncommon letter(s) differ significantly by LSD at 5% level.

5.3 Head weight per plant

The head weight per plant, which is the most desired yield-contributing trait of cabbage, was the highest (2.18kg) and the lowest (1.6kg) in south and east orientations, respectively. However, reduction was noticed at all orientations when compared with control plants (Fig. 5e). Similar results were also observed in Lohakat (*Zyliadolabi formis*) tree in association with winter vegetables [21].

Head weight of cabbage was also significantly varied with the increasing distance from tree base. The most desirable characteristic of cabbage that contributed to production i.e. head weight per plant, was 2.16kg and 1.78kg, respectively, at 180cm and 130cm from the tree base, which were noticeably different from each other (Fig. 5f). Like our results Yogeshwari *et. al.*, (2019) [22] found that plant at closer distance from tree base has severely affected by the competition of tree root. Due to competition for growth resources in nearest region of tree base this yield reduction may be occurred.

5.4 Marketable yield ($t\ ha^{-1}$)

The marketable yield of cabbage heads under the moringa-based agroforestry system and in the open field showed noticeable differences as a result of different orientations. The maximum marketable yield ($98.08t\ ha^{-1}$) was recorded in control, but it was statistically similar ($89.81t\ ha^{-1}$) to south orientation (Fig. 6a). On the other hand, the minimum marketable yield ($67.16t\ ha^{-1}$) of cabbage were noted in east orientation that was identical with north orientation. The cabbage was grown in winter season (November-March) when the canopy volume of moringa trees was minimum to interrupt the light availability to understory crops, which also reflects in the findings on understory cabbage yields [5].

The marketable yield of cabbage also varied significantly due to increasing distance from tree base. The highest distance (180cm) from the tree base showed the maximum marketable yield ($87.54t\ ha^{-1}$) and minimum ($59.30t\ ha^{-1}$) was found at closest (80cm) distance from tree base (Fig. 6b).

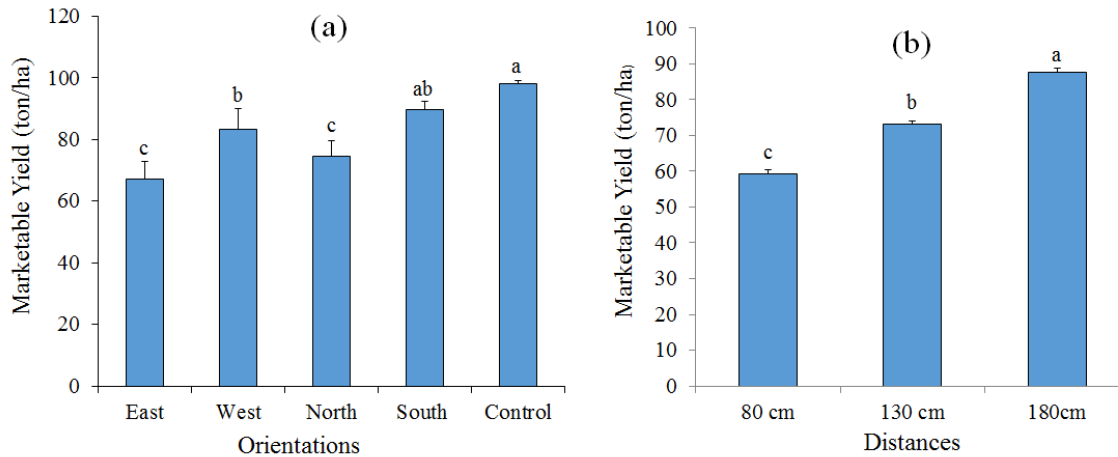


Fig 6. Marketable yield per plant of cabbage influenced by different orientations (a) and open condition i.e. control and different distances from tree base (b). Data represents mean \pm SE of 3 independent replicates and means followed by uncommon letter(s) differ significantly by LSD at 5% level.

3.5. Combined effect of yield contributing characters of cabbage

In the current study, the major yield-contributing characteristics of cabbage were significantly impacted by the interaction of different orientations and distance from tree base (Table 2). The largest cabbage head length per plant were recorded at control (17cm) which was identical to that of 180cm distance in south (15.47cm) and 130cm in south (15.43cm) orientations. The lowest head length was found at 80cm distance in east orientation (10.20cm).

The diameter of the cabbage head varied substantially depending on the tree's orientation and distance from the base. Over the orientation and distance from the tree base, maximum head diameter (22.70 cm) was recorded in open field condition which was statically different to the other combined effect of different orientations and distance from tree base (Table 2). However, the minimum head diameter per plant of cabbage i.e. 15.10cm was recorded at 80 cm distance in east orientation.

The highest head weight of cabbage i.e. 2.089kg were recorded at 180cm in south orientation whereas the lowest head weight of cabbage i.e. 1.065kg was observed at 80cm distance in east orientation (Table 2). Moreover, the interaction between different orientations and distance from the tree base had an impact on the head dry weight per plant of cabbage. The control showed the uppermost head dry weight per plant (0.840g) that was significant to all other combinations under moringa based agroforestry systems, respectively.

The lowest head dry weight (0.273g) per plant was recorded at 80cm in east orientation (Table 2).

The maximum total yield (98.15 t ha^{-1}) was recorded for the 180cm in south orientation whereas the lowest (55.72 t ha^{-1}) for the closest distance (80cm) and east orientation. This result demonstrated that the overall yield increased with the distance increased (Table 2), owing to the availability of adequate light and nutrients to promote the best possible vegetative growth and production. The open field showed the maximum total yield (110.07 t ha^{-1}). It can be explained that, the availability of Photosynthetic Active Radiation (PAR) under a tree canopy varies depending on the type of tree, which has an impact on the productivity and growth of understory crops [17]. The yield of the crop adjacent to the tree line has reduced as a result of the tree's shade and the crop's root competition [23]. Also, crop plants were unable to grow properly due to the tree canopy's shade and insufficient sunshine [24].

Regarding the marketable yield, significant changes were seen as a result of the interaction between the effects of orientation and distance from the tree base. The maximum marketable yield (92.05 t ha^{-1}) in open field that was statistically significant to the widest distance (180cm) and south (84.03 t ha^{-1}), west orientation (82.55 t ha^{-1}). However, the lowest marketable yield (43.97 t ha^{-1}) was obtained from 80cm in east orientation (Table 2). The results of the current investigation were also corroborated by Dilla *et al.*, (2019) reports [25].

Table 2. Combined effect of different orientation and distance from tree base on head characteristics of cabbage in association with moringa tree

Interaction	Head length (cm)	Head diameter (cm)	Head weight (kg)	Head dry Weight (g)	Total yield (t ha ⁻¹)	Marketable yield (t ha ⁻¹)
80 cm × East	10.20e	15.10f	1.065f	0.273g	55.72f	43.97g
80 cm × West	13.13cd	16.77de	1.533de	0.425ef	65.60de	51.74efg
80 cm × North	11.73de	16.33de	1.445ef	0.399fg	62.81de	54.65ef
80 cm × South	13.26cd	17.16cd	1.580de	0.470de	67.28de	59.84ef
130 cm × East	10.46e	16.00de	1.715cde	0.463de	77.75cd	69.91de
130 cm × West	13.56bcd	18.00cd	1.809c	0.645c	80.17cd	77.01cd
130 cm × North	12.40de	17.43cd	1.763cd	0.533cd	79.66cd	72.09cde
130 cm × South	15.43ab	19.00b	1.907bc	0.706b	95.97b	79.94c
180 cm × East	13.40bcd	18.05cd	1.783cd	0.592cd	84.83c	72.46cde
180 cm × West	12.83d	19.06b	1.903bc	0.691b	95.79b	82.55b
180 cm × North	12.97d	18.33cd	1.712cde	0.462de	87.54c	76.73cd
180 cm × South	15.47ab	19.73b	2.089b	0.716b	98.15b	84.03b
Control	17.00a	22.70a	2.702a	0.840a	110.07a	92.05a
CV (%)	6.35	4.81	7.01	5.54	6.01	5.63

Values are means ± standard errors ($n = 3$). Different alphabetical letters with the same column indicates significant differences among various treatments according to a least significant difference test (LSD) ($P < 0.05$).

4. CONCLUSION

The present study concludes that south orientation and the widest distance (180cm) from moringa tree base performed better for obtaining the highest yield and yield contributing characters of cabbage compared to other orientations and distances. In comparison to an open field, the marketable yield of south, west, north, and east orientations was decreased by 8.43, 14.87, 23.86, and 31.52%, respectively. When compared to 180 cm from the tree base, the yield was decreased by 16.42 and 32.26% at 130 cm and 80 cm, respectively. As we noticed reduced yield under the tree canopy or close to the tree base, which could be attributed by limitations with light transmission or by nutrient and light competition. These two factors might reduce the production of cabbage. Further studies are needed with various aged and spacing of moringa trees and their association under belowground interaction to develop a suitable agroforestry production technology for farmers.

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