

Original Research Article

Effect of molybdenum and zinc on Growth and Yield Attributes of Zaid Groundnut (*Arachis hypogaea* L.)

ABSTRACT

The experiment was conducted in CRF department of agronomy during summer season of 2022 on groundnut crop. The aim was to study the effect of soil application of molybdenum and foliar application of zinc and on growth and yield of groundnut. The treatments consisted of 3 levels of molybdenum (0.5, 1.5, 2.0 kg/ha) and zinc

Comment [AHK1]: In abstract give the full meaning of CRF

UNDER PEER REVIEW

(0.25,0.50,0.75% foliar application). The application of 1.5kg/ha molybdenum with zinc 0.5% recorded maximum plant height (54.50cm), highest plant dry weight (54.14g), number of

Comment [AHK2]: Describe the experimental design used and measured parameters

nodules per plant (47.37), seed index (42.08 g), number of pods per plant (22.85), number of kernels per pod (2.09), seed yield (2985 kg/ha), harvest index (43.19%) and recorded high net return (1,31,578.00 ₹/ha), gross return (1,94,045.00 ₹/ha) and benefit: cost ratio (2.11).

Comment [AHK3]: Your recommendation?

Keywords: economics, growth, groundnut, molybdenum, yield, zinc, growth, yield, economics, groundnut

Introduction:

Groundnut (*Arachis hypogaea* L.) is a most important oilseed crop around the world. It is an oilseed crop as well as a grain legume. Peanut contains about 20% carbohydrate, 25-30% protein, 50% oil content, and 5% fiber and ash which make groundnut a rich source of nutrition. It is a profitable crop cultivated by millions of small farmers throughout the globe, because of its nutritional and economic value (Ramprasad 2020).

Comment [AHK4]: Careful peanut is different from groundnut

India has been ranking among the top three producers of groundnut in the world. Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh being the major producing states in the country. India produces groundnut in an area of 6.09 million ha and production and productivity of 10.21 million tonnes and 1676 kg/ha (Directorate of Economics and Statistics 2022).

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Molybdenum has a positive effect on yield, quality and nodule formation in legume crops. The functions of molybdenum in leguminous plants include nitrate reduction, nodulation and nitrogen fixation (Togay and Dogan 2008). Molybdenum is required for normal plant growth,

reductions supply with molybdenum to the growth medium decreased activities of nitrate reductase and glutamine synthetase involved at initial steps of nitrate assimilation (Hristozkova *et al.*, 2006).

~~Molybdenum is the constituent of nitrate reductase and nitrogenase enzymes. It is involved in reduction of nitrates for protein synthesis in all plants (Hazra and Som, 1999).~~

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AVOID REPETITION

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Zinc plays a role as a cofactor of several enzymes in plants and is directly involved in the biosynthesis of growth substances such as auxin which produces more plant cells and more dry matter. Some investigators reported that foliar spraying with zinc could correct zinc deficiency, improve growth, yield and seed quality of groundnut (Habbasha, 2014). Zinc is known to be the constituent of enzyme and also involved in synthesis of pyruvic decarboxylase and indole acetic acid. Zinc is required in various metabolic processes as a catalyst. It also increases the content of protein, calorific value, amino acid and fat in oilseed crop. Zinc catalyses the process of oxidation in plant cells and is vital for transformation of carbohydrates, regulates the consumption of sugar, increases source of energy for the production of chlorophyll, aids in the formation of auxin and promotes absorption of water (Radhika and Meena 2021).

Therefore, choice of a variety with suitable dose of zinc is necessary to enhance the productivity of groundnut. Hence, an experiment was planned to study the influence of levels Mo and Zn on growth and yield of summer groundnut.

Material and Methods:

A field experiment was conducted during *zaid* season of 2021-22 at the Crop Research Farm, Department of Agronomy, Naini Agricultural Institute, Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture Technology and Sciences, Prayagraj (U.P.) India. The soil of experimental plot was sandy loamy in texture, nearly neutral in soil reaction (pH 7.8), low in organic carbon (0.35%). The treatments consist of 0.5 kg/ha molybdenum + 0.25% zinc foliar, 0.5 kg/ha molybdenum + 0.50% zinc foliar, 0.5 kg/ha molybdenum + 0.75% zinc foliar, 1.5 kg/ha molybdenum + 0.25% zinc foliar, 1.5 kg/ha molybdenum + 0.50% zinc foliar, 1.5 kg/ha molybdenum + 0.75% zinc foliar, 2.0 kg/ha molybdenum + 0.25% zinc foliar, 2.0 kg/ha molybdenum + 0.50% zinc foliar, 2.0 kg/ha molybdenum + 0.75% zinc foliar, and control plot. The experiment was laid out in Randomized Block Design, with 10 treatments replicated thrice. The observations were recorded for plant

height, plant dry weight, Crop growth rate (g/m²/day), Relative growth rate, Number of nodules, Number of pods/plant, Kernels/pod, seed index, seed yield, Haulmyield, Harvest index. The collected data was subjected to statistical analysis by analysis of variance method (Gomez and Gomez, 1976).

Result and Discussion

Preharvest

Plant height- At 100 days after sowing (DAS), significantly higher plant height (54.14 cm) was recorded in treatment-6 (1.5 kg/ha molybdenum + 0.75% zinc foliar). However, treatment-9 (2.0 kg/ha molybdenum + 0.75% zinc foliar) the significantly higher plant height might be due to with the application of molybdenum levels and zinc. The improvement in these growth characters might be due to the fact that molybdenum is a constituent of enzyme nitrogenase, which is essential for the process of symbiotic N₂ fixation. These findings are in close conformity with the results obtained by Singh *et al.* (2014) & Movalia *et al.* (2018). The increase in plant height may be attributed to role of zinc as a catalyst or stimulant in most of physiological and metabolic processes and it also important in synthesis of tryptophan, a component of some protein and a compound needed for production of growth hormones (auxins) like indole acetic acid. Similar results were also reported by Halepyati (2001)

Plant dry weight- At 100 DAS significantly higher plant dry weight (54.14 g/plant) was recorded in treatment-6 (1.5 kg/ha molybdenum + 0.75% zinc foliar). However, treatment-7 (2.0 kg/ha molybdenum + 0.25% zinc foliar) the significantly higher plant dry weight might be due to with the application of molybdenum levels and zinc. The improvement in these growth characters might be due to the fact that molybdenum is a constituent of enzyme nitrogenase, which is essential for the process of symbiotic N₂ fixation. These findings are in close conformity with the results obtained by Singh *et al.* (2014). The increase in dry weight may be attributed to role of zinc as a catalyst or stimulant in most of physiological and metabolic processes and it also important in synthesis of tryptophan, a component of some protein and a compound needed for production of growth hormones (auxins) like indole acetic acid. Similar results were also reported by Halepyati (2001).

Comment [AHK6]: IN RESULT I SAW ECONOMIC PARAMETERS CALCULATED BUT NOT STATED IN METHODOLOGY. I SUGGEST YOU TO GIVE A DESCRIPTION OF DIFFERENT ECONOMIC PARAMETERS CALCULATED

Comment [AHK7]: THERE IS NO STATISTICAL ANALYSIS? IF YES, PRESENT HERE. I OBSERVED YOU CARRIED OUT A F TEST METHOD I THINK SINCE YOUR AIM IS TO COMPARE EFFECT AND CHOOSE THE BEST ONE IT IS GOOD TO DO THE ANOVA ALSO

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Comment [AHK9]: SAME OBSERVATION AS THE UPPER

Comment [AHK10]: YOU ARE REPEATING THE SAME THING AS ON PLANT HEIGHT

Number of Nodules

At 100 DAS significantly higher number of nodules/plants (47.37) was recorded in treatment-6 (1.5 kg/ha molybdenum + 0.75% zinc foliar). However, treatment-5 (1.5 kg/ha molybdenum + 0.50% zinc foliar) the significantly higher number of nodules might be due to with the application of molybdenum levels and zinc. ~~molybdenum~~ Molybdenum supplied in optimum quantity seems to have favoured plant vegetative growth, these findings are close conformity with results obtained by **Movalia et al. (2018)**. Zinc might have stimulated the activities of microorganisms that made the plant nutrients readily available to the crops which augmented higher nodule growth resulted in higher photosynthesis and consequently the higher growth rate might have resulted in favorable effect on growth attributes viz., dry matter accumulation and root nodulation, these findings are close conformity with results obtained by **Halepyati (2001)**

Comment [AHK11]: WHICH????? ARE YOU SURE IT IS THE OPTIMUM???

Postharvest

Number of pods/plant

Significantly higher number of pods/plant (22.85) however, 2 kg/ha molybdenum + 0.75% zinc were found to be statistically on par with 1.5 kg molybdenum + 0.75% zinc. The improvement in photosynthesis and carbohydrate metabolism resulting in greater formation of photosynthetic and metabolites in source and later on translocated in the newly formed sinks which ultimately increased number of pods/plant. These results are in agreement with the findings of **Movalia et al. (2018)** & **Singh et al. (2014)**.

Kernels/pod

Significantly higher kernels/pod (2.09) however, 2 kg/ha molybdenum + 0.75% zinc were found to be statistically on par with 1.5 kg molybdenum + 0.75% zinc. The beneficial effect of organic manuring might be due to improvement in the physical condition of soil as well as increased availability of plant nutrients, which results in increasing kernels/pod. The availability and optimum regular supply of plant nutrients might have favorably influenced

the flowering and kernel formation which ultimately increased pods/plant. Those results are in conformity with those of **Movalia et al. (2018)**.

Seed index (g)

The statistical analysis on seed index was found to be significant. The highest seed index (42.08 g) was recorded with treatment 1.5 kg molybdenum + 0.75% zinc. However, 2 kg molybdenum + 0.75% zinc were found to be statistically on par with 1.5 kg molybdenum + 0.75% zinc. Seed index was influenced by the application of molybdenum and zinc which might be due to characters highly influenced by its genetic makeup.

Comment [AHK12]: HOW DID YOU GET THIS RESULT???

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Seed yield (t/ha)

These seed yields showed an increasing trend with the application of molybdenum and zinc in groundnut. The highest seed yield was obtained with the treatment 1.5 kg molybdenum + 0.75% zinc (2985 kg/ha). **Treatment** with 2 kg molybdenum + 0.75% zinc were found to be statistically on par with 1.5 kg molybdenum + 0.75% zinc.

Yield increases with increase in Mo application might be due to increased growth characters and yield attributes because of its unique role in enhancing N-fixation, thereby increasing N availability to plants for efficient growth and development which might have enhanced photosynthesis and synthesis of other metabolites for plant use. Similar findings were reported by **Halepyati (2001) & Movalia et al. (2018)**.

Haulmyield (t/ha)

The haulmyield of groundnut was also influenced by the application of molybdenum and zinc. Highest haulmyield (3947 kg/ha) was recorded highest in 2 kg molybdenum + 0.75% zinc. Treatment with 1.5 kg molybdenum + 0.75% zinc was found to be statistically on par with 2 kg molybdenum + 0.75% zinc.

Application of poultry manure and vermicompost to groundnut which results in slowly releasing available nutrients were had favourable effect on growth and biomass production. Similar results were reported by **Chauhan et al. (2013) & Movalia et al. (2018)**.

Comment [AHK14]: NOT RELATED TO YOUR RESULT FIND AN OTHER AUTHORS

Harvest index(%)

The data showed significant difference in 1.5kg molybdenum+ 0.75% zinc (43.19) harvest index. however, treatment with 2kg molybdenum+0.75% zinc were found to be statistically on par with 1.5kg molybdenum+0.75% zinc.

Gross Returns(₹/ha)

Data pertaining to the gross returns as influenced by various treatments are represented in Table 3. Gross returns (1,94,045.00₹/ha) was found to be highest in treatment with application 1.5kg molybdenum+0.75% zinc and the minimum gross (1,48,222₹/ha) was found in treatment with application of 0.5kg molybdenum+0.25% zinc as compared to other treatments.

Net Returns(₹/ha)

Data pertaining to the net returns as influenced by various treatments are represented in Table 3. Net returns (1,31,578.00₹/ha) was found to be highest in treatment with application of 1.5kg molybdenum+0.75% zinc and the minimum gross (88,014.00₹/ha) was found to be in treatment with application of 0.5kg molybdenum+0.25% zinc as compared to other treatments.

Benefit Cost Ratio(₹/ha)

Data pertaining to the B:C ratio as influenced by various treatments are represented in Table 3. Benefit cost ratio (2.11) was found to be highest in treatment with application of 1.5kg molybdenum+0.75% zinc and the minimum Benefit cost ratio (1.46) was found to be in treatment with application of 0.5kg molybdenum+0.25% zinc as compared to other treatments.

CONCLUSION

It was concluded that with the application of molybdenum 1.5kg/ha along with the Zinc 0.75% foliar application (Treatment-6), recorded high yield attributes & yield and also maximum benefit cost ratio.

Comment [AHK15]: WITH A CLOSE REGARD ON YOUR RESULT, WE CAN NOTICED THAT THERE IS NO BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOUR PRETENDING BEST TREATMENT AND YOUR CONTROL PLOT

Comment [AHK16]: NOT SUFFICIENT WHERE ARE RECOMMANDATION AND PERSPECTIVES

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Table 1. Effect of plant height of Groundnut as influenced by Calcium and Boron.

SNo	Treatments	100DAS			During 60-80DAS		
		Plant height (cm)	Number of nodules/plant	Plant dry weight (g/plant)	Crop Growth Rate (g/m ² /day)	Relative growth rate (g/g/day)	
1.	0.5kg/hamolybdenum+0.25% zinc foliar		47.90	41.90	46.02		
2.	0.5kg/hamolybdenum+0.50% zinc foliar	48.10	42.10	47.95	37.24	0.229	
3.	0.5kg/hamolybdenum+ 0.75% zinc foliar	49.07	43.07	49.06	37.18	0.224	
4.	1.5kg/hamolybdenum+ 0.25% zinc foliar	49.40	43.40	48.69	35.57	0.214	
5.	1.5kg/hamolybdenum+ 0.50% zinc foliar	49.67	46.33	50.51	38.19	0.215	
6.	1.5kg/hamolybdenum+0.75% zinc foliar		54.50	47.37	54.14	45.49	0.222
7.	2.0kg/hamolybdenum+ 0.25% zinc foliar	50.10	44.10	50.03	38.03	0.218	
8.	2.0kg/hamolybdenum+0.50% zinc foliar		51.00	45.00	49.30	36.00	0.217
9.	2.0kg/hamolybdenum+0.75% zinc foliar		53.30	46.97	53.51	35.34	0.212
10.	Control		53.20	46.20	54.13	43.15	0.225
	F-test	S	s	S	NS	NS	
	Sem±	0.26	0.20	0.66	2.80	0.0010	
	CD at 5%	0.79	0.600	1.96	-		

Comment [AHK17]: THESE 3 RESULTS ARE YOU SURE THEY ARE DIFFERENT???

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Table 2. Effect of yield and yield attributes of Groundnut as influenced by Molybdenum and Zinc foliar.

SNo	Treatments	No. of pods/ plant	No. of kernels/ pod (g)	Seed index (g)	Seedyield (kg/ha)	Haulmyield (kg/ha)	Harvest index (%)
1.	0.5kg/ha molybdenum+0.25% zinc foliar	17.36	1.53	35.39	2280	3434	39.87
2.	0.5kg/ha molybdenum+0.50% zinc foliar	18.24	1.56	35.63	2346	3507	40.08
3.	0.5kg/ha molybdenum+0.75% zinc foliar	18.65	1.60	36.02	2419	3518	40.74
4.	1.5kg/ha molybdenum+0.25% zinc foliar	19.12	1.65	36.22	2548	3583	41.55
5.	1.5kg/ha molybdenum+0.50% zinc foliar	19.57	1.67	37.07	2553	3591	41.55
6.	1.5kg/ha molybdenum+0.75% zinc foliar	22.85	2.09	42.08	2985	3927	43.19
7.	2.0kg/ha molybdenum+0.25% zinc foliar	20.54	1.71	38.24	2679	3698	42.01
8.	2.0kg/ha molybdenum+0.50% zinc foliar	20.95	1.78	39.35	2791	3770	42.54
9.	2.0kg/ha molybdenum+0.75% zinc foliar	22.50	2.00	41.65	2966	3947	42.91
10.	N:P:K- 20:40:60(control)	21.53	1.87	40.34	2769	3884	41.62
		F-test		S	SSSSNS		
	Sem±	0.23	0.03	0.19	42.29	25.76	0.45
	CDat5%	0.69	0.10	0.58	125.64	76.53	1.35

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Table 3. Effect of molybdenum and zinc on economics of production of groundnut

Treatment No.	cultivation combinations (₹/ha)	Cost of cultivation (₹/ha)	Gross return (₹/ha)	Net return (₹/ha)	Benefit:Cost ratio
1.	0.5kg/hamolybdenum+0.25%zincfoliar	60,208.00	1,48,222.00	88,014.00	1.46
2.	0.5kg/hamolybdenum+0.50%zincfoliar	60,396.00	1,52,495.00	92,099.00	1.52
3.	0.5kg/hamolybdenum+0.75%zincfoliar	60,583.00	1,57,214.00	96,631.00	1.60
4.	1.5kg/hamolybdenum+0.25%zincfoliar	62,092.00	1,65,616.00	1,03,524.00	1.67
5.	1.5kg/hamolybdenum+0.50%zincfoliar	62,280.00	1,65,976.00	1,03,696.00	1.66
6.	1.5kg/hamolybdenum+0.75%zincfoliar	62,467.00	1,94,045.00	1,31,578.00	2.11
7.	2.0kg/hamolybdenum+0.25%zincfoliar	63,054.00	1,74,139.00	1,11,085.00	1.76
8.	2.0kg/hamolybdenum+0.50%zincfoliar	63,242.00	1,81,438.00	1,18,196.00	1.87
9.	2.0kg/hamolybdenum+0.75%zincfoliar	63,429.00	1,92,781.00	1,29,352.00	2.04
10.	N:P:K-20:40:60(control)	58,021.00	1,79,990.00	1,21,969.00	2.10

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