

**Effects of Integrated Nutrient Management on Soil Properties, Growth and Yield of Black Gram
(*Vigna mungo L.*) var. Sekhar-2**

ABSTRACT

A field experiment was conducted at research farm of Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, SHUATS, Prayagraj, (U.P.) on sandy loam soil to Assess the “**Effects of Integrated Nutrient Management on Soil Properties, Growth and Yield of Black gram (*Vigna mungo L.*) var. Sekhar-2**” during *Zaid season* of 2022. The experiment consists of nine treatment combinations, comprised in randomized block design with three replications. To achieve higher growth and yield it was found application of T₉ (RDF + 100% Rhizobium + 100% Biochar) has shown effective growth under Prayagraj climatic conditions. It was observed that for physical and chemical properties of soil in treatment T₉ (RDF + 100% Rhizobium + 100% Biochar) were improved significantly due to the application of Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium, Rhizobium and Biochar inputs. Bulk density (Mg m^{-3}), Particle density (Mg m^{-3}), Pore space (%), Water holding capacity (%), pH, Electrical conductivity (dS m^{-1}), Organic carbon (%), Available Nitrogen (kg ha^{-1}), Available Phosphorus (kg ha^{-1}), Available Potassium (kg ha^{-1}). The soil organic carbon content, Water holding capacity and available NPK significantly increased in most of the treatments after harvest of Black gram, it was observed that treatment T₉ (RDF + 100% Rhizobium + 100% Biochar) was best in terms of growth, yield and economic parameters with maximum plant height, the number of branches plant⁻¹, seeds pod⁻¹, pod yield and maximum cost benefit ratio.

Key Words: Black gram, Biochar, MOP, SSP, Rhizobium and Urea

1. Introduction

“The word soil represents one of the most active and complex natural systems on the earth’s surface. It is essential for the existence of many forms of life and provides plant or plant’s growth and also supplies the organism with most of their nutritional requirements. Soil is a dynamic, natural body that occurs on the earth’s surface which supports the growth of plants”. (Zaware 2014)

“Black gram (*Vignamungo* L), also known as urad dal or black lentil, is a warm-season legume crop that is widely cultivated for its nutritious seeds. It is primarily grown in India, Pakistan, Nepal, and other Asian countries. Black gram is a versatile crop used for various culinary purposes, including making dal, soups, curries, and sweets. It is well adapted to tropical and subtropical climates. It thrives in warm weather with temperatures ranging between 25°C to 35°C (77°F to 95°F)” (Anonymous, 2012) . “The crop requires a frost-free growing season. It can tolerate a wide range of rainfall, but a well-distributed rainfall of 600 to 800 mm (24 to 32 inches) is ideal. Black gram can be grown in a variety of soils, but it prefers well-drained loamy soils with a pH range of 6 to 7. A soil test should be conducted to determine the nutrient status of the soil. Based on the results, apply fertilizers accordingly. Generally, black gram requires nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K) fertilizers. Apply well-decomposed organic manure before sowing to improve soil fertility”(Anonymous, 2012).

“Blackgram (*Vignamungo* L) is one of the most important pulse crop grown in India. Black gram contributes 13% in total pulses area and 10% in total pulses production of India. Black gram seeds are highly nutritious containing higher amount of protein 24% ,60% carbohydrate, 1.3% fat, 3.2% minerals, 0.9% fibre, 154 mg calcium. 385 mg phosphorus, 9.1 mg iron and small amount of vitamin B-complex. Being a short duration crop, it fits well in various multiple and intercropping systems. After removing pods, its plant may be used as good quality green or dry fodder or green manure. Being a legume, it also enriches soil by fixing atmospheric nitrogen” (Selvakumar et al.,2012). “Urdbean contributes about 13 % of total area and 10 % production of pulses in our country. It is grown on 3.06 million hectares area with a production of 1.70 mt and productivity of 555 kg ha in the country(DAC, 2014). This crop is extensively grown in the states of Maharashtra (23.36%), Andhra Pradesh (18.50%), Uttar Pradesh (12.29%). Madhya Pradesh (11.86%), Tamil Nadu (8.64%) and Rajasthan (4.29%). It can be grown on all type of soils ranging from sandy loam to heavy and are reported to be rich in potassium, phosphorus and calcium with good amount of sodium. It is also reported to be rich in vitamin A, B1, B3 besides nutritionally rich protein, important minerals and vitamin” (Selvakumaret al.,2012)

“Biochar is the lightweight black residue made of carbon and ashes, remaining after the pyrolysis of biomass. It is defined by the International Biochar Initiative as the solid material obtained from the thermochemical conversion of biomass in an oxygen-limited environment. Biochar is a stable solid that is rich in pyrogenic carbon and can endure in soil for thousands of years. Carbon sequestration in the form of biochar. It may be a means to mitigate climate change due to its potential of sequestering carbon with minimal effort. Biochar increase the soil fertility of acidic soils and increase agricultural productivity” (Datt

et al. 2003). By keeping in view all the factors related to soil fertility and productivity fertilizers are applied to soil to maintain soil status and crop productivity. Urdbean is highly responsive to fertilizer application. The dose of fertilizer depends on the initial soil fertility status and moisture availability conditions.

2. Materials and Methods

The field experiment was conducted at Research Farm of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry at Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology & Sciences, Prayagraj which is situated six km away from Prayagraj city on the right bank of Yamuna river. The experimental site is located at 25° 28'46.14" N Latitude, 81° 54'49.95" E Longitude and 98m above the mean sea level altitudes. The fieldwork was done in the Prayagraj district, which is part of the subtropical belt and has semi-arid climatic conditions with both winter and summer temperature extremes.

The maximum temperatures of the location reaches up to 46⁰- 48⁰ C and seldom falls as 4⁰-5⁰ C. The relative humidity ranges between 20% to 94%. The average rainfall in Prayagraj is around 900-1100 mm annually. The minimum temperature during the crop season was to be 43.73% and maximum was to be 93.28%. The present research investigation was setup in randomized block design (RBD) with nine treatment combination, which are replicated three times and randomly allocated in each replication, dividing the research site into twenty - seven plots. In this study, inorganic fertilizers like nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium were used as RDF, Biochar and biofertilizer like Rhizobium was applied in three different dose. Sowing of the Black gram crop was carried out on the 29 April, 2022, respectively, by hand. The seed variety Shekhar-2 was sown at a rate of 20 kg ha⁻¹ and at a row-to-row spacing of 60 cm and plant-to-plant spacing of 45 cm. The recommended doses of NPK were applied @20:40:40 kgha⁻¹ The graded level of NPK were applied through Urea, Diammonium phosphate and Murate of potash.

The Soils from each plot were separately collected, air-dried, ground and passed through a 2mm-size sieve for laboratory analysis. Soil samples were analyzed for bulk density, particle density, percentage of pore space and water holding capacity, pH, EC, Percentage of organic carbon, Available Nitrogen, Available Phosphorus and Available Potassium before sowing and after harvest of the crop.

Table.1 Fertilizer Dose

S.No	Fertilizer Dose	Source (%)	Amount to be Fertilizer to be used
1	Nitrogen	Urea (N- 46%)	20 kgha ⁻¹
2	Phosphorus	SSP (P ₂ O ₅ - 68-18%) (S- 12-14%)	40kgha ⁻¹
3	Potassium	MOP (K-60%)	40kgha ⁻¹

4	Organic manure	Biochar (10t/ha)	10 t ha ⁻¹
5	Bio Fertilizer	Rhizobium	200gm/100g seed

(Source- Handbook of Agriculture,2010)

Table.2 Treatment combination

TREATMENT	TREATMENT COMBINATION
T₁	RDF + 0% Rhizobium + 0% Biochar
T₂	RDF + 0% Rhizobium + 50% Biochar
T₃	RDF + 0% Rhizobium + 100% Biochar
T₄	RDF + 50% Rhizobium + 0% Biochar
T₅	RDF + 50% Rhizobium + 50% Biochar
T₆	RDF + 50% Rhizobium + 100% Biochar
T₇	RDF + 100% Rhizobium + 0% Biochar
T₈	RDF + 100% Rhizobium + 50% Biochar
T₉	RDF + 100% Rhizobium + 100% Biochar

3. Result and Discussion

3.1 Soil Physical Properties

The effect of Rhizobium and Biochar on the bulk density of soil after crop harvest was also found significant. The maximum bulk density was recorded 1.275 Mg m⁻³ at (0-15 cm) and 1.279 Mg m⁻³ at (15-30 cm) in T₉ (RDF +100% Rhizobium +100% Biochar) treatment and minimum bulk density of soil was recorded 1.241 Mg m⁻³ at (0-15 cm) and 1.245 Mg m⁻³ at (15-30 cm) in treatment T₁ (RDF + 0% Rhizobium +0% Biochar) respectively. The effect of Rhizobium and Biochar on particle density of

soil after crop harvest was also found significant. The maximum particle density was recorded 2.466 Mg m^{-3} at (0-15 cm) and 2.475 Mg m^{-3} at (15-30 cm) in treatment T_1 (RDF +0% Rhizobium +0% Biochar) and minimum bulk density of soil was recorded 2.452 Mg m^{-3} at (0-15 cm) and 2.460 Mg m^{-3} at (15-30 cm) in treatment T_9 (RDF + 100% Rhizobium + 100% Biochar) respectively. The effect of Rhizobium and Biochar on Pore Space of soil after crop harvest was also found Nonsignificant. The maximum pore space was recorded 47.12% at (0-15 cm) and 46.75% at (15-30 cm) in treatment T_9 (RDF +100% Rhizobium +100% Biochar) and minimum Pore space of soil was recorded 44.97% at (0-15 cm) and 44.53% at (15-30 cm) in treatment T_1 [control (RDF + 0% Rhizobium +0% Biochar)] respectively. The effect of Rhizobium and Biochar on water holding capacity of soil after crop harvest was also found significant. The maximum Water holding capacity of soil was recorded 40.20 % at (0-15 cm) and 39.08 % at (15-30 cm) in treatment T_9 (RDF +100% Rhizobium + 100% Biochar) and minimum water holding capacity of soil was recorded 33.56 % at (0-15 cm) and 30.45 % at (15-30 cm) in treatment T_1 [control (RDF + 0% Rhizobium +0% Biochar)] respectively.

3.2 Soil Chemical Properties

The effect/ response of Rhizobium and Biochar on pH of soil after crop harvest was found nonsignificant. The maximum pH of soil was recorded 7.385 at (0-15 cm) and 7.468 at (15-30 cm) in treatment T_3 (RDF + 0% Rhizobium + 100% Biochar) and minimum pH of soil was recorded 6.879 at (0-15 cm) and 6.996 at (15-30 cm) in treatment T_9 (RDF + 100% Rhizobium + 100% Biochar) respectively. The effect/ response of Rhizobium and Biochar on EC of soil after crop harvest was found nonsignificant. The maximum EC of soil was recorded 0.282 dS m^{-1} at (0-15 cm) and 0.298 dS m^{-1} at (15-30 cm) in treatment T_3 (RDF + 0% Rhizobium + 100% Biochar) and minimum EC of soil was recorded 0.234 dS m^{-1} at (0-15 cm) and 0.252 dS m^{-1} at (15-30 cm) in treatment T_9 (RDF + 100% Rhizobium + 100% Biochar) respectively. The effect/ response of Rhizobium and Biochar on Organic carbon of soil after crop harvest was found significant. The maximum Organic carbon was recorded 0.439 % at (0-15 cm) and 0.409% at (15-30 cm) in treatment T_9 (RDF + 100% Rhizobium + 100% Biochar) and minimum Organic carbon of soil was recorded 0.361 % at (0-15 cm) and 0.332 % at (15-30 cm) in treatment T_1 (RDF + 0% Rhizobium + 0% Biochar) respectively. The effect/ response of Rhizobium and Biochar on Available Nitrogen of soil after crop harvest was found significant. The maximum Available Nitrogen of soil was recorded $285.08 \text{ kg ha}^{-1}$ at (0-15 cm) and $278.37 \text{ kg ha}^{-1}$ at (15-30 cm) in treatment T_9 (RDF + 100% Rhizobium + 100% Biochar) and minimum Available Nitrogen of soil was recorded $258.67 \text{ kg ha}^{-1}$ at (0-15 cm) and $251.21 \text{ kg ha}^{-1}$ at (15-30 cm) in treatment T_1 (RDF + 0% Rhizobium + 0% Biochar) respectively. The effect/ response of Rhizobium and Biochar on Available Phosphorus of soil after crop harvest was found significant. The maximum Available Phosphorus of soil was recorded 21.54 kg ha^{-1} at (0-15 cm) and 20.85 kg ha^{-1} at (15-30 cm) in treatment T_9 (RDF + 100% Rhizobium + 100% Biochar) and minimum Organic carbon of soil was recorded 18.29 kg ha^{-1} at (0-15 cm) and 16.93 kg ha^{-1} at (15-30 cm) in treatment T_1 (RDF + 0% Rhizobium + 0% Biochar)

S. Em(±)	0.0191	0.0193	0.0316	0.0359	0.8890	0.6537	0.52	0.47
C.D.@5%	0.0577	0.0582	0.0951	0.1082	2.6763	1.9680	1.02	0.91

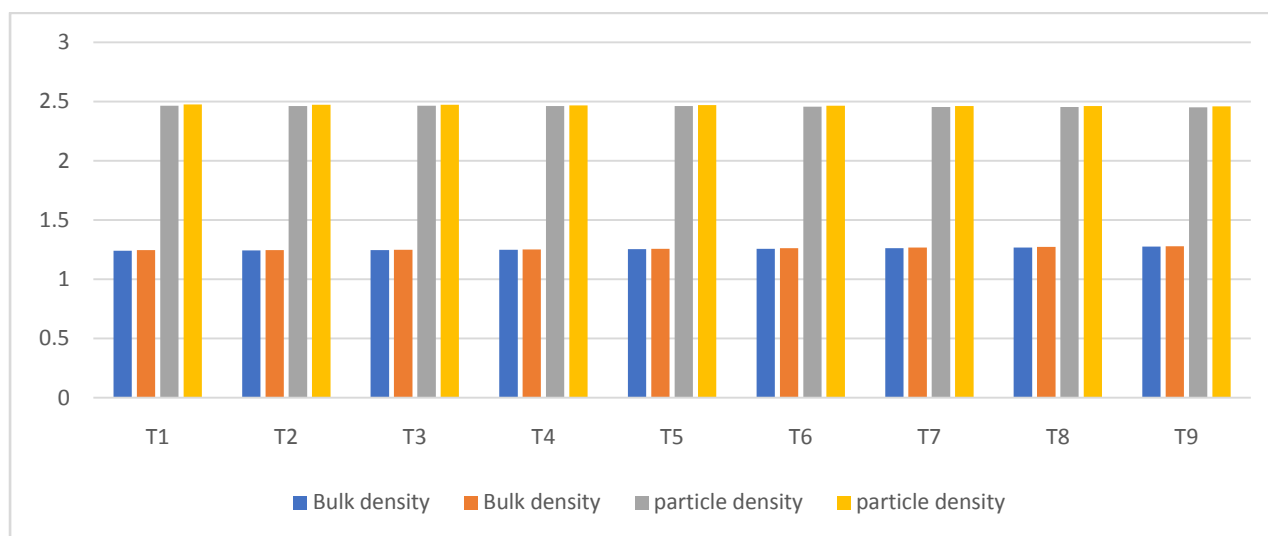


Fig .1 Effect of different levels of N P K, Biochar and Rhizobium inoculation on bulk density and particle density of soil after crop harvest.

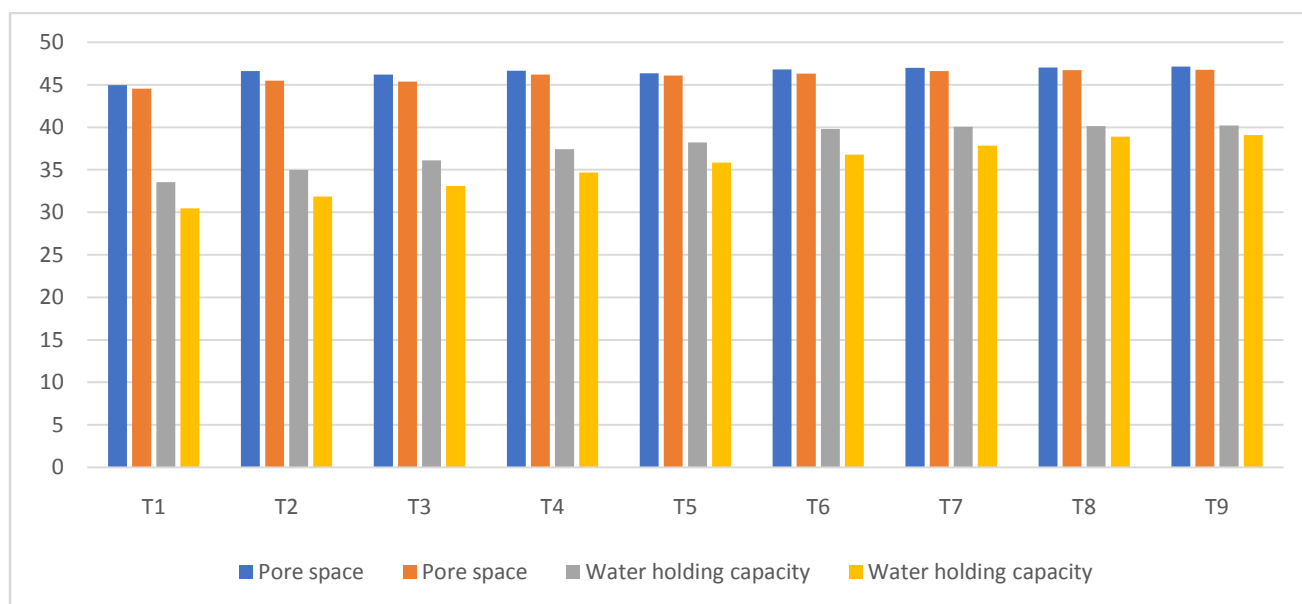


Fig .2 Effect of different levels of N P K, Biochar and Rhizobium inoculation on pore space and water holding capacity of soil after crop harvest.

Table . 4Effect of different levels of N P K, Biochar and Rhizobium inoculation on pH, Electrical conductivity and Organic carbon of soil after crop harvest.

Treatment	pH	Electrical Conductivity	Organic Carbon
		(dS m ⁻¹)	(%)

	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	0-15 cm	15-30cm
T₁	7.375	7.457	0.271	0.285	0.361	0.332
T₂	7.379	7.464	0.276	0.291	0.372	0.345
T₃	7.385	7.468	0.282	0.298	0.385	0.353
T₄	7.151	7.234	0.274	0.285	0.365	0.343
T₅	7.142	7.227	0.268	0.276	0.382	0.362
T₆	7.136	7.192	0.254	0.272	0.407	0.371
T₇	6.971	7.021	0.241	0.256	0.425	0.379
T₈	6.956	7.005	0.238	0.253	0.437	0.404
T₉	6.897	6.996	0.234	0.252	0.439	0.409
F- test	NS	NS	NS	NS	S	S
S. Em(±)	0.1087	0.1081	0.0074	0.0063	0.0063	0.0052
C.D.@5%	0.3272	0.3254	0.0223	0.0191	0.0191	0.0158

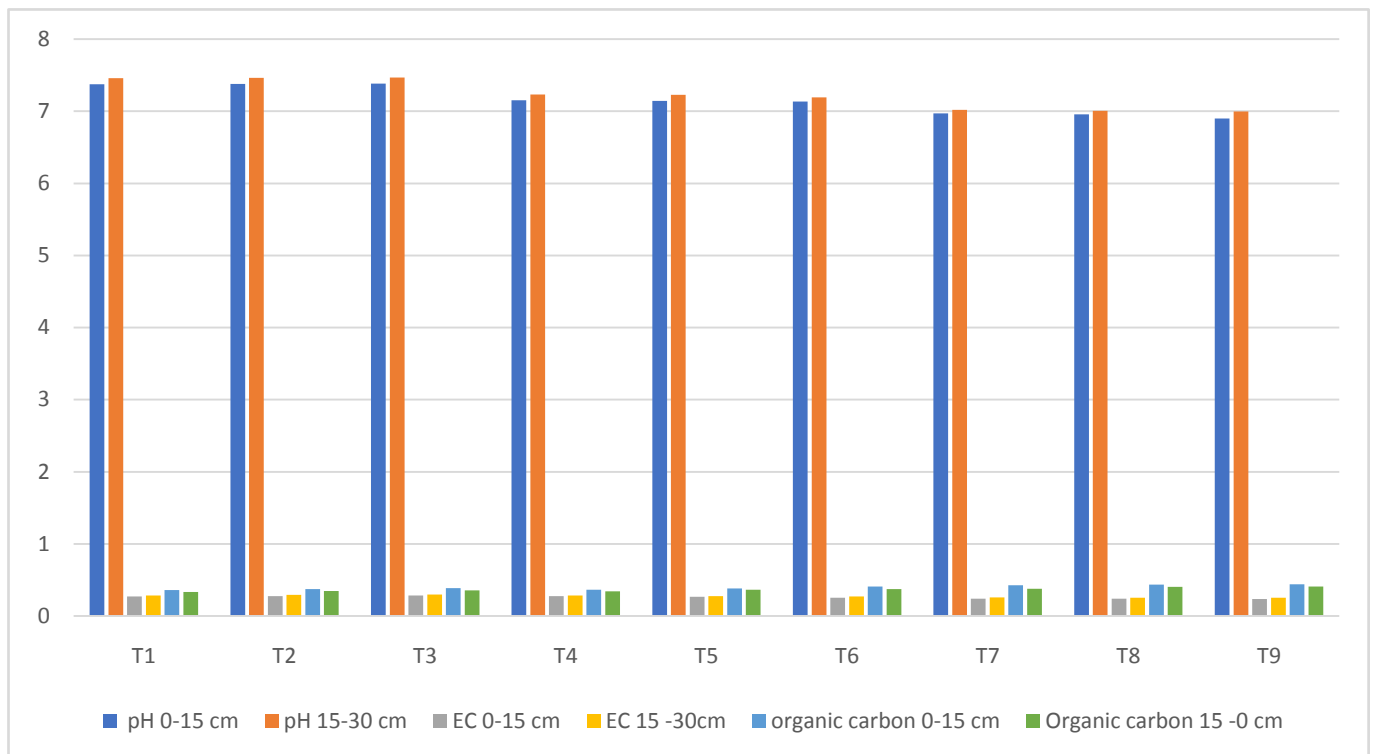


Fig . 3Effect of different levels of N P K, Biochar and Rhizobium inoculation on the pH, Electrical conductivity and Organic carbon of soil after crop harvest.

Table . 5Effect of different levels of N P K, Biochar and Rhizobium inoculation on the Available Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium of soil after crop harvest.

Treatment	Available Nitrogen		Available Phosphorus		Available Potassium	
	(Kg ha ⁻¹)		(Kg ha ⁻¹)		(Kg ha ⁻¹)	
	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	0-15 cm	15-30cm
T₁	258.67	251.21	18.29	16.93	177.34	171.65
T₂	259.58	251.98	18.17	17.27	178.67	173.54
T₃	260.83	253.41	19.89	17.49	180.46	174.89
T₄	264.65	258.07	20.11	19.54	184.64	179.46
T₅	268.42	261.67	20.42	19.85	186.78	181.58
T₆	270.24	262.91	20.91	19.98	187.43	183.57
T₇	272.93	264.76	21.02	20.14	189.85	185.20
T₈	281.53	273.35	21.34	20.38	196.96	192.32
T₉	285.08	278.37	21.54	20.85	201.35	194.62
F- test	S	S	S	S	S	S
S. Em(±)	4.6149	5.0077	0.2914	0.2960	3.5154	3.3078
C.D.@5%	13.8922	15.0749	0.8772	0.8910	10.5826	9.9577

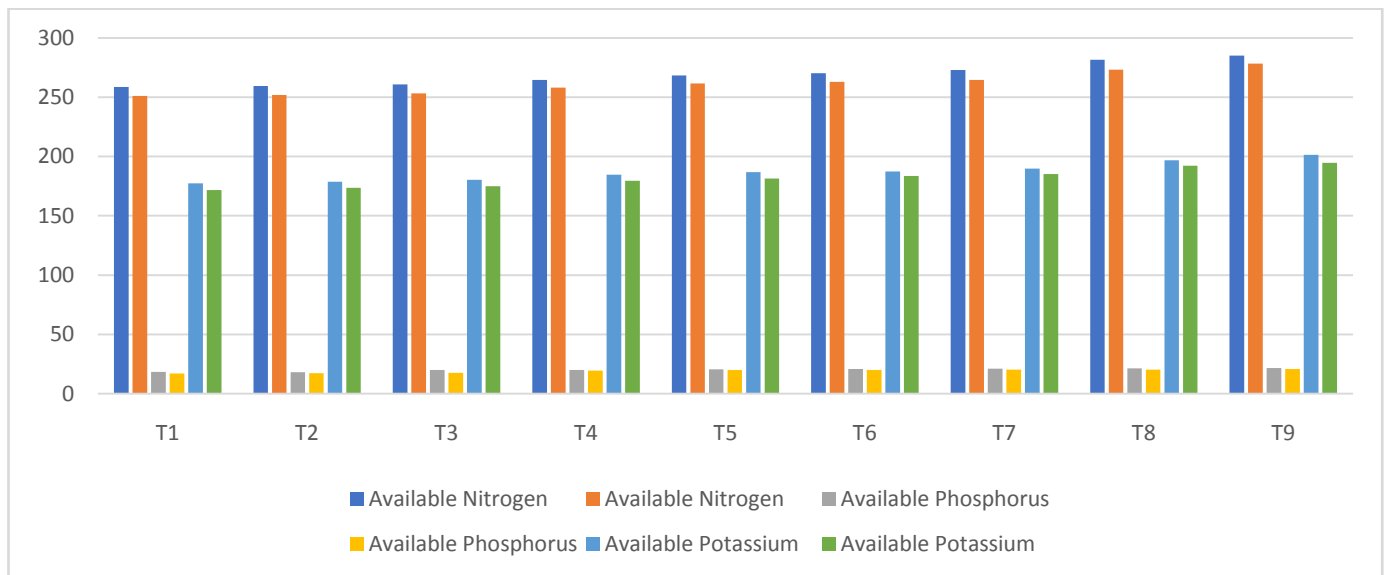


Fig . 3Effect of different levels of N P K, Biochar and Rhizobium inoculation on the Available Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium of soil after crop harvest.

4. Conclusions

In conclusion, the use of INM practices such as application of organic manures, use of chemical fertilizers and use of biofertilizers can improve the soil health parameters in black gram and increase crop productivity. The treatment combination T₉ was concluded from trial that the various level of NPK, biochar and rhizobium is best for significant increase of soil physical and chemical properties. These practices can also help in the sustainable management of soil fertility and conservation of soil resources.

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