

Effect of rate and frequency of micronutrient application on soil chemical properties for production of Banana under drip irrigation

Abstract

The two year field experiment "effect of rate and frequency of micronutrient application on production of banana under drip irrigation" was carried out using banana as a test crop and as ratoon crop at Soil and Water Management Research Unit, NAU, Navsari. Present experiment was conducted at fixed site, for plant crop a set of 8 treatments were tried and subsequently the same set of treatments were super imposed on ratoon crop. The different rate of multi-micronutrients mixture, grade-V ($M_1= 25$ gm/plant, $M_2= 50$ gm/plant, $M_3= 75$ gm/plant) and the frequency of application ($S_1=$ Basal and $S_2= 50$ per cent each as basal and 50 per cent two month after planting) was used in different treatments in present investigation. Total eight treatments like 60% RD of N & K and 100% RD of P (PFDC) (T_1), PFDC+ M_1S_1 (T_2), PFDC+ M_1S_2 (T_3), PFDC+ M_2S_1 (T_4), PFDC+ M_2S_2 (T_5), PFDC+ M_3S_1 (T_6), PFDC+ M_3S_2 (T_7) and 100% RDF only (T_8) for plant as well as ratoon banana crops were tested using randomized block design with four replications. The application of micronutrient under treatment T_7 {micronutrient application @ 75 g/plant applied as 50% basal + 50 % after 2 month planting (M_3S_2) along with PFDC practices} gave significantly highest DTPA-Fe, Mn, Zn and Cu content in soil during different periodical soil analysis at 3, 6 and 9 (MAP) and at harvest of banana crop in both the years 2012-13 (plant) and 2013-14 (ratoon) compared to control and it was at par with T_6 . The application of micronutrient gave the non-significant effect on soil pH. The treatment T_7 showed significant effect on soil EC ($dS\ m^{-1}$). Whereas, highest available N, P_2O_5 and K_2O content significantly increased in 100 % RDF treatments compared to other treatments at 3, 6, 9 MAP of the plant banana as well as at 3, 6 and 9 MAR (month after ratooning). The treatment T_6 , T_7 and T_8 were found more remunerative than the remaining treatments as these treatments recorded higher BCR values of 1:2.20, 1:2.34 and 1:2.19, respectively.

Key words: Banana, PFDC, Multi-Micronutrients mixture, Ratoon and RDF.

Introduction:

Banana (*Musa paradisiaca L.*), which belongs to the family Musaceae in the order Scitamineae, have been associated with the mankind for centuries and is considered as one of the most important fruit crops of the world. It is also known as "Apple of Paradise". About 24 bananas each weighing around 100 gm would provide the energy requirement (2400 calories per day) of a sedentary man (Singh, 2002). In India banana is fourth important food crop in terms of gross value exceeded only after paddy, wheat and milk products. In India, banana ranks first in production and third in area among other fruit crops. It accounts for 13 per cent of the total area and 33 per cent of the production of fruits. India leads the world in banana production with an annual output of about 14.2 million tones (NHB, 2013). In India, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Kerala, Gujarat and Karnataka are the leading banana producing states. In term of area and production of banana in India are 7.76 lakh hectares and 265.09 lakh tonnes, respectively (Anon, 2007). The micronutrients like Fe, Zn, Mn, Cu and B are not only essential but they are equally important like other macro nutrients, in spite of their requirement in micro quantities. Micronutrients are key elements in plants growth and development. The multi micronutrients fertilizers mixture grades prepared on the basis of micronutrients deficiency status of Gujarat soils proved beneficial in increasing yield of different crops under varied agro-climatic conditions and different types of soils. Among the different micronutrient grades, the multi micronutrients mixture (grade-V) having Fe 2, Mn 0.5, Zn 5, Cu 0.2 and B 0.5 per cent is recommended for soil application @ 20 kg ha⁻¹. Improvement of micronutrient in food parts will help to correct malnutrition problems of Fe and Zn in human beings (Patel and Singh, 2010). Application of nutrients through drip irrigation system can increase the fertilizer use efficiency, allows flexibility in timing of fertilizer application, minimizes leaching losses by excessive irrigation and rain and reduces the labor requirements for fertilizer application (Ashrafiet al. 2020).

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

Geographically, Navsari is located at 20° 57' N latitude and 72° 54' E longitudes at an altitude of 10 m above the mean sea level. According to agro-climatic zonalization, Navsari falls in agro-ecological situation III of South Gujarat heavy rainfall agroclimatic zone-I, which is typically characterized by humid and warm monsoon with heavy rainfall (average 1495 mm), moderately cold winter and fairly hot and humid summer. The field experiment was carried out using banana as a test crop during 2012-2013 (plant) and 2013-2014 (ratoon) at Soil and Water Management Research Unit, NAU, Navsari. According to the Seventh Approximation, the soils of the experimental field is classified under the order '*Inceptisols*' comprising members of fine, montmorillonitic, isohyperthermic family of *VerticUstochrepts* and soil series Jalalpore. These soils are mainly derived from basalt, augite, granite, gneiss and lime stone. The soil develops deep cracks and become extremely hard when dry, while plastic and sticky when wet. The average thickness of solum ranges from 2.5 to 3.0 m. The rooting depth is extended up to 1.0 m. The colour of dry soil is dark brown and texture is clay.

For experiment study was conducted at fixed site, a set of 8 treatments were tried and subsequently the same set of treatments were super imposed on ratoon crop. The different rate of micronutrient ($M_1= 25$ gm/plant, $M_2= 50$ gm/plant, $M_3= 75$ gm/plant) and the frequency of application ($S_1=$ Basal and $S_2= 50$ per cent each as basal and 2 month after planting) was used in different treatments for plant as well as ratoon crops were tested using randomized block design with four replications. The two sets of treatments were tested in sequential manner at fixed site. The details of experimental materials used, methods followed and the techniques adopted are described as under in treatment details:-

Treatments details

T1 = Control (PFDC)

T2=T1 + M1S1 (T1+25 gm/plant micronutrient with basal)

T3 =T1 + M1S2 (T1+50 gm/plant with 50 % each as basal and 2 MAP)

T4 =T1 + M2S1 (T1+50 gm/plant with basal)

T5 =T1 + M2S2 (T1+50 gm/plant with 50 % each as basal and 2 MAP)

T6 =T1 + M3S1 (T1+75 gm/plant with Basal)

T7 =T1 + M3S2 (T1+75 gm/plant 50 % each as basal and 2 MAP)

T8 =Only RDF

Recommended dose of fertilizers (RDF) is 300: 90: 200 NPK g/plant, fertilizers were applied according to treatments in plant crop and in ratoon banana crop. (Patel *et al* 2012) The micronutrient status of experimental plot was in deficient in nature. PFDC (Precision Farming Development Centre) packages mean is a practice in which 60% nitrogen, 100% phosphorus and 60% potassium of recommend dose of fertilizer (RDF) is applied in banana crop. In this practice 20 % N and K of total amount was applies as basal and 20% N and K was applied after two month of planting as split application as soil application. Remaining 60% amount of N and K was applied through the drip application at periodical interval of 15 days. P was applied as 50% basal and 50 % 2 MAP. In case of 100% RDF (T_8), the 40% N and K was applied as basal and 40% at 2MAP as soil application and remaining amount was applied through drip application. Weed management was done by hand weeding or by rotary power tiller at regular intervals.

For micronutrimnt application Grade V fertilizer (Fe-2.0, Mn-0.5, Zn- 5.0, Cu- 0.2 and B- 0.5 per cent) were used. The standard method of analysis of variance technique appropriate to the Randomized Block Design (RBD) with Factorial concept as described by Panse and Sukhatme (1967) was used. The Collected soil samples were dried and grind in stainless steel jar grinder and sieved through 0.2 mm sieve and used for estimation. The soil samples were analyzed by using standard methods.

Table 1: Applied quantity for routinely used fertilizer treatments in banana

Fertilizer quantity	N	P	K
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RDF of Banana g/plant	300	90	200
PDFC practices	180	90	120
Per cent content of routinely used fertilizer			
Urea	46	0	0
Diammonium phosphate (DAP)	18	46	0
Muriate of Potash (MOP)	0	0	60
Requirement of fertilizers in g/plant			
Urea	652	0	0
Diammonium phosphate (DAP)	0	150	0
Muriate of Potash (MOP)	0	0	333

Table-2: Physical and chemical properties of the experimental plot

Parameters	(Soil depth 0-22.5cm)
A. Physical parameters	
1. Sand (%)	12.75
2. Silt (%)	22.58
3. Clay (%)	59.23
4. Textural class	Clayey
B. Chemical Properties	
5. Organic carbon (%)	0.52
6. Available N (kg ha ⁻¹)	265.00
7. Available P ₂ O ₅ (kg ha ⁻¹)	44.38
8. Available K ₂ O (kg ha ⁻¹)	452.00
9. Soil pH (1:2.5)	8.12
10. EC _{1:2.5} (dS m ⁻¹)	0.23
11. Micronutrients	
DTPA-extractable-Fe (mg kg ⁻¹)	7.30
DTPA-extractable-Mn(mg kg ⁻¹)	14.50
DTPA-extractable-Zn (mg kg ⁻¹)	0.72
DTPA-extractable -Cu (mg kg ⁻¹)	3.42

Table 3: Methods used for soil analysis

Sr.No.	Determination	Method employed
1.	pH (1:2.5)	Potentiometry (Jackson, 1979)
2.	EC (1:2.5)	Conductometry (Jackson, 1979)
3.	Available N(kg ha ⁻¹)	Alkaline permanganate oxidation method
4.	Available P ₂ O ₅ (kg ha ⁻¹)	Spectrometric method
5.	Available K ₂ O (kg ha ⁻¹)	Flame photometric method
6.	Micronutrients (mg kg ⁻¹)	Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometry\

Result and Discussion:-

Micronutrients are required by plant in very small quantities, yet they are very effective in regulating plant growth as they form plant enzyme system and thus regulate plant life, micronutrients like Fe, Mn, Zn and Cu having the minor role to governing the productivity of banana. In order to judge the impact of different treatments on periodical fertility status of soil, treatment wise soil samples were taken at 3MAP, 6 MAP, 9MAP and at harvest in plant banana and for ratoon banana soil samples were taken at

3MAR, 6 MAR, 9MAR and at harvest. These samples were analyzed for available N, P₂O₅ and K₂O as well as DTPA extractable Fe, Mn, Zn and Cu. Similarly the collected soil samples were also analyzed for EC and pH in addition to the fertility parameters.

DTPA-extractable micronutrients in plant banana and ratoon banana:-

The data on DTPA- extractable micronutrients (mg kg⁻¹) at different stages and at harvest of plant banana as well as ratoon banana influenced by different treatments of rate and frequency of micronutrient application through drip irrigation are given in table 4 to table 7.

The results revealed that the application of micronutrient @ 75 g/plant as 50% basal + 50 % after 2 month planting of 75 g/plant (M₃S₂+ treatment T₁ (T₇) gave significantly highest DTPA-Fe status in soil at 3MAP, 6MAP, 9 MAP and at harvest of plant banana (12.63, 17.92, 10.44 and 7.43 mg kg⁻¹), respectively. This was at par with treatment T₆ at 9 MAP and at harvest. While in ratoon banana, the results revealed that the treatment T₆ gave significantly highest DTPA-Fe status in soil at 3MAR, 6MAR, 9 MAR and at harvest of plant banana (12.18 14.92, 9.32 and 6.57 mg kg⁻¹ respectively). This was at par with treatment T₇ in all cases of ratoon.

The treatment T₇ gave significantly highest DTPA-Mn status in soil at 3MAP, 6MAP, 9 MAP and at harvest of plant banana (15.87, 20.37, 13.90 and 11.52 mg kg⁻¹), respectively. This was at par with treatment T₆ at 3MAP. In all cases the lowest DTPA- Mn status (9.44, 12.52, 8.56 and 7.36 mg kg⁻¹) respectively, in soil was recorded under treatment T₁ (control). The treatment T₆ gave significantly highest DTPA-Mn status in soil at 3MAR, 6MAR, 9 MAR and at harvest of ratoon banana (14.89 17.23, 12.29 and 10.14 mg kg⁻¹ respectively). This was at par with treatment T₇ at 3MAR and 6MAR of ratoon. However, the lowest DTPA- Mn status in soil was recorded under treatment T₁ (control).

The significantly highest DTPA-Zn status in soil at 3MAP, 6MAP, 9 MAP and at harvest of plant banana was recorded in treatment T₇ (1.20, 1.33, 1.07 and 0.92 mg kg⁻¹), respectively. However this treatment was at par with T₆ treatment (T₁+M₃S₁) at 6 MAP, 9 MAP and after harvest of banana. While treatment T₆ gave significantly highest DTPA-Zn status in soil at 3MAR, 6MAR, 9 MAR and at harvest of ratoon banana (1.08, 1.12, 0.94 and 0.81 mg kg⁻¹ respectively). This was at par with treatment T₇ and T₅ in all cases of ratoon. However, the lowest DTPA- Fe status in soil was recorded under treatment T₁ in both cases.

The results revealed that the significantly highest DTPA-Cu status in soil at 3MAP, 6MAP, 9 MAP and at harvest of plant banana was recorded in treatment T₇ (4.06, 5.11, 4.04 and 3.26 mg kg⁻¹), respectively. However this treatment was at par with T₆ at 3MAP and with T₅ and T₆ treatment at 9 MAP. The treatment T₇ also gave the significantly highest DTPA-Cu status in soil at 3MAR, 6MAR, 9 MAR and at harvest of ratoon banana (3.90, 4.29, 3.58 and 2.86 mg kg⁻¹ respectively). This was at par with treatment T₆ at 9MAR and after harvest of ratoon. In all cases the lowest DTPA- Cu status (2.59, 3.26, 2.42 and 2.08 mg kg⁻¹) respectively, in soil was recorded under treatment T₁ in both cases.

Table 4. Effect of different treatments on periodical DTPA-Fe status (mg kg⁻¹) in soil during plant banana and ratoon banana

Plant crop					Ratoon crop			
Treatments	Months after planting			At harvest	Months after planting			At harvest
	3	6	9		3	6	9	
T ₁	8.06	10.37	6.44	4.41	7.81	8.84	5.67	3.88
T ₂	8.97	11.28	7.18	4.92	8.55	9.85	6.31	4.33
T ₃	9.39	11.71	7.50	5.14	9.14	10.31	6.60	4.52
T ₄	10.17	12.75	8.12	5.57	9.93	11.16	7.15	4.90
T ₅	11.27	14.56	9.01	6.17	10.96	12.37	7.93	5.43
T ₆	11.72	14.99	10.17	7.10	12.18	14.92	9.32	6.57
T ₇	12.63	17.92	10.44	7.43	11.89	13.85	9.05	6.27
T ₈	9.10	11.37	7.27	4.98	8.89	9.99	6.33	4.38
S.Em. ±	0.18	0.53	0.30	0.30	0.23	0.60	0.26	0.26
C.D. at 5 %	0.54	1.56	0.89	0.88	0.68	1.76	0.77	0.78
C.V. %	3.58	8.10	7.28	10.53	4.66	10.52	7.19	10.48

Table 5. Effect of different treatments on periodical DTPA-Mn status (mg kg⁻¹) in soil during plant banana and ratoon banana

Plant crop					Ratoon crop			
Treatments	Months after planting			At harvest	Months after planting			At harvest
	3	6	9		3	6	9	
T ₁	9.44	12.52	8.56	7.36	9.06	10.52	7.53	6.47
T ₂	10.52	13.96	9.54	8.20	10.10	11.73	8.39	7.22
T ₃	10.99	14.59	9.97	8.57	10.55	12.25	8.77	7.54
T ₄	11.91	16.55	11.30	9.28	11.43	14.03	10.00	8.17
T ₅	13.20	18.27	12.47	10.29	12.67	15.47	11.03	9.06
T ₆	14.67	18.97	12.95	10.70	14.89	17.23	12.29	10.14
T ₇	15.87	20.37	13.90	11.52	14.53	16.05	11.45	9.42
T ₈	10.66	14.89	10.18	8.31	10.23	12.63	9.00	7.31
S.Em. ±	0.45	0.47	0.30	0.08	0.47	0.43	0.27	0.07
C.D. at 5 %	1.31	1.38	0.90	0.23	1.39	1.25	0.79	0.22
C.V. %	7.32	5.78	5.49	1.67	8.09	6.20	5.47	1.80

In general, the DTPA-extractable Fe, Mn, Zn and Cu status in soil were found highest in plot treated with T₇ (T₁ +M₃S₂) treatment in both the years as compare to control. This treatment was at par with T₆ (T₁ +M₃S₁). This may be due to higher dose of micronutrient application in these treatments as compared to other treatments. The same findings were also reported by Ghanta and Mitra (1993) in banana, Durgadeviet *al.* (1997) in citrus, Lalet *al.* (2000) in guava, Aggrawalet *al.* (1975) in grape and Afriaet *al.* (1999) in pomegranate. Kannanet *al.* (2014) also reported that accumulation of Fe, Zn, Mn and Cu was significantly increased in soil due to micronutrient addition.

In both the years, the micronutrients status in soil at 6 MAP was more as compared to 3MAP in all

the treatments. This may be due to release of micronutrients by mineralization of FYM and green manure in first year. Then the available micronutrients status in the soil decreased at 9MAP and after harvest, which may be due to uptake of micronutrients by plant or may be loss due to leaching.

Table 6. Effect of different treatments on periodical DTPA-Zn status (mg kg⁻¹) in soil during plant banana and ratoon banana

Treatments	Plant crop				Ratoon crop			
	Months after planting			At harvest	Months after planting			At harvest
	3	6	9		3	6	9	
T ₁	0.71	0.85	0.68	0.59	0.68	0.71	0.60	0.52
T ₂	0.79	0.95	0.76	0.65	0.76	0.80	0.67	0.58
T ₃	0.83	0.99	0.80	0.68	0.80	0.83	0.70	0.60
T ₄	0.90	1.07	0.86	0.74	0.86	0.90	0.76	0.65
T ₅	1.01	1.19	0.96	0.82	0.96	1.00	0.84	0.72
T ₆	1.04	1.24	0.99	0.85	1.08	1.12	0.94	0.81
T ₇	1.20	1.33	1.07	0.92	1.07	1.04	0.90	0.75
T ₈	0.80	0.96	0.77	0.66	0.77	0.81	0.68	0.58
S.Em. ±	0.04	0.05	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.03
C.D. at 5 %	0.11	0.14	0.08	0.08	0.12	0.12	0.09	0.09
C.V. %	7.94	9.16	6.38	7.20	9.19	9.22	8.25	8.97

Table 7 Effect of different treatments on periodical DTPA-Cu status (mg kg⁻¹) in soil during plant banana and ratoon banana

Treatments	Plant crop				Ratoon crop			
	Months after planting			At harvest	Months after planting			At harvest
	3	6	9		3	6	9	
T ₁	2.59	3.26	2.42	2.08	2.49	2.74	2.13	1.83
T ₂	2.89	3.64	2.69	2.32	2.77	3.05	2.39	2.04
T ₃	3.02	3.8	2.82	2.42	2.9	3.19	2.48	2.13
T ₄	3.27	4.12	3.30	2.62	3.14	3.46	2.93	2.31
T ₅	3.63	4.56	3.63	2.91	3.42	3.73	3.23	2.56
T ₆	3.77	4.74	3.77	3.02	3.62	3.99	3.34	2.66
T ₇	4.06	5.11	4.04	3.26	3.90	4.29	3.58	2.86
T ₈	2.93	3.68	2.98	2.35	2.81	3.09	2.65	2.07
S.Em. ±	0.10	0.11	0.15	0.06	0.07	0.08	0.14	0.08
C.D. at 5 %	0.30	0.33	0.45	0.18	0.20	0.24	0.41	0.24
C.V. %	6.17	5.42	9.52	4.78	4.35	4.67	9.71	7.11

Macro nutrients status (kg ha⁻¹) in Plant banana and ratoon banana:-

The data pertaining on available N, available K₂O and available P₂O₅ (kg ha⁻¹) in soil at various sampling stages (3MAP, 6MAP, 9MAP and after harvest) of plant and ratoon banana was significantly

influenced due to different treatments are given in table 8 to 10.

The results revealed that application of 100 per cent RDF gave significantly the highest available N status (274.38, 360.00, 397.92 and 227.43 kg ha⁻¹) at 3MAP, 6MAP, 9MAP and after harvest respectively, but it was also at par with control condition (T₁) in all cases and also at par with treatment T₅ to T₇ at 6MAP. However, the lowest available N status (226.97, 312.55, 331.61 and 191.13 kg ha⁻¹) in soil at various sampling stages respectively was recorded in treatment T₂. Similar trend was found in ratoon banana.

The available P₂O₅ status in soil, the application of 100 per cent RDF gave significantly the highest available P₂O₅ status (49.52, 68.71, 55.28 and 36.63 kg ha⁻¹) at 3MAP, 6MAP, 9MAP and after harvest respectively, but it was also at par with control condition (T₁) in all cases and also at par with treatment T₆ and T₇ at 9MAP and T₆ at 6MAP. The application of 100 per cent RDF gave significantly the highest available P₂O₅ status (44.35, 52.26 and 28.59 kg ha⁻¹) at 3MAP, 9MAP and after harvest respectively, but it was also at par with control condition (T₁) in all cases and also at par with treatment T₆ and T₇ at 9MAP and after harvest.

With respect to periodical available K₂O status of soil, the treatment T₈ (100% RDF only) was found to be significant higher value of available K₂O status (372.50, 404.59, 492.31 and 428.38 kg ha⁻¹) at 3MAP, 6MAP, 9MAP and after harvest respectively, but it was also at par with control condition (T₁) in all cases except 9 MAP and also at par with treatment T₇ at 3MAP. However, the lowest available K₂O status in soil was found at 3MAP, 6 MAP, 9MAP and at harvest of plant banana (316.14, 323.40, 410.97 and 338.75 kg ha⁻¹) respectively in treatment T₂. The treatment T₈ (100% RDF only) was found to be significant highest value of available K₂O status (381.09, 353 and 388.48 kg ha⁻¹) at 3MAP, 6MAP and after harvest respectively, but it was also at par with control condition (T₁) in all cases except 9MAP and also at par with treatment T₇ at 3MAP. However, the lowest available K₂O status (302.93, 308.77, 365.95 and 328.09 kg ha⁻¹) in soil at 3MAP, 6 MAP, 9MAP and at harvest of plant banana respectively in treatment T₂.

The periodical soil sampling and analysis showed significantly highest available the N, P₂O₅ and K₂O (kg ha⁻¹) under T₈ (100% RDF) treatment in all the cases *viz.* 3MAP, 6MAP, 9MAP and after harvesting in both plant and ratoon. This may be due to higher N and K nutrient application in this treatment as compared to other treatments. The macronutrients status in soil at 6MAP was more as compared to 3MAP in all the treatments. This may be due to decomposition of green manures and FYM as well as split application of N and K fertilizer. Whereas, it was found that macronutrients status was decreased at 9MAP and after harvest. It may be due to increased physiological processes of the leaves which in turn lead to repaid absorption and utilization of nutrients for primary metabolic processes. The same findings were also reported by Ghanta and Mitra (1993) in banana, Durgadeviet *al.* (1997) in citrus, Lalet *al.* (2000) in guava, Aggrawalet *al.* (1975) in grape and Afriaet *al.* (1999) in pomegranate.

Table 8. Effect of different treatments on periodical available N (kg ha⁻¹) in soil during plant banana and ratoon banana

Plant crop					Ratoon crop			
Treatments	Months after planting			At harvest	Months after planting			At harvest
	3	6	9		3	6	9	
T ₁	264.22	354.86	396.75	214.74	253.34	297.14	349.83	189.56
T ₂	226.97	312.55	331.61	191.13	215.98	248.51	304.22	175.42
T ₃	230.49	313.40	342.17	183.43	218.81	249.06	314.01	168.67
T ₄	241.01	322.04	348.14	192.68	221.53	255.01	326.33	181.67
T ₅	245.21	337.86	354.39	196.19	235.53	280.19	304.61	177.82
T ₆	247.06	346.87	359.62	205.93	239.62	285.43	340.12	177.34
T ₇	247.29	355.62	367.65	223.30	241.43	283.54	341.40	179.51
T ₈	274.38	360.00	397.92	227.43	269.46	309.64	365.69	207.42
S.Em. ±	9.20	11.56	12.68	7.58	9.27	13.43	12.99	7.40
C.D. at 5 %	27.06	34.00	37.31	22.30	27.26	39.51	38.22	21.75
C.V. %	7.43	6.84	7.00	7.42	7.82	9.73	7.85	8.12

Table 9. Effect of different treatments on periodical available P₂O₅ (kg ha⁻¹) in soil during plant banana and ratoon banana

Plant crop					Ratoon crop			
Treatments	Months after planting			At harvest	Months after planting			At harvest
	3	6	9		3	6	9	
T ₁	47.79	66.38	53.03	32.59	41.4	55.06	50.61	27.94
T ₂	42.74	53.38	41.12	28.30	36.63	50.57	43.62	24.46
T ₃	41.16	56.65	49.14	28.61	37.4	50.96	44.67	25.22
T ₄	42.85	55.56	49.99	29.52	39.11	52.12	45.01	25.98
T ₅	43.41	57.66	50.17	29.62	41.06	52.76	47.08	26.08
T ₆	44.13	61.27	50.62	29.72	43.12	55.42	49.84	26.60
T ₇	44.54	61.01	50.92	29.96	40.13	50.58	47.41	24.55
T ₈	49.52	68.71	55.28	36.63	44.35	57.83	52.26	28.59
S.Em. ±	1.67	2.61	2.01	1.58	1.54	1.92	1.71	0.70
C.D. at 5 %	4.91	7.69	5.10	4.65	4.53	NS	4.85	1.98
C.V. %	7.49	8.69	8.81	10.32	7.61	7.21	7.17	6.15

Table 10. Effect of different treatments on periodical available K₂O (kg ha⁻¹) in soil during plant banana and ratoon banana

Treatments	Plant crop				Ratoon crop			
	Months after planting			At harvest	Months after planting			At harvest
	3	6	9		3	6	9	
T ₁	360.82	390.66	441.42	410.33	345.1	343.71	390.79	367.56
T ₂	316.14	323.40	410.97	338.75	302.93	308.77	365.95	328.09
T ₃	321.99	329.59	412.14	346.25	309.51	309.80	366.68	332.84
T ₄	324.42	345.63	418.17	352.50	329.25	317.98	376.40	340.88
T ₅	322.67	354.09	424.41	376.25	340.42	320.71	382.32	344.06
T ₆	333.63	353.99	428.11	383.75	341.23	309.65	379.61	342.24
T ₇	350.09	358.25	429.03	386.24	352.85	317.38	385.59	349.82
T ₈	372.5	404.59	492.31	428.38	381.09	353.00	430.65	388.48
S.Em. ±	12.86	15.57	16.46	14.12	12.46	10.49	12.28	12.26
C.D. at 5 %	37.83	45.80	48.41	41.54	36.65	30.86	36.14	36.06
C.V. %	7.61	8.71	7.62	7.48	7.41	6.5	6.39	7.02

Soil pH and soil EC:-

The results revealed that application of different treatments gave the non-significant effect on soil pH at 3, 6, 9 month after planting (MAP) and after harvesting of banana crop. In term of EC, the results revealed that in treatment T₇ gave significantly the highest EC (0.98, 0.94, 0.81 and 0.55 dSm⁻¹) at 3, 6, 9 month after planting (MAP) and after harvesting of banana plant respectively.

The results also revealed that application of different treatments gave the non-significant effect on soil pH after 3, 6, 9 month after ratooning (MAR) and after harvesting of banana crop. In term of EC, the results revealed that in treatment T₇ gave significantly the highest EC (0.93, 0.84, 0.66 and 0.48 dSm⁻¹) at 3, 6, 9 month after ratooning (MAR) and after harvesting of banana plant respectively.

Table 11. Effect of different treatments on periodical pH of soil during plant banana and ratoon banana

Treatments	Plant crop				Ratoon crop			
	Months after planting			At harvest	Months after planting			At harvest
	3	6	9		3	6	9	
T ₁	7.62	8.05	7.90	8.24	7.47	7.66	8.33	8.05
T ₂	7.73	8.03	7.89	8.21	7.58	7.58	8.32	8.04
T ₃	7.67	7.98	7.82	8.14	7.52	7.50	8.25	7.97
T ₄	7.65	7.96	7.81	8.12	7.50	7.49	8.23	7.96
T ₅	7.67	7.88	7.73	8.04	7.98	7.41	8.15	7.87
T ₆	7.56	7.87	7.72	8.03	7.86	7.38	8.12	7.85
T ₇	7.59	7.85	7.70	8.15	7.89	7.59	8.14	7.98
T ₈	7.71	8.02	7.87	8.18	8.02	7.54	8.30	8.02
S.Em. ±	0.05	0.07	0.05	0.05	0.14	0.08	0.05	0.05
C.D. at 5 %	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
C.V. %	1.4	1.82	1.23	1.29	3.62	2.21	1.26	1.30

Table 12. Effect of different treatments on periodical EC of soil during plant banana and ratoon banana

Treatments	Plant crop			At harvest	Ratoon crop			
	Months after planting				Months after planting			At harvest
	3	6	9		3	6	9	
T ₁	0.74	0.64	0.52	0.35	0.71	0.57	0.42	0.31
T ₂	0.84	0.71	0.57	0.39	0.81	0.63	0.47	0.35
T ₃	0.88	0.74	0.60	0.41	0.84	0.66	0.49	0.36
T ₄	0.88	0.80	0.65	0.45	0.84	0.71	0.53	0.39
T ₅	0.92	0.82	0.72	0.49	0.88	0.73	0.59	0.43
T ₆	0.96	0.84	0.75	0.51	0.92	0.75	0.61	0.45
T ₇	0.98	0.94	0.81	0.55	0.93	0.84	0.66	0.48
T ₈	0.93	0.72	0.58	0.40	0.89	0.64	0.48	0.35
S.Em. ±	0.04	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
C.D. at 5 %	0.11	0.07	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.07	0.06	0.04
C.V. %	8.56	6.05	5.72	7.41	4.82	6.72	7.98	9.43

Conclusion:

Based on the trends of yield, nutrient removal and soil fertility observed in the present study, it is concluded that for getting viable yield of banana, the application of micronutrient in treatment T₇ @75 g/plant as 50% basal + 50 % 2 month after planting (M₃S₂) gave maximum net realization (₹ 5,69967) followed by treatment T₆ (T₁+ M₃S₁) and Treatment T₈ (100% RDF only). The treatment T₆, T₇ and T₈ were found more remunerative than the remaining treatments as these treatments recorded higher BCR values of 1:2.20, 1:2.34 and 1:2.19, respectively. For obtaining higher banana yield and net realization along with improvement in micronutrient status of the soil under plant - ratoon banana sequence, application of treatment T₆ (T₁+ M₃S₁) and T₇ (T₁+ M₃S₂) receiving 60% RD of N and 60% RD of K and 100% RD of P (PFDC) along with micronutrient application through @ 75 g plant⁻¹ can be beneficial for production of banana under drip irrigation system.

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