

## Effect of establishment method and organic nutrient management practices on yield and quality of finger millet

### Abstract

A field experiment was conducted during the ~~the~~ khari seasons in 2020 and 2021 at Agronomy Main Research Farm, Department of Agronomy, College of Agriculture, Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology, Bhubaneswar to study the effect of establishment method and organic nutrient management on yield and quality parameters of finger millet. (Variety Arjuna). The experiment was laid out in a ~~split~~ split-plot design and replicated thrice. The treatments comprised of 2 methods of crop establishment viz. conventional method of line transplanting (20 cm x 10 cm) and system of finger millet intensification (25 cm x 25 cm) in the main plot with the application of 4 organic nutrient sources viz. FYM @ 100% RDN, FYM @ 50% RDN (basal) + Vermicompost @ 50% RDN (basal), FYM @ 50% RDN (basal) + Vermicompost @ 50% RDN (top dressing) and FYM @ 25% RDN (basal) + *toria* oil cake @ 25% RDN (basal) + Vermicompost @ 50% RDN (top dressing) allotted to subplot in finger millet during *Khari* season. SFMI method of establishment resulted in superior grain yield (2051 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>), straw yield (2901 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>), harvest index (41.42%) and quality parameters of finger millet grains viz. protein (7.56%), crude fibre (3.6 g 100<sup>-1</sup>), vitamin E (0.14 mg 100 g<sup>-1</sup>), Ca (344.1 mg 100 g<sup>-1</sup>), Mg (164.3 mg 100 g<sup>-1</sup>), Fe (4.86 mg 100 g<sup>-1</sup>), Zn (3.71 mg 100 g<sup>-1</sup>) content than line transplanting. The grain yield (2092 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>), straw yield (2889 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>), harvest index (42.00%) and quality parameters of finger millet grains viz. protein (7.91%), crude fibre (3.9 g 100 g<sup>-1</sup>), vitamin E (0.16 mg 100 g<sup>-1</sup>), Ca (346.7 mg 100 g<sup>-1</sup>), Mg (176.4 mg 100 g<sup>-1</sup>), Fe (4.94 mg 100 g<sup>-1</sup>), Zn (3.98 mg 100 g<sup>-1</sup>) content ~~were was~~ higher with the application of FYM @ 50% RDN (basal) + Vermicompost @ 50% RDN (top dressing) in finger millet and was statistically similar with the application of FYM @ 25% RDN (basal) + *toria* oil cake @ 25% RDN (basal) + Vermicompost @ 50% RDN (top dressing). The ~~benefit~~ benefit-cost ratio was higher in SFMI and with the application of FYM @ 50% RDN (basal) + Vermicompost @ 50% RDN (top dressing) to finger millet. The interaction ~~Interaction~~ of establishment methods with organic nutrient management was significant please add the result of this part.

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Keywords:SFMI,organicnutrient,grainyield,qualityparameters

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## Introduction

Millets are sometimes referred to as “Shree-Anna” because of their importance as healthy food. Millets contain about 10 times more Ca and 2-10 times higher Fe than wheat or rice (Bala et al. 2010) <sup>[3]</sup>. Finger millet (*Eleusine coracana* L.) is an important small millet ranking third in India in area and production having the highest productivity. Out of the total minor millets produced, finger millet accounts for about 85% of production in India (Sakamma et al. 2018) <sup>[6]</sup>. In Odisha, the area, production and productivity are 116.8 th/ha, 128.73 th/ha and 1102 kg/ha, respectively (5 Decades of Odisha Agriculture Statistics, 2020) <sup>[1]</sup>. It is nutritionally superior with a high nutrient profile of protein (6-8%), fat (1.3%), calcium (70-76%), lysine (2.86%), tryptophan (1.39%), methionine (2.86%), vitamins, minerals and fibre (Aparna and Ansari, 2017) <sup>[2]</sup>. It is a rich source of calcium, iron, protein, and fiber having high levels of methionine and amino acid. Moreover, presence of the antioxidant properties, low sugar content and phytochemicals make it easily and slowly digestible and is also ideal for patients suffering from diabetes and digestive problems as the grains contain an essential amino acid methionine which has a low glycemic index and no gluten. Due to its plausible health benefits, it is sometimes referred to as a miracle grain. SRI principle has been followed in finger millet which mainly emphasizes on utilizing early growth and vigour of seedlings, less competition for light and nutrients, enhancing resource use efficiency (seeds, water, fertilizer and pesticide) and bringing down dependence on chemical fertilizers, breaking soil anaerobic condition and promoting healthy root growth and increasing soil microbial activity; and thereby enhancing soil organic matter content. Conversion of modern chemically intensive agriculture to a more sustainable form of agriculture like organic farming appears to be an option for maintaining the desirable agricultural production in future. Further, growing finger millet organically may insure nutritional food and farming security at the juncture of climate change.

## Materials and method

The field experiment was conducted at the Agronomy Main Research Farm, Department of Agronomy, College of Agriculture, Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT), Bhubaneswar, Odisha with finger millet grown during

[the](#) *khari* season of 2020 and 2021. The experimental site is situated between 20°15' N latitude, 85°52' E longitude and at an altitude of 25.9 m above the mean sea-level and about 64 km away from the Bay of Bengal, Odisha. The soil was sandy loam in texture, acidic in reaction (pH 4.64),

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low inorganic carbon (4.24 g kg<sup>-1</sup>), medium in available nitrogen (298.1 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>), medium in available phosphorus (17.6 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) and low in available potassium (95 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>). Total rainfall amounting to 989.1 mm (44 rainy days) and 1317.9 mm (59 rainy days) was received during *Kharif* season of 2020 and 2021, respectively. The experiment was laid out in a split plot design with three replications. The treatments comprised of 2 methods of plant establishment viz. M<sub>1</sub>: conventional method of line transplanting (20 cm x 10 cm) and M<sub>2</sub>: system of finger millet intensification (25 cm x 25 cm) in main plot with 4 organic nutrient sources viz. N<sub>1</sub>: FYM @ 100% RDN (basal), N<sub>2</sub>: FYM @ 50% RDN (basal) + Vermicompost @ 50% RDN (basal), N<sub>3</sub>: FYM @ 50% RDN (basal) + Vermicompost @ 50% RDN (top dressing), N<sub>4</sub>: FYM @ 25% RDN (basal) + toria oil cake @ 25% RDN (basal) + Vermicompost @ 50% RDN (top dressing) allotted to subplot in finger millet. The recommended dose of nitrogen (RDN) applied to finger millet was 60 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>. In SFMI, square planting of 12 days old seedling was done @ one seedling hill<sup>1</sup>. The organic formulation 'Jibamruta' was sprayed uniformly to all the treatments at 21 DAT for controlling insect pests and diseases. Weeding operation was done in SFMI by using cycle weeder.

Observations on grain yield, straw yield of finger millet were recorded at harvest and the quality parameters of grains were analyzed. The collected data were analyzed statistically by standard analysis of variance technique for split plot design as suggested by Gomez and Gomez (1984)<sup>[4]</sup> and significant differences between the treatments were compared with the critical difference at ±5% probability by least significant difference.

### Result and discussion

The pooled data of two years of the *Kharif* season of 2020 and 2021 for yield and quality parameters of finger millet are presented in Tables 1 to 3.

#### Effect of establishment method on yield and quality parameters of finger millet grains

The yield parameters like grain yield (2051 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>), straw yield (2901 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) and harvest index (41.42%) were higher in SFMI than the conventional method of line transplanting. Similarly, the quality parameters of finger millet grains viz. protein content (7.56%), protein yield (155.8 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>), crude fibre (3.6 g 100<sup>-1</sup>), and vitamin E (0.14 mg 100g<sup>-1</sup>) were higher in SFMI than line transplanting. The mineral content of grains viz. Ca (344.1 mg 100g<sup>-1</sup>), Mg (164.3 mg 100g<sup>-1</sup>), Fe (4.86 mg 100g<sup>-1</sup>) and Zn (3.71 mg 100g<sup>-1</sup>)

Comment [K1]: Need to be explain about the method of evaluated parameters

content were also higher in SFMI than line transplanting. Yield and quality parameters exhibited high values in SFMI due to better congenial environment provided to augment

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photosynthesis and mobilization of photosynthates from source to sink (Somashekhar and Loganathan, 2020) [8].

### **Effect of organic nutrient management on yield and quality parameters of finger millet grains**

The grain yield ( $2092 \text{ kg ha}^{-1}$ ), straw yield ( $2889 \text{ kg ha}^{-1}$ ), and harvest index (42.00

%) were higher when FYM@50%RDN(basal)+Vermicompost@50%RDN(topdressing) was applied to finger millet but was statistically at par with the

application of FYM@25%RDN(basal)+toria oil cake@25%RDN(basal)+Vermicompost@50%RDN(topdressing). Balanced combination of organic sources is indispensable to supplement nutrients

in accordance with the demand of plants for ensuring higher production and productivity without having a deleterious effect on soil health. Application of FYM provided necessary nutrients readily

and top dressing of vermicompost ensured continuous availability of nutrients throughout the crop growth stages due to steady transformation, mineralization, solubilisation, decomposition of minerals and nutrients that might helped in ensuring superior

yield attributes characters, yield and quality of grains. Supply of nitrogen and other nutrients at the

right time and quantity enables the plant to assimilate sufficient photosynthetic products and thus increased yield attributes and yield of the crop and also bring an improvement towards physical

properties of soil and thereby improving nutrient and water holding capacity (Bhardwaj and Gaur, 1985) [2]. Sharma et al. (2020) [7] also reported that an increase in the

yield of rice due to the addition of various organic manures could be attributed to an adequate supply

of nutrients, higher uptake and recovery of applied nutrients, which in turn, must have improved synthesis and translocation of metabolites to various reproductive structures of the

plant. Similarly, quality parameters viz. protein (7.91%), crude fiber ( $3.9 \text{ g } 100 \text{ g}^{-1}$ ) and vitamin E ( $0.16 \text{ mg } 100 \text{ g}^{-1}$ ) were higher when FYM

@50%RDN(basal)+Vermicompost@50%RDN(topdressing) was applied to finger millet but was statistically at par with application of FYM@25%RDN(basal)+toria oil cake@25%RDN(basal)+Vermicompost@50%RDN(topdressing). Mineral content viz. Ca ( $346.7 \text{ mg } 100 \text{ g}^{-1}$ ), Mg ( $176.4 \text{ mg } 100 \text{ g}^{-1}$ ), Fe ( $4.94 \text{ mg } 100 \text{ g}^{-1}$ ), Zn ( $3.98 \text{ mg } 100 \text{ g}^{-1}$ ) content of finger millet were also higher when FYM@50%RDN(basal)+Vermicompost@50%RDN(topdressing) was applied to

finger millet but was statistically at par with application of FYM@25%RDN(basal)+toria oil cake@25%RDN(basal)+Vermicompost@50%RDN(topdressing). Mineral content viz. Ca ( $346.7 \text{ mg } 100 \text{ g}^{-1}$ ), Mg ( $176.4 \text{ mg } 100 \text{ g}^{-1}$ ), Fe ( $4.94 \text{ mg } 100 \text{ g}^{-1}$ ), Zn ( $3.98 \text{ mg } 100 \text{ g}^{-1}$ ) content of finger millet were also higher when FYM@50%RDN(basal)+Vermicompost@50%RDN(topdressing) was applied to

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fingermilletbutwasstatisticallyatparwithapplicationofFYM@25%RDN(basal)+*toriaoilcake*@25%RDN(basal)+Vermicompost@50%RDN(topdressing).ImprovementinqualityparametersduetocombineduseofFYMandvermicompostwasalsoreportedbyDixit&Gupta.(2000)<sup>[5]</sup>.Theincreaseduptakeofnitrogen to the fingermilletduetovermicompostalongwithFYMresulted in a higheraccumulationofphotosynthateswhichhavetranslocated

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to sink due to better development of source-sink channel resulting in improved grain protein and nutrient content of finger millet. Similar findings were reported by Bana and Gautam. (2009)<sup>[4]</sup>.

### **Interaction**

The [interaction](#) of establishment methods with organic nutrient management was significant. SFMI with the application of FYM @ 50% RDN (basal) + Vermicompost @ 50% RDN (top dressing) produced higher yield and quality parameters. However, it was at par with the application of FYM @ 25% RDN (basal) + toria oil cake @ 25% RDN (basal) + Vermicompost @ 50% RDN (top dressing). This corroborates the findings of Somashekhar and Loganathan. (2020)<sup>[8]</sup>.

Table1.

Grain yield, straw yield and harvest index of finger millet as influenced by establishment method and organic nutrient management

Treatment	Grain yield (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )			Straw yield (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )			Harvest index (%)		
	2020	2021	Pooled	2020	2021	Pooled	2020	2021	Pooled
<b>Establishment method (M) in finger millet</b>									
M1: Line transplanting	1642	1714	1678	2483	2579	2531	39.81	39.93	39.87
M2: SFMI	2007	2095	2051	2844	2958	2901	41.37	41.46	41.42
SEm±	46.60	53.30	35.32	57.1	58.89	41.01	0.46	0.46	0.33
CD(0.05)	141.2	161.5	102.3	173.1	178.4	118.8	1.4	1.4	0.9
<b>Nutrient management (N) in finger millet</b>									
N1: FYM @ 100% RDN (basal)	1510	1610	1560	2504	2562	2533	37.62	38.59	38.10
N2: FYM @ 50% RDN (basal) + Vermicompost @ 50% RDN (basal)	1800	1840	1820	2565	2712	2638.5	41.24	40.42	40.83
N3: FYM @ 50% RDN (basal) + Vermicompost @ 50% RDN (top dressing)	2028	2157	2092	2812	2967	2889.5	41.90	42.10	42.00
N4: FYM @ 25% (basal) + toria oil cake @ 25% RDN (basal) + Vermicompost @ 50% RDN (top dressing)	1961	2011	1986	2773	2833	2803	41.42	41.52	41.47
S.Em(±)	65.90	75.37	49.95	80.73	82.57	57.74	0.20	0.20	0.14
C.D(0.05)	199.7	228.4	144.6	244.8	252.2	167.2	0.6	0.6	0.4
<b>M x N</b>									
S.Em(±)	126.10	139.60	93.95	148.30	152.20	106.25	0.78	0.78	0.55
CD(0.05)	382.0	422.9	270.6	449.3	461.1	306.0	2.4	2.4	1.6

**Table2. Quality parameters of finger millet as influenced by establishment method and organic nutrient management**

Treatment	Protein content (%)			Protein yield (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )			Crude fibre (g/100 g)			Vitamin E (mg/100g)		
	2020	2021	Pooled	2020	2021	Pooled	2020	2021	Pooled	2020	2021	Pooled
<b>Establishment method (M) in finger millet</b>												
M1: Line transplanting	7.44	7.50	7.47	122.1	128.6	125.3	3.0	3.4	3.2	0.08	0.12	0.1
M2: SFMI	7.56	7.63	7.59	151.8	159.7	155.8	3.5	3.7	3.6	0.12	0.16	0.14
SEm±	0.03	0.03	0.02	5.38	6.03	4.03	0.13	0.06	0.06	0.009	0.009	0.006
C.D(0.05)	0.10	0.11	0.06	16.32	18.28	11.7	0.4	0.2	0.19	0.03	0.03	0.01
<b>Nutrient management (N) in finger millet</b>												
N1: FYM@100% RDN (basal)	7.06	7.13	7.09	106.6	114.7	110.7	2.9	3.1	3.0	0.06	0.1	0.08
N2: FYM @ 50% RDN (basal) + Vermicompost @50% RDN (basal)	7.44	7.56	7.50	133.9	139.2	136.5	3.0	3.2	3.1	0.09	0.11	0.10
N3: FYM @ 50% RDN (basal) + Vermicompost @50% RDN (top dressing)	7.88	7.94	7.91	159.7	171.2	165.5	3.8	4.0	3.9	0.14	0.18	0.16
N4: FYM@25% (basal+toria oilcake @25% RDN (basal) + Vermicompost @ 50% RDN (top dressing)	7.62	7.63	7.63	149.5	153.3	151.4	3.3	3.9	3.6	0.11	0.17	0.14
S.E.m(±)	0.13	0.10	0.008	5.65	6.10	4.15	0.23	0.19	0.14	0.01	0.02	0.01
C.D(0.05)	0.41	0.32	0.23	17.1	18.5	12.04	0.7	0.6	0.43	0.04	0.05	0.03
M x N												
S.Em(±)	0.22	0.23	0.15	12.3	12.8	8.87	0.48	0.36	0.29	0.02	0.02	0.01
CD(0.05)	0.7	0.7	0.45	37.2	38.8	25.6	1.4	1.0	0.85	0.06	0.06	0.04

**Table3 Quality parameters of finger millet as influenced by establishment method and organic nutrient management**

Treatment	Mineral content (mg 100g <sup>-1</sup> )											
	Ca			Mg			Fe			Zn		
	2020	2021	Pooled	2020	2021	Pooled	2020	2021	Pooled	2020	2021	Pooled
<b>Establishment method (M) in finger millet</b>												
M1: Line transplanting	311.6	312.6	312.1	144.1	149.2	147.1	4.69	4.76	4.72	3.53	3.55	3.54
M2: SFMI	344.0	344.2	344.1	160.3	168.1	164.3	4.85	4.88	4.86	3.69	3.72	3.71
SEm±	6.20	6.73	4.57	4.15	4.65	3.18	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.02
CD(0.05)	18.8	20.4	13.2	12.6	14.1	9.23	0.12	0.10	0.06	0.12	0.14	0.07
<b>Nutrient management (N) in finger millet</b>												
N1: FYM@100%RDN(basal)	306.7	307.1	306.9	129.2	135.2	132.2	4.65	4.71	4.68	3.31	3.34	3.33
N2: FYM@50%RDN(basal)+Vermicompost@50%RDN(basal)	323.5	324.5	324.0	144.1	148.3	146.1	4.69	4.75	4.72	3.45	3.47	3.46
N3: FYM@50%RDN(basal)+Vermicompost@50%RDN(Topdressing)	346.3	347.1	346.7	174.2	178.8	176.4	4.93	4.95	4.94	3.97	3.99	3.98
N4: FYM@25%(basal)+Vermicompost@50%RDN(topdressing)+ toria oil cake@25%RDN(basal)	334.7	334.9	334.8	161.3	172.3	166.8	4.81	4.87	4.84	3.71	3.74	3.72
S.E.m(±)	6.0	4.7	3.78	4.52	4.05	3.03	0.05	0.05	0.02	0.10	0.11	0.07
CD(0.05)	18.3	14.4	10.9	13.7	12.3	8.8	0.18	0.17	0.07	0.31	0.34	0.21
M x N												
S.Em(±)	13.40	12.20	9.01	9.87	9.61	6.88	0.11	0.12	0.08	0.18	0.22	0.14
CD(0.05)	40.6	36.9	26.0	29.9	29.1	19.8	0.33	0.36	0.23	0.54	0.66	0.42

## Conclusion

The study indicates that SFMI method of crop establishment resulted in superior grain yield, straw yield and harvest index of finger millet over the conventional method of line transplanting. Application of FYM @ 50% RDN as basal + Vermicompost @ 50% RDN as top dressing to finger millet resulted in higher yield in finger millet and this was statistically similar with the application of FYM @ 25% RDN (basal) + toria oil cake @ 25% RDN (basal) + Vermicompost @ 50% RDN (top dressing) to finger millet.

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