

Effect of Ta41 on Growth, Yield and Quality of Cucumber (*Cucumis Sativus* L.) Laxmi F1 Hybrid.

Abstract

The present experiment was carried out during 2021-22 in Central Horticulture Research Farm of Department of Horticulture, SHUATS, Prayagraj. The experiment was conducted in Randomized Block Design with 10 treatment replicated thrice. The treatments were T₀ (Without any treatment of TA41), T₁ (soil drenching of TA41 @ 10ml/L), T₂ (soil drenching of TA41 @ 10ml/L + Foliar spray 20ml/spray tank), T₃ (Soil drenching of TA41 @ 15ml/L), T₄ (Soil drenching of TA41 @ 15ml/+Foliar spray 30ml/Spray tank), T₅ (Soil drenching of TA41 @ 20ml/L), T₆ (Soil drenching of TA41 @ 20ml /L + foliar spray 40ml / spray tank), T₇ (Soil drenching of TA41 @ 25ml /L), T₈ (Soil drenching of TA41 @ 25ml/l + foliar spray 50ml/spray tank), T₉ (Foliar spray of TA41 @ 30 ml/spray tank). On the basis of our findings it was concluded that the treatment T₄ (Soil drenching of TA41 @ 15ml/+Foliar spray 30ml/Spray tank) was found to be best in the terms of Vegetative growth, Yield and Yield parameters, Quality parameters, Shelf life and Benefit cost ratio.

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Keywords: TA41, Trichoderma, Cucumber, Growth, Quality and B:C Ratio.

Introduction

Vegetables are protective food. They are rich in vitamins and minerals which are most essential for maintaining good health of human. Among the vitamins, vitamin A, B, C, D and E are important. All vitamins are found in small or large quantities in the common vegetable crops. According to recommendation made by the ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research), an average man with vegetarian or non-vegetarian food habit should consume 300 g of vegetables in his daily diet. It recommended that 125 g of these should be green leafy vegetables, 100 g of roots and tubers vegetables and the remaining 75 g of other vegetables. But our present consumption of vegetables is 184 g per day per capita. This means that we need to produce and consume vegetables than we do as present. Cucumber (*Cucumis sativus* L.) is one of the oldest cultivated vegetable crops having its origin probably in India. It belongs to family "Cucurbitaceae" genus *Cucumis*. The fruit of cucumber is said to have cooling effect, prevent constipation, checks jaundice and indigestion. Fruit is also used as astringent and antipyretic. Nutritively 100 g edible portion of cucumber contains 96.3 g moisture, 2.5 g carbohydrates, 0.4 g protein, 0.1 g fat, 0.3

g, 1.5 mg of iron 0.4 g fibre and traces of vitamin C and iron.

Cucurbitaceous plants have variable range of male and female flowers. The production of male flowers is greater than that of female flowers and ultimately only the female flowers contribute towards yields. Increase in number of female flowers per vine would obviously result into more production of fruits. The expression of different sex forms is influenced by genetic factors, the manifestation of which is influenced by environmental conditions. Besides, exogenous applications of plant hormones play an important role in changing sex tendency in these plants. Subsequently, growth regulating chemicals became important tools in this respect.

TA41 (*Trichoderma asperelloides*) is a multifunctional organic growth promoter that takes care of viral, fungal, and sucking pests. As a result of this, the quality of crop produce is highly improved and increases the growth and yield of crops by 50%. It can be used for any types of crops. TA41 effectively controls and prevents soft-bodied sucking pests such as whiteflies, aphids, mites, scale insects, thrips, mealy bugs, and planthoppers. It is very effective & works quickly against sucking pests. TA41 also helps in retaining soil moisture and prevent

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soil erosion and develops healthy soil for high yield.

Trichoderma species use different mechanisms for pathogen inhibition, such as myco- parasitism via hydrolytic enzyme secretion, antibiosis via secondary metabolite production, competition for space and nutrients, promoting plant growth, and inducing plant systemic resistance mechanisms . Trichoderma spp. are effective biocontrol agents due to the rapid multiplication or the tolerance of harsh conditions . Trichoderma spp. have potent antagonism and mycoparasitic actions on plant pathogens, allowing them to reduce the incidence of plant diseases, and the main mechanism for Trichoderma species is hyper-parasitism .Many genes in Trichoderma spp. encoding extracellular proteases and oligopeptide transporters are expressed when contacts occur between Trichoderma spp. and the host-pathogen . During the hyper parasitic process, cell wall degrading enzymes (CWDEs), i.e., glucanases, chitinase, and proteinases, can be secreted by Trichoderma spp. The secreted CWDEs can degrade the plant pathogen's cell wall . The Trichoderma colonization of roots causes root hair growth and triggers defense activities, such as significant changes in a variety of metabolic

pathways and the activation of genes involved in plant host defense, primarily through signaling pathways involving jasmonic acid and ethylene. In Arabidopsis, colonization by Trichoderma fungus before infection by biotrophic or necrotrophic plant pathogens triggered an oxidizing status that enhanced resistance systemically.

Materials and Methods

The present investigation entitled “**Effect Of TA41 On Growth, Yield And Quality Of Cucumber (*Cucumis Sativus L.*) Laxmi F1 Hybrid.**” was conducted at the central research farm of Department of Horticulture, Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences Prayagraj during 2022.

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Climatic condition

The area of Prayagraj district comes under subtropical belt in the south east of Uttar Pradesh, which experience extremely hot summer and fairly cold winter. The maximum temperature of the location reaches up to 46° C-48° C and seldom falls as low as 4°C- 5°C. The relative humidity ranges between 20 to 94 %. The average rainfall in this area is around 1013.4 mm annually. However, occasional precipitation is also not uncommon during winter months.

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The experiment was conducted in Randomized Block Design with 10 treatment replicated thrice. The treatments were T_0 (Without any treatment of TA41), T_1 (soil drenching of TA41 @ 10ml/L), T_2 (soil drenching of TA41 @ 10ml/L + Foliar spray 20ml/spray tank), T_3 (Soil drenching of TA41 @ 15ml/L), T_4 (Soil drenching of TA41 @ 15ml/+Foliar spray 30ml/Spray tank), T_5 (Soil drenching of TA41 @ 20ml/L), T_6 (Soil drenching of TA41 @ 20ml /L + foliar spray 40ml / spray tank), T_7 (Soil drenching of TA41 @ 25ml /L), T_8 (Soil drenching of TA41 @ 25ml/l + foliar spray 50ml/spray tank), T_9 (Foliar spray of TA41 @ 30 ml/spray tank).

Experimental Findings

The maximum Vine length was recorded in the Treatment T4 (Soil drenching of TA41 @ 15ml/+Foliar spray 30ml/Spray tank) with (131.46) cm, followed by T9 (Foliar spray of TA41 @ 30 ml/spray tank) with (127.95) cm and the minimum was recorded in T0 (Control) with (115.34) cm.

The maximum number of leaves were recorded in the Treatment T4 (Soil drenching of TA41 @ 15ml/+Foliar spray 30ml/Spray tank) with (50.65) , followed by T9 (Foliar spray of TA41 @ 30 ml/spray

tank) with (49.37) and the minimum was recorded in T0 (Control) with (44.36).

The maximum leaf length (cm) were recorded in the Treatment T4 (Soil drenching of TA41 @ 15ml/+Foliar spray 30ml/Spray tank) with (17.86) cm , followed by T9 (Foliar spray of TA41 @ 30 ml/spray tank) with (17.05) cm and the minimum was recorded in T0 (Control) with (13.52) cm.

The maximum leaf area (cm²) were recorded in the Treatment T4 (Soil drenching of TA41 @ 15ml/+Foliar spray 30ml/Spray tank) with (293.28) cm², followed by T9 (Foliar spray of TA41 @ 30 ml/spray tank) with (279.59) cm² and the minimum was recorded in T0 (Control) with (258.92) cm².

The minimum days for harvesting were recorded in the Treatment T4 (Soil drenching of TA41 @ 15ml/+Foliar spray 30ml/Spray tank) with (52.32) , followed by T9 (Foliar spray of TA41 @ 30 ml/spray tank) with (52.68) and the maximum was recorded in T0 (Control) with (258.92).

The maximum fruit length were recorded in the Treatment T4 (Soil drenching of TA41 @ 15ml/+Foliar spray 30ml/Spray tank) with (18.53) cm, followed by T9 (Foliar spray of TA41 @ 30 ml/spray tank) with (17.32) cm

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and the minimum was recorded in T0 (Control) with (14.23) cm.

The maximum fruit width were recorded in the Treatment T4 (Soil drenching of TA41@ 15ml/+Foliar spray 30ml/Spray tank) with (25.628) mm, followed by T9 (Foliar spray of TA41 @ 30 ml/spray tank) with (24.35) mm and the minimum was recorded in T0 (Control) with (18.56) mm.

The maximum number of fruits were recorded in the Treatment T4 (Soil drenching of TA41@ 15ml/+Foliar spray 30ml/Spray tank) with (13.78), followed by T9 (Foliar spray of TA41 @ 30 ml/spray tank) with (13.12) and the minimum was recorded in T0 (Control) with (9.23).

The maximum weight of fruit were recorded in the Treatment T4 (Soil drenching of TA41@ 15ml/+Foliar spray 30ml/Spray tank) with (195.26)g, followed by T9 (Foliar spray of TA41 @ 30 ml/spray tank) with (190.35) g and the minimum was recorded in T0 (Control) with (170.65) g.

The maximum score for TSS ⁰B were recorded in the Treatment T4 (Soil drenching of TA41@ 15ml/+Foliar spray 30ml/Spray tank) with (6.02) ⁰B, followed by T9 (Foliar spray of TA41 @ 30 ml/spray

tank) with (5.56) ⁰B and the minimum was recorded in T0 (Control) with (4.21) ⁰B.

The maximum test weight of seed were recorded in the Treatment T4 (Soil drenching of TA41@ 15ml/+Foliar spray 30ml/Spray tank) with (32.89) , followed by T9 (Foliar spray of TA41 @ 30 ml/spray tank) with (32.21) and the minimum was recorded in T0 (Control) with (26.33).

The maximum B:C ratio were recorded in the Treatment T4 (Soil drenching of TA41@ 15ml/+Foliar spray 30ml/Spray tank) with (2.37), followed by T9 (Foliar spray of TA41 @ 30 ml/spray tank) with (1.99) and the minimum was recorded in T0 (Control) with (1.89).

Conclusion

On the basis of our findings it was concluded that the treatment T₄ (Soil drenching of TA41@ 15ml/+Foliar spray 30ml/Spray tank) was found to be best in the terms of Vegetative growth, Yield and Yield parameters, Quality parameters, Shelf life and Benefit cost ratio.

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Table 1 Effect of TA41 on vine length (cm), no. of leaves, length of leaves (cm) and Leaf area (cm²) of Cucumber.

Treatment	Vine length (cm)			No. of leaves			Length of leaves (cm)			Leaf area (cm ²)		
	30 DAP	60 DAP	90 DAP	30 DAP	60 DAP	90 DAP	30 DAP	60 DAP	90 DAP	30 DAP	60 DAP	90 DAP
T0	55.62	85.64	115.34	9.59	24.35	44.36	5.63	8.28	13.52	132.55	193	258.92
T1	59.67	89.46	119.46	10.25	25.36	45.15	6.63	9.28	14.52	132.98	193.49	259.65
T2	64.59	94.29	124.38	11.36	26.34	46.28	7.45	10.1	15.34	134.25	195.64	261.65
T3	61.49	91.73	121.37	13.25	28.34	48.27	6.97	9.62	14.86	135.48	198.26	249.65
T4	70.34	100.49	131.46	14.26	30.26	50.65	9.97	12.62	17.86	138.65	201.93	293.28
T5	63.12	93.49	123.64	12.65	27.12	47.21	8.46	11.11	16.35	135.89	199.24	268.34
T6	64.38	94.72	125.64	13.45	28.68	48.08	7.93	10.58	15.82	136.59	198.46	276.59
T7	65.27	95.67	126.46	12.92	27.82	47.09	8.9	11.55	16.79	136.73	196.59	270.59
T8	66.45	96.19	125.94	12.43	28.11	48.34	8.2	10.85	16.09	135.98	197.26	273.49
T9	67.19	97.08	127.95	13.86	29.46	49.37	9.16	11.81	17.05	137.25	200.23	279.59
F Test	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
C.D.@ 5%	1.56	1.78	2.05	2.35	1.98	1.74	0.49	0.782	1.59	4.35	5.32	6.21
SE.d.	0.78	0.85	1.02	1.1	1.05	0.89	0.24	0.351	0.68	2.31	2.51	3.21

Table 2 Effect of TA41 on days to first flowering & harvesting, no. of flowers/plant, no. of fruits/plant, fruit length, fruit width, fruit weight, fruit yield, TSS, Test weight, shelf life and B:C ratio.

Treatment	Days to First Flowering	Days to first Harvesting	Number of flower/Plant	Number of fruit/Pant	Fruit Length (cm)	Fruit width (mm)	Fruit weight (g)	Fruit Yield (q ha ⁻¹)	TSS (^o Brix)	Test Weight	Shelf life	B:C Ratio
T0	39.65	55.65	11.53	9.23	14.23	18.56	175.65	161.25	4.21	26.33	4.56	1.89
T1	35.26	54.26	12.78	10.23	14.35	19.65	181.26	165.35	4.35	27.35	4.73	1.91
T2	35.67	54.39	14.56	11.65	14.89	20.35	188.64	166.49	5.12	27.89	5.12	1.92
T3	36.16	53.56	13.72	10.98	15.62	22.46	178.95	167.82	5.09	29.36	5.62	1.94
T4	34.12	52.32	17.22	13.78	18.53	25.62	195.26	171.35	6.02	32.89	6.86	2.37
T5	34.98	54.82	15.42	12.34	16.46	23.65	186.26	168.59	4.64	30.31	6.45	1.92
T6	35.02	53.26	16.18	12.95	16.89	22.89	187.38	169.37	4.82	31.26	6.59	1.93
T7	35.37	53.46	14.97	11.98	15.82	21.65	188.91	168.82	4.18	30.59	5.92	1.96
T8	36.56	54.75	15.8	12.64	17.08	23.46	189.21	167.95	5.36	31.95	6.08	1.95
T9	34.56	52.68	16.40	13.12	17.32	24.35	190.35	170.26	5.56	32.21	6.75	1.99
F Test	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
C.D._{@ 5 %}	2.13	4.26	2.34	0.81	1.56	2.86	4.35	6.56	1.55	2.31	0.89	
SE.d.	1.02	2.32	1.11	0.48	0.64	1.42	2.12	3.46	0.61	1.26	0.41	

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