

Original Research Article

ASSESSMENT OF SOIL QUALITY INDICATORS OF SOIL FROM DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS OF NAI, SHUATS, PRAYAGRAJ

Abstract

An assessment of soil health parameter properties of soil from different departments of NAI, SHUATS, Prayagraj carried out 2022. The prime objectives of this study were to carry out the soil health parameter properties of soil at different depths of various department research farm to determine the availability of macronutrients and micronutrients in soil of these soil samples provided the assessment. 7 sampling locations were selected. Soil samples were collected with depth of 0-15cm, 15-30 cm and 30-45 cm respectively. The soil colour dry condition varied from Light yellowish brown, dark yellowish brown, Pale olive, pale brown, pale yellow, Light olive brown, Yellowish brown, Olive yellow, Dark brown and in wet condition varied from Olive brown, Olive, Dark brown, Dark yellowish brown, light olive brown, Olive yellow and Dark yellowish. The soil texture was dominantly sandy loam in every site. The bulk density ranged from 1.170 to 1.432 Mg m^{-3} . The Particle density ranged from 2.22 to 2.50 Mg m^{-3} . The pore space ranged from 42.50 to 51.24%. The water holding capacity ranged from 41.33 to 49.20%. The soil pH ranged from 7.37 to 7.78. The electrical conductivity ranged from 0.28 to 0.44 dS m^{-1} . The soil organic carbon ranged from 0.16 to 0.42 %. The available nitrogen ranged from 195.5 to 256.0 kg ha^{-1} . The available phosphorus ranged from 14.43 to 23.95 kg ha^{-1} . The available potassium ranged from 132.00 to 206.00 kg ha^{-1} . The available sulphur ranged from

13.12 to 18.53 mg kg⁻¹. The available zinc ranged from 0.60 to 0.72 mg kg⁻¹. There is an including awareness of the need to pay greater attention in the role of macronutrients enhancement in the soil for good soil health and proper nutrition of plants so as to attain optimum economic yield and soil is suitable for all major tropical and sub-tropical crops.

Key words: Soil health parameter, nutrients etc.

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INTRODUCTION

Revolution in India is frequently discussed, as is its varied record of achievements and failures. The green revolution's technology resulted in a rise in the production of the majority of crops. Over the last few decades, the use of high yielding cultivars and excessive chemical fertilizers to optimise crop output in Indian agriculture has resulted in a slew of issues affecting soil health, fertility, productivity, the environment, and farmers themselves. In comparison to other countries' soils, India's fertility and production are currently very low. This is due to the combined effect of many variables such as a lack of moisture, a lack of plant nutrients, and poor soil management. It is critical to have a thorough understanding of the soil in order to improve soil production. Knowing the condition of plant nutrients in the soil aids in more over 70% of India's population is dependent on agriculture, either directly or indirectly. The green determining the amount and type of fertilizers and manures to apply to a specific crop, It aids in the avoidance of fertilizer-related economic losses **Chaudhary et al. (2019)**. Land use change causes significant alteration of soil reaction, soil organic matter (SOM), nutrient status, soil physical quality and microbial activity in the rhizosphere, observed that deforestation and intensive cultivation in the same land results in soil pH and acidification. Soil organic carbon (SOC) is generally considered as crucial regulating factor of both soil physical and chemical quality **Cotrufot et al. (2011)**. About 30% loss of soil organic carbon due to

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conversion of natural grassland and forests into croplands **Bot and Bnites(2005)**. Soil fertility may be defined as the inherent capacity of soil to provide all essential nutrients in available form in a suitable balance for plant growth and development. According to soil fertility is the availability status of essential macro and micro nutrients in the soil. Conversion of land uses may change the soil properties which affects the soil fertility **Onwudike et al. (2015)**. Legume based cropping system has positive effects on soil structure improvement, enhanced phosphorus availability through secretion of enzymes and acids in the rhizosphere of legumes and enhance VAM colonization. Assessment of soil biological activities is also important to maintain the sustainability of soil ecology. Maintenance and improvement of soil health in continuous land use systems are very important to sustain agricultural productivity for the future which is not only helpful to the farming community in providing assured income but also protect the land from its degradation. A better understanding of the impact of land use system on chemical, physical and biological properties of soil is essential for evaluation of soil quality and thereby enhancing cropping system sustainability **Aparicio and Costa (2007)**. Soil macro and micro nutrients availability and distribution are depends on soil pH, SOM contents and several physical, chemical and biological conditions of the rhizosphere. Different land uses play an important role in affecting soil quality and health by leaf litter, soil binding through root system, checking runoff, soil and nutrient losses *etc.* Land use system, defined as, the arrangements, activities and inputs people undertake in a certain land cover type to produce change or improve it cropping system can influence a range of soil properties depending on the specific crop rotations, nutrients amendments and tillage practices done **Mastoet al.(2007)**. Crop rotation with grain legumes have been recognized as an important practice for improving soil fertility for a long term because of their N₂ fixation ability **Crews and Peoples (2004)**.

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MATERIAL AND METHOD

Soil sample collected with the help of soil auger from 7 departments (D₁- Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, D₂- Agronomy, D₃- Genetic and Plant Breeding, D₄- Horticulture, D₅- Plant Protection, D₆- Agro Forestry and D₇- Commercial Farm) of NAI, SHUATS, Prayagraj. Analysis of the soil samples were under the methods, the physical parameters include Soil colour, Soil texture, Bulk density, Particle density, Pore space, Water holding capacity, whereas chemical parameters include pH, Electrical conductivity, Organic carbon, Macronutrients (N, P, K, Ca, Mg and S) and Micronutrients (Cu, Mn, Fe, B and Zn). Soil textural class was determined by using **Hydrometer Bouyoucos(1927)**. Bulk density, Particle density, Water holding capacity was determined by using Graduated Measuring Cylinder method **Muthuval et al.(1992)**. pH was estimated with the help of Digital pH meter after making 1:2.5 soil water suspension **Jackson(1958)**. Electrical conductivity was estimated with the help of Digital conductivity meter **Wilcox(1950)**. Percent Organic Carbon was estimated by Wet Oxidation method **Walkley and Black(1947)**. Available nitrogen was estimated by Alkaline Potassium Permanganate method, using **Kjeldahl apparatus Subbiah and Asija(1956)**. Available Phosphorus was estimated by Photoelectric colorimeter method **Olsen's et al. (1945)**. Available Potassium was estimated by Neutral normal Ammonium Acetate extraction followed by Flame photometric method **Toth and Prince(1949)**. available calcium and magnesium was estimated by EDTA Titration method **Jackson (1973)**, available sulphur was estimated by Reduction method **Johnson and Nishita(1952)**, zinc estimated by **Lindsay and Novell(1978)**.

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RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Physical Properties

As given in table 1. The soil textural classes identified as sandy loam. The sand, silt and clay percentage varied from 50 to 65 % sand, 20 to 33 % silt and 15 to 20 % clay in Sandy Loam. Bulk density was varied from the 1.170 to 1.432 $Mg\ m^{-3}$ and the highest Bulk density was found in D₂- agronomy. Particle density varied from 2.22 to 2.50 $Mg\ m^{-3}$ and the highest Particle density was found in D₄- horticulture. The Pore Space ranged from 42.50 to 51.24%. The highest Pore space % was found at D₄- horticulture.

Table: 1. Determination of bulk density, particle density, water holding capacity and pore space in various depths at different research farm of NAI, SHUATS, Prayagraj

Deptt.	Bulk density			Particle density			Pore space		
	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	30-45 cm	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	30-45 cm	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	30-45 cm
D ₁	1.172	1.195	1.220	2.31	2.35	2.39	48.22	44.34	42.50
D ₂	1.332	1.384	1.432	2.35	2.38	2.39	50.28	47.53	44.56
D ₃	1.227	1.259	1.265	2.42	2.46	2.49	51.14	47.68	43.78
D ₄	1.221	1.249	1.254	2.48	2.49	2.50	51.24	48.33	44.26
D ₅	1.195	1.222	1.248	2.22	2.28	2.31	50.14	47.32	44.18
D ₆	1.284	1.312	1.348	2.47	2.48	2.50	49.19	44.50	43.29
D ₇	1.170	1.225	1.250	2.40	2.46	2.49	48.80	45.90	43.12
Result	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
S. E.m (±)	0.012	0.035	0.059	0.255	0.326	0.514	0.747	0.990	1.773
C.D. at 5%	0.026	0.074	0.124	0.507	0.649	1.023	1.584	2.098	3.759

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Chemical Properties

As given in table 2 The pH value ranged from 7.37 to 7.78. The maximum value found in D₆- agro forestry. The electrical conductivity ranged from 0.28 to 0.44 dS m⁻¹. The maximum value found in D₂- agronomy and D₇- commercial farm. The value of organic carbon varied from 0.16 to 0.42 % and the maximum value of organic carbon content was found in D₂- agronomy and D₇- commercial farm.

Table: 2. Determination of pH, Electrical conductivity and Organic carbon in various depths at different research farm of NAI, SHUATS, Prayagraj

Deptt.	pH			Electrical conductivity			Organic carbon		
	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	30-45 cm	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	30-45 cm	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	30-45 cm
D ₁	7.52	7.62	7.72	0.32	0.38	0.41	0.40	0.32	0.24
D ₂	7.37	7.53	7.63	0.34	0.39	0.44	0.42	0.28	0.18
D ₃	7.43	7.48	7.54	0.30	0.35	0.39	0.39	0.25	0.17
D ₄	7.47	7.53	7.66	0.35	0.39	0.42	0.38	0.22	0.16
D ₅	7.51	7.53	7.73	0.28	0.32	0.38	0.39	0.33	0.22
D ₆	7.66	7.71	7.78	0.29	0.34	0.43	0.41	0.37	0.26
D ₇	7.54	7.62	7.73	0.32	0.39	0.44	0.42	0.36	0.24
Result	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
S. E.m (±)	0.123	0.318	0.309	0.0247	0.0062	0.0044	0.0618	0.0310	0.1543
C.D. at 5%	0.263	0.677	0.657	0.0526	0.0132	0.0093	0.1316	0.0660	0.3286

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Where,

S.E.m(±) Standard Error of Mean

C.D. Critical differences

Macronutrients

As given in table 3 The available nitrogen content of soil ranged from 186 to 256kg ha⁻¹ and Nitrogen content was Medium in all departments. The Available Phosphorus content of soil ranged from 14.43 to 24.28Kg ha⁻¹. The phosphorus content was found low to medium. Available Potassium content of soil ranged from 132 to 206kg ha⁻¹. The potassium content was found Medium in range in all the departments.

Table: 3. Determination of Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium in various depths at different research farm of NAI, SHUATS, Prayagraj

Deptt.	Nitrogen			Phosphorus			Potassium		
	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	30-45 cm	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	30-45 cm	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	30-45 cm
D ₁	230.7	206.7	186.4	20.98	17.51	15.1	194	163	144
D ₂	228.3	212.9	197.0	21.81	18.53	15.94	198	156	139
D ₃	240.4	230.9	212.6	22.88	19.49	16.91	202	164	154
D ₄	230.6	209.8	195.5	20.17	17.85	14.43	195	155	134
D ₅	256.0	238.5	222.6	23.95	18.24	16.78	204	165	146
D ₆	247.8	228.9	202.0	20.53	17.33	15.22	190	153	132
D ₇	242.4	228.7	206.1	24.88	18.14	15.57	206	168	147
Result	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
S. E.m (±)	0.584	0.722	0.611	0.533	0.586	0.742	0.72	0.58	0.87
C.D. at 5%	1.237	1.531	1.296	1.129	1.243	1.573	1.53	1.24	1.85

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Where,

S.E.m(±) Standard error of mean

C.D. Critical difference

Secondary Macronutrients and Micronutrient

As given in table 4 The available calcium content of soil ranged from 0.97 to 1.88 cmol (p+) kg⁻¹, highest calcium was found in D₅- plant protection. The available magnesium content of soil ranged from 0.76 to 1.69 cmol (p+) kg⁻¹, highest magnesium was found in D₅- plant protection. The available zinc ranged from 0.60 to 0.72 mg kg⁻¹, highest zinc was found in D₇- commercial farm.

Table: 4. Determination of Calcium, Magnesium and Zinc in various depths at different research farm of NAI, SHUATS, Prayagraj

Deptt.	Calcium			Magnesium			Zinc		
	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	30-45 cm	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	30-45 cm	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	30-45 cm
D ₁	1.22	1.12	0.98	1.03	0.92	0.76	0.68	0.66	0.65
D ₂	1.32	1.23	1.06	1.13	1.04	0.87	0.66	0.64	0.62
D ₃	1.22	1.13	0.97	1.06	0.94	0.78	0.64	0.62	0.60
D ₄	1.82	1.73	1.65	1.63	1.54	1.46	0.62	0.61	0.60
D ₅	1.88	1.75	1.67	1.69	1.56	1.48	0.67	0.65	0.62
D ₆	1.62	1.53	1.45	1.43	1.32	1.22	0.63	0.61	0.60
D ₇	1.68	1.59	1.51	1.49	1.40	1.32	0.72	0.70	0.67
Result	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
S. E.m (±)	0.002	0.110	0.181	0.634	0.104	0.055	0.0309	0.0261	0.0180
C.D. at 5%	0.005	0.233	0.383	1.344	0.221	0.118	0.0657	0.0555	0.0383

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Where,

S.E.m(±) Standard error of mean

C.D. Critical difference

CONCLUSION

It is concluded from the trial title “**Assessment of Soil Quality Indicators of department Research Farm of NAI, SHUATS, Prayagraj.**” that soil of all research farm of Naini Agricultural Institute, Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences, Prayagraj have medium level in phosphorus and potassium, low in organic carbon and available nitrogen content, the best soil health parameters were found in the department of horticulture viz. soil texture sandy loam, highest percentage pore space and water holding capacity was found. Thus nutrients addition through inorganic fertilizer, organic manures and other sources are essential to maintain soil fertility and productivity of various department of NAI.

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