

## Effect of Incorporation of Sewage Sludge and Fly Ash on Physico-chemical Properties of Inceptisols cultivated with Okra in Prayagraj U.P

Comment [T1]:

### Abstract

The present research was conducted to determine whether it would be feasible to grow Okra (*Abelmoschus esculentus* (L.) Moench] in amended soil utilising sewage sludge and fly ash. Different types of nutrients and heavy metals were found in both soil amendments and for growth of the plant and crop yield they are used as ameliorate in acidic soils. In the research trial, soil properties like Bulk density, Particle density and pH are found to be positively non-significant and Pore space, Water holding capacity, EC, OC, Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium, Iron, Manganese, Zinc and copper are found to be positively significantly low to medium range, which comprises yellowish brown sandy loam textured neutral to alkaline soil that is non-saline in nature among all the treatment combination applied.

### Introduction:

Okra (*Abelmoschus esculentus* (L.) Moench] is a self-pollinating crop belonging to the Malvaceae (Oppong-Sekyere et al., 2011). Its an important annual fruit vegetable commonly grown in the tropics and warmer temperate regions of the world (Patil et al., 2015). Okra probably originated in Ethiopia and is widely spread all over tropical, subtropical and warm temperate regions of the world. Its plays an important role in the human diet by supplying fats, proteins, carbohydrates, minerals and vitamins. Moreover, its mucilage is suitable for certain medical and industrial applications. Therefore, young fruits have reawakened beneficial interest in bringing this crop into commercial production. Okra requires warm temperatures. The optimum temperatures are in the range of 20-30°C, with minimum temperatures of 18°C and maximum of 35°C. (Liu et al. 2005, Kumar et al. 2009). Okra needs rather high quantity of water despite having considerable drought resistance. The plant forms a deeply penetrating tap root with dense shallow feeder roots reaching out in all directions in the upper 45 cm of soil. The composition of Okra pods per 100 g edible portion (81% of the product as purchased, ends trimmed) is: water 88.6 g, energy 144.00 kJ (36 kcal), protein 2.10 g, carbohydrate 8.20 g, fat 0.20 g, Fibre 1.70 g, Ca 84.00 mg, P 90.00 mg, Fe 1.20 mg,  $\beta$ -carotene 185.00  $\mu$ g, riboflavin 0.08 mg, thiamin 0.04 mg, niacin 0.60 mg, ascorbic acid 47.00 mg. Moreover, Okra mucilage is suitable for

industrial and medicinal applications (Akinyele & Temikotan 2007). The edible part or its capsule (pod) measures approximately 15–20 cm in length and has a pyramidal-oblong, pentagonal, hispid appearance. Historically, pods were utilized for various purposes, such as in food, appetite boosters, astringents, and as an aphrodisiac. Furthermore, Okra pods have also been recommended to cure dysentery, gonorrhoea, and urinary complications (Islam *et al.*, 2019). Extracts of young Okra pods have also been reported to display moisturizing and diuretic properties, whereas the seeds of this plant have been reported to possess anticancer and fungicidal properties (Durazzo *et al.*, 2018).

Fly ash (FA), the by-product of coal combustion for energy production is a major environmental problem worldwide. FA management mainly includes its use for cement production, road-base construction, mine reclamation, mineral wool production, recovery of metals, and as aggregate substitute material. Recently FA has gained attention as a potential resource in terrestrial carbon sequestration. The incorporation of FA may also improve physical, chemical, and biological properties and thus benefit agricultural production (Ukwattage *et al.* 2013). Sewage sludge (SS) from the other hand, a by-product of the sewage effluents treatment, constitutes also a serious environmental problem requiring a safe and economical disposal. Due to its composition and properties, SS may be beneficially used in agriculture as substitute of fertilizers or soil amendment. It was found that co-application of FA and SS may enhance the beneficial effects from the soil application of these two by-products. However, FA and SS as inputs may have many benefits for agriculture like facing of nutrient deficiencies, while these by-products contain a number of toxic substances like toxic heavy metals and organic pollutants. Therefore, a proper attention should be paid on the impacts of the use of these materials on soil health, crop quality and heavy metal toxicity and leaching. (Sipkova *et al.*, 2014)

Therefore, the management of both by-products, i.e., FA and SS, is of significant importance for India. Research work showed that both by-products FA and SS may be used in a beneficial and sustainable way facing thus serious environmental problems (Samaras *et al.*, 2008; Tsadilas *et al.*, 2009). The purpose of the present study was to investigate the possibility to use FA and SS in Okra crop separately or together and its influence on yield and soil properties including essential nutrients content as well as toxic heavy metals accumulation.

## Materials and Methods:

The experiment was laid out at research farm of SSAC, SHUATS, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh which is analysed by randomised block design with 12 treatments and 3 replications. The treatments comprises of three levels of SS, i.e. 0, 13 and 26 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> also levels of FA taken 0, 26 and 52 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> with or without NPK. The soil samples were collected randomly from two depths after harvest of Okra. The soil is characterized after incorporation of SS and FA, the properties are:

### Weight of oven dried soil (Mg)

a) Bulk density (Db)  $\text{Mgm}^{-3} = \frac{\text{Weight of oven dried soil (Mg)}}{\text{Volume of soil (m}^{-3}\text{)}}$

### Mass of soil solid (Mg)

b) Particle density (Dp)  $\text{Mgm}^{-3} = \frac{\text{Mass of soil solid (Mg)}}{\text{Volume of solids (m}^{-3}\text{)}}$

### Bulk Density

c) Pore space% =  $(1 - \text{Particle Density} \times 100)$

### Vol. of water absorbed by soil

d) Water holding capacity (WHC) % =  $\frac{\text{Vol. of water absorbed by soil}}{\text{Vol. of soil taken}} \times 100$

## Measurement of chemical parameters:

e) Soil pH - by using Digital pH meter of globe instruments given by (Jackson, 1973).

f) Soil EC (dSm<sup>-1</sup>)-Digital EC meter of globe instruments.

g) Organic Carbon (OC) % - through titration given by Walkley and Black method (1934).

h) Available Nitrogen (Kg ha<sup>-1</sup>)-Kjeldhal Method (Subbaih and Asija, 1956).

i) Available Phosphorus (Kg ha<sup>-1</sup>)- Colorimetric method by using Jasper single beam U.V Spectrophotometer at 660 nm wavelength.

j) Available Potassium (Kg ha<sup>-1</sup>)- Flame photometric method by using Metzer Flame Photometer.

k) Available Fe, Mn, Zn and Cu (ppm)- Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer by instrument perkinelmer given by (Lindsay and Norwell).

Results and Discussion:

Table (1): Effect of Incorporation of Sewage Sludge and Fly Ash on Soil Physical Properties.

Treatment/ depth	D <sub>b</sub> (Mgm <sup>-3</sup> ) (2020)		D <sub>b</sub> (Mgm <sup>-3</sup> ) (2021)		D <sub>p</sub> (Mgm <sup>-3</sup> ) (2020)		D <sub>p</sub> (Mgm <sup>-3</sup> ) (2021)		Percent pore space (2020)		Percent pore space (2021)		Water Holding Capacity (%) (2020)		Water Holding Capacity (%) (2021)	
	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	0-15 cm	15-30 cm
T <sub>1</sub>	1.22	1.25	1.23	1.26	2.25	2.3	2.32	2.41	45.78	45.65	46.3	46.82	41.83	40.16	42.11	40.42
T <sub>2</sub>	1.08	1.13	1.10	1.15	2.12	2.15	2.18	2.27	48.06	47.44	49.08	50.04	45.43	43.61	45.38	43.57
T <sub>3</sub>	1.13	1.17	1.15	1.20	2.13	2.16	2.19	2.28	46.95	45.83	47.46	47.97	45.72	43.89	45.67	43.84
T <sub>4</sub>	1.14	1.18	1.16	1.22	2.16	2.21	2.22	2.31	47.22	46.61	47.73	48.24	43.71	41.96	43.66	41.92
T <sub>5</sub>	1.15	0.20	1.18	1.22	2.18	2.26	2.25	2.34	47.25	44.15	47.76	48.26	43.75	42.00	43.7	41.95
T <sub>6</sub>	1.10	1.12	1.13	1.15	2.13	2.18	2.19	2.28	48.36	47.62	48.86	49.35	45.21	43.40	45.17	43.36
T <sub>7</sub>	1.09	1.14	1.11	1.15	2.15	2.2	2.21	2.3	49.3	48.18	47.32	49.76	44.57	42.78	44.52	42.74
T <sub>8</sub>	1.20	1.22	1.22	1.23	2.21	2.27	2.28	2.37	45.7	46.26	46.23	46.75	42.16	40.47	42.82	41.10
T <sub>9</sub>	1.17	1.20	1.18	1.24	2.18	2.2	2.25	2.34	46.33	45.45	46.85	47.36	43.11	41.39	43.06	41.34
T <sub>10</sub>	1.16	1.19	1.18	1.21	2.17	2.23	2.24	2.32	46.54	46.64	47.06	47.57	43.08	41.35	43.03	41.31
T <sub>11</sub>	1.12	1.16	1.13	1.19	2.14	2.19	2.2	2.29	47.66	47.03	48.17	48.67	46.55	44.69	46.49	44.63
T <sub>12</sub>	1.07	1.11	1.09	1.14	2.1	2.13	2.16	2.25	49.31	48.32	49.54	50.3	47.05	45.17	47.00	45.12
F Test	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
SEm±	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.52	0.85	0.64	0.62	1.02	0.75	0.8	0.71
CD (P=0.05)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.53	2.48	1.89	1.82	2.98	2.2	2.36	2.08

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As depicted in the Table 1, shows that the effect of SS and FA on the physical properties of soil at both depth in both the years. The Db was non-significant at both the depths and the years which was maximum (1.26 Mg m<sup>-3</sup>) in 2021 at 15-30 cm and minimum (1.07 Mg m<sup>-3</sup>) in 2020 at 0-15 cm. The Dp was non-significant in both the depths and in both the years which was maximum (2.41 Mg m<sup>-3</sup>) in 2021 at 15-30 cm and was minimum (2.1 Mg m<sup>-3</sup>) in 2020 at 0-15 cm. The Pore space was significant in both the depths and the years which was maximum (50.3%) in 2021 at 15-30 cm and minimum (45.7%) in 2020 at 15-30 cm. The WHC was significant in both the depths and the years which was maximum (47.0%) in 2020 at 0-15 cm and was minimum (40.16%) in 2021 at 15-30 cm.

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**Table( 2): Effect of Incorporation of Sewage Sludge and Fly Ash on Soil Chemical Properties.**

Treatment /depth	pH (2020)		pH (2021)		EC (dS m <sup>-1</sup> ) (2020)		EC (dS m <sup>-1</sup> ) (2021)		OC (%) (2020)		OC (%) (2021)		Available Nitrogen (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> ) (2020)		Available Nitrogen (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> ) (2021)		Available Phosphorus (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> ) (2020)		Available Phosphorus (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> ) (2021)		Available Potassium (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> ) (2020)		Available Potassium (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> ) (2021)	
	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	0-15 cm	15-30 cm
T <sub>1</sub>	7.58	7.62	7.46	7.58	0.29	0.28	0.28	0.32	0.52	0.5	0.45	0.43	276.08	258.42	256.08	268.89	29.2	27.68	28.64	25.62	185.6	172.28	191.6	173.78
T <sub>2</sub>	7.33	7.45	7.35	7.41	0.28	0.27	0.32	0.36	0.5	0.48	0.52	0.48	257.16	240.68	267.46	252.95	20.42	20.16	19.42	18.75	179.16	167.24	195.36	175.64
T <sub>3</sub>	7.1	7.16	7.32	7.36	0.3	0.29	0.34	0.38	0.6	0.58	0.56	0.52	275.13	252.38	297.23	269.53	27.92	26.98	30.84	28.54	219.52	204.26	249.42	217.86
T <sub>4</sub>	7.18	7.24	7.42	7.47	0.25	0.24	0.3	0.34	0.62	0.6	0.55	0.46	279.8	265.98	302.68	277.65	30.7	29.02	29.35	27.78	241.42	232.17	258.62	246.97
T <sub>5</sub>	6.98	7.06	7.15	7.19	0.26	0.25	0.33	0.37	0.66	0.64	0.58	0.54	293.68	280.14	315.88	294.47	31.98	31.44	30.21	28.96	255.16	243.64	272.26	257.34
T <sub>6</sub>	6.88	7.01	7.22	7.26	0.28	0.27	0.31	0.36	0.73	0.71	0.53	0.51	309.63	295.16	330.43	309.53	34.46	36.52	34.68	32.88	263.82	256.87	281.62	264.57
T <sub>7</sub>	7.3	7.36	7.3	7.32	0.26	0.25	0.34	0.39	0.57	0.55	0.59	0.55	291.56	285.31	312.26	301.76	22.06	23.25	24.76	21.57	220.64	208.24	238.74	216.74
T <sub>8</sub>	7.31	7.41	7.42	7.5	0.27	0.26	0.32	0.37	0.66	0.64	0.62	0.57	329.54	320.14	350.34	336.68	28.55	27.28	28.54	24.55	251.41	238.16	269.31	244.96
T <sub>9</sub>	7.01	7.12	7.21	7.27	0.28	0.27	0.34	0.37	0.68	0.66	0.65	0.59	344.6	331.74	366.26	345.56	33.16	32.25	34.58	31.86	261.12	250.68	278.32	263.48
T <sub>10</sub>	6.92	7.05	7.19	7.23	0.31	0.3	0.36	0.4	0.73	0.71	0.67	0.61	368.2	350.54	381.82	368.37	36.23	36.26	37.35	33.21	290.4	277.61	309.14	285.41
T <sub>11</sub>	6.9	7.04	7.15	7.19	0.32	0.29	0.35	0.39	0.74	0.72	0.7	0.64	379.9	370.44	403.19	389.69	38.28	37.36	41.82	36.34	298.16	289.36	318.26	296.66
T <sub>12</sub>	7.29	7.41	7.36	7.51	0.34	0.32	0.37	0.41	0.78	0.75	0.76	0.66	407.92	403.67	430.02	417.25	46.64	46.18	44.89	39.78	317.31	305.42	335.21	317.52
F Test	NS	NS	NS	NS	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
SEm±	-	-	-	-	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	4.65	3.86	4.69	4.02	0.55	0.46	0.44	0.40	3.52	4.36	4.29	4.42
CD (P=0.05)	-	-	-	-	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02	13.64	11.32	13.76	11.80	1.61	1.35	1.28	1.18	10.32	12.80	12.58	12.96

As depicted in the Table 2, shows that the effect of SS and FA on soil chemical properties. The pH was non-significant in both the depths and in both the years which was maximum (7.58) in 2020 at 15-30 cm and minimum was (6.88) in 2020 at 0-15 cm. The EC was significant in both the depths and in both the years which was maximum (0.41 dSm<sup>-1</sup>) in 2021 at 15-30 cm and minimum was (0.25 dSm<sup>-1</sup>) in 2020 at 15-30 cm. The OC was significant in both the depths and in both the years which was maximum (0.78 %) in 2020 at 0-15 cm and minimum was (0.48%) in 2020 at 15-30 cm. The Nitrogen (kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) was significant in both the depths and in both the years which was maximum (438.67 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) in

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2021 at 0-15 cm and minimum was (252.95 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) in 2020 at 15-30 cm. The Phosphorus was significant in both the depths and in both the years which was maximum (46.64 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) in 2020 at 0- 15 cm and minimum was (20.42 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) in 2021 at 15- 30cm. The Potassium (kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) was significant in both the depths and in both the years which was maximum in 335.21 in 2021 at 0-15 cm and minimum was 167.24 in 2021 at 15-30 cm.

**Table (3): Effect of Incorporation of Sewage Sludge and Fly Ash on Available Micro-nutrients in Soil.**

Treatment/ depth	Available Iron (mg kg <sup>-1</sup> ) (2020)		Available Iron (mg kg <sup>-1</sup> ) (2021)		Available Manganese (mg kg <sup>-1</sup> ) (2020)		Available Manganese (mg kg <sup>-1</sup> ) (2021)		Available Zinc (mg kg <sup>-1</sup> ) (2020)		Available Zinc (mg kg <sup>-1</sup> ) (2021)		Available Copper (mg kg <sup>-1</sup> ) (2020)		Available Copper (mg kg <sup>-1</sup> ) (2021)	
	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	0-15 cm	15-30 cm
T <sub>1</sub>	6.62	4.4	6.951	4.62	6.22	5.42	6.53	5.69	1.04	1.01	1.29	1.06	2.04	1.12	2.142	1.8375
T <sub>2</sub>	18.42	16.05	19.341	16.8525	13.24	11.04	13.90	11.59	1.23	1.84	1.09	0.88	2.24	1.87	2.352	1.9635
T <sub>3</sub>	17.68	15.42	18.564	16.191	14.56	12.36	15.29	12.97	1.5	1.52	1.58	1.16	3.09	2.45	3.2445	2.5725
T <sub>4</sub>	19.85	17.2	20.8425	18.06	15.42	13.34	16.19	14.01	2.45	1.9	2.57	1.99	3.85	2.86	4.0425	3.003
T <sub>5</sub>	28.94	25.42	30.387	26.691	17.84	15.45	18.73	16.22	3.02	2.45	3.72	3.10	4.1	3.24	4.305	3.402
T <sub>6</sub>	33.233	30.2	34.8946	31.71	19.46	17.24	20.43	18.10	3.12	2.32	4.03	3.19	3.9	3.01	4.095	3.1605
T <sub>7</sub>	26.78	23.54	28.119	24.717	15.54	13.24	16.32	13.90	2.04	1.85	1.09	0.89	2.2	2.65	2.31	1.7325
T <sub>8</sub>	21.2	19.85	22.26	20.8425	17.42	15.32	18.29	16.09	2.53	1.72	1.61	1.08	2.94	1.98	3.087	2.079
T <sub>9</sub>	21.85	20.23	22.9425	21.2415	21.09	19.05	22.14	20.01	2.65	1.94	2.78	2.04	3.04	2.24	3.192	2.352
T <sub>10</sub>	20.82	19.24	21.861	20.202	21.45	19.62	22.52	20.60	2.98	2.16	3.13	2.20	3.68	3.01	3.864	3.1605
T <sub>11</sub>	30.54	27.34	32.067	28.707	22.34	20.45	23.46	21.47	3.18	2.48	3.25	2.52	3.94	3.36	4.137	3.36
T <sub>12</sub>	36.54	33.08	38.367	34.734	25.84	23.64	27.13	24.82	3.54	2.85	3.71	2.99	4.34	3.78	4.557	3.969
F Test	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
SEm±	0.40	0.25	0.53	0.40	0.16	0.24	0.31	0.23	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.06	0.05

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<b>CD (P=0.05)</b>	1.16	0.75	1.55	1.17	0.46	0.72	0.91	0.67	0.13	0.10	0.13	0.11	0.16	0.13	0.19	0.13
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As depicted in the Table 3, shows that the effect of SS and FA on soil micronutrients. The Iron was significant in both the depth and in both the years which was maximum in 38.36 in 2021 at 0-15 cm and minimum was 4.4 in 2020 at 15-30 cm. The Manganese was significant in both the depths and in both the years which was maximum in 27.13 in 2021 at 0-15 cm and minimum was 5.42 in 2020 at 15-30 cm. The Zinc was significant in both the depths and in both the years which was maximum in 4.03 in 2021 at 0-15 cm and minimum was 1.01 in 2020 at 15-30 cm. The Copper was significant in both the depths and in both the years which was maximum in 4.55 in 2021 at 0-15 cm and minimum was 1.12 in 2020 at 15-30 cm.

### **Conclusion:**

The research study has revealed that the use of SS and FA has improved the soil physico-chemical properties, the combined use of FA and SS has been proposed to reduce the bioavailability of heavy metals these ameliorant has potential liming capabilities, decreasing pH and having a long-term residual effect. It can be seen as a slow-release supply of components needed for plant growth, as well as a good source of nutrients required for plant growth. At the same time some toxic metal at higher level reduce the productivity of yield. The high concentration of micro nutrient and macronutrient presents in sewage sludge and fly ash increases the yield of Okra.

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