

Effect of basal application of sulphur and foliar application of micro-nutrients on growth and yield of summer Sesame (*Sesamum indicum* L.)

ABSTRACT

A field experiment was conducted during *Zaid* season of 2022 at the Crop Research Farm, Department of Agronomy, Naini Agricultural Institute, Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology And Sciences, Prayagraj (U.P.) India. To study the Response of basal application of sulphur and micro nutrients on growth and yield of summer sesame. The treatments consist of Sulphur 10,20,30 kg/ha and micro nutrients (0.5 % Zinc,0.5% Iron, 0.2% Boron) as a foliar spray. There were 10 treatments each replicated thrice. The soil of experimental plot was sandy loamy in texture, nearly neutral in soil reaction (pH 7.8), low in organic carbon (0.35%) available N (163.42 kg/ha), available P (21.96 kg/ha) and available K (256.48 kg/ha). Results revealed that the higher plant height (95.1 cm), higher plant dry weight (20.48 g/plant), higher crop growth rate (11.79 g/m²/day) maximum number of Capsules/plant (52.9), higher number of seeds/Capsule (63.2), maximum Test weight (3.26g), Higher Seed yield (1.41 t/ha), Stover yield (6.44 t/ha) and Harvest index (17.92 %) were recorded with the treatment Sulphu 30kg/ha + Zinc 0.5%.

Keywords: *summer sesame, sulphur, micro nutrients, growth parameters, yield attributes .*

INTRODUCTION

Sesame (*Sesamum indicum* L.) is a long-cultivated oilseed crop. It ranks right up there with peanuts and rapeseed-mustard as a significant edible oilseed crop. The sesame seed was referred to as the "queen of oilseeds" in ancient literature, and sesame oil is one of the oldest known oils. For Man's consumption (Prasad, 2017). It is One of the oil seed crops that originated in South West Africa is sesame (*Sesamum indicum* L.), which belongs to the Pedaliaceae family. Oil makes up 46–64% of its composition, whereas protein makes up 15%–16%. A little more than 73% of the nation's sesame production is used for oil extraction, 14.5% for domestic uses like making candies and sweets for cooking and confectionary products, 8.3% for hydrogenation, and 4.2 percent for industrial uses like making paints, perfumed oils, pharmaceuticals, and insecticides. (shiny and dawson 2021)

Oilseed crops require more Sulphur than cereal crops, and S deficiency hampers N metabolism in plants as well as synthesis of S-containing amino acids, and thus exerts adverse effects on both seed and oil yield. The S is essential for the plant growth and development, plays a key role in plant metabolism, synthesis of essential oils, and formation chlorophyll (Ajai Singh *et al.*, 2000). It also enhances cell development, cold resistance, and drought hardness (Patel and Shelke, 1995), and constituent of a number of organic compounds (Shamina and Imamul, 2003), oil storage organs particularly oil glands (Jaggi *et al.*, 2000) and vitamin B1 (Thirumalaisamy *et al.*, 2001).

Zinc being one of the essential micronutrients, plays significant role in various enzymatic and physiological activities of the plant body. It is also essential component of synthetic and natural organic complexes in plants. There are estimates that more than 30% of agricultural soils at global level are low in available Zn leading to deficiency in crops cultivated on these soils (Alloway 2008). Therefore, Zn malnutrition has become a major health concern among the resource poor people (Singh, 2011). In India, Zn is one of the multi-nutrient deficiencies causing poor crop yields.

Boron is one of the essential micro-nutrients required for the normal growth of the crops. Its deficiency causes great loses in crop production both qualitatively and quantitatively. The primary function of boron is to maintain cell wall integrity, also needed for cell expansion and hydrogen ions transport ion regulation. In oil seeds it is important for pollen tube growth, flowering, fruit -setting and seed development. It plays a vital role in the transportation of nutrients and water to newly growing plant parts and in the translocation of photosynthes from source to sink. It regulates the opening of stoma and imparts drought resistant to crop. (*The hand book of agriculture 2019; Agronomy facts for competition by meena and sihag 2021*)

Iron plays a role in the formation of plant chlorophyll. Iron containing plant haemoglobins are another promising target for altering Fe content in plant-based foods. Plant Haemoglobin is similar to the human haemoglobin,with Fe binding capacity and is most commonly found in nodulating legumes (nitrogen fixing pl ants)(kundu *et al.*, 2003).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A field experiment was conducted during *zaid* season 2022 at the Crop Research Farm,

Department of Agronomy, Naini Agricultural Institute, sam Higginbottom University of agriculture technology and sciences, prayagraj (U.P.) India. The soil of experimental plot was sandy loamy in texture, nearly neutral in soil reaction (pH 7.8), low in organic carbon (0.35%), The treatments consist of sulphur 10 kg/ha + Zinc foliar 0.5%, sulphur 10 kg/ha + Iron foliar 0.5%, sulphur 10 kg/ha + Boron 0.2%, sulphur 20 kg/ha + Zinc foliar 0.5%, sulphur 20 kg/ha + Iron foliar 0.5%, sulphur 20 kg/ha + Boron 0.2%, sulphur 30 kg/ha + Zinc foliar 0.5%, sulphur 30 kg/ha + Iron foliar 0.5%, sulphur 30 kg/ha + Boron 0.2%, control. The experiment was laid out in Randomized Block Design, with 10 treatments replicated thrice. In the period from germination to harvest several plant growth parameters were recorded those parameters are growth parameters, plant height and plant dry weight are recorded. The yield parameters like No. Capsules/plant, No. Seeds/Capsule, Test weight (g), seed yield (t/ha), Stover yield (t/ha) and harvest index (%). The data were subjected to statistical analysis by analysis of variance method (**Gomez and Gomez, 1976**).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

GROWTH PARAMETERS

Plant height – At harvest significantly higher plant height (95.1 cm) was observed in treatment-7 (sulphur 30 kg/ha + Zinc foliar 0.5%). However, treatment-8 (sulphur 30 kg/ha + Iron foliar 0.5%) was statistically at par with treatment-7 (sulphur 30 kg/ha + Zinc foliar 0.5%). The significantly higher plant height might be due to with the application of sulphur 30 kg/ha. The presence of Sulphur plays vital role in increased metabolic uses of sulphur in plants which seems to have promoted meristematic activities resulting in higher apical growth and expansion of photosynthetic surface. The results were in accordance to **Paul *et al.* (2019)**. Along with the application of zinc has also, show significant improvement on plant height Increase in plant height might be the involvement of zinc in different physiological processes like enzyme activation, electron transport, chlorophyll formation, stomatal regulation, etc. With the increase in levels of zinc the plant height gradually increased, which might be attributable to greater photosynthetic activity and chlorophyll synthesis due to zinc fertilization resulting into better vegetative growth. Similar results were reported by **Shehu (2014)**.

Plant dry weight - At harvest significantly higher plant dry weight (20.48 gm/plant) was observed in treatment-7 (sulphur 30 kg/ha + Zinc foliar 0.5%). However, treatment-8 (sulphur 30 kg/ha + Iron foliar 0.5%) was statistically at par

with treatment-7 (sulphur 30 kg/ha + Zinc foliar 0.5%). The increase in plant dry weight might be influenced with the application of sulphur 30kg/ha. With increase in sulphur application, this might be due to more synthesis of amino acids, increase in chlorophyll content in growing region and improving the photosynthetic activity, ultimately enhancing cell division and thereby increased the crop growth rate. Adequate supply of sulphur results in higher production of photosynthates and their translocation to sink these results are in conformity with **Dev and Sarawgi. (2004)**. Along with that application of Zn on an enhanced branching in sesame and mainly attributed to promotion of shoot development by the auxins whereas Zn application ultimately increased the availability of other nutrients and accelerated the translocation of photo assimilates which ultimately helped in increase of plant dry weight of sesame. Similar results were reported by **Kumar et al. (2014)**.

YIELD ATTRIBUTES

Number of Capsules/Plant - Significantly higher Number of Capsules/Plant (52.9) was recorded with the treatment treatment-7 (30Kg/ha Sulphur + 0.5 % Zinc foliar) which is superior over all the treatments. However, treatment - 9 30Kg/ha Sulphur + 0.2 % Boron foliar were found to be statistically at par with treatment - 7 (30Kg/ha Sulphur + 0.5 % Zinc foliar). The increase in number of capsules per plant was due to the significant improvement in the application of sulphur this could be ascribed to overall improvement in vigour and crop growth as a consequence balanced nutritional environment as discussed above. Supply of sulphur in adequate amount also helps in the development of floral primordia i.e., reproductive parts, which results in the development of capsules and seeds in plants. Similar findings have also been reported earlier by **Tripathi and Rajput (2007)**.

Number of seeds/capsule - Significantly higher Number of Seeds/Capsules (63.2) was recorded with the treatment treatment-7 (30Kg/ha Sulphur + 0.5 % Zinc foliar) which is superior over all the treatments. However, treatment - 9 30Kg/ha Sulphur + 0.2 % Boron foliar were found to be statistically at par with treatment - 7 (30Kg/ha Sulphur + 0.5 % Zinc foliar). The increment in number of seeds/capsule with increasing dose of sulphur application might be better for root growth, cell multiplication, elongation and cell expansion in the plant body by higher dose of sulphur application,

which ultimately increased the seed yield similar results were conformity with **Murmu et al. (2015)**.

Test weight - Significantly higher Number of higher test weight (3.26 gm) was recorded with the treatment treatment-7 (30Kg/ha Sulphur + 0.5 % Zinc foliar) which is superior over all the treatments. However, treatment - 9 30Kg/ha Sulphur + 0.2 % Boron foliar were found to be statistically at par with treatment - 7 (30Kg/ha Sulphur + 0.5 % Zinc foliar). Application of Zinc on sesame crop generally improves capsule growth by synthesizing tryptophan and auxin. The enhancement effect on seeds/capsule and capsules/plant attributed to the favourable influence of the Zn application to crops on nutrient metabolism, biological activity and growth parameters and hence, applied zinc resulted in taller and higher enzyme activity which in turn encouraged more seeds/capsule, capsules/plant and seeds test weight. Similar findings have been reported earlier by **Ram et al. (2021)**.

Seed yield - Significantly higher Seed yield (1.41 t/ha) was recorded with the treatment treatment-7 (30Kg/ha Sulphur + 0.5 % Zinc foliar) which is superior over all the treatments. However, treatment - 9 30Kg/ha Sulphur + 0.2 % Boron foliar were found to be statistically at par with treatment - 7 (30Kg/ha Sulphur + 0.5 % Zinc foliar). This might be due to the stimulatory effect of Sulphur in cell division, cell elongation and setting of cell structure and also higher dose may be responsible for increased leaf area and chlorophyll content causing higher photosynthesis and assimilation, metabolic activities responsible for overall reproductive phase and ultimately improved the seed yield. The results were found in resonance with **Khan et al. (2021)**. Zinc plays a vital role in increasing seed yield because zinc takes place in many physiological process of plant such as chlorophyll formation, stomatal regulation, starch utilization which enhance seed yield. Zinc also converts ammonia to nitrate in crops which contribute to yield. These results are in confirmatory with the work of **Jahan et al. (2019)**.

Stover yield - Significantly higher Stover yield (6.30 t/ha) was recorded with the treatment treatment-7 (30Kg/ha Sulphur + 0.5 % Zinc foliar) which is superior over all the treatments. However, treatment - 9 (30Kg/ha Sulphur + 0.2 % Boron foliar) were found to be statistically at par with treatment - 7 (30Kg/ha Sulphur + 0.5 % Zinc foliar). With the application of sulphur and the bioactivity of sulphur might have played important role in improving yield attributes like capsule per plant, length of capsule and

there by ultimately increase in seed and stalk yield similar results were conformity with **Raja et al., (2007).**

Harvest Index(%) – significantly Maximum Harvest index (17.92%) was recorded with the treatment -7 (30kg/ha Sulphur + 0.5% Zinc foliar) which is superior over all the treatments. However, the treatments Treatment 4 -20kg/ha Sulphur +0.5% Zinc foliar (17.41 %), Treatment 8 – 30kg/ha Sulphur + 0.5% Iron foliar (17.65%) and Treatment 9 – 30kg/ha Sulphur + 0.2% Boron foliar (17.91%) which was found to be statistically at par with Treatment 7 – 30kg/ha Sulphur+ 0.5% Zinc foliar.

CONCLUSION

It was concluded that with the application of Sulphur 30 kg/ha along with the Zinc 0.5% was recorded significantly higher seed yield (1.41t/ha) as compared to the other treatments. Since The findings based on the research done in one season , further trials may be required to confirm the results.

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Table-1. Effect of sulphur and micro nutrients on growth attributes of sesame.

| S. No. | Treatment combinations | Plant height(cm) | Dry weight (g/plant) |
|--------|---------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 1. | Sulphur 10 Kg/ha + 0.5 % Zinc foliar | 93.0 | 18.68 |
| 2. | Sulphur 10 Kg/ha + 0.5 % Iron foliar | 91.4 | 17.88 |
| 3. | Sulphur 10 Kg/ha + 0.2 % Boron foliar | 92.1 | 18.34 |
| 4. | Sulphur 20 Kg/ha + 0.5 % Zinc foliar | 93.9 | 19.74 |
| 5. | Sulphur 20 Kg/ha + 0.5 % Iron foliar | 93.0 | 19.09 |
| 6. | Sulphur 20 Kg/ha + 0.2 % Boron foliar | 93.6 | 19.40 |
| 7. | Sulphur 30 Kg/ha + 0.5 % Zinc foliar | 95.1 | 20.48 |
| 8. | Sulphur 30 Kg/ha + 0.5 % Iron foliar | 94.4 | 20.01 |
| 9. | Sulphur 30 Kg/ha + 0.2 % Boron foliar | 94.6 | 20.33 |
| 10. | control | 89.8 | 17.23 |
| | F test | S | S |
| | S Em.(±) | 0.22 | 0.13 |
| | CD (P=0.05) | 0.66 | 0.41 |

Table-2. Effect of sulphur and micro nutrients on yield attributes of sesame.

| S. No. | Treatment combinations | Capsules/plant | Seeds/capsule | Test weight(g) | Grain yield(t/ha) | Stover yield (t/ha) | Harvest index(%) |
|--------|---------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. | Sulphur 10 Kg/ha + 0.5 % Zinc foliar | 49.4 | 60.9 | 2.84 | 1.07 | 5.97 | 15.20 |
| 2. | Sulphur 10 Kg/ha + 0.5 % Iron foliar | 48.5 | 59.1 | 2.79 | 0.93 | 5.62 | 14.19 |
| 3. | Sulphur 10 Kg/ha + 0.2 % Boron foliar | 49.0 | 59.9 | 2.82 | 0.98 | 5.75 | 14.64 |
| 4. | Sulphur 20 Kg/ha + 0.5 % Zinc foliar | 51.3 | 62.2 | 3.00 | 1.32 | 6.26 | 17.41 |
| 5. | Sulphur 20 Kg/ha + 0.5 % Iron foliar | 50.2 | 61.5 | 2.87 | 1.16 | 6.07 | 15.99 |
| 6. | Sulphur 20 Kg/ha + 0.2 % Boron foliar | 50.8 | 61.8 | 2.93 | 1.25 | 6.18 | 16.81 |
| 7. | Sulphur 30 Kg/ha + 0.5 % Zinc foliar | 52.9 | 63.2 | 3.26 | 1.41 | 6.44 | 17.92 |
| 8. | Sulphur 30 Kg/ha + 0.5 % Iron foliar | 51.9 | 62.4 | 3.07 | 1.35 | 6.30 | 17.65 |
| 9. | Sulphur 30 Kg/ha + 0.2 % Boron foliar | 52.7 | 62.8 | 3.14 | 1.39 | 6.35 | 17.91 |
| 10. | control | 47.7 | 57.8 | 2.63 | 0.83 | 5.27 | 13.64 |
| | F test | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| | S Em.(±) | 0.28 | 0.22 | 0.05 | 0.02 | 0.04 | 0.24 |
| | CD (P=0.05) | 0.85 | 0.66 | 0.13 | 0.06 | 0.14 | 0.72 |

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