

Effect of inorganic Fertilizers and Biogas slurry on Content and Uptake of NPK in Wheat Grown Under Sodic Vertisols

ABSTRACT

Sodic soil reclamation using inorganic ameliorants like mineral gypsum or phosphogypsum is beyond the reach of small and marginal farmers having alkali soils because of their higher market prices and shortage of availability. Conjoint use of inorganic and organic amendments can be a pragmatic solution for improving soil physico-chemical and biological properties and sustaining crop productivity. Keeping in this view a pot experiment was conducted during rabi season of 2015-16 in net house of AICRP on Management of Salt Affected soils and use of Saline Water in Agriculture, College of Agriculture, Indore to study the effect of recommended doses of fertilizer and biogas slurry on uptake and content of NPK in wheat grown under sodic Vertisols. The treatment comprised of T0-Control, T1-100% RDF, T2- 100% RDF + 750 kg BGS ha⁻¹, T3-75% RDF + 750 kg BGS ha⁻¹, T4- 50% RDF + 750 kg BGS ha⁻¹, T5- 100% RDF + 1000 kg BGS ha⁻¹, T6-75% RDF+ 1000 kg BGS ha⁻¹, T7-50% RDF + 1000 kg BGS ha⁻¹, T8-100% RDF + 1250 kg BGS ha⁻¹, T9-75% RDF+ 1250 kg BGS ha⁻¹, T10-50% RDF+ 1250 kg BGS ha⁻¹ were laid in completely randomized design with 3 replications. Results showed that the treatment T9 (75% RDF+1250 kg BGS ha⁻¹) gave maximum dry matter production (0.205, 0.434 and 0.821 g plant⁻¹), N content (2.39, 1.58 and 1.36%), P content (0.41, 0.30 and 0.24%) and K content (1.24, 0.68 and 1.68%) at 30, 60 and 90 DAS. Maximum uptake of N (1.20 and 0.72 g pot⁻¹), P (0.132 and 0.119 g pot⁻¹) and K (0.237 and 1.08 g pot⁻¹) by grain and straw of wheat respectively, were found with the application of T9 (75% RDF+1250 kg BGS ha⁻¹). Thus, it may be concluded that integrated application of 75% RDF+1250 kg BGS ha⁻¹ not only increases dry matter production but also content and uptake by wheat.

Key words- Biogas slurry, Recommended Doses of Fertilizer, Sodic (Alkali), Vertisols.

1. INTRODUCTION

It is estimated that out of 329 M ha total geographical area of India. The area under agriculture is 179.9 M ha and 120.4 M ha area is degraded through one or more degradation type, which in turn is affecting the country's productive resource base. The alkali soils in general are characterized by high soil pH, high exchange sodium percent, low organic carbon, poor filtration and poor fertility status. These soils are dominated by sodium carbonate and sodium bicarbonate salts [5]. To improve sodic soil, a substantial percentage of the exchangeable sodium needs to be removed by calcium ions. This reaction can be quickly accomplished using chemical soil amendments, such as gypsum. These soils first require calcium additions to correct sodium, followed by leaching to remove salts. However, adding industrial acids to soils is an expensive alternative for near-subsistence farmers in developing countries. Thus, alternative and readily available acidic substances such as manure can also help dissolve calcium compounds in soils [19].

The addition of organic amendments in sodic soils binds fine particles together into large water-stable aggregates, increasing porosity and thus improving the soil physical properties [62]. Fertilization with organic matter can be expected to improve salt-affected

Comment [U1]: Reduce word and keep it up within 250, simple, precise & logical.

Comment [U2]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged. Like [1] then [2] and so more.

Comment [U3]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U4]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

soils, regarding their chemical and physicochemical characteristics by decreasing the exchangeable Na^+ content and improve their physical properties by increasing the aggregate stability [13]. Additionally, remediating saline-sodic soils with organic amendments is a cheaper and more sustainable alternative to inorganic materials [44].

Among the many organic fertilizers existing, biogas slurry has not been fully utilized as a fertilizer yet it has great potential of improving soil productivity and crop yield through nutrient supply [50]. Biogas slurry is rich in nutrients and trace elements and can be used as a kind of high-quality organic fertilizer that is generally applied directly or combined with other fertilizer [39, 10]. Organic wastes in cattle cow dung and agricultural wastes added to the biogas digester are converted to inorganic form during decomposition, making them more available for uptake by the plants thus contributing to improved crop yields and soil fertility [33]. Digestates from organic matter such as animal slurry reportedly contains more mineral nitrogen as compared to the undigested ones [40]. In comparison to traditional compost, BGS is an easily available form of compost [56] and is also reported to have stronger plant growth-promoting activities than raw slurries [57]. Nutrient profile of BGS As compared to cow manure, Mdlambuzi et al. [35] found 0.65%, 0.133%, and 0.10% higher values of N, P, and K content (% wt) in BGS respectively. Jared et al. [29] recorded higher levels of Ca, Mg, Fe, Mn, and Zn in slurry compost as compared to BGS. The high concentration of nitrogen in the bio-slurry is attributed to the conversion of organic compounds during anaerobic decomposition to readily available Ammonium-Nitrogen. This is an indication that the bioslurry is a better organic fertilizer than the other commonly used organic fertilizers as soil amendments. Previous studies have shown that appropriate use of biogas slurry can increase soil nutrients, enhance crop nutritional quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, decrease crop disease and have other benefits [53, 59]. It seems that there is a consensus on the ability of biogas slurry to improve the physical and biological quality of soil besides providing both macro and micro-nutrients to crops and vegetables [60]. At the same time, it prevents adverse environmental impacts of waste disposal. Proper utilization of biogas slurry can reduce dependency of many farmers on increasing expensive chemical fertilizers as it contains 20-30% more nutrients than mostly used organic fertilizers such as cow dung, farmyard manure and compost [3, 63]. Sufficient supply of nutrients from soil and fertilizers at early growth stages is of great importance for optimum crop yield. Dry matter and nutrient accumulation in the growing season are the main factors in the determination of seed yield and nutrient use efficiency [32]. For fertilizer recommendations and synchronization of nutrient supply with crop nutrient demand, it is essential to determine the total nutrient requirements and the temporal pattern of uptake during the growing season [1]. Keeping in this view the aimed of research was to study the effect of biogas slurry and recommended doses of fertilizer on yield and chemical composition of wheat and to find out the optimal ratio of chemical fertilizer and biogas slurry to dissolve bio-gas slurry and reduce the chemical fertilizer application.

2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

A pot experiment was conducted during *rabi* seasons of 2015-16 in the net house of Salt Affected Soils Project, College of Agriculture, Indore. The bulk surface soil (0-15 cm) was collected from Salinity Research Farm, Barwaha, district Khargone, Madhya Pradesh. The bulk soil was air dried, crushed with wooden roller and lot was thoroughly mixed before filling of pots.

The experimental soil (Typic Haplustert- sodic phase) had following characteristics: texture clayey, pHs 8.42, ECe 1.26 dSm^{-1} , organic carbon 0.36 %, available N 190, P 10.3 and K 335 kg ha^{-1} . The exchangeable Ca, Mg and Na were 16.01, 5.60 and 17.17 ($\text{c mol (P}^+) \text{ kg}^{-1}$), respectively. The CEC and ESP of soil were 39.6 ($\text{c mol (P}^+) \text{ kg}^{-1}$) and 43.23, respectively.

The biogas slurry was obtained from Dairy Biogas Plant, College of Agriculture, Indore. The biogas slurry thus obtained was dried in an oven at 55°C and subjected to the chemical

Comment [U5]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U6]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U7]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U8]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U9]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U10]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U11]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U12]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U13]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U14]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U15]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U16]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U17]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U18]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U19]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

analysis. The physic-chemical properties of biogas slurry are given in Table 1. The treatment comprised of T0-Control, T1-100% RDF, T2-100% RDF + 750 kg BGS ha⁻¹, T3-75% RDF+ 750 kg BGS ha⁻¹, T4-50% RDF + 750 kg BGS ha⁻¹, T5-100% RDF + 1000 kg BGS ha⁻¹, T6-75% RDF+ 1000 kg BGS ha⁻¹, T7-50% RDF + 1000 kg BGS ha⁻¹, T8-100% RDF + 1250 kg BGS ha⁻¹, T9-75% RDF+ 1250 kg BGS ha⁻¹, T10-50% RDF+ 1250 kg BGS ha⁻¹ were tried in Completely Randomized Design with 3 replications.

Table 1. Characteristics of biogas slurry (BGS) used in experiment

Moisture (%)	pH (1:5)	EC (dSm ⁻¹)	Total N (%)	Total P (%)	Total K (%)	Total Ca (%)	Total Mg (%)
88	6.98	.93	1.60	1.55	1.00	1.60	0.50

China clay pots of approximate 30 kg capacity were used for the present study. The pots were filled with 15 kg of processed soil. The full doses of biogas slurry (BGS) was applied to upper 15 cm soil as per the treatments and moisten the soil for chemical reaction and kept the pots for 15 days. After 15 days, the half of the nitrogen of respective RDF was applied at sowing and remaining half of the N was applied in two equal splits at 22 and 45 days after sowing. The full dose of P and K of respective RDF was given as basal at the time of sowing of wheat. The nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium were given through urea, single super phosphate and muriate of potash, respectively. Fertilization was done by applying a recommended dose of NPK as 120, 90, and 60 kg ha⁻¹, using urea, triple super phosphate, and a muriate of potash, respectively. At the time of field preparation, the total P and K fertilizers were applied, whereas the urea was broadcasted in three split doses (1/3 before sowing, 1/3 at tillering, and 1/3 at the flowering stages of the wheat crop).

Seeds of wheat (var. HI 1077) were shown in pots and irrigated with deionized water. Thinning was done after 8 days of sowing and 5 plants were kept in each pot. The plants were harvested at maturity and grain and straw yield was recorded.

For dry matter in wheat, five plants were first cut from the ground level, air-dried and then oven-dried at 65°C for 48 hours and weighed. Plant samples (grain and straw) were oven dried at 60°C. Total nitrogen in plant samples was determined by micro-Kjeldahl method as outlined by Jackson (1973). Phosphorus and potassium were determined in wet digested samples by Vanado- molybdo phosphoric acid yellow colour method (Chapman and Pratt, 1961) and flame photometer method, respectively. Nutrient uptake in wheat grain and straw was calculated by multiplied nutrient concentration in grain or straw (%) to grain or straw yield (g pot⁻¹).

Comment [U20]: Citation followed by journal system.

Comment [U21]: Citation followed by journal system.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Dry weight at different growth stages

Data showed that (Table 1) all the treatment were found significant over control. Different combination of BGS and RDF were found significant over alone RDF. The minimum dry weight plant⁻¹ (0.106, 0.291 and 0.546g plant⁻¹, respectively) was obtained with control and the maximum values (0.214, 0.448 and 0.854 g plant⁻¹) were obtained with T8 (100% RDF+ 1250 kg BGS ha⁻¹). However, the dry weight plant⁻¹ in treatments T8 and T9- 75% RDF+ 1250 kg BGS ha⁻¹ (0.205, 0.434 and 0.821 g plant⁻¹, respectively) were statistically similar to each other in all periods of recording at 30, 60 and 90 DAS. T8 and T9 showed significant enhancements of 64.61, 24.79 and 19.27% and 57.69, 20.89 and 14.66%, respectively over T1-RDF (0.130, 0.359, 0.716 g plant⁻¹, respectively). Biomass accumulation rate increased with time, reaching a maximum at later stage [32]. Treatment with 100% and 75% dosage of fertilizer had a more significant number of total dry weight compared with 50% dosage [60]. Similar results were also reported by Mdlambuzi et al. [36] who stated that the increase of dry matter yield with the increasing rate of the BGS could be explained by higher uptake of

Comment [U22]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U23]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

NPK. The higher biomass accumulation was a result of increased N availability and uptake of other nutrients. Islam et al., [28] also reported that the higher nutrients increased maize growth and development, leading to higher dry matter yields. The digestion process (biogas production) is believed to convert organically bound nutrients into more readily available forms (11). Several researchers [60, 63] have observed comparatively better results of BGS and RDF than those obtained from chemical fertilizers treatment alone. Total dry matter yield subsequently increased with the increment of higher doses of inorganic N when combined with bioslurry [49]. This is similar to other research comparing plant biomass production under digestate treatments vs mineral fertilizers [4, 55, 45].

Comment [U24]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U25]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U26]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U27]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

3.2 Nitrogen content at different growth stages

Table 1 showed that all the combination of RDF and BGS were found significant over control. The T8 (100% RDF+ 1250 kg BGS ha⁻¹) displayed the significantly higher N content in dry matter of wheat (2.42, 1.61 and 1.39%, respectively) which was found statistically similar with T9- 75% RDF+ 1250 kg BGS ha⁻¹ (2.39, 1.58 and 1.36%, respectively) at 30, 60 and 90 DAS. T8 and T9 were also found significant over all remaining treatment at 30, 60 and 90 DAS. T2 (100% RDF + 750 kg BGS ha⁻¹) and T5 (100% RDF + 1000 kg BGS ha⁻¹) were also found significant over T1 (100% RDF). The recorded improvements due to T8 and T9 were 8.52, 17.51 & 19.82% and 7.17, 15.32 and 17.24%, respectively than that of T1 (100% RDF) at respective growth stages. A positive change in nutrient dynamics was noted with treatment application. In general improvement in soil nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium were observed when bioslurry was applied. Bioslurry contains higher amounts of nitrogen which is readily mineralized and becomes plant available. Therefore, the application of bioslurry is related to higher nitrate availability [41]. Haque et al. [23] found that bioslurry increased the availability of nitrogen in soils. He also reported that the application of bioslurry in soil not only increased NO₃-N content of soil but also increased its plant uptake when applied in integration with mineral nitrogen fertilizers. During manure digestion, about half of the carbon is released as methane and carbon dioxide (biogas) [33] and changes in the C:N ratio occur due to the fact that carbon is absorbed by the resulting biomethane [20], part of the organic nitrogen is released as ammonium so when it is applied to fields, ammonium can directly be utilized by crops. Resulting forms are much easier to be assimilated by plants, as nitrogen is converted to NH₄⁺. High NH₄⁺ content is easily accessible to plants [14]. Furthermore, biogas slurry contains abundant available N, P and K, which are important nutrients for plants. It has been reported that the supply of N from digested slurry exerts a direct influence on the yield during the growing season [30]. Thus biogas slurry as an effective substitute for chemical fertilization [61].

Comment [U28]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U29]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U30]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U31]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U32]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U33]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U34]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

3.3 Phosphorous content at different growth stages

The data (Table 1) revealed that phosphorus content in dry matter of wheat was significantly increased with the application of T8 (100% RDF+ 1250 kg BGS ha⁻¹) over T1 (100% RDF) at 30, 60 and 90 DAS, respectively but it did not differ significantly with T9 (75% RDF+ 1250 kg BGS ha⁻¹). The highest phosphorus content (0.43, 0.32 and 0.26%, respectively) in dry matter of wheat with the increment of 65.38, 100 and 73.33% in T8 at 30, 60 and 90 DAS, respectively. T9 treatments significantly increased P content (0.41, 0.30 and 0.24%, respectively) with the increment of 65.38, 100 and 73.33%, respectively in comparison to T1. Bachmann et al. [9] reported that digestates resulted in higher P uptake. The digestates can, therefore, be considered a suitable P source for plants. These results confirmed previous outcomes of an experiment with maize and amaranth [6] significant amounts of easily assimilable minerals were introduced with the digestate mass [43,47], which probably had an impact on increasing their content in the biomass. The P concentration rapidly increased by increasing the BS addition [7]. Thus, the BS contains labile and highly soluble P forms [8], which are quickly mineralized to release the easily bioavailable P form [9]. Moreover, BS could also stimulate microbial activity with an enhancement in the available P released from

Comment [U35]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U36]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U37]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U38]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U39]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

soil P pool [42]. Likewise, Haase et al. [22] reported that BS increased the fraction of plant-available inorganic phosphate which ultimately increase P content in plant. Delin and Nyberg [17] reported a significantly higher P content in plant tissue following BGS application compared to the control.

Comment [U40]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U41]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U42]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

3.4 Potassium content at different growth stages

Data presented in table 1 showed that application of T8 (100% RDF+ 1250 kg BGS ha⁻¹) achieved higher K content followed by T9 (75% RDF+ 1250 kg BGS ha⁻¹). T8 (1.26, 0.71 and 1.72%, respectively and T9 (1.24, 0.68 and 1.68%, respectively) found significant over all treatments. T8 and T9 has increments of 17.75, 39.21 & 13.09% and 15.88, 33.33 and 11.25% respectively, over T1 (100% RDF) at 30, 60 and 90 DAS. The lowest value in T0 (control) were 1.02, 0.44 and 1.42%, respectively at respective growth stages. The greater accumulation of accessible phosphorus and potassium after biogas slurry application [52]. The potassium concentrations were similar in the BS and CF treatments (T8 and T9) and were substantially higher than in the alone chemical fertilizers. This might be explained by high concentrations of potassium in biogas slurry treatments. Bioslurries supplied greater amount of nutrients compared to their respective original state of soil which influenced nutrient uptake of the test crop [24]. The lower C and higher nutrient content resulted in lower C/N, C/P, C/K, and C/S ratio, which indicated possibility of higher nutrient supply by the organic manure like CD slurries [23]. Sharma et al. [48] opined that bioslurry is an efficient source of organic manure with higher ability to deliver nutrients, especially N to crops. Shahbaz et al. [49] reported that changes in soil nutrient reserves and alterations in root systems under different sources of N, P, K, and S supply, including organic sources, might have a direct bearing on the nutrient availability and uptake by crops especially wheat and rice. Haque et al. [23] also found that cowdungbioslurry had higher N, P, K, and S content compared to chemical fertilizers. He also found that bioslurry is recommended as a substitute of 24–32% N, 52–91% P, 18–24% K and 50–73% S which ultimately increased availability of nutrients.

Comment [U43]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U44]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged..

Comment [U45]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U46]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U47]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U48]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

3.5 Nitrogen uptake by grain and straw

Application of different combination of RDF with BGS were found significant over control (Table 2). The application of T8 (100% RDF+ 1250 kg BGS ha⁻¹) significantly enhanced the nitrogen uptake by grain (1.27 g pot⁻¹) and straw (0.77 g pot⁻¹) of wheat by 54.4 and 70.06%, respectively over T1 (100% RDF) but it was statistically at par with T9 (75% RDF + 1250 kg BGS ha⁻¹). However, uptake of N (1.20 and 0.72 g pot⁻¹) found with T9, which was the results of this study indicated biogas slurry as an effective substitute for chemical fertilization. A previous study evaluated the utilization ratio of NH₄-N in biogas slurry and reported that more than 90% of the applied NH₄-N could be used, which indicated an immediate increase in the amount of soil NH₄-N [53]. Several researchers reported that an appropriate fertilizer doses and a proper ratio of biogas slurry and chemical fertilizer could offer nutrients for crop growth in a timely manner and reduce carbon and nitrogen losses caused by leaching and gas emissions [2,12] consequently increasing nutrient uptake by wheat. These results agreed with results reported by many researchers [26,63, 31].

Comment [U49]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U50]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U51]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

3.6 Phosphorus uptake by grain and straw

Table 2 showed that the application of T8 (100% RDF+ 1250 kg BGS ha⁻¹) treatment has higher uptake of P by grain (0.147 g pot⁻¹) and straw (0.134 g pot⁻¹) than T1- 100% RDF (0.047 and 0.044 g pot⁻¹, respectively) and at par with T9 (75% RDF+ 1250 kg BGS ha⁻¹). The uptake improvements due to T8 were 112.7 and 104.54%, respectively over 100% RDF. Application of T9 (0.132 g pot⁻¹ in grain and 0.119 g pot⁻¹ in straw) significantly enhanced

212.76 and 180.85% uptake of P by grain and straw, respectively over T1 (100% RDF). There are relatively few studies directly investigating the effects of digestate on phosphorus (P) availability and uptake, and the majority of those that do compare it with undigested materials, rather than with mineral fertilizers. While there is some suggestion of increased P availability from digestates as compared with raw manures [34, 4], there are some that suggest there is no effect of digestates on P availability as compared with manures [8,10]. Our results supported by Bachmann et al. [8] who showed that applying BGS did not only increase the plant available P but also the uptake by plants was improve with respect to the control, which is consistent with findings by Delin [18]. Application of biogas slurry at 30 t/ha level with 100% and 75% dosage of inorganic fertilizer had the same ability [60]. C/N ratio plays an essential role in making the nutrients available for the plants. It is often stated that degradation processes during digestion will improve phosphorus (P) plant availability [37, 46, 34].

Comment [U52]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U53]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U54]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U55]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

3.7 Uptake of potassium by grain and straw

Application of different combination of RDF with BGS were found significant over control (Table 2). Maximum value found in T8 (100% RDF+ 1250 kg BGS ha⁻¹) and lowest value found in control. Application of T8 (100% RDF+ 1250 kg BGS ha⁻¹) and T9 (75% RDF+ 1250 kg BGS ha⁻¹) found significant over all treatments and at par each other with the values of 0.257 & 1.14 g pot⁻¹ and 0.237 & 1.08 g pot⁻¹, respectively in grain and straw of wheat. The enhancement of uptake of K due to T8 113.47 & 56.16% and 106.08 and 47.94% in grain and straw respectively. Yu et al. [63] showed a significant increase in available K content in biogas slurry compared to control. Tambone et al. [54] assessed the variation in K concentration levels between BGS and compost treated soils, results indicated that K concentration are generally higher in BGS than compost. In a related study where Haraldsen et al. [25] compared the efficiency of different organic amendments including BGS when applied at 80 kg N/ha. Results showed that BGS supplemented significantly higher amounts of K than any other treatment. There is a general trend that BGS supplements significant quantities of K, which then emphasizes more suitability in BGS for supplementing K. Biogas slurry had a high organic matter by 2.89%. The nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium contained in it helped to improve the effectiveness of fertilizing [60]. significant amounts of easily assimilable minerals were introduced with the digestate mass [47, 43] which probably had an impact on increasing their content in the biomass of wheat.

Comment [U56]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U57]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U58]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U59]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Comment [U60]: All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

4. CONCLUSION

In the present investigation it has been found that there was no significant difference between the application of T8 (100% RDF+1250 kg BGS ha⁻¹) and T9 (75% RDF+1250 kg BGS ha⁻¹) for all the parameters studied therefore the treatment T9 that is 75% RDF+1250 kg BGS ha⁻¹ may be suitable option for growing wheat crop under sodic Vertisols as it saved the 25% recommended doses of fertilizer.

REFERENCES

1. Abdin MZ, Banal KC, Barolo YP. Effect of split nitrogen application on growth and yield of wheat (*T. aestivum L.*) genotypes with different N-assimilation potential. Journal of Argonomy Crop Science. 1996;176: 83–90.
2. Abubaker Ja. Effects of fertilization with biogas residues on crop yield, soil microbiology and greenhouse gas emissions. Acta universitatis agriculture sueciae, 2012; 46:1-79.
3. Abubaker Jb, Risberg K, Pell M. Biogas residues as fertilisers- effects on wheat growth and soil microbial activities. Applied Energy. 2012; 99: 126–134.

4. Albuquerque JA., de la Fuente C, Ferrer-Costa A, Carrasco L, Cegarra J, Abad M, Bernal MP. Assessment of the fertiliser potential of digestates from farm and agroindustrial residues. *Biomass and Bioenergy*. 2012; 40: 181–189.
5. Aulakh, MS, GS. Sidhu. Soil degradation in India: Causes, major threats, and management options. In: MARCO Symposium 2015 - Next Challenges of Agro-Environmental research in Monsoon Asia. National Institute for Agro-Environmental Sciences (NIAES), Tsukuba, Japan. 2015;151-156.
6. Bachmann S(a), Wentzel S, Eichler LB. Codigested dairy slurry as a phosphorus and nitrogen source for *Zea Mays L.* and *Amaranthus cruentus L.* *Journal of Plant Nutrition and Soil Science*. 2011; 174: 908–915.
7. Bachmann S(b), Wentzel S, Eichler-Löbermann B. Co-digested dairy slurry as a phosphorus and nitrogen source for *Zea mays L.* and *Amaranthus cruentus L.* *Journal of Plant Nutrition and Soil Science*. 2011;174: 908-915.
8. Bachmann S, Gropp M, Eichler-Löbermann B. Phosphorus availability and soil microbial activity in a 3 years field experiment amended with digested dairy slurry. *Biomass Bioenergy*. 2014; 70:429– 439
9. Bachmann S, Uptmoor R, Eichler-Löbermann B. Phosphorus distribution and availability in untreated and mechanically separated biogas digestates. *Science Agricola*.2016; 73: 9–17.
10. Baral KR, Labouriau R, Olesen JE, Petersen SO. Nitrous oxide emissions and nitrogen use efficiency of manure and digestates applied to spring barley. *Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment*. 2017; 239:188–198.
11. Bonten LTC, Zwart KB, Rietra RPJJ, Postma R, de Haas MJG. Is bio-slurry from household digesters a better fertilizer than manure? A literature review Alterra Wageningen UR (University and Research centre), Wageningen. 2014:46.
12. Cheng J, Cheng Y, He T, Liu R, Yi M, Yang Z. Nitrogen leaching losses following biogas slurry irrigation to purple soil of the Three Gorges Reservoir Area. *Environmental Science and Pollution Research*. 2018; 25: 29096–29103.
13. Choudhary OP. Use of Amendments in Ameliorating Soil and Water Sodicity. In *Bioremediation of Salt Affected Soils: An Indian Perspective*. Springer International Publishing: Cham, Switzerland. 2017;195–210.
14. Crolla A, Kinsley C, Pattey E. Land application of digestate; Woodhead Publishing Limited: Philadelphia, PA, USA. 2013; 302–325.
15. Dalazen J, Valani GP, Duarte H, Ramalho JC. Nutrient accumulation in fruits and grains of black pepper at different ripening stages. *food technology Ciencai*. Rural. 2022; 52 (9):1-9.
16. Debebe Y, Itana F. Comparative Study on the Effect of Applying Biogas Slurry and Inorganic Fertilizer on Soil Properties, Growth and Yield of White Cabbage (*Brassica oleracea var. capitata f. alba*). *Journal of Biology, Agriculture and Healthcare*. 2016; 6(19): 19-36.
17. Delin S. and Nyberg A. Fertilizer value of phosphorus in different residues. *Soil use and management*. 2015;32 (1):17-26.
18. Delin, Delin S. Fertilier value of phosphorus in different residues. *Soil Use and Management*. 2016; 32:17-26.
19. Filho GF, Dias FDSN, Suddarth, SRP, Ferreira JFS, Anderson RG, dos Santos Fernandes C, de Lira RB, Neto MF, Cosme CR. Reclaiming Tropical Saline-Sodic Soils with Gypsum and Cow Manure. *Water*; 2020;12:57.
20. Głowacka, Szostak B, and Klebaniuk R. Effect of biogas digestate and mineral fertilisation on the soil properties and yield and nutritional value of switchgrass forage Aleksandra. *Agronomy*.2020;10:490.
21. Grootboom LS. Nitrogen and phosphorus release and potential fertiliser effects of biogas slurry on spinach yield. Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Soil Science (UFH), Bachelor of Science Honours (Soil Science) (UKZN). 2018; pp88

22. Haase C, Wentzel S, Schmidt R, Georg JR. Changes in phosphorus fraction after long term application of biogas slurry to soils under organic farming. *Organic Agriculture*. 2016; 6:297–306
23. Haque MA, Jahiruddin M, Rahman MM, Saleque MA. Usability of bioslurry to improve system productivity and economic return under potato-rice cropping system. *Reserch in Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries*. 2015; 2(1): 27–33.
24. Haque MA, Jahiruddin M, Islam MS, Rahman MM, Saleque MA. Effect of Bioslurry on the Yield of Wheat and Rice in the Wheat– Rice Cropping System. *Agricultural Research*. 2018; 7(4):432–442.
25. Haraldsen TK, Andersen U, Krogstad T, Sørheim R. Liquid digestate from anaerobic treatment of source separated household waste as fertilizer for barley. *Proceedings of the 7th International ORBIT 2010 Conference Heraklion, Crete, June 29 - July 3; 564-569*.
26. Henson, R.A., Bliss, F.A., 1991. Effects of N fertilizer application timing on common bean production. *Fert. Res.* 29, 133–138.
27. Hlišnikovský L, Barlog P, Kunzová E, Vach M, Menšík L. Biomass yield of silage maize, fertilizers efficiency, and soil properties under different soil-climate conditions and fertilizer treatments. *Agronomy Research*. 2020;18(1): 88–99,
28. Islam MS, Ahmed MK, Al-mamun MH. Geochemical speciation and risk assessment of heavy metals in sediments of a river in Bangladesh. *Soil and Sediment contamination An International Journal*. 2015; 24:639–655.
29. Jared N, Erastus G, Christopher N, Alex N, Ahenda Stephen A. Comparative Study on the Nutrient Composition of the Biogas Slurry and other Organic Fertilizers used by Small Scale Farmers in Kenya. *International journal of extensive research*. 2017; (3)1: 233-238.
30. Liu E, Yan CR, Mei XR, He WQ, B SH, Ding LP. Long-term effect of chemical fertilizer, straw, and manure on soil chemical and biological properties in northwest China. *Geoderma*. 2010; 158(3– 4):173–180.
31. Malav LC, Khan SA, Gupta N. Effects of biogas slurry incorporation on yield and growth attributes of baby corn (*Zea mays L*). *Green Farming*. 2015b; 6(6): 1318–1321.
32. Malhi SS, Johnston AM, Schoenau2 JJ, Wang ZH, Vera CL. Seasonal biomass accumulation and nutrient uptake of wheat, barley and oat on a Black Chernozem soil in Saskatchewan. *Canadian Journal of Plant Science*. 2006; 86 (4).
33. Maqbool S, Ul Hassan A, Javed AM, Tahir M. Integrated use of biogas slurry and chemical fertilizer to improve growth and yield of okra. *Science letters*. 2014; 2(1):56–59.
34. Massé DI, Talbot G, Gilbert Y. On farm biogas production: a method to reduce GHG emissions and develop more sustainable livestock operations. *Animal Feed Science and Technology*. 2011; 166-167: 436-445
35. Mdlambuzi T(a), Tsubo M, Muchaonyerwa P. Short-term effect of selected organic fertilizer sources on carbon dioxide fluxes and soil quality. *Journal of Environmental Quality*. 2021: 1-12
36. Mdlambuzi T(b), Muchaonyerwa P, Tsubo M, Moshia ME. Biomass yield of silage maize, fertilizers efficiency and soil properties under different soil-climate conditions and fertilizer treatments. *Heliyon*. 2021; 7 e07077.
37. Messner H, *Dungewirkung anaerobfermentierter und un- " behandelte Gülle. " Diss. TU Munchen " 1988: 166*.
38. Möller K, Stinner W. Effects of organic wastes digestion for biogas production on mineral nutrient availability of biogas effluents. *Nutrient Cycling in Agroecosystem*, 2010; 87: 395-413.
39. Möller K, Müller. Effects of anaerobic digestion on digestate nutrient availability and crop growth: A review. *Engineering in Life Sciences*. 2012;12(3): 242–257.

40. Möller K. Effects of anaerobic digestion on soil carbon and nitrogen turnover, N emissions, and soil biological activity. A review. *Agronomy for Sustainable Development*. 2015;35:1021–1041
41. Ngala NAL, Bularafa AB, Buba A. Effect of bioslurry application on soil chemical properties and growth of maize (*Zea mays L.*) in an Alfisol in Maiduguri area, Colloquia series; 2020 (44): 166-173.
42. Niyungeko C, Liang X, Liu C, Liu Z, Sheteiwy M, Zhang H, Zhou J, Tian G. Effect of biogas slurry application rate on colloidal phosphorus leaching in paddy soil: a column study. *Geoderma*. 2018; 325:117– 124.
43. Piątek, M, Bartkowiak A. Assessment of selected physicochemical properties of soil fertilised with digestate. *Water-Environment-Rural Areas*. 2019; 19: 55–66.
44. Prapagar K, Indraratne S, Premanandharajah P. Effect of Soil Amendments on Reclamation of Saline-Sodic Soil. *Tropical Agricultural Research*. 2012;23:168–176.
45. Riva C, Orzi V, Carozzi M, Acutis M, Boccasile G, Lonati S, Tambone F, D'Imporzano G, Adani F. Short-term experiments using digestate products as substitutes for mineral (N) fertilizer: Agronomic performance, odours, and ammonia emission impacts. *Science of the Total Environment*. 2016; 547: 206-214.
46. Roschke, M., Verwertung der Gär " uckst " ande, in: Minis-terium für Landwirtschaft, Umweltschutz und Raumord- " nung Landes Brandenburg (Ed.), Leitfaden Biogas, Potsdam, Germany. 2003; 29–33.
47. Rózyło K, Oleszczuk P, Jońsko I, Kraska P, Kwiecińska-Poppe E, Andruszczak S. An ecotoxicological evaluation of soil fertilised with biogas residues or mining waste. *Environmental Science and Pollution Research*. 2015; 22: 7833–7842.
48. Sharma KL, Bajaj JC, Das SK, Rao UMB, Ramalingaswami K () Nutrient transformation in soil due to addition of organic manure and growing crops. *Nutrient Cycling in Agroecosystem*. 2007; 32:303–311.
49. Shahbaz M, Akhtar MJ, ahmed W, Wakeel A. Integrated effect of different N-fertilizer rates and bioslurry application on growth and N-use efficiency of okra (*Hibiscus esculentus L.*). *Turkish Journal of Agriculture and Forestry*. 2014; 38: 311-319.
50. Stone DM, Elioff JD. Soil properties and Aspen development five years after compaction and forest floor removed. *Canadian journal of soil science*.1998; 78:51-58.
51. Tan F, Wang Z, Zhouyang SY, Li H, Xie YP, Wang YP, Zheng YM, Li QB. Nitrogen and phosphorus removal coupled with carbohydrate production by five microalgae cultures cultivated in biogas slurry. *Bioresource Technology*, 2016; 221: 385–393.
52. Tang J, Yin J, Davy AJ, Pan F, Han X, Huang S, Wu D. Biogas Slurry as an Alternative to Chemical Fertilizer: Changes in Soil Properties and Microbial Communities of Fluvo-Aquic Soil in the North China Plain. *Sustainability* 2022; 14: 7-15.
53. Terhoeven U, Scheller TE, Raubuch M, Ludwig B, Joergensen RG. CO2 evolution and N mineralization after biogas slurry application in the field and its yield effects on spring barley. *Applied soil ecology*. 2009; 42: 297–302.
54. Tambone F, Scaglia B, D'Imporzano G. Assessing amendment and fertilizing properties of digestates from anaerobic digestion through a comparative study with digested sludge and compost. *Chemosphere*. 2010; 81: 577–583.
55. Walsh JJ, Jones DL, Edwards-Jones G, Williams AP. Replacing inorganic fertilizer with anaerobic digestate may maintain agricultural productivity at less environmental cost. *Journal of Plant Nutrition and Soil Science*. 2012; 175(6): 840–845.
56. Warnars L, Oppenoorth H. Bioslurry: a supreme fertiliser. A Study on Slurry results and uses. *Hivos*. 2014.
57. Wentzel S, Joergensen RG. Effects of biogas and raw slurries on grass growth and soil microbial indices. *Journal of Plant Nutrition and Soil Science*. 2016; 179: 215–222.

58. Win AT, Toyota K, Win KT, Motobayashi T, Ookawa T, Hirasawa T. (). Effect of biogas slurry application on CH₄ and N₂O emissions, Cu and Zn uptakes by whole crop rice in a paddy field in Japan. *Soil Science & Plant Nutrition*. 2014. 60, 411–422.
59. Xu M, Xian Y, Wu J, Gu Y, Yang G, Zhang X, Peng H, Yu X, Xiao Y, Li L. Effect of biogas slurry addition on soil properties, yields, and bacterial composition in the rice-rape rotation ecosystem over 3 years. *Journal of Soils and Sediments*. 2019; 19:2534–2542.
60. Yamika WSD, Herlina N, Amriyanti S. The effect of biogas and inorganic fertilizer on soil fertility and yield of cucumber (*Cucumis sativus L.*). *Journal of Degraded and Mining Lands Management*. 2019; 6(4): 1829-1835.
61. You L, Yu S, Liu H, Wang C, Zhou Z, Zhang L. Effects of biogas slurry fertilization on fruit economic traits and soil nutrients of *Camellia oleifera* Abel. *PLoS ONE*. 2019;14 (5):1-11.
62. Yıldız O , Altundağ E , Çetin B , Guner Ş, Sarginci M, Toprak B. Afforestation restoration of saline-sodic soil in the Central Anatolian Region of Turkey using gypsum and sulfur. *Silva Fenn*. 2017;51:1579.
63. Yu FB, Luo XP, Song CF, Zhang MX, Shan SD. Concentrated biogas slurry Enhanced soil fertility and tomato quality. *Journal of Acta agriculture Scandinavia section B-soil and plant science*. 2010; 60:262-268.

Comment [U61]: Style followed as journal system. All the citation must be sequentially arranged.

Table 2. Effect of chemical fertilizers on Total N,P and K content at 30, 60 and 90 DAS

Treatments	Dry weight g pot ⁻¹			Total N content (%)			Total P content (%)			Total K content (%)		
	30	60	90	30	60	90	30	60	90	30	60	90
	T0	0.106	0.291	0.546	2.18	1.27	1.08	0.21	0.12	0.10	1.02	0.44
T1	0.130	0.359	0.716	2.23	1.37	1.16	0.26	0.16	0.15	1.07	0.51	1.51
T2	0.174	0.375	0.758	2.31	1.48	1.28	0.34	0.23	0.19	1.17	0.60	1.63
T3	0.162	0.367	0.738	2.28	1.45	1.25	0.32	0.21	0.17	1.14	0.59	1.59
T4	0.137	0.351	0.721	2.25	1.39	1.18	0.27	0.17	0.15	1.08	0.52	1.55
T5	0.185	0.381	0.767	2.32	1.50	1.30	0.36	0.25	0.20	1.18	0.63	1.65
T6	0.172	0.370	0.744	2.29	1.47	1.27	0.33	0.22	0.18	1.16	0.58	1.62
T7	0.142	0.362	0.731	2.27	1.40	1.20	0.29	0.18	0.16	1.11	0.53	1.53
T8	0.214	0.448	0.854	2.42	1.61	1.39	0.43	0.32	0.26	1.26	0.71	1.72
T9	0.205	0.434	0.821	2.39	1.58	1.36	0.41	0.30	0.24	1.24	0.68	1.68
T10	0.171	0.388	0.755	2.32	1.49	1.27	0.34	0.24	0.17	1.16	0.60	1.57
SE(m) ±	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02
CD at 5%	0.03	0.05	0.05	0.07	0.07	0.05	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.07	0.07

T0-Control, T1-100% RDF, T2-100% RDF + 750 kg BGS ha⁻¹, T3-75% RDF+ 750 kg BGS ha⁻¹, T4-50% RDF + 750 kg BGS ha⁻¹, T5-100% RDF + 1000 kg BGS ha⁻¹, T6-75% RDF+ 1000 kg BGS ha⁻¹, T7-50% RDF + 1000 kg BGS ha⁻¹, T8-100% RDF + 1250 kg BGS ha⁻¹, T9-75% RDF+ 1250 kg BGS ha⁻¹, T10-50% RDF+ 1250 kg BGS ha⁻¹

Table 3. Effect of chemical fertilizers on dry weight and uptake of N,P and K by grain and straw

T0-Control, T1-100% RDF, T2-100% RDF + 750 kg BGS ha⁻¹, T3-75% RDF+ 750 kg BGS ha⁻¹

Treatments	Uptake by Grain (g pot ⁻¹)			Uptake by straw (g pot ⁻¹)		
	N	P	K	N	P	K
T0	0.57	0.024	0.068	0.31	0.023	0.55
T1	0.82	0.047	0.115	0.43	0.044	0.73
T2	1.06	0.092	0.180	0.59	0.081	0.97
T3	0.95	0.076	0.156	0.54	0.066	0.88
T4	0.86	0.053	0.124	0.45	0.049	0.77
T5	1.08	0.096	0.193	0.62	0.088	0.96
T6	1.01	0.083	0.167	0.55	0.072	0.90
T7	0.89	0.058	0.131	0.47	0.054	0.80
T8	1.27	0.147	0.257	0.77	0.134	1.14
T9	1.20	0.132	0.237	0.72	0.119	1.08
T10	1.04	0.095	0.174	0.58	0.076	0.94
SE(m) ±	0.03	0.006	0.003	0.03	0.005	0.04
CD at 5%	0.07	0.019	0.010	0.08	0.013	0.11

¹, T4-50% RDF + 750 kg BGS ha⁻¹, T5-100% RDF + 1000 kg BGS ha⁻¹, T6-75% RDF+ 1000 kg BGS

ha⁻¹, T7-50% RDF + 1000 kg BGS ha⁻¹, T8-100% RDF + 1250 kg BGS ha⁻¹, T9-75% RDF + 1250 kg BGS ha⁻¹, T10-50% RDF + 1250 kg BGS ha⁻¹

UNDER PEER REVIEW