

## Effect of different micronutrients on the growth of turmeric (*Curcuma longa* L.) cv. Salem produced by pro tray method.

### Abstract

The present investigation entitled “Performance of different micronutrients on the growth and yield of turmeric (*Curcuma longa* L.) cv. Salem produced by pro tray method.” was conducted during the year 2023-2024 at AICRP, on Spices, Asond Block, Central Experimental Station, Wakavali, Dapoli, Dist-Ratnagiri (M.S.), India. The experiment was conducted in randomized block design with nine treatment namely T<sub>1</sub>: Control (RDF: 200:50:150 kg NPK ha<sup>-1</sup>), T<sub>2</sub>: Foliar spray of ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.5%, T<sub>3</sub>: Foliar spray ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.75%, T<sub>4</sub>: Foliar spray of Borax @ 0.2%, T<sub>5</sub>: Foliar spray of Borax @ 0.3%, T<sub>6</sub>: Foliar spray MnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.25%, T<sub>7</sub>: Foliar spray of MnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.5%, T<sub>8</sub>: Foliar spray of FeSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.3%, T<sub>9</sub>: Foliar spray of FeSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.4% and each treatment was replicated three times.

The results obtained from the present experiment revealed that application of RDF + Foliar spray of ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.75 % showed overall best results in growth characters like Plant height (81.97 cm), leaf length (56.11 cm), leaf width (16.56cm), number of leaves (15.56) and number of tillers (3.5). Thus, from the results obtained, it can be concluded that application of RDF + Foliar Spray of ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.75 % was the most effective for maximizing the growth parameters of turmeric (*Curcuma longa* L.) under Konkan agro-climatic conditions.

**Keywords:** Turmeric, growth, boron, zinc.

### 1. Introduction:

Turmeric (*Curcuma longa* L.) is recognized as the “Golden spice” and also as the “Spice of life.” It is the most important spice in India from time immemorial. It has a strong relation with sociocultural life of people in India. The orange-yellow rhizomes of turmeric was considered as

“Herb of sun” by people of Vedic period. Turmeric has a vast history of around 6000 years for its medicinal used and socio-religious practices. (Ravindran) [9]. Turmeric is a herbaceous perennial plant with a thick underground rhizome which gives rise to primary and secondary rhizomes called fingers. For germination temperature should be 30-35°C and for rhizome initiation 20-25°C. It can be grown at 1500 m above mean sea level. A well distributed rainfall of 1500-2250 mm per annum is ideal. Turmeric is grown in different types of soil from sandy loam, red soils to clay loam soil, light black soil, but it thrives best in well drained sandy loam humus rich soil with pH range of 4.5 to 7.5. The crop cannot stand water logging or alkalinity. India is the largest producer and exporter of turmeric, accounting for approximately 80 percent of the world’s total production followed by Bangladesh, Myanmar, Pakistan, Thailand and China. Turmeric ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the total export of spices from India after chilli and cumin. In the year 2021-22, India exported 1, 52,758 tonnes of turmeric worth of 153,442.05 lakhs. (Anonymous) [2]. In India, Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh are the major turmeric producing states, in which Maharashtra alone contributes 28 per cent share of total production followed by Telangana. (Anonymous) [3].

Turmeric is highly responsive to chemical fertilizers. Also the use of the micronutrients fertilizers are mostly liable to reduce disease incidence and enhance durability of the post-harvest life of ginger and turmeric (Halder) [5]. The application of various micronutrients plays a pivotal role in the growth and yield of turmeric. Micronutrients such as zinc, boron, manganese and iron are essential for optimizing the physiological functions of turmeric plants, influencing key growth parameters and enhancing overall productivity by keeping this view present investigation was undertaken.

## **2. Material and methods:**

The research was conducted at AICRP on Spices, Asond Block, Central Experimental Stations, Wakavali. College of Horticulture, Dr. Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli, Maharashtra, India during the year 2023-24. The experimental site was located under high rainfall area with annual rainfall of 3000-4000 mm and having red, laterite alluvial soil. One month old turmeric seedlings were used for planting and are planted at a distance of 30 cm between plants and 25 cm between rows. The experiment was laid out in Randomized Block Design (RBD) with three replications and nine treatments viz. T<sub>1</sub> (Control (RDF: 200:50:150 kg NPK ha<sup>-1</sup>), T<sub>2</sub> (Foliar spray of Zinc (as ZnSO<sub>4</sub>) 0.5%), T<sub>3</sub> (Foliar spray of Zinc (as ZnSO<sub>4</sub>) 0.75%), T<sub>4</sub> (Foliar spray of Boron (as Borax) 0.2%), T<sub>5</sub> (Foliar spray of Boron (as Borax) 0.3%), T<sub>6</sub> (Foliar spray of

Manganese (as  $\text{MnSO}_4$ ) 0.25%), T<sub>7</sub> (Foliar spray of Manganese (as  $\text{MnSO}_4$ ) 0.5%), T<sub>8</sub> (Foliar spray of Iron (as  $\text{FeSO}_4$ ) 0.3%), T<sub>9</sub> (Foliar spray of Iron (as  $\text{FeSO}_4$ ) 0.4%). Micronutrients sprays were taken at 60, 90 and 120 days after transplanting. Ten plants were randomly selected from each treatment for taking observations. Observations for yield and yield attributing characters were recorded in the last week of March and collected data were statistically analysed by the methods suggested by Panse and Sukhatme [7].

### **3. Result and Discussion:**

#### **3.1 Plant height:**

Considerable variation was observed in the plant height of turmeric under different foliar application of micronutrients presented in Table 1. The application of RDF (200:50:150 kg/ha) combined with various micronutrient foliar sprays significantly impacted plant height at 150 days after transplanting (DAT). The maximum plant height of 81.97 cm was recorded in the treatment T<sub>3</sub> with RDF +  $\text{ZnSO}_4$  (0.75%) foliar spray, while the minimum height of 60.21 cm was observed in the control treatment T<sub>1</sub> with only RDF. The overall mean plant height across treatments was 71.39 cm, indicating a significant influence of micronutrient foliar application on the growth of turmeric plants. Similar results were reported by Singh (2014) in turmeric with foliar application of micronutrients and recorded the maximum number of leaves (11.99) as compared to other treatments. Hnamte *et al.* [6] reported that combine application of Boron @ 0.2% and Zinc @ 0.5% thrice gave the maximum number of leaves over other treatments in turmeric. Das *et al.* [4] observed that, foliar application of 150 ppm boron + 0.4 % zinc sulphate recorded the highest plant height (67.66 cm) in brinjal.

#### **3.2 Leaf length**

The leaf length in turmeric plants at 150 days after transplanting (DAT) was notably affected by different foliar applications of micronutrients and the data regarding leaf length was presented in Table 2. The largest leaf length measured was 56.11 cm with the treatment T<sub>3</sub> of RDF + Foliar spray of  $\text{ZnSO}_4$  (0.75%), whereas the lowest was 45.58 cm in the control treatment T<sub>1</sub> with RDF (200:50:150 kg/ha). The average leaf width across all treatments was 50.14 cm. Patel *et al.* [8] observed that combine application of  $\text{FeSO}_4$  0.5% +  $\text{ZnSO}_4$  0.5% + Boron 0.5% in turmeric at 60, 90 and 120 after planting gave the highest leaf length of 56.93, 62.40 and 84.60 cm, respectively.

### 3.3 Leaf width

Leaf width at 150 days after transplanting (DAT) was significantly influenced by the foliar application of micronutrients (Table 3). The minimum leaf width of 13.42 cm was recorded with the control treatment (T<sub>1</sub>), which consisted of RDF (200:50:150 kg/ha) alone. In contrast, the maximum leaf width of 16.56 cm was observed in treatment T<sub>3</sub> with the foliar application of ZnSO<sub>4</sub> at 0.75% in combination with RDF. The results highlight the substantial impact of micronutrient foliar sprays on leaf width, emphasizing the effectiveness of ZnSO<sub>4</sub> at higher concentrations. Similar results observed by Hnamte *et al.* [6] they reported that the combine application of Boron @ 0.2% and Zinc @ 0.5% thrice in turmeric gave maximum leaf width over other treatments. Agnihotri *et al* [1], reported that the, highest leaf width was recorded with the foliar application of 0.50 % Zn + 0.2% boron solution in cauliflower.

### 3.4 Number of leaves per plant

Various micronutrients treatments had a notable effect on the number of leaves per turmeric plant at 150 days after transplanting (DAT). The treatment T<sub>5</sub> with RDF combined with a foliar spray of borax at 0.3% produced the highest number of leaves per plant (16.88) which was at par with the treatment T<sub>3</sub> foliar application of ZnSO<sub>4</sub> at 0.75%, whereas the control treatment T<sub>1</sub> (RDF 200:50:150 kg/ha) resulted in the lowest leaves per plant (13.42). These results highlight the significant role of micronutrient treatments in enhancing leaf development in turmeric plants. Hnamte *et al.* [6] reported that combine application of Boron @ 0.2% and Zinc @ 0.5% thrice gave the maximum number of leaves over other treatments in turmeric.

### 3.5 Number of tillers per plant

The foliar application of different micronutrients had a significant impact on the number of tillers in turmeric plants at 150 days after transplanting (DAT). The treatment T<sub>5</sub> with RDF combined with a foliar spray of Borax (0.3%) produced the highest number of tillers per plant (3.70) which was at par with the treatment T<sub>3</sub> foliar application of ZnSO<sub>4</sub> at 0.75%. Conversely, the control T<sub>1</sub>, which only received the recommended dose of fertilizers (RDF), showed the lowest tiller count at 2.83 per plant. Boron and zinc are essential micronutrients that significantly contribute to plant growth and tiller production in turmeric. Boron plays a crucial role in strengthening cell walls, regulating hormonal balance, particularly auxins, and enhancing the uptake of other vital nutrients, all of which support the development of new tillers. Meanwhile, zinc acts as a cofactor

for enzymes involved in protein synthesis and energy production, promotes the synthesis of auxins and supports chlorophyll production, ensuring efficient photosynthesis. Together, these micronutrients optimize plant structure, metabolism and energy availability, leading to increased tiller production in turmeric. Singh [10] reported that, two foliar applications of micro-nutrients @ 0.5% at 60 and 90 days after sowing gave the highest number of tillers (4.62) in turmeric.

**Table1: Effect of micronutrients on height of plant**

Plant height (cm)					
	Treatment	60 DAT	90 DAT	120 DAT	150 DAT
T <sub>1</sub>	Control: RDF (200:50:150 kg/ha)	27.67	39.79	50.64	60.21
T <sub>2</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of ZnSO <sub>4</sub> (0.5%)	38.33	47.06	58.56	73.05
T <sub>3</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of ZnSO <sub>4</sub> (0.75%)	42.61	56.48	67.25	81.97
T <sub>4</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of Borax (0.2%)	39.33	48.66	60.64	75.72
T <sub>5</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of Borax (0.3%)	41	56.09	66.13	81.07
T <sub>6</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of MnSO <sub>4</sub> (0.25%)	34.33	42.19	54.36	67.24
T <sub>7</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of MnSO <sub>4</sub> (0.50%)	37.33	46.08	57.66	70.79
T <sub>8</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of FeSO <sub>4</sub> (0.3%)	36.67	43.86	55.58	68.77
T <sub>9</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of FeSO <sub>4</sub> (0.4%)	34.00	41.33	53.65	63.73
	Mean	36.81	46.84	58.28	71.39
	S. Em. (±)	2.8	1.807	1.517	3.817
	C.D. at 5%	-	5.418	4.547	11.443
	'F' test	N. S.	SIG	SIG	SIG

**Table2: Effect of micronutrients on leaf length**

Leaf length (cm)					
	Treatment	60 DAT	90 DAT	120 DAT	150 DAT
T <sub>1</sub>	Control: RDF (200:50:150 kg/ha)	19.12	21.66	37.56	45.58
T <sub>2</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of ZnSO <sub>4</sub> (0.5%)	23.29	27.66	43.53	51.07
T <sub>3</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of ZnSO <sub>4</sub> (0.75%)	25.43	31.80	47.69	56.11
T <sub>4</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of Borax (0.2%)	23.53	28.04	43.83	51.45
T <sub>5</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of Borax (0.3%)	23.69	31.79	47.56	54.68
T <sub>6</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of MnSO <sub>4</sub> (0.25%)	21.78	24.95	40.83	47.98
T <sub>7</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of MnSO <sub>4</sub> (0.50%)	23.28	25.82	41.55	49.17

T <sub>8</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of FeSO <sub>4</sub> (0.3%)	22.13	25.04	40.91	48.13
T <sub>9</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of FeSO <sub>4</sub> (0.4%)	20.25	24.08	37.84	47.05
	Mean	22.50	26.76	42.37	50.14
	S. Em. (±)	2.50	1.60	1.56	1.62
	C.D. at 5%	-	4.81	4.67	4.85
	'F' test	N. S.	SIG	SIG	SIG

**Table 3: Effect of micronutrients on leaf width**

Leaf width (cm)					
	Treatment	60 DAT	90 DAT	120 DAT	150 DAT
T <sub>1</sub>	Control: RDF (200:50:150 kg/ha)	5.0	7.76	10.72	13.42
T <sub>2</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of ZnSO <sub>4</sub> (0.5%)	6.4	9.29	12.00	14.63
T <sub>3</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of ZnSO <sub>4</sub> (0.75%)	6.9	11.28	13.79	16.56
T <sub>4</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of Borax (0.2%)	6.8	9.65	12.57	15.37
T <sub>5</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of Borax (0.3%)	6.9	9.97	13.19	15.88
T <sub>6</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of MnSO <sub>4</sub> (0.25%)	6.1	8.20	11.08	13.90
T <sub>7</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of MnSO <sub>4</sub> (0.50%)	5.8	8.98	11.87	14.52
T <sub>8</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of FeSO <sub>4</sub> (0.3%)	6.2	8.58	11.55	14.29
T <sub>9</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of FeSO <sub>4</sub> (0.4%)	5.7	8.12	10.95	13.77
	Mean	6.2	9.09	11.97	14.71
	S. Em. (±)	0.38	0.52	0.59	0.62
	C.D. at 5%	-	1.56	1.78	1.86
	'F' test	N.S	SIG	SIG	SIG

**Table 4: Effect of micronutrients on number of leaves of turmeric**

Number of leaves					
	Treatment	60 DAT	90 DAT	120 DAT	150 DAT
T <sub>1</sub>	Control: RDF (200:50:150 kg/ha)	4.53	7.76	10.72	13.42
T <sub>2</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of ZnSO <sub>4</sub> (0.5%)	5.27	9.29	12.00	14.63
T <sub>3</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of ZnSO <sub>4</sub> (0.75%)	5.47	9.97	13.19	15.56
T <sub>4</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of Borax (0.2%)	5.30	9.65	12.57	15.37
T <sub>5</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of Borax (0.3%)	5.60	11.28	13.79	16.88
T <sub>6</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of MnSO <sub>4</sub> (0.25%)	5.17	8.20	11.08	13.90

T <sub>7</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of MnSO <sub>4</sub> (0.50%)	5.27	8.98	11.87	14.52
T <sub>8</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of FeSO <sub>4</sub> (0.3%)	5.20	8.58	11.55	14.29
T <sub>9</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of FeSO <sub>4</sub> (0.4%)	5	8.12	10.95	13.77
	Mean	5.21	9.09	11.97	14.71
	S. Em. (±)	0.24	0.52	0.59	0.62
	C.D. at 5%	-	1.56	1.78	1.86
	'F' test	N.S.	SIG	SIG	SIG

**Table 5: Effect of micronutrients on number of tillers per plant**

Number of tillers per plant					
	Treatment	60 DAT	90 DAT	120 DAT	150 DAT
T <sub>1</sub>	Control: RDF (200:50:150 kg/ha)	0.00	0.90	1.47	2.83
T <sub>2</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of ZnSO <sub>4</sub> (0.5%)	0.10	1.47	2.47	3.33
T <sub>3</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of ZnSO <sub>4</sub> (0.75%)	0.10	1.63	2.80	3.50
T <sub>4</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of Borax (0.2%)	0.10	1.57	2.67	3.40
T <sub>5</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of Borax (0.3%)	0.13	1.73	2.90	3.70
T <sub>6</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of MnSO <sub>4</sub> (0.25%)	0.07	1.13	1.90	3.00
T <sub>7</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of MnSO <sub>4</sub> (0.50%)	0.07	1.30	2.20	3.20
T <sub>8</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of FeSO <sub>4</sub> (0.3%)	0.07	1.23	2.03	3.13
T <sub>9</sub>	RDF + Foliar spray of FeSO <sub>4</sub> (0.4%)	0.03	1.07	1.60	2.93
	Mean	0.07	1.34	2.23	3.23
	S. Em. (±)	0.03	0.07	0.05	0.07
	C.D. at 5%	-	0.200	0.144	0.213
	'F' test	N.S.	SIG	SIG	SIG

#### 4. Conclusion

The research findings showed that foliar application of micronutrients (Zinc, boron, manganese and iron) had significant impact of turmeric plant growth over the application of RDF alone. Application of RDF alone (T<sub>1</sub>) notably recorded the minimum number of leaves, number of tillers, plant height, leaf length and leaf width. Whereas application of zinc 0.75% through zinc sulphate (T<sub>3</sub>) recorded overall higher growth characters in turmeric during different crop growth stages.

### Disclaimer (Artificial Intelligence)

Author(s) hereby declares that NO generative AI technologies such as Large Language Models (ChatGPT, COPILOYT, etc.) and text-to-image generators have been used during writing or editing of manuscripts.

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