

Crude protein, economics and water use efficiency of ryegrass under different irrigation regimes and nitrogen levels

ABSTRACT

A field experiment was undertaken at the Instructional-cum-Research (ICR) Farm, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat during 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 in order to study the effect of irrigation regimes and nitrogen levels on crude protein, economics and water use efficiency of ryegrass. The experiment was laid out in split-plot design with three replications. The treatments consisted of five levels of irrigation in main plot viz., I₀: Rainfed, I₁: Irrigation at critical growth stages, I₂: Irrigation at IW: CPE (Irrigation Water : Cumulative Pan Evaporation) ratio of 1.0, I₃: Irrigation at IW:CPE ratio of 1.2 and I₄: Irrigation at IW:CPE ratio of 1.4 along with four levels of N - N₀: 0 kg N/ha, N₁: 30 kg N/ha, N₂: 60kg N/ha and N₃: 90 kg N/ha in sub- plots. The soil of the experimental site was sandy loam in texture, acidic in reaction, medium in organic carbon, medium in available N, available P₂O₅ and low in available K₂O. The study revealed that application of irrigation at IW:CPE ratio of 1.4 recorded the highest crude protein yield (7.69 q/ha and 7.31 q/ha, respectively in both the years), highest value in terms of evapotranspiration (26.33 cm and 24.74 cm, respectively in both the years), total water use (26.65 cm and 25.16 cm, respectively in both the years), crop water use efficiency (324.49 kg/ha-cm and 324.12 kg/ha-cm, respectively in both the years), field water use efficiency (322.69 kg/ha-cm and 318.84 kg/ha-cm, respectively in both the years), gross return (Rs.78073.00 and Rs.78254.00, respectively in both the years), net return (Rs.51252.00 and Rs.52433.00, respectively in both the years) and B:C ratio (1.87 and 1.99, respectively in both the years). Application of 90 kg N/ha recorded the highest crude protein yield (6.54 q/ha and 6.64 q/ha, respectively in both the years). The highest values in terms of evapotranspiration (21.40 cm and 18.89 cm, respectively in both the years), total water use (21.33 cm and 19.05 cm, respectively in both the years), crop water use efficiency (343.19 kg/ha-cm and 376.87 kg/ha-cm, respectively in both the years), field water use efficiency (344.33 kg/ha-cm and 372.88 kg/ha-cm, respectively in both the years), gross return (Rs.72376.00 and Rs.70383.00, respectively in both the years), net return (Rs.45038.00 and Rs.43645.00, respectively in both the years) and B:C ratio (1.63 and 1.62, respectively in both the years) were observed under 90 kg N/ha.

Key words: Irrigation; nitrogen; crop water use efficiency; field water use efficiency; economics.

1. INTRODUCTION

“Since the times of immemorial, livestock plays an important role in agriculture and it contributed to the growth of national economy through providing milk, meat, wool, various milk products and farm yard manure. India is number one milk producer in the world. It is producing about 230.58 million tonnes during 2022-23. The per-capita availability of milk is 459 grams per day. Similarly it is producing about 9.77 million tonnes of meat in a year” [Source: Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics-2023]. Moreover animal has been considered as the major source of energy for draught power in performing various agricultural operations among farmers in rural India. The success of livestock industry mainly depended upon the

availability and supply of nutritious and adequate quantity of good quality green fodder to meet the nutritional requirement for the growth, maintenance and production of livestock. Annual ryegrass (*Lolium multiflorum*) is an important and promising cereal fodder which grows well under agro-climatic conditions of Assam [19-21]. The grasses are leafy and produce high quality and digestible fodder. It responds considerably to applied fertilizer and soil water. Jatet al. [1] found that “Five irrigations produced significantly higher crude protein, crude fat, mineral matter and total digestible nutrients of fodder oats but there were no significant differences in crude fibre, nitrogen free extract and total digestible nutrients at first cutting whereas minimum were noted with two irrigations in all the above parameters productions”. Tahiret al. [2] found “maximum crude fibre (37.35%), crude protein (9.13%) and total ash (14.4%) of oats with six irrigations at 21, 35, 42, 56, 70 and 84 DAS than other treatments”. “Scheduling irrigation at IW/CPE ratio 0.5 recorded higher WUE in summer (20.7 kg/ha-cm) and *kharif* (17.4 kg/ha-cm) over 0.75 and 1.0 IW/CPE ratio in sandy clay loam soil” [3]. “Irrigation scheduling at IW/CPE ratio 0.6 recorded higher WUE (6.96 kg/ha-mm) of maize over ratios of 0.8 (6.37 kg/ha-mm) and 1.0 (6.33 kg/ha-mm) in sandy soil during rabi season” [4]. “Irrigations scheduled as per critical growth stages recorded higher WUE (5.86 kg/ha-mm) of maize over 40 mm (3.29 kg/ha-mm), 60 mm (3.86 kg/ha-mm) and 80 mm (4.19 kg/ha-mm) CPE” [5]. “Irrigation level at 1.1 IW:CPE recorded maximum gross return (Rs. 27100 ha⁻¹), net return (Rs. 15014 ha⁻¹) and B:C of 1.24” [6]. “The fertility levels up to 110 kg N ha⁻¹ produced significantly higher crude protein, crude fibre, crude fat, mineral matter, nitrogen free extract and total digestible nutrient production of fodder oat over 70 and 90 kg N ha⁻¹ whereas crude fibre production did not influence by nitrogen levels at first cutting” [1]. “Increase in nitrogen level from 0 to 160 kg ha⁻¹ decreased the dry matter content, digestibility and cell content whereas the reverse trend was noticed for crude protein content, acid-detergent fibre, neutral detergent fibre and hemicelluloses content of oat” [7]. “Increase in nitrogen levels increased crude protein content but reduced crude fibre content of maize forage” [8]. “With regard to the effect of nitrogen on the percentage of crude protein of teff grass, it was found that increasing the level of nitrogen increased the percentage of crude protein” [9]. “Application of nitrogen up to 120 kg N ha⁻¹ produced significantly higher crude protein yield of fodder oat (9.38 kg ha⁻¹)” [10]. Jehangiret al. [11] found that “increase in fertility level upto 150 kg N ha⁻¹ increased crude protein content and crude fiber content of oats”. Mahdi et al. [12] reported that increase in N level from 60 to 120 kg/ha significant increase in protein content of maize. Shehzadet al. [13] found that significant increase in crude protein (10.52%), crude fat (2.82%), crude fibre (31.77%) and ash content (10.54%) in maize with application of 180 kg N/ha over other nitrogen levels. Dadarwalet al. [14] reported that increasing dose of fertilizer application increase the net returns and B:C ratio. They found higher net return (Rs. 18,910) and B:C ratio (2.47) with application of 180:60:45 kg NPK/ha. Application of 80 kg N ha⁻¹ recorded maximum gross return (Rs. 56232.00 ha⁻¹) and net return (Rs. 42853.74 ha⁻¹) and B:C of 1:3.20 [15]. Binadhaniet al. [16] reported application of nitrogen upto 120 kg ha⁻¹ significantly give higher net return and B:C ratio.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Experiment was conducted during 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 at the Instructional-cum-Research (ICR) Farm, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat. The experiment was laid out in a split-plot design with three replications. The treatments consisted of five levels of irrigation in main plot viz., Rainfed, Irrigation at critical growth stages, Irrigation at IW: CPE ratio of 1.0, Irrigation at IW:CPE ratio of 1.2 and Irrigation at IW:CPE ratio of 1.4 along with four levels of N- 0 kg N/ha, 30 kg N/ha, 60kg N/ha and 90 kg N/ha in sub-plots. Ryegrass variety Makhan grass at the seed rate of 20 kg/ha were dry seeded in the research plots. The nutrients were applied in the form urea, single super phosphate (SSP) and muriate of potash (MOP) as per requirement in the treatment. Nitrogen was applied in three split doses i.e. ½ of N is applied in final ploughing, ¼ at 1st cut and remaining ¼ at 2nd cut as per the treatment. All the phosphatic and potassic fertilizers were applied at the rate of 188 kg/ha of SSP and 50 kg/ha of MOP, respectively one day ahead of sowing ryegrass. Each sub-plot was provided with a uniform depth of 6 cm irrigation for ryegrass crop according to different IW:CPE ratios.

Evapotranspiration by crop

The evapotranspiration by crop was computed from the soil moisture data by using the following formula:

$$ET = \sum_{i=1}^n (E_0 \times K_c K_p) + \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(M_{1i} - M_{2i})}{100} \times ASG_i \times D_i + ER + GWC$$

Where,

ET= Evapotranspiration (cm)

E₀ = Pan evaporation value (cm) from USWB class A pan evaporimeter from the day of irrigation to the day when sampling in wet soil is possible

N = Time interval (days)

M_{1i} = Per cent soil moisture of the ith layer on the date of sampling after irrigation

M_{2i} = Per cent soil moisture of the ith layer on the date of sampling before irrigation

ASG_i = Apparent Specific Gravity of ith soil layer

D_i = Depth (cm) of the ith layer of the soil

ER= Effective Rainfall during the period under consideration

n= Number of soil layers

K_c= Crop coefficient

GWC= Ground water contribution

Water use efficiency

Water use efficiency (WUE) of the crop for different treatments was calculated as follows:

$$\text{Crop WUE (kg/ha-cm)} = \frac{\text{Dry matter yield (kg/ ha)}}{\text{ET of crop (cm)}}$$

$$\text{Field WUE (kg/ha-cm)} = \frac{\text{Dry matter yield (kg/ ha)}}{\text{Total water used (cm)}}$$

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Crude protein content

The effect of irrigation regimes on crude protein content of ryegrass was found to be non-significant at all three cuts, during both the years (Table 1). The highest crude protein content was found irrigation at IW:CPE ratio of 1.4 and lowest was recorded in rainfed treatment. The effect of nitrogen levels on crude protein content of ryegrass was found to be significant at all three cuts, during both the years (Table 1). The highest crude protein content was recorded with the application of 90 kg N/ha followed by 60 kg N/ha. The lowest crude protein content observed under 0 kg N/ha. Higher application of N resulted in an increased in the crude protein content because there was better assimilation of N resulting on increased protein synthesis.

Interaction effect

The interaction effect between irrigation regimes and nitrogen levels was found to be non-significant on crude protein content at different growth stages of ryegrass during both the years.

Table 1. Effect of irrigation regimes (I) and nitrogen levels (N) on crude protein content of ryegrass

Treatments	Crude protein (%)					
	1 st Year			2 nd Year		
	1 st cut	2 nd cut	3 rd cut	1 st cut	2 nd cut	3 rd cut
Irrigation regimes (I)						
I ₀	7.61	8.24	8.13	7.60	8.27	8.14
I ₁	7.82	8.38	8.27	7.84	8.43	8.32
I ₂	8.12	8.87	8.78	8.10	8.89	8.86
I ₃	8.38	9.12	8.98	8.35	9.17	9.10
I ₄	8.54	9.23	9.16	8.62	9.25	9.17
S.Ed (±)	0.41	0.34	0.36	0.31	0.33	0.41
CD (P=0.05)	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
Nitrogen levels (N)						
N ₀	7.74	8.45	8.23	7.65	8.37	8.06
N ₁	7.96	8.56	8.47	7.96	8.59	8.55
N ₂	8.15	8.89	8.75	8.20	8.94	8.89
N ₃	8.52	9.17	9.20	8.59	9.30	9.37
S. Ed (±)	0.24	0.21	0.22	0.17	0.27	0.25

CD (P=0.05)	0.56	0.47	0.52	0.40	0.63	0.59
Interaction (I×N)						
S.Ed (±)	0.54	0.46	0.50	0.38	0.61	0.57
CD (P=0.05)	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS

N.S: Non-significant

Crude protein yield

The effect of irrigation regimes on crude protein yield was found to be significant in ryegrass at 1st cut, 2nd cut and 3rd cut, during both years (Table 2). The application irrigation at IW:CPE ratio of 1.4 recorded the highest crude protein yield (7.69 q/ha and 7.31 q/ha, respectively in both the years) which was significantly higher than other irrigation regimes. The lowest crude protein yield was found under rainfed treatment. The crude protein yield is the function of crude protein content and dry matter yield. The higher dry matter yield was found with application of irrigation at IW:CPE ratio of 1.4. So, the highest crude protein yield were recorded under this treatment. Similar findings were reported by Agrawal et al. [17] and Jatet al. [1] in case of fodder oat. The crude protein yield as influenced by different nitrogen levels was found to be significant in ryegrass at 1st cut, 2nd cut and 3rd cut, during both the years are presented in Table 2. Application of 90 kg N/ha recorded the highest crude protein yield (6.54 q/ha and 6.64 q/ha, respectively in both the years) followed by 60 kg N/ha and lowest was recorded in 0 kg N/ha. Highest dry matter yield was found with application of 90 kg N/ha which ultimately resulted in higher crude protein yield. These results are in conformity with the findings of Gasim [8] and Sarkar et al. [18].

Table 2. Effect of irrigation regimes (I) and nitrogen levels (N) on crude protein yield (q/ha) of ryegrass

Treatments	Crude protein yield (q/ha)							
	1 st Year				2 nd Year			
	1 st cut	2 nd cut	3 rd cut	Total	1 st cut	2 nd cut	3 rd cut	Total
Irrigation regimes (I)								
I ₀	0.70	1.03	0.89	2.62	0.79	1.06	0.91	2.75
I ₁	1.13	1.43	1.25	3.96	1.17	1.46	1.32	3.95
I ₂	1.29	1.70	1.51	4.50	1.29	1.72	1.53	4.54
I ₃	1.58	2.07	1.88	5.52	1.68	2.12	1.91	5.72

I ₄	2.19	2.83	2.66	7.69	2.14	2.67	2.51	7.31
S.Ed (±)	0.17	0.094	0.18	0.62	0.095	0.16	0.15	0.35
CD (P=0.05)	0.39	0.22	0.42	1.44	0.22	0.37	0.35	0.81
Nitrogen levels (N)								
N ₀	0.68	1.09	0.95	2.83	0.79	1.05	0.92	2.76
N ₁	1.35	1.74	1.53	4.62	1.34	1.74	1.51	4.59
N ₂	1.56	2.02	1.86	5.44	1.58	2.00	1.84	5.43
N ₃	1.92	2.41	2.22	6.54	1.94	2.43	2.27	6.64
S. Ed (±)	0.099	0.091	0.094	0.26	0.076	0.087	0.091	0.24
CD (P=0.05)	0.23	0.21	0.22	0.60	0.18	0.20	0.21	0.55
Interaction (I×N)								
S.Ed (±)	0.22	0.20	0.21	0.58	0.17	0.19	0.20	0.53
CD (P=0.05)	0.45	0.41	0.43	1.18	0.35	0.39	0.42	1.08
CV (%)	19.61	13.67	15.69	14.58	14.80	13.13	15.30	13.36

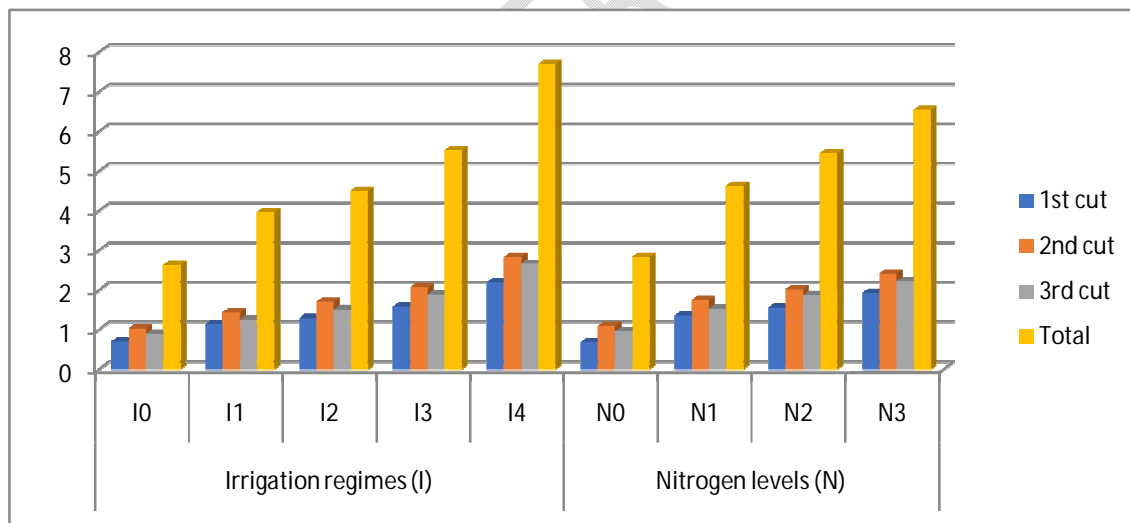


Fig. 1: Indicating the effect of irrigation regimes and nitrogen levels on crude protein yield (q/ha) of ryegrass (1st year)

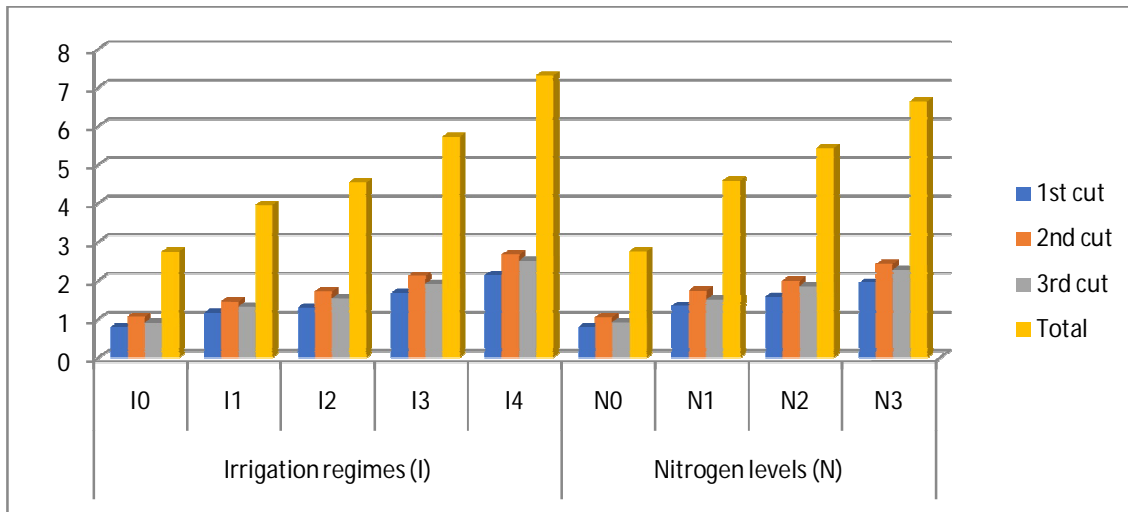


Fig. 2: Indicating the effect of irrigation regimes and nitrogen levels on crude protein yield (q/ha) of ryegrass (2nd year)

Interaction effect

The interaction effect between irrigation regimes and nitrogen levels was found to be significant in respect of crude protein yield of ryegrass at 1st cut, 2nd cut and 3rd cut during both the years are presented in Table 3, Table 4, Table 5, Table 6, Table 7, Table 8, Table 9 and Table 10. The higher crude protein yield was recorded with the application of irrigation at IW:CPE ratio of 1.4 in combination with 90 kg N/ha at 1st cut, 2nd cut and 3rd cut during both the years followed by irrigation at IW:CPE ratio of 1.2 in combination with 60 kg N/ha. Rainfed treatment in combination with 0 kg N/ha recorded the lowest crude protein yield in all three cuts during both the years due to lowest dry matter accumulation in the respective treatments.

Table 3. Interaction effect of irrigation regimes (I) × nitrogen levels (N) on crude protein yield (q/ha) of ryegrass at 1st cut (1st year)

Nitrogen levels (N)	Irrigation regimes (I)					Mean
	I ₀	I ₁	I ₂	I ₃	I ₄	
N ₀	0.39	0.54	0.61	0.64	1.21	0.68
N ₁	0.68	1.05	1.25	1.50	2.27	1.35
N ₂	0.93	1.22	1.37	1.83	2.44	1.56
N ₃	0.78	1.69	1.94	2.33	2.83	1.92
Mean	0.70	1.13	1.29	1.58	2.19	1.38
		I		N		I×N
S.Ed (±)		0.17		0.099		0.22
CD		0.39		0.23		0.45

(P=0.05)						
----------	--	--	--	--	--	--

Table 4. Interaction effect of irrigation regimes (I) × nitrogen levels (N) on crude protein yield (q/ha) of ryegrass at 2nd cut (1st year)

Nitrogen levels (N)	Irrigation regimes (I)					Mean
	I ₀	I ₁	I ₂	I ₃	I ₄	
N ₀	0.66	0.83	1.03	1.06	1.86	1.09
N ₁	0.91	1.36	1.74	2.05	2.63	1.74
N ₂	1.21	1.59	1.74	2.36	3.21	2.02
N ₃	1.36	1.95	2.27	2.81	3.63	2.41
Mean	1.03	1.43	1.70	2.07	2.83	1.81
		I		N		I×N
S.Ed (±)		0.094		0.091		0.20
CD (P=0.05)		0.22		0.21		0.41

Table 5. Interaction effect of irrigation regimes (I) × nitrogen levels (N) on crude protein yield (q/ha) of ryegrass at 3rd cut (1st year)

Nitrogen levels (N)	Irrigation regimes (I)					Mean
	I ₀	I ₁	I ₂	I ₃	I ₄	
N ₀	0.51	0.70	0.92	0.91	1.72	0.95
N ₁	0.78	1.25	1.39	1.82	2.40	1.53
N ₂	1.11	1.41	1.60	2.12	3.06	1.86
N ₃	1.16	1.66	2.12	2.66	3.48	2.22
Mean	0.89	1.25	1.51	1.88	2.66	1.64
		I		N		I×N
S.Ed (±)		0.18		0.094		0.21
CD (P=0.05)		0.42		0.22		0.43

Table 6. Interaction effect of irrigation regimes (I) × nitrogen levels (N) on total crude protein yield (q/ha) of ryegrass (1st year)

Nitrogen	Irrigation regimes (I)	Mean
----------	------------------------	------

levels (N)	I ₀	I ₁	I ₂	I ₃	I ₄	
N ₀	1.56	2.64	2.56	2.61	4.79	2.83
N ₁	2.37	3.65	4.38	5.38	7.30	4.62
N ₂	3.25	4.22	4.71	6.31	8.71	5.44
N ₃	3.30	5.30	6.33	7.80	9.95	6.54
Mean	2.62	3.96	4.50	5.52	7.69	4.86
		I		N		I×N
S.Ed (±)		0.62		0.26		0.58
CD (P=0.05)		1.44		0.60		1.18

Table 7. Interaction effect of irrigation regimes (I) × nitrogen levels (N) on crude protein yield (q/ha) of ryegrass at 1st cut (2nd year)

Nitrogen levels (N)	Irrigation regimes (I)					Mean
	I ₀	I ₁	I ₂	I ₃	I ₄	
N ₀	0.46	0.66	0.75	0.80	1.30	0.79
N ₁	0.69	1.07	1.29	1.58	2.10	1.34
N ₂	0.94	1.32	1.38	1.97	2.31	1.58
N ₃	1.06	1.64	1.74	2.38	2.85	1.94
Mean	0.79	1.17	1.29	1.68	2.14	1.41
		I		N		I×N
S.Ed (±)		0.095		0.076		0.17
CD (P=0.05)		0.22		0.18		0.35

Table 8. Interaction effect of irrigation regimes (I) × nitrogen levels (N) on crude protein yield (q/ha) of ryegrass at 2nd cut (2nd year)

Nitrogen levels (N)	Irrigation regimes (I)					Mean
	I ₀	I ₁	I ₂	I ₃	I ₄	
N ₀	0.68	0.85	0.99	1.08	1.63	1.05
N ₁	0.95	1.43	1.71	2.08	2.53	1.74

N₂	1.23	1.60	1.82	2.39	2.99	2.00
N₃	1.36	1.96	2.38	2.94	3.51	2.43
Mean	1.06	1.46	1.72	2.12	2.67	1.81
		I		N		I×N
S.Ed (±)		0.16		0.087		0.19
CD (P=0.05)		0.37		0.20		0.39

Table 9. Interaction effect of irrigation regimes (I) × nitrogen levels (N) on crude protein yield (q/ha) of ryegrass at 3rd cut (2nd year)

Nitrogen levels (N)	Irrigation regimes (I)					Mean
	I ₀	I ₁	I ₂	I ₃	I ₄	
N₀	0.51	0.73	0.95	0.95	1.47	0.92
N₁	0.78	1.30	1.39	1.83	2.23	1.51
N₂	1.12	1.45	1.64	2.17	2.84	1.84
N₃	1.21	1.81	2.14	2.70	3.49	2.27
Mean	0.91	1.32	1.53	1.91	2.51	1.64
		I		N		I×N
S.Ed (±)		0.15		0.091		0.20
CD (P=0.05)		0.35		0.21		0.42

Table 10. Interaction effect of irrigation regimes (I) × nitrogen levels (N) on total crude protein yield (q/ha) of ryegrass (2nd year)

Nitrogen levels (N)	Irrigation regimes (I)					Mean
	I ₀	I ₁	I ₂	I ₃	I ₄	
N₀	1.65	2.23	2.69	2.83	4.40	2.76
N₁	2.42	3.81	4.38	5.49	6.85	4.59
N₂	3.29	4.37	4.83	6.53	8.14	5.43
N₃	3.64	5.41	6.26	8.02	9.86	6.64

Mean	2.75	3.95	4.54	5.72	7.31	4.86
		I		N		I×N
S.Ed (±)		0.35		0.24		0.53
CD (P=0.05)		0.81		0.55		1.08

Evapotranspiration, Water use and water use efficiency

Data on evapotranspiration, total water use, crop water use efficiency and field water use efficiency as influenced by different irrigation regimes are presented in Table 11. Increasing levels of irrigation regime increased the evapotranspiration and total water use. Application of irrigation at IW:CPE ratio of 1.4 recorded the highest value in terms of evapotranspiration (26.33 cm and 24.74 cm, respectively in both the years), total water use (26.65 cm and 25.16 cm, respectively in both the years), crop water use efficiency (324.49 kg/ha-cm and 324.12 kg/ha-cm, respectively in both the years) and field water use efficiency (322.69 kg/ha-cm and 318.84 kg/ha-cm, respectively in both the years) followed by irrigation at IW:CPE ratio of 1.2 and lowest values were recorded in rainfed treatment. The evapotranspiration and total water use increased with increasing level of irrigation regimes due to more numbers of irrigation applied which facilitated higher availability water in the soil profile leading to more loss of water through evapotranspiration. The crop and field water use efficiency also increased under IW:CPE ratio of 1.4 because of higher yield. Data pertaining to the evapotranspiration, total water use, crop water use efficiency and field water use efficiency as influenced by different nitrogen levels are presented in Table 11. The highest values in terms of evapotranspiration (21.40 cm and 18.89 cm, respectively in both the years), total water use (21.33 cm and 19.05 cm, respectively in both the years), crop water use efficiency (343.19 kg/ha-cm and 376.87 kg/ha-cm, respectively in both the years) and field water use efficiency (344.33 kg/ha-cm and 372.88 kg/ha-cm, respectively in both the years) were observed under 90 kg N/ha. The higher evapotranspiration and total water use observed due to higher crop growth rate and yield of the crop which exhibited more extraction of soil moisture. Higher crop and field water use efficiency recorded because higher yield in the respective treatments in both the years.

Table 11. Effect of irrigation regimes (I) and nitrogen levels (N) on water use and water use efficiency of ryegrass

Treatments	1 st year				2 nd year			
	Evapotranspiration (cm)	Total water use (cm)	Crop water use efficiency(kg/ha-cm)	Field water use efficiency (kg/ha-cm)	Evapotranspiration (cm)	Total water use (cm)	Crop water use efficiency(kg/ha-cm)	Field water use efficiency (kg/ha-cm)
Irrigation levels (I)								
I ₀	14.12	14.12	234.69	234.69	12.32	12.32	277.18	277.18
I ₁	17.15	17.24	271.03	270.84	15.46	16.12	309.76	299.40
I ₂	21.13	22.31	245.90	234.54	18.61	18.72	278.96	277.79
I ₃	23.43	24.81	260.40	253.08	20.17	20.64	317.33	310.64
I ₄	26.33	26.65	324.49	322.69	24.74	25.16	324.12	318.84
Nitrogen levels (N)								
N ₀	18.96	20.54	173.68	160.37	18.12	18.42	189.65	186.02
N ₁	20.21	21.08	266.03	258.72	17.65	18.15	302.55	294.82
N ₂	21.16	21.16	286.31	289.24	18.37	18.76	336.79	333.35
N ₃	21.40	21.33	343.19	344.33	18.89	19.05	376.87	372.88

Economics of cultivation of ryegrass

Data presented in Table 12 indicated that in spite of increase in cost of cultivation, the gross return, net return and B:C ratio increased with the increasing irrigation regime from IW:CPE ratio of 1.0 to IW:CPE ratio of 1.4. The highest gross return (Rs. 78073.00 and Rs. 78254.00, respectively in both the years), net return (Rs. 51252.00 and Rs. 52433.00, respectively in both the years) and B:C ratio (1.87 and 1.99 respectively, in both the years) was obtained in Irrigation at IW:CPE ratio of 1.4 and followed by Irrigation at IW:CPE ratio of 1.2 in terms of gross return, net return and B:C ratio. The lowest gross return, net return and B:C ratio was observed under rainfed treatment in both the years. The highest cost of cultivation in irrigation at IW:CPE ratio of 1.4 due to higher cost of irrigation but increase yield led to higher gross return, net return and B: C ratio in both the years. Data presented in Table 12 showed that the higher gross return, net return and B:C ratio was obtained in 90 kg N/ha treatment over the other nitrogen levels. The cost of cultivation of ryegrass was observed to be comparatively higher with application of 90 kg N/ha. Yet, the higher gross return (Rs. 72376.00 and Rs. 70383.00, respectively in both the years), net return (Rs. 45038.00 and Rs. 43645.00, respectively in both the years) and B:C ratio (1.63 and 1.62 respectively in both the years) was obtained in 90 kg N/ha treatment followed by 60 kg N/ha. The highest cost of cultivation recorded with application of 90 kg N/ha because higher amount of fertilizer used compared to other nitrogen levels but higher gross return, net return and B:C ratio were obtained due to higher yield.

Table 12. Economics of ryegrass as affected by irrigation regimes (I) and nitrogen levels (N)

Treatments	2017-18				2018-19			
	Cost (Rs.)	Gross return (Rs.)	Net return (Rs.)	B:C ratio	Cost (Rs.)	Gross return (Rs.)	Net return (Rs)	B:C ratio
Irrigation regimes (I)								
I ₀	24321	36195	12275	0.48	24321	36267	12386	0.49
I ₁	25321	48022	23516	0.90	25071	49711	24640	0.96
I ₂	25821	53384	27146	1.02	25321	52224	26903	1.04

I ₃	25821	63244	37418	1.41	25321	63659	38338	1.48
I ₄	26821	78073	51252	1.87	25821	78254	52433	1.99
Nitrogen levels (N)								
N ₀	22420	32505	11058	0.48	22020	34824	13156	0.59
N ₁	26038	55586	29215	1.11	25638	56023	30385	1.17
N ₂	26688	62667	35975	1.33	26288	62862	36574	1.38
N ₃	27338	72376	45038	1.63	26738	70383	43645	1.62

4. CONCLUSION

It was concluded that application of irrigation at IW:CPE ratio of 1.4 recorded the significantly higher crude protein yield. The highest value in terms of evapotranspiration, total water use, crop water use efficiency and field water use efficiency recorded under this treatment. The highest gross return, net return and B:C ratio obtained in irrigation at IW:CPE ratio of 1.4 over the rest of the treatments. Application of 90 kg N/ha recorded higher crude protein content and crude protein yield over rest of the treatments. The higher values in terms of evapotranspiration, total water use, crop water use efficiency and field water use efficiency observed under this treatment. Economic analysis showed that the higher gross return, net return and B:C ratio were recorded in 90 kg N/ha. Among the different treatment combination of irrigation regimes and nitrogen levels, the highest crude protein yield was recorded with application of irrigation at IW:CPE ratio of 1.4 in combination with 90 kg N/ha.

DISCLAIMER (ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE)

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

REFERENCES

1. Jat H, Kaushik MK, Nepalia V, Singh D. Effect of irrigation schedule and nitrogen fertilization on growth, yield and quality of fodder oat (*Avena sativa* L.). Journal of Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry. 2017;6(4): 2040-2042.
2. Tahir GM, Azraf-ul-Haq, Khaliq T, Rehman M, Hussain S. Effect of Different Irrigation Levels on Yield and Forage Quality of Oat (*Avena sativa*). Applied Science Reports. 2014; 3(1): 42-46. DOI:10.15192/PSCP.ASR.2014.3.1.4246
3. Singh SD. Effect of irrigation regimes and nitrogen levels on growth, yield and quality of baby corn. Madras Agricultural Journal. 2001;88(7/9): 367-370. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.29321/MAJ.10.A00345>

4. Hussaini MA, Ogunlela VB, Ramalan AA, Falaki AM. Growth and development of maize (*Zea mays* L.) in response to different levels of nitrogen, phosphorus and irrigation. *Crop Research*.2001;22(2): 141-149.
<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/284493396>
5. Jiotode DJ, Lambe DL, Dhawad CS. Growth parameters and water use studies of maize as influenced by irrigation levels and row spacing. *Crop Research*.2002;24(2): 292-295.
6. Patel MR. Effect of irrigation, nitrogen and biofertilizer on yield and quality of forage oat (*Avena sativa* L.). M.Sc. (Ag.) Thesis. Anand Agricultural University, Gujrat.2006.
7. Bhilare RL, Joshi YP. Productivity and quality of oat (*Avena sativa*) in relation to cutting management and nitrogen levels. *Indian Journal of Agronomy*.2007;52(3): 247-250.
8. Gasim S A. Effect of nitrogen, phosphorus and seed rate on growth, yield and quality of forage maize (*Zea mays*). M.Sc. Thesis, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Khartoum.2001.
9. Adam MY. Effect of seed rate and nitrogen on growth and yield of teff grass (*Eragrostisteff*Zucc.). Trotter. B. Sc. (Agric.), a dissertation submitted to the University of Khartoum in partial fulfilment for the requirements of the degree of Master of Science (Agri.).2000.
10. Dubey A, Rathi GS, Sahu R. Effect of nitrogen levels on green fodder yield of oat (*Avena sativa* L.) varieties. *Forage Research*.2013; 39(1): 39-41.
11. Jehangir IA, Khan HU, Khan MH, F. Ur-Rasool, Bhat RA, Mubarak T, Bhat MA, Rasool S. Effect of sowing dates, fertility levels and cutting managements on growth, yield and quality of oats (*Avena sativa* L.). *African Journal of Agricultural Research*.2013; 8(7): 648-651. DOI:10.5897/AJAR12.1677
12. Mahdi S, Hasan B, Singh L. Influence of seed rate, nitrogen and zinc on fodder maize (*Zea mays*) in temperate conditions of western Himalayas. *Indian Journal of Agronomy*.2012;57: 85-88. DOI:10.59797/ija.v57i1.4604
13. Shehzad MA, Maqsood M, Bhatti MA, Ahmad W, Shahid MR. Effect of nitrogen fertilization rate and harvest time on maize (*Zea mays* L) fodder yield and its quality attributes. *Asian Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biological Research*.2012;2(1): 19-26.
<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/308168815>
14. Dadarwal RS, Jain NK, Singh D. Integrated nutrient management in baby corn (*Zea mays*). *Indian Journal of Agricultural Sciences*.2009;79(12): 1023-1025.
15. Luikham E, Kamei S, Mariam, Anal PS. Yield, quality and economics of oat fodder (*Avena sativa* L.) as influenced by nitrogen and varieties. *Forage Research*.2012;38: 112-114.
16. Bindhani A, Barik KC, Garnayak LM, Mahapatra PK. Nitrogen management in baby corn (*Zea mays* L.). *Indian Journal of Agronomy*.2007;52: 135-138.
17. Agrawal RK, Varma SC, Singh KK. Influence of nitrogen and moisture regimes on growth and yield of oats cultivars. *Range Management and Agroforestry*.2000;21: 206-212.
18. Sarkar RK, Mahasin M. Productivity, quality and profitability of oat based intercropping system under graded fertility levels. *Indian Journal of Agricultural Sciences*.2007;77(12):862-865

19. Lodhi, A. S., S. S. Chouhan, and S. Bhalawe. 2024. "Impact of Low Tunnel Heights and Irrigation Regimes on Growth Parameters of Capsicum". *Journal of Experimental Agriculture International* 46 (1):7-16. <https://doi.org/10.9734/jeai/2024/v46i12286>.
20. Schoengold K, Zilberman D. The economics of water, irrigation, and development. *Handbook of agricultural economics*. 2007 Jan 1;3:2933-77.
21. Gutiérrez-Martín C, Gómez-Limón JA, Montilla-López NM. Priority water rights for irrigation at the river basin level. Do they improve economic efficiency during drought periods?. *Water Resources Management*. 2022 Aug;36(10):3737-58.

UNDER PEER REVIEW

UNDER PEER REVIEW