

Effect of seed rate and nitrogen on growth and yield attributes of wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.)

Abstract

The field experiment entitled Effect of Seed Rate and Nitrogen on Growth and Yield Attributes of Wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) was conducted, in the experiment comprising total 12 treatment combinations; such as three seed rates (100, 125 and 150 kg/ha) and four levels of nitrogen (75, 100, 125 and 150 kg/ha). Which was carried out in split plot design with three replications? Results revealed that growth, yield and economics of wheat significantly differed with different seed rates and nitrogen levels. Results showed that crop sown using seed rate of 100 kg/ha recorded significantly higher plant height, spike length, number of grains per spike and test weight as compared to 125 and 150 kg/ha seed rates. Higher dry matter accumulation, number of tillers per meter row length, straw yield recorded with seed rate of 150 kg/ha over 100 and 125 kg/ha. However, significantly higher grain yield and biological yield, net returns and B: C ratio were recorded with the seed rate of 125 kg/ha as compared to seed rate of 150 and 100 kg/ha. Among nitrogen levels, significantly higher plant height, dry matter accumulation, number of tillers per meter row length, spike length, number of grains per spike and test weight, grain yield, straw yield and biological yield, net returns and B: C ratio recorded with the application of nitrogen @ 125 kg/ha as compared to application of nitrogen @ 75 and 100 kg/ha, but it was at par with the application of nitrogen @ 150 kg/ha as compared to 125 and 150 kg/ha seed rates.

Keywords: Nitrogen, Wheat, Growth, Yield Attributes and Yield.

Introduction

Wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) is one of the most important cereal crops grown in the world. It is used as a staple food grain for urban and rural societies. It ranks first in the world among the cereals both in respect of area and production so it is called “king of cereals.” It is an important crop worldwide and in India it is the second most important staple food after rice. It is prime cereal crop which is considered as backbone of food security for a large number of countries in the world. Wheat is belonging to the family Poaceae having about six hundred genera and ten thousand species of grasses. *Triticum aestivum* L. (Common wheat), *Triticum durum* (Durum Wheat) and *Triticum dicoccon* (Emmer wheat) are the three important species of wheat and are mainly consumed to make bread, pasta and softer cakes, cookies, and pastries. Wheat also provides other valuable benefits to human beings as well. Wheat is also consumed in various other preparations such as, dalia, halwa, sweet meat etc. Besides, an allergy to wheat mostly from its gluten resultantly can cause coeliac disease which makes the sufferer have diarrhoea and also very dangerous to human body. It is mainly grown in states like Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Gujarat and Maharashtra. The total area under wheat in world during 2021-22 was 31125 (000 ha) with an annual production of 109590 (000 mt) and average productivity of 3.5mt /ha (USDA, 2022). In Punjab, Wheat is a major cereal crop of Punjab. It was grown on an area of 35.20 lakh hectares during 2019-20 with production of 176.2 lakh tonnes and average yield of 50.04 quintals per hectare (Anonymous 2022). The climate and soil of Punjab are quite favorable for the cultivation of wheat. To get maximum yield, it is necessary to use quality seeding and improved agronomic techniques such as optimum seeding rate, time of seeding,

irrigation, fertilizer application, weeding, water management, time of harvest etc. Higher wheat grain yield with better quality requires appropriate seeding rate for different cultivars. Increase in seeding rate may only enhance production cost without any increase in grain yield (Rafique *et al.* 2010). There is a need to increase the yield of wheat per unit area in Punjab to provide the ever-increasing food requirement of the country. Seeding rate plays a vital role for optimum plant densities which is a pre-requisite for increased seed yield. It influences the yield and yield attributes of wheat (Singh and Singh, 1987). Nitrogen plays noticeable role in plant metabolism and all the vital physiological and metabolic processes in plant are associated with protein of which nitrogen is an essential constituent.

Materials and Methods

A field experiment was conducted at experimental area of research farm of Guru Kashi University, Talwandi Sabo (Bathinda) during *Rabi* 2022-2023. The farm is located at 29°57'N latitude and 75°7'E longitude and altitude of 213 meters above the sea level as per goggle map. Climate and weather conditions: The mean maximum and mean minimum temperature ranged 36.9°C and 4.4°C, respectively recorded during November, 2022 to April, 2023. The mean lowest temperature varied from 4.4°C (January, 2022) - 18.4°C (April 2023) and mean highest temperature varied from 18.9°C (January, 2023) - 36.9°C (April, 2023). The mean monthly evaporation and mean monthly rainfall during November, 2022 to April, 2023 is presented in the mean evaporation ranged from 56.20 mm (Nov. 2022) to 329.70 mm (April 2023) during the period under study. The mean monthly rainfall varied from 2.7 mm (Feb. 2023) to 10.8 mm (Jan. 2023). The experiment comprised of 12 treatments combinations consisting three seed rate (S₁, S₂ and S₃) and four Nitrogen level (N₁, N₂, N₃ and N₄) respectively. Experimental Detail Season: *Rabi*, 2022-23; Crop-Wheat; Total no. of treatments-1; Replication 3; total plot 36; net plot size 3x2 meter square, Gross plot size; 3.4x2.2 meter square; Split Plot Design; HD- 3086 variety Analysis of all data as per materials and methods under thesis.

Results and Discussion

A field experiment-Effect of Seed Rate and Nitrogen on Growth and Yield Attributes of Wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) was conducted at the research farm of Guru Kashi University, Talwandi Sabo (Bathinda) during *Rabi* season 2022-23. The experimental findings pertaining to growth parameters, yield attributes and yields of wheat as influenced by different seed rates and nitrogen levels based upon field experiment are presented in this chapter. The data recorded for important characters have also been depicted graphically for elucidation of the important trends, where ever necessary.

Plant height Effect of seed rates

It can be stated that data (Table 1) indicated that plant height of wheat influenced significantly due to seed rates. Crop sown using seed rate of 100 kg/ha recorded significantly maximum plant height of 20.06, 94.80 and 112.59 cm at 45, 90 DAS and at harvest. Percentage increases in plant height due to seed rate of 100 kg/ha to the tune of 12.44 and 42.78 per cent at 45 DAS, 13.15 and 46.75 per cent at 90 DAS and 11.92 and 44.40 per cent at harvest as compared to seed rate of 125 and 150 kg/ha, respectively. These trends of plant heights may be due to competition for resources like light and space. These results corroborate the findings of Kumar *et al.* (2002) and Mahajan *et al.* (1991).

Effect of nitrogen levels

Data (Table 1) revealed that the plant height of wheat was significantly influenced by different nitrogen levels. There was a gradual increase in plant height with the increase in

nitrogen levels. The maximum plant height (19.01, 89.47 cm and 107.25 at 45, 90 DAS and at harvest, respectively) was recorded with the application of nitrogen @150 kg/ha, it was at par with application of nitrogen @ 125 kg/ha as compared to nitrogen @ 75 and 100 kg/ha. The increases in plant height of wheat due to application nitrogen @ 125 kg/ha to the tune of 25.94 and 7.58 per cent at 45 DAS, 30.54 and 9.36 per cent at 90 DAS and 22.77 and 5.76 per cent at harvest as compared to nitrogen @ 75 and 100 kg/ha, respectively. The increase in plant height with increase in successive level of nitrogen might be due to more supply of nitrogen to crop resulting in rapid synthesis of carbohydrates and consequently converted into protoplasm and thereby smaller portion available for cell wall formation. This has served consequences of increase in size of cell which is expressed morphologically through increase in plant height. The results are in conformity with Ali *et al.* (2011), Patel *et al.* (2012).

Table 1: Effect of seed rates and nitrogen levels on plant height of wheat

| Treatments | Plant height (cm) | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------|------------|
| | 45 DAS | 90 DAS | At harvest |
| Seed rate | | | |
| 100 kg/ha | 20.06 | 94.80 | 112.59 |
| 125 kg/ha | 17.84 | 83.78 | 100.60 |
| 150 kg/ha | 14.05 | 64.60 | 80.17 |
| SEm± | 0.32 | 1.86 | 2.09 |
| C.D. at 5 % | 1.25 | 7.28 | 8.20 |
| Nitrogen levels | | | |
| 75 kg/ha | 14.65 | 67.10 | 83.78 |
| 100 kg/ha | 17.15 | 80.09 | 97.26 |
| 125 kg/ha | 18.45 | 87.59 | 102.86 |
| 150 kg/ha | 19.01 | 89.47 | 107.25 |
| SEm± | 0.40 | 1.43 | 1.56 |
| C.D. at 5 % | 1.19 | 4.25 | 4.63 |

Dry matter accumulation (gm)Effect of seed rates

It can be stated that data (Table 2) indicated that dry matter accumulation of wheat influenced significantly due to seed rates. Crop sown using seed rate of 150 kg/ha recorded significantly maximum dry matter accumulation (224.70 g/meter row length) as compared to seed rate of 100 and 125 kg/ha. Percentage increases in plant height due to seed rate of 150 kg/ha to the tune of 28.66 and 13.74 per cent at harvest as compared to seed rate of 100 and 125 kg/ha, respectively. Higher level of seed rate recorded significantly higher dry matter at harvest is attributed to greater plant population per unit area, increased plant height and higher leaf area index. Nel and Dijkhuis (1990) and Kumar *et al.* (2002) also observed the similar results.

Effect of nitrogen levels

Data (Table 2) revealed that the dry matter accumulation of wheat was significantly influenced by different nitrogen levels. There was a gradual increase in dry matter

accumulation with the increase in nitrogen levels. The higher dry matter accumulation of 213.25 g/meter row length was recorded with the application of nitrogen @125 kg/ha, it was at par with application of nitrogen @ 150 kg/ha as compared to nitrogen @ 75 and 100 kg/ha.

Table 2: Effect of seed rates and nitrogen levels on dry matter accumulation of wheat

| Treatments | Dry matter accumulation (g/meter row length) |
|------------------------|---|
| Seed rate | |
| 100 kg/ha | 174.64 |
| 125 kg/ha | 197.55 |
| 150 kg/ha | 224.70 |
| SEm± | 5.58 |
| C.D. at 5 % | 21.90 |
| Nitrogen levels | |
| 75 kg/ha | 164.50 |
| 100 kg/ha | 192.31 |
| 125 kg/ha | 213.25 |
| 150 kg/ha | 225.78 |
| SEm± | 5.30 |
| C.D. at 5 % | 15.75 |

The percentage increases in dry matter accumulation of wheat due to application nitrogen @ 125 kg/ha to the tune of 29.64 and 10.89 per cent as compared to nitrogen @ 75 and 100 kg/ha, respectively. Dry matter production at higher levels of nitrogen (125 kg/ha) may be attributed to the fact that nitrogen being important constituent of nucleotides, chlorophyll and enzymes involves in various metabolic processes which have a direct impact on vegetative and reproductive phase of wheat. This was evident from the linear increase in dry matter production with increased nutrient uptake by the wheat. Beneficial effects of higher levels of nitrogen on dry matter production in wheat were also reported by Ram *et al.* (2005), Kumar *et al.* (2007) and Alam *et al.* (2013).

Yield attributes and yield

Number of tillers per meter row lengthEffect of seed rates

Critical examination of data presented in Table 3 indicated that number of tillers per meter row length of wheat influenced significantly due to seed rates.

Significantly higher number of tillers per meter row length recorded with the crop sown using seed rate of 150 kg/ha as compared to seed rate of 100 and 125 kg/ha. Percentage increases in number of tillers per meter row length due to seed rate of 150 kg/ha to the tune of 28.01 and 11.00 per cent as compared to seed rate of 100 and 125 kg/ha, respectively, Higher level of seed rate recorded significantly higher dry matter at harvest is attributed to greater plant population per unit area, increased plant height and higher leaf area index. Nel and Dijkhuis (1990) and Kumar *et al.* (2002) also observed the similar results.

Effect of nitrogen levels

It is confirmed from the data given in table 3 that the number of tillers per meter row length of wheat was significantly influenced by different nitrogen levels. There was a gradual increase in number of tillers per meter row length with the increase in nitrogen levels. Application of nitrogen @125 kg/ha remained at par with application of nitrogen @ 150 kg/ha and recorded significantly

higher number of tillers per meter row length as compared to nitrogen @ 75 and 100 kg/ha. Application of nitrogen @125 kg/ha increased number of tillers per meter row length to the tune 28.38 and 10.93 per cent over nitrogen @ 75 and 100 kg/ha, respectively. The higher number of tillers per plant may be due to sufficient availability of nitrogen to the root of the crop. Higher availability of nitrogen may increase the nutrition to active growing part of plant which have the ability to multi shooting with favorable condition and that's why ultimately leads to higher shooting of the tillers to the base of the plant. The results are in conformity with Kumar *et al.* (2007), Ali *et al.* (2011) and Kaur *et al.* (2015).

Table 3: Effect of seed rates and nitrogen levels on number of tillers of wheat

| Treatments | Number of tillers per meter row length |
|------------------------|--|
| Seed rate | |
| 100 kg/ha | 98.10 |
| 125 kg/ha | 113.14 |
| 150 kg/ha | 125.58 |
| SEm± | 3.16 |
| C.D. at 5 % | 12.39 |
| Nitrogen levels | |
| 75 kg/ha | 94.17 |
| 100 kg/ha | 108.99 |
| 125 kg/ha | 120.90 |
| 150 kg/ha | 125.03 |
| SEm± | 3.00 |
| C.D. at 5 % | 8.93 |

Spike length (cm) Effect of seed rates

Critical examination of data presented in table 4 indicated that spike length of wheat influenced significantly due to seed rates. Significantly higher spike length was recorded with the crop sown using seed rate of 100 kg/ha as compared to seed rate of 125 and 150 kg/ha. Percentage increases in spike length due to seed rate of 100 kg/ha to the tune of 8.39 and 16.75 per cent as compared to seed rate of 125 and 150 kg/ha, respectively.

Effect of nitrogen levels

It is confirmed from the data given in table 4 that the spike length of wheat was significantly influenced by different nitrogen levels. There was a gradual increase in spike length with the increase in nitrogen levels. Application of nitrogen @125 kg/ha remained at par with application of nitrogen @ 150 kg/ha and recorded significantly higher spike length of 11.27 cm as compared to nitrogen @ 75 and 100 kg/ha. Application of nitrogen @125 kg/ha increased spike length to the tune 18.26 and 7.54 per cent over nitrogen @ 75 and 100 kg/ha, respectively. It might be due to application of higher dose of RDN which make higher availability of nutrients for photosynthetic activity. So increasing application of nitrogen which increases length of spike. The results are in conformity with those of Ali *et al.* (2011), Patel *et al.* (2012), Singh *et al.* (2013).

Table 4: Effect of seed rates and nitrogen levels on spike length of wheat

| Treatments | Spike length (cm) |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Seed rate | |
| 100 kg/ha | 11.50 |
| 125 kg/ha | 10.61 |
| 150 kg/ha | 9.85 |
| SEm± | 0.21 |
| C.D. at 5 % | 0.83 |
| Nitrogen levels | |
| 75 kg/ha | 9.53 |
| 100 kg/ha | 10.48 |
| 125 kg/ha | 11.27 |
| 150 kg/ha | 11.34 |
| SEm± | 0.23 |
| C.D. at 5 % | 0.69 |

Number of grains per spike Effect of seed rates

It is confirmed from the data given in table 5 indicated that number of grains per spike of wheat influenced significantly due to seed rates. Significantly higher number of grains per spike was recorded with the crop sown using seed rate of 100 kg/ha as compared to seed rate of 125 and 150 kg/ha. Percentage increases in number of grains per spike due to seed rate of 100 kg/ha to the tune of 8.39 and 16.75 per cent as compared to seed rate of 125 and 150 kg/ha, respectively. The decreasing trend of grains per spike at increasing seed rates was probably due to increased competition and shortage in input supply under higher population densities as also revealed by Jat and Dhakar (2002).

Effect of nitrogen levels

It is confirmed from the data given in Table 5 that the number of grains per spike of wheat was significantly influenced by different nitrogen levels. Application of nitrogen @ 125 kg/ha recorded significantly higher number of grains per spike of 45.03 as compared to nitrogen @ 75 and 100 kg/ha, but it was remained at par with application of nitrogen @ 150 kg/ha. However, lower number of grains per spike of 38.68 was recorded with the application of nitrogen @ 75 kg/ha. Application of nitrogen @ 125 kg/ha increased spike length to the tune 16.42 and 7.06 per cent over nitrogen @ 75 and 100 kg/ha, respectively. Due to higher dose of nitrogen which make higher availability of nutrients for photosynthetic activity. So increased application of nitrogen which increased number of seeds per spike. These results are in close conformity with those reported by Ali *et al.* (2011), Patel *et al.* (2012) and Pandey *et al.* (2014).

Table 5: Effect of seed rates and nitrogen levels on number of grains

| Treatments | Number of grains per spike |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| Seed rate | |
| 100 kg/ha | 46.36 |
| 125 kg/ha | 43.37 |
| 150 kg/ha | 39.52 |

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| SEm± | 0.63 |
| C.D. at 5 % | 2.46 |
| Nitrogen levels | |
| 75 kg/ha | 38.68 |
| 100 kg/ha | 42.06 |
| 125 kg/ha | 45.03 |
| 150 kg/ha | 46.56 |
| SEm± | 0.57 |
| C.D. at 5 % | 1.69 |

Test weight (gm) Effect of seed rates

Critical examination of data presented in Table 6 indicated that test weight of wheat influenced significantly due to seed rates. Higher test weight was recorded with the crop sown using seed rate of 100 kg/ha as compared to seed rate of 125 and 150 kg/ha. Increases in test weight due to seed rate of 100 kg/ha to the tune of 8.31 and 16.67 per cent as compared to seed rate of 125 and 150 kg/ha, respectively.

Effect of nitrogen levels

It is confirmed from the data given in Table 6 that the test weight of wheat was significantly influenced by different nitrogen levels. Application of nitrogen

@125 kg/ha recorded significantly higher test weight as compared to nitrogen @ 75 and 100 kg/ha, but it was remained at par with application of nitrogen @ 150 kg/ha. However, lower test weight was recorded with the application of nitrogen @75 kg/ha. Application of nitrogen @125 kg/ha increased test weight to the tune 18.05 and 7.61 per cent over nitrogen @ 75 and 100 kg/ha, respectively. The increased test weight with the application of nitrogen @125 kg/ha seems to be on account of increased photosynthetic efficiency which leads heavier grain leading higher test weight. The finding are close conformity with those reported by Samra and Dhillon (2002), Pandey *et al.* (2004), Patel *et al.* (2004), Kumar and Yadav (2005) and Ali *et al.* (2011).

Table. 6: Effect of seed rates and nitrogen levels on test weight of wheat

| Treatments | Test weight (1000 grain weight) (gm) |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Seed rate | |
| 100 kg/ha | 41.57 |
| 125 kg/ha | 38.38 |
| 150 kg/ha | 35.63 |
| SEm± | 0.78 |
| C.D. at 5 % | 3.07 |
| Nitrogen levels | |
| 75 kg/ha | 34.51 |
| 100 kg/ha | 37.86 |
| 125 kg/ha | 40.74 |
| 150 kg/ha | 40.99 |
| SEm± | 0.85 |
| C.D. at 5 % | 2.54 |

Grain yield (q/ha)

Effect of seed rates

It can be stated that data (Table 7) indicated that grain yield of wheat influenced significantly due to seed rates. Crop sown using seed rate of 125 kg/ha recorded significantly maximum grain yield (58.61 q/ha) as compared to seed rate of 150kg/ha, but it was at par with seed rate of 100 kg/ha. Crop sown using seed rate of 125 kg/ha increased grain yield to the tune of 9.27 per cent as compared to seed rate of 150 kg/ha.

Effect of nitrogen levels

Further reference to data given in (Table 7) revealed that the grain yield of wheat was significantly influenced by different nitrogen levels. There was a gradual increase in grain yield with the increase in nitrogen levels. Maximum grain yield (69.83 q/ha) was recorded with the application of nitrogen @150 kg/ha and it was at par with application of nitrogen @ 125kg/ha as compared to nitrogen @ 75 and 100 kg/ha. The percentage increases in grain yield of wheat due to application nitrogen @ 125 kg/ha to the tune of 76.12 and 26.84 per cent as compared to nitrogen @ 75 and 100 kg/ha, respectively. This may be mainly attributed to improved growth and yield parameters viz., plant height, length of spike, number of seeds per spike, grain weight per spike and the beneficial effects of nitrogen on cell division and elongation, formation of nucleotides and co-enzymes which resulted in increased meristematic activity and photosynthetic area and hence more

production and accumulation of photosynthates, yielding higher grain yield. The results are in close conformity with those reported by Ali *et al.* (2011), Patel *et al.* (2012), Rahimi (2012), Pradhan *et al.* (2013), Singh *et al.* (2013), Shirazi *et al.* (2014), Pandey *et al.* (2014), Kaur *et al.* (2015) and Satyanarayana *et al.* (2017).

Table 7: Effect of seed rates and nitrogen levels on grain yield of wheat

| Treatments | Grain yield (q/ha) |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Seed rate | |
| 100 kg/ha | 57.71 |
| 125 kg/ha | 58.61 |
| 150 kg/ha | 53.64 |
| SEm± | 1.07 |
| C.D. at 5 % | 4.22 |
| Nitrogen levels | |
| 75 kg/ha | 37.78 |
| 100 kg/ha | 52.46 |
| 125 kg/ha | 66.54 |
| 150 kg/ha | 69.83 |
| SEm± | 1.23 |
| C.D. at 5 % | 3.66 |

Straw yield (q/ha) Effect of seed rates

It can be stated that data (Table 8) indicated that straw yield of wheat influenced significantly due to seed rates. Crop sown using seed rate of 150 kg/ha recorded significantly maximum straw yield (102.13 q/ha) as compared to seed rate of 100 and 125 kg/ha. Crop sown using seed rate of 150 kg/ha increased straw yield to the tune of 28.66 and 13.73 per cent as compared to seed rate of 100 and 125 kg/ha. The similar response of decrease in yield and yield attributes with decreasing seed rates have been reported by Naik *et al.* (1991), Parihar and Singh (1995) and Samra and Dhillon (1993).

Effect of nitrogen levels

Experimental data presented in (Table 8) revealed that the straw yield of wheat was significantly influenced by different nitrogen levels. There was a gradual increase in straw yield with the increase in nitrogen levels. Maximum straw yield (102.63 q/ha) was recorded with the application of nitrogen @ 150 kg/ha (96.93 q/ha) and it was at par with application of nitrogen @ 125 kg/ha as compared to nitrogen @ 75 and 100 kg/ha. The percentage increases in straw yield of wheat due to application nitrogen @ 125 kg/ha to the tune of 29.64 and 10.88 per cent as compared to nitrogen @ 75 and 100 kg/ha, respectively. The increased straw yield per plant with the application of nitrogen @ 125 kg/ha seems to be on account of increased photosynthetic efficiency and greater development

of vegetative structure. It might be due to nitrogen apply in form of urea which contain N readily available form which leads better root and shoot development while nitrogen leads improve the supply of nutrients increased photosynthetic area and thereby ultimately resulted into higher values of yield and yield attributing characters. The results are in close proximity with finding of conformity with Patel *et al.* (2012), Rahimi (2012), Singh *et al.* (2013), Shirazi *et al.* (2014) and Pandey *et al.* (2014).

Table 8: Effect of seed rates and nitrogen levels on straw yield of wheat

| Treatments | Straw yield (q/ha) |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Seed rate | |
| 100 kg/ha | 79.38 |
| 125 kg/ha | 89.80 |
| 150 kg/ha | 102.13 |
| SEm± | 2.54 |
| C.D. at 5 % | 9.96 |
| Nitrogen levels | |
| 75 kg/ha | 74.77 |
| 100 kg/ha | 87.42 |
| 125 kg/ha | 96.93 |
| 150 kg/ha | 102.63 |
| SEm± | 2.41 |
| C.D. at 5 % | 7.16 |

Biological yield (q/ha)Effect of seed rates

It is apparent from the data given in (Table 9) indicated that biological yield of wheat influenced significantly due to seed rates. Crop sown using seed rate of 150 kg/ha recorded significantly maximum biological yield (155.77 q/ha) as compared to seed rate of 100 kg/ha, but it was at par with 125 kg/ha. Crop sown using seed rate of 150 kg/ha increased biological yield to the tune of 13.63 per cent as compared to seed rate of 100 kg/ha.

Effect of nitrogen levels

Data in Table 9 revealed that the biological yield of wheat was significantly influenced by different nitrogen levels. There was a gradual increase in biological yield with the increase in nitrogen levels. Maximum biological yield (172.46 q/ha) was recorded with the application of nitrogen @150 kg/ha (96.93 q/ha) and it was at par with application of nitrogen @ 125 kg/ha as compared to nitrogen @ 75 and 100 kg/ha. The percentage increases in biological yield of wheat due to application nitrogen @ 125 kg/ha to the tune of 45.24 and 16.88 per cent as compared to nitrogen @ 75 and 100 kg/ha, respectively.

Table 9: Effect of seed rates and nitrogen levels on biological yield of wheat

| Treatments | Biological yield (q/ha) |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Seed rate | |
| 100 kg/ha | 137.09 |
| 125 kg/ha | 148.40 |
| 150 kg/ha | 155.77 |
| SEm± | 3.07 |
| C.D. at 5 % | 12.04 |
| Nitrogen levels | |
| 75 kg/ha | 112.56 |
| 100 kg/ha | 139.87 |
| 125 kg/ha | 163.48 |
| 150 kg/ha | 172.46 |
| SEm± | 3.45 |
| C.D. at 5 % | 10.25 |

Harvest indexEffect of seed rates

It can be stated that data in table 10 indicated that harvest index of wheat influenced significantly due to seed rates. Crop sown using seed rate of 100 kg/ha recorded significantly higher harvest index as compared to seed rate of 125 and 150 kg/ha.

Effect of nitrogen levels

It is evident from the data in table 10 showed that the harvest index of wheat was significantly influenced by different nitrogen levels. Higher harvest index was recorded with the application of nitrogen @100 kg/ha and it was at par with application of nitrogen @ 150 kg/ha as compared to nitrogen @ 75 and 100 kg/ha.

Table 10: Effect of seed rates and nitrogen levels on harvest index of wheat

| Treatments | Harvest index (%) |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Seed rate | |
| 100 kg/ha | 41.65 |
| 125 kg/ha | 38.80 |
| 150 kg/ha | 34.22 |
| SEm± | 0.66 |
| C.D. at 5 % | 2.59 |
| Nitrogen levels | |

| | |
|-------------|-------|
| 75 kg/ha | 33.76 |
| 100 kg/ha | 37.75 |
| 125 kg/ha | 40.85 |
| 150 kg/ha | 40.54 |
| SEm± | 0.38 |
| C.D. at 5 % | 1.14 |

Economics

Net returns Effect of seed rates

Economic analysis in table 11 indicated that net returns of wheat influenced significantly due to seed rates. Crop sown using seed rate of 125 kg/ha recorded significantly higher net returns of 116636 /ha as compared to seed rate of 100 kg/ha, but it was at par with 150 kg/ha.

Effect of nitrogen levels

Economic analysis in table 11 showed that the net returns of wheat were significantly influenced by different nitrogen levels. Higher net returns of ₹ 136032/ha was recorded with the application of nitrogen @ 125 kg/ and it was at par with application of nitrogen @ 150 kg/ha as compared to nitrogen @ 75 and 100 kg/ha.

B: C ratio Effect of seed rates

It can be stated that data in table 11 indicated that B: C ratio of wheat influenced significantly due to seed rates. Crop sown using seed rate of 125 kg/ha recorded significantly higher B: C ratio 2.51 as compared to seed rate of 100 kg/ha, but it was at par with 150 kg/ha.

Effect of nitrogen levels

Data in table 11 showed that the B: C ratio of wheat was significantly influenced by different nitrogen levels. Higher B: C ratio of 2.92 was recorded with the application of nitrogen @ 125 kg/ and it was at par with application of nitrogen @ 150 kg/ha as compared to nitrogen @ 75 and 100 kg/ha.

Table 11: Effect of seed rates and nitrogen levels on economics of wheat

| Treatments | Net returns (/ha) | ₹ | B:C ratio |
|------------------------|--------------------|---|-----------|
| Seed rate | | | |
| 100 kg/ha | 109951 | | 2.38 |
| 125 kg/ha | 116636 | | 2.51 |
| 150 kg/ha | 112469 | | 2.41 |
| Nitrogen levels | | | |
| 75 kg/ha | 67654 | | 1.47 |
| 100 kg/ha | 103214 | | 2.23 |
| 125 kg/ha | 136032 | | 2.92 |
| 150 kg/ha | 145174 | | 3.10 |

CONCLUSION

Keeping in view the objectives framed for undertaking study and the results obtained after experimental period, under mentioned conclusions may be drawn.

1. Crop sown using seed rate of 125 kg/ha recorded significantly higher yield attributes, seed, straw and biological yield as well as net returns and B:C ratio.
2. The higher growth parameters, yield attributes, seed, straw and biological yield as well as net returns and B: C ratio were obtained with application of nitrogen @ 125 kg/ha.

Based on the finding of the present investigation, it is recommended that crop sown using seed rate of 125 kg/ha along with application of nitrogen @ 125 kg/ha. However, these results are only indicative and required further experimentation to arrive at some more consistent and final conclusion.

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