

# **Effect of Different Growing Media on Seed Germination, Seedling Growth And Establishment of Papaya (*Carica papaya* L.) cv. Red Lady**

## **ABSTRACT**

The study was carried out to study Effect of Different Growing Media on Seed Germination, Seedling Growth and Establishment of Papaya (*Carica papaya* L.) cv. Red Lady during 2023-24. They were utilized for research in order to facilitate seed germination and seedling growth on various media. The current study used a randomized block design with three replications for each of the nine treatment combinations. The characteristics of seed germination and the growth parameters of seedlings were noted. The findings demonstrated that utilizing a medium mixture consisting of soil, vermicompost, and cocopeat (1:2:1) improved seed germination (91.93%) and reduced days of germination (14.73). The highest net profit ratio (Rs. 323227.5 per 1000 seedlings) and B:c ratio (3.47) of seedlings were observed in the maximum seedling height (13.20 cm), number of leaves (13.40), chlorophyll content (67.85), shoot length (9.62 cm), grith of seedling (5.74 mm), Seedling Vigor index (1213.75), fresh weight of seedling (18.98 g), leaf area (46.05 cm<sup>2</sup>), and seedling survival percentage (83.27%).

*Key word: germination, Seedlingowth, Red lady, Papaya.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

The papaya (*Carica papaya* L.), sometimes known as the "wonder fruits of the tropics," is an important tropical fruit crop. As a member of the Caricaceae family, it was brought to India in the 16th century from Malacca, where it originated in Tropical America (Hafmer, 1990). grown papayas in a variety of biological forms, including monoecious, dioecious, and gynodioecious varieties (Ray, 2002).

A lower survival rate for papaya plants can be attributed to a number of factors, including initial mortality and inadequate germination. The success of fruit production can be ensured by using high-quality papaya seedlings to create plants with high genetic potential (Albano et al. 2014). A strong, evenly distributed root system, a low relationship between the shoot and root phytomass, and adequate formation are all related to the quality of seedlings (Costa et al. 2015, Sanches et al. 2017). The growth and maintenance of a robust, functional root system are directly impacted by the choice of growing media, which is crucial for the creation of healthy plants. The type of media utilized affects the seedlings' quality (Wilson et al. 2001).

These states' topography and climate are perfect for producing high-quality papaya. Papaya fruits get their yellow to orange color from caricaxanthin. It is a sweet and refreshing fruit that is widely prized for its ability to aid with digestion. Meena et al. (2017) further argued that because papaya juice contains lycopene and caricaxanthin, it also functions as an in vitro antiproliferative against liver cancer cells. Papayas can lower your risk of cancer, diabetes, and heart disease when you eat them regularly. The strong therapeutic value of papain is extracted from ripe papayas and is also utilized as an industrial ingredient in tanning, cosmetic, optical, and brewing products (Dayeswari et al., 2017).

## **MATERIAL AND METHOD**

### **Study location**

The fieldwork was carried out in the Prayagraj district, which is located in a semi-arid, subtropical zone with extremes of temperature, namely winter and summer. The region experiences occasional lows of 4°–5°C and maximum temperatures of 46°–48°C. There is a 20% to 94% variation in relative humidity. In this area, there is typically 900–1100 mm of rainfall per year. Throughout the crop season, 5.9°C was to be the lowest temperature and 29.04°C was to be the highest. Maximum humidity levels were 42.72% and 93.28%, respectively. **Layout and treatment combination**

Research on the growth of seeds and seedlings of the papaya variety Red Lady was done during 2023-2024 at the Horticultural Research Facility of Naini Agricultural Institute, SHUATS, Prayagraj, (Uttar Pradesh). The experiment was set up at nine levels in RBD viz. Media. T<sub>0</sub>: control, T<sub>1</sub>: Soil + FYM(1:1), T<sub>2</sub>: Soil + Cocopeat (1:1), T<sub>3</sub>: Soil + Vermicompost (1:1), T<sub>4</sub>: Soil + FYM + Cocopeat (1:1:1), T<sub>5</sub>: Soil + FYM + Vermicompost (1:1:1), T<sub>6</sub>: Soil + FYM + Cocopeat (1:2:1), T<sub>7</sub>: Soil + Vermicompost + Cocopeat (1:2:1) and T<sub>8</sub>: Soil + FYM + Cocopeat + Vermicompost (1:1:1:1). The seed sowing was done in 18/03/2023 about 2 cm depth in different containers with different media as per the treatments.

### **Methods for different parameters**

From the start germination until there was no more germination, two days' worth of observations on the germination parameters were made. For every treatment, the imbibition period—the number of days from seeding to the start of germination—was noted. The number of seedlings that germinated divided by the total number of seeds put in containers multiplied by 100 was used to calculate the germination percentage. The difference (in days)

between the first and final emergence was used to compute the germination duration. The seed vigor was determined to be:

$$\text{Seed vigor} = \frac{\text{Total number of healthy seedling}}{\text{Total number of seedling}} * 100$$

Recorded data on growth parameters were made at transplantation (45 days post-sowing). Stem girth was measured with a Vernier caliper, and seedling height was measured using a metric scale, which measured the distance from the plant collar to the apex of the plant. After the real leaves appeared, the number of leaves was counted. Using a leaf area meter model number EMP-171492, the leaf area was determined. Plant uprooting allowed for the measurement of root length. (Gupta 1993): The seed vigour index was computed as follows:

$$\text{Seed vigor index} = \text{Germination percent} * \text{seedling length}$$

The proportion of seeds that germinated was determined by dividing the total number of seeds seeded in polybags by the number of sprouted seeds, then multiplying the result by 100. The difference in number of days between the initial and ultimate emergence was used to compute the germination duration. By dividing the total number of healthy seedlings by the total number of seedlings and multiplying the result by 100, the seed vigor was determined. According to the Association of Official Seed Analysis (1983), the germination index was computed using the following formula:

$$\text{Germination index} = \frac{\text{No of germination seeds}}{\text{Days of first count}} + \frac{\text{No of germination seeds}}{\text{Days of final or last count}}$$

Survival percent was recorded as:

$$\text{Survival percent} = \frac{\text{Total Survival transplant plants}}{\text{Total transplant plants}} * 100$$

To find significant differences and compare means at a 5% significance level, all data were submitted to an analysis of variance (ANOVA).

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **1. Germination parameters**

## **1.1 Days to germination**

The Days to germination among the different treatments differed significantly. The treatment T<sub>7</sub>Soil + Vermicompost + Cocopeat (1:2:1) recorded maximumDays to germination(14.73). Whereas the minimum Days to germination(20.53) was recorded in the treatment T<sub>0</sub> Control.

## **1.2 Germination percentage**

The Germination percentageamong the different treatments differed significantly. The treatment T<sub>0</sub> Controlrecorded minimum Germination percentage(70.93). Whereas the maximum Germination percentage(91.93) was recorded in the treatment T<sub>7</sub>Soil + Vermicompost + Cocopeat (1:2:1).

## **2. Growth parameters**

### **2.1 No. of leaves**

The No. of leavesamong the different treatments differed significantly. The treatment T<sub>0</sub> control minimum No. of leaves(8.00). Whereas the maximum No. of leaves(13.40) was recorded in the treatment T<sub>7</sub>Soil + Vermicompost + Cocopeat (1:2:1).

### **2.2 Shoot length (cm)**

The Shoot length (cm)among the different treatments differed significantly. The treatment T<sub>7</sub> Soil + Vermicompost + Cocopeat (1:2:1) maximumShoot length (cm)(9.62). Whereas the minimum Shoot length (cm)(7.85) was recorded in the treatment T<sub>0</sub> Control.

### **2.3 Seedling height (cm)**

The Seedling height (cm)among the different treatments differed significantly. The treatment T<sub>7</sub> Soil + Vermicompost + Cocopeat (1:2:1)recorded maximumSeedling height (cm)(13.20). Whereas the minimum Seedling height (cm)(11.43) was recorded in the treatment T<sub>0</sub> Control.

### **2.4 Grith of seedling (mm)**

The Grith of seedling (mm)among the different treatments differed significantly. The treatment T<sub>0</sub> control recorded minimum Grith of seedling (mm)(3.44). Whereas the maximum

Grith of seedling (mm)(5.75) was recorded in the treatment T<sub>7</sub> Soil + Vermicompost + Cocopeat (1:2:1).

## **2.5 Seedling vigour index**

The Seedling vigour index among the different treatments differed significantly. The treatment T<sub>0</sub> control recorded minimum Seedling vigour index(811.00). Whereas the maximum Seedling vigour index(1213.75) was recorded in the treatment T<sub>7</sub> Soil + Vermicompost + Cocopeat (1:2:1).

## **2.6 Fresh weight of seedling (g)**

The Fresh weight of seedling (g) among the different treatments differed significantly. The treatment T<sub>7</sub> Soil + Vermicompost + Cocopeat (1:2:1) recorded maximum Fresh weight of seedling (g)(18.98). Whereas the minimum Fresh weight of seedling (g)(12.05) was recorded in the treatment T<sub>0</sub> Control.

## **2.7 Leaf area**

The Leaf area among the different treatments differed significantly. The treatment T<sub>0</sub> control recorded minimum Leaf area(32.53). Whereas the maximum Leaf area (46.05) was recorded in the treatment T<sub>7</sub> Soil + Vermicompost + Cocopeat (1:2:1).

## **3. Survival and establishment**

### **3.1 Survival percentage**

The Survival percentage among the different treatments differed significantly. The treatment T<sub>7</sub> Soil + Vermicompost + Cocopeat (1:2:1) recorded maximum Survival percentage(83.27). Whereas the minimum Survival percentage(47.27) was recorded in the treatment T<sub>0</sub> Control.

## **4. Economics**

Because of the higher germination and survival rates attained (Tables 1 and 3), the application of Soil + Vermicompost + Cocopeat (1:2:1) with 2 cm cocopeat media (T<sub>7</sub>) for the preparation of papaya seedling proved profitable and showed maximum net return (Rs. 32327.5/1000 seedlings) and Benefit:cost ratio (3.47) for the experimentation. The cost-benefit ratio of this treatment was comparable to that of the T<sub>7</sub> treatment, but it was noticeably better than the other therapies during the year.

## CONCLUSION

The treatment T7 (Soil + Vermicompost + Cocopeat (1:2:1)) was shown to be optimal in terms of germination %, growth parameters, survival percentage, and papaya establishment, based on the results of our experiments. T7 (Soil + Vermicompost + Cocopeat (1:2:1)) had the highest B:C ratio, 3.47.

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9. Effect of Different Growing Media on Seed Germination, Seedling Growth and Establishment of Papaya (*Carica papaya* L.) cv. Red Lady during 2023-24.

Treatment	Treatment combination	Days to Germination	Germination (%)	No. of leaves	Chlorophyll content	Seedling vigor index	Fresh Weight of Seedling (g)	Leaf area (cm <sup>2</sup> )	Survivability (%)
<b>T0</b>	Control	20.53	70.93	8.00	29.56	811.00	12.05	32.53	47.27
<b>T1</b>	Soil+FYM (1:1)	16.53	79.73	10.60	32.67	956.42	13.74	37.16	53.27
<b>T2</b>	Soil+ Cocopeat (1:1)	16.73	78.53	10.20	35.46	947.57	14.67	42.63	58.27
<b>T3</b>	Soil+Vermicompost (1:1)	18.53	72.13	10.00	40.35	879.87	15.07	39.07	65.27
<b>T4</b>	Soil+FYM +Cocopeat (1:1:1)	19.53	72.73	10.60	46.19	895.76	15.39	40.83	71.27
<b>T5</b>	Soil+FYM +Vermicompost (1:1:1)	13.73	89.33	12.80	56.82	1168.37	18.05	44.66	81.27
<b>T6</b>	Soil+FYM +Cocopeat (1:2:1)	18.53	72.73	10.20	42.38	919.04	16.63	41.87	74.27
<b>T7</b>	Soil+Vermicompost+Cocopeat (1:2:1)	14.73	91.93	13.40	67.85	1213.75	18.98	46.05	83.27
<b>T8</b>	Soil+FYM+Cocopeat+Vermicompost (1:1:1:1)	17.53	82.53	9.40	47.95	1062.80	15.83	40.27	78.27
<b>F-Test</b>		S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
<b>S.Ed(±)</b>		1.34	1.89	0.38	2.36	64.26	1.18	1.32	2.84
<b>CD<sub>@5%</sub></b>		2.68	3.98	0.89	4.52	128.65	2.35	2.68	5.68
<b>CV</b>		4.67	4.38	1.24	7.87	241.78	4.46	5.236	7.98

**Table 1. Germination efficacy against different treatment combinations**

Treatment	Treatment combination	Shoot Length (cm)			Seedling Height (cm)			Seedling girth (mm)		
		15 DAS	30 DAS	45 DAS	15 DAS	30 DAS	45 DAS	15 DAS	30 DAS	45 DAS
<b>T0</b>	Control	2.22	4.28	7.85	3.53	7.60	11.43	1.58	2.37	3.44
<b>T1</b>	Soil+FYM (1:1)	2.78	4.84	8.41	4.09	8.16	11.99	1.98	2.75	3.84
<b>T2</b>	Soil+ Cocopeat (1:1)	2.86	4.92	8.49	4.17	8.24	12.07	2.18	2.95	4.04
<b>T3</b>	Soil+Vermicompost (1:1)	3.00	5.06	8.63	4.31	8.38	12.21	2.48	3.25	4.34
<b>T4</b>	Soil+FYM +Cocopeat (1:1:1)	3.10	5.16	8.73	4.41	8.48	12.31	1.98	2.75	3.84
<b>T5</b>	Soil+FYM +Vermicompost (1:1:1)	3.86	5.92	9.49	5.17	9.24	13.07	3.48	4.25	5.34
<b>T6</b>	Soil+FYM +Cocopeat (1:2:1)	3.42	5.48	9.05	4.73	8.80	12.63	2.68	3.45	4.54
<b>T7</b>	Soil+Vermicompost+Cocopeat (1:2:1)	3.99	6.05	9.62	5.30	9.37	13.20	3.88	4.65	5.74
<b>T8</b>	Soil+FYM+Cocopeat+Vermicompost (1:1:1:1)	3.66	5.72	9.29	4.97	9.04	12.87	1.78	2.55	3.64
<b>F-Test</b>		S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
<b>S.Ed(±)</b>		0.27	0.41	0.34	0.12	0.12	0.31	0.43	0.42	0.41
<b>CD@5%</b>		0.56	0.87	0.75	0.24	0.25	0.62	0.87	0.85	0.83
<b>CV</b>		0.89	1.65	1.24	0.46	0.46	1.25	1.67	1.58	1.59

**Table 2. Shoot efficacy against different treatment combinations**

<b>Treatment</b>	<b>Treatment combination</b>	<b>No. of papaya seedling /100m (Rs.)</b>	<b>Selling price/seedling (Rs.)</b>	<b>Gross return (Rs.)</b>	<b>Net Return (Rs.)</b>	<b>B C: ratio</b>
<b>T0</b>	Control	4727	5	23635	14877.5	1.70
<b>T1</b>	Soil+FYM (1:1)	5327	5	26635	17777.5	2.01
<b>T2</b>	Soil+ Cocopeat (1:1)	5827	5	29135	20077.5	2.22
<b>T3</b>	Soil+Vermicompost (1:1)	6527	5	32635	23627.5	2.62
<b>T4</b>	Soil+FYM +Cocopeat (1:1:1)	7127	5	35635	26477.5	2.89
<b>T5</b>	Soil+FYM +Vermicompost (1:1:1)	8127	5	40635	31527.5	3.46
<b>T6</b>	Soil+FYM +Cocopeat (1:2:1)	7427	5	37135	27877.5	3.01
<b>T7</b>	Soil+Vermicompost+Cocopeat (1:2:1)	8327	5	41635	32327.5	3.47
<b>T8</b>	Soil+FYM+Cocopeat+Vermicompost (1:1:1:1)	7827	5	39135	29727.5	3.16

**Table 3. Seedling efficacy against different treatment combinations**