

Effect of Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Sulphur on Yield, Quality and Nutrient uptake of Black Sesame [*Sesamum radiatum* (L.)]

ABSTRACT

A field study aimed to evolve efficient nutrient management for improving yield and quality of sesame was conducted during pre-rabi season of 2022. The experiment was laid out in factorial randomized block design replicated thrice with twelve treatments. Treatments consisting of two levels of nitrogen (25 and 50 kg ha⁻¹), two levels of phosphorus (12.5 and 25 kg ha⁻¹) and three levels of sulphur (0, 20 and 30 kg ha⁻¹). Seed and stover yield as well as total nutrient uptake were recorded significantly higher with application of 50 kg ha⁻¹N, 25 kg ha⁻¹ P and 30 kg ha⁻¹ S. The application of 50 N and 30 kg S was recorded significantly higher oil content and oil yield over the rest of the nitrogen and sulphur levels. N content in seed (3.13%) and stover (1.226%) were found significantly influenced by 50 kg/ha N. Phosphorus @ 25 kg/ha was recorded significantly higher P content in seed (0.493 %) and stover (0.392%). S content in seed (0.325%) and stover (0.171%) were found significantly influenced by 50 kg/ha S. Significantly higher available nitrogen (281.22 kg/ha) was found under application of nitrogen @ 50 kg/ha. Significantly the higher residual phosphorus (28.81 kg/ha) was obtained with the application of 25 kg P/ha. Significantly the higher residual sulphur (7.63 mg/kg) was obtained with the application of 30 kg S/ha.

Keywords: Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Sulphur, Sesame and Yield

INTRODUCTION

Sesame (*Sesamum radiatum* L.) belongs to family pedaliaceae is an annual self-pollinated indeterminate minor and an ancient kharif oilseed crop of the world. Sesame seeds contain 5 % moisture, 20 % protein, 50 % oil, 16 % carbohydrate and 5 % fibre. The oil consists of glycerides, fatty acids and constituents chiefly oleic and linolenic acids with small proportions of stearic, palmitic and arachidic acids. Sesame is essentially a crop of tropical and subtropical regions. It is mainly grown in Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa, Bihar, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. In Gujarat, sesame cultivated in the area of 2.59 lakh hectare with the production of 122.58 million tones and a productivity of 473.47 kg/ha (Anon., 2021). A well-managed crop of sesame can yield 1200-1500 kg/ha under irrigated and 800-1000 kg/ha under rainfed conditions. Sesame is grown in areas with annual rainfall of 625-1100 mm and temperature of >27 °C. The crop is tolerant to drought, but not to water logging and excessive rainfall. Sesame is well adapted to a wide range of soils, but requires deep, well-drained, fertile sandy loams.

The area, production and productivity of sesame are higher in summer season than those of post-kharif and kharif season, but the productivity of sesame in general is much lower than its potential yield. Lower productivity is due to use of sub-optimal rate of fertilizer, poor management and cultivation of sesame in marginal and sub-marginal lands, where deficiency of macronutrient such as nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and micronutrient is predominant. Balanced fertilization with N, P, K and S is proved beneficial in all the oilseed crops to minimize the unfavourable exploitation of soil fertility and plant nutrient, thus maintain the soil health and plant nutrient at optimum level.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

The sesame variety GT-10 released from Oilseed Research Station, Junagadh Agricultural University, Amreli. The field experiment was carried out at College Farm, Navsari Agricultural University, Campus Bharuch during pre-rabi season of 2022. The soil was clayey in texture and slightly alkaline in reaction. The soil was low in available N (243 kg ha^{-1}), low in available P_2O_5 (26.13 kg ha^{-1}), low in available sulphur (7.96 mg kg^{-1}) and high in available K_2O (327 kg ha^{-1}).

The field experiment was laid out in FRBD with 12 treatment combinations consisting of three factors viz., Nitrogen [N_1 : 25 kg ha^{-1} , N_2 : 50 kg ha^{-1}], Phosphorus [P_1 : 12.5 kg ha^{-1} , P_2 : 50 kg ha^{-1}] and Sulphur [S_1 : 0 kg ha^{-1} , S_2 : 20 kg ha^{-1} , S_3 : 30 kg ha^{-1}] with three replications. Sesame variety GT-10 was sown by opening of furrow at distance of $45 \times 10 \text{ cm}$. Application of fertilizers were given before the sowing of seeds in the open furrow. The half dose of nitrogen and full dose of phosphorus and sulphur was applied at the time of sowing and the remained half dose of nitrogen was applied after 30 DAS. The different dose of nitrogen, phosphorus and sulphur was applied in form of urea, DAP and elemental sulphur, respectively as per the treatment in each plot. For all the growth and development studies during the crop growth period, five plants were selected randomly from net plot and tagged in each plot for recording plant height, number of capsules per plant, length of capsule and seeds per capsule. 1000 seeds were randomly taken from the bulk produce of each net plot and were counted and weighed. The weight was expressed as 1000- seed weight in grams. The data on pod and haulm yield were recorded from net plot and converted on hectare basis. Data were statistically analyzed by the procedure suggested by Panse and Sukhatme (1985).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Effect of nitrogen

Yield

The nitrogen application at increasing levels showed significant effect on yield parameter. Significantly higher seed (880 kg ha^{-1}) and stover yield (2186 kg ha^{-1}) were recorded under application of 50 kg ha^{-1} nitrogen. Nitrogen is important for flower and seed formation. It is involved in various physiological processes that influence plant growth and development. Sufficient nitrogen levels encourage the initiation, development and growth of shoots, plant height, leaf area, and overall biomass production and flowers in sesame plant. It involved in the production of nucleic acid and enzymes required for DNA synthesis and cell division, which are crucial processes during flower and seed development. Adequate nitrogen supply can promote plant height, higher flower, a greater number of capsules and seed set, resulting in increased seed as well as stover yield. Similar result was also found by Sawant *et al.* (2013), Patel *et al.* (2018).

Quality

Nitrogen application at increasing levels showed significant effect on oil content and oil yield. The highest oil content (45.80 %) and oil yield (405 kg ha^{-1}) were recorded under application of nitrogen @ 50 kg ha^{-1} which was significantly higher over other treatment. The highest oil content and oil yield might be due to higher concentration of nitrogen. It is a key component of amino acids, proteins, and chlorophyll. It is major constituent of proteins, and sesame seeds contain a high proportion of oil-rich protein. Adequate nitrogen supply promotes protein synthesis, which, in turn, affects the oil content of seeds. The present results correlate with the study done by Tripathy and Bastia (2012) and Bijarnia *et al.* (2019).

Nutrient content and uptake

N content in seed and stover was found significantly influenced by the effect of nitrogen. Treatment N_2 (50 kg ha^{-1}) recorded significantly higher N content in seed (3.130 %) and stover (1.226 %) over N_1 (2.628 %). In the present study nitrogen application

significantly increased availability of nitrogen which could have resulted in significant increase in N content in seed due to the fact that plant absorbed proportionately high amount of N as the pool of available nitrogen increased in the soil by adding higher 50 doses of nitrogen. This result supported by research finding of Vaghani *et al.* (2010) and Patil (2016). P, K and S content in seed of sesame did not influence by different level of nitrogen. However, P, K and S content in seed were increased with increase in levels of nitrogen but increase was not remarkable.

Different nitrogen levels significantly influenced the total N, P, K and S uptake by sesame. Crop fertilized 50 kg ha⁻¹ nitrogen resulted in significantly the highest total N, P, K and S uptake by sesame (54.49, 11.89, 20.24 and 6.41 kg ha⁻¹, respectively). Increase in grain and stover yield as well as increase in nutrients content in grain and stover with increase in amount of nitrogen, phosphorus and sulphur fertilizers application has resulted in higher uptake of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and sulphur by sesame. The results were closely related with finding Nayek *et al.* (2014)

Effect of phosphorus

Yield

Application of phosphorus 25 kg ha⁻¹ (P₂) recorded significantly the highest seed yield (854kg ha⁻¹) and stover yield (2180kg ha⁻¹) over other application of phosphorus (P₁). Phosphorus is essential for root development and nutrient uptake. It involved in formation of root hair and mycorrhizal associations, which might be attributed to higher uptake of nutrients. Improved nutrient uptake due to adequate phosphorus levels results in better nutrient availability for sesame plants, supporting their overall growth and seed yield. Similar result was also found by Sawant *et al.* (2013), Kalegoreet *et al.* (2018), Patel *et al.* (2018), and Salame *et al.* (2019).

Quality

Nutrient content and uptake

P content in seed and stover was found significantly influenced by the effect of phosphorus. Among all the P treatments, treatment P₂ (25 kg ha⁻¹) was recorded significantly higher P content in seed (0.493 %) and stover (0.392 %). In the present study phosphorus application significantly increased availability of phosphorus which could have resulted in significant increase in P content in seed and stover due to the fact that plant absorbed proportionately high amount of P as the pool of available phosphorus increased in the soil by adding higher doses of phosphorus. Similar results were also recorded by Choudhary *et al.* (2016) and Bumbadiyaet *et al.* (2016). N, K and S content in seed of sesame did not influence by different level of phosphorus.

Total nutrient uptake (N, P, K and S) by sesame was found significantly influenced by the effect of phosphorus. Among all the P treatments, treatment P₂ (25 kgha⁻¹) was recorded significantly higher total nutrient uptake (N, P, K and S) P₁. Application of phosphorus increased seed yield and content in sesame by providing balanced nutritional environment to the plant and higher photosynthetic efficiency. Uptake of nutrients is the function of their concentration in plant, seed and stover yields, the higher concentration of these nutrients coupled with significantly higher seed yield improved the uptake of nutrients. Similar results were observed by Choudhary *et al.* (2016).

Effect of sulphur

Yield

The seed yield of sesame was significantly influenced by the effect of sulphur. Among the different level of sulphur, application of sulphur 30 kgha⁻¹ (S₃) recorded significantly the

highest seed (873 kg ha⁻¹) and stover yield (2253 kg ha⁻¹). Sulphur plays vital and important role in energy transformation, carbohydrate metabolism and activation of enzymes as well as respiration, photosynthesis which in turn accelerated development of yield attributes. The present results correlate with the study done by Sawant *et al.* (2013), Kalegore *et al.* (2018) and Salame *et al.* (2019).

Quality

Nutrient content and uptake

Effect of various level of sulphur on S content in seed and stover were found significant. Significantly higher sulphur content in seed (0.325 %) and stover (0.2171 %) were recorded with application of sulphur @ 30 kg ha⁻¹. The application of sulphur does not directly increase the sulphur content in seeds and stover. However, it can indirectly affect the sulphur content in seed and stover by improving their ability to take up and utilize sulphur from soil. The present finding was in accordance with the finding of Choudhary *et al.* (2016) and Vaghani *et al.* (2010).

Different nutrients levels as soil application significantly influenced the total N, P, K and S uptake by sesame. Crop fertilized with 30 kg ha⁻¹ sulphur resulted in significantly the highest total N, P, K and S uptake by sesame (52.24, 12.17, 20.78 and 6.70 kg ha⁻¹, respectively). Similar results were observed by Choudhary *et al.* (2016).

Table 1: Effect of nitrogen, phosphorus and sulphur on yield and quality of black sesame

Treatments	Seed yield (kg ha ⁻¹)	Stover yield (kg ha ⁻¹)	Oil content in seed (%)	Oil yield (kg ha ⁻¹)
(1) Nitrogen level (N)				
N ₁ – 25 kg/ha	700	1962	44.15	310
N ₂ – 50 kg/ha	880	2186	45.80	405
S.Em. ±	20.86	56.36	0.52	10.90
CD at 5 %	65	165	1.52	32
(2) Phosphorus level (P)				
P ₁ – 12.5 kg/ha	725	1967	44.39	324
P ₂ – 25 kg/ha	854	2180	45.56	391
S.Em. ±	20.86	56.36	0.52	10.90
CD at 5 %	80	165	NS	32
(3) Sulphur level (S)				
S ₁ – 0 kg/ha	699	1929	43.78	306
S ₂ – 20 kg/ha	797	2039	44.41	356
S ₃ – 30 kg/ha	873	2253	46.74	410
S.Em. ±	25.55	69.03	0.64	13.35
CD at 5 %	74	202	1.86	39

Interaction	NS	NS	NS	NS
CV%	11.92	11.53	4.89	12.95

Table 2: Effect of nitrogen, phosphorus and sulphur on nutrient content in black sesame.

Treatments	Nutrient content (%) in seed				Nutrient content (%) in stover			
	N	P	K	S	N	P	K	S
(1) Nitrogen level (N)								
N ₁ – 25 kg/ha	2.628	0.463	0.691	0.298	1.033	0.344	0.641	0.164
N ₂ – 50 kg/ha	3.130	0.465	0.696	0.307	1.226	0.353	0.644	0.169
S.Em. ±	0.033	0.006	0.007	0.004	0.016	0.005	0.008	0.002
CD at 5 %	0.097	NS	NS	NS	0.05	NS	NS	NS
(2) Phosphorus level (P)								
P ₁ – 12.5 kg/ha	2.833	0.435	0.602	0.297	1.126	0.305	0.633	0.163
P ₂ – 25 kg/ha	2.925	0.493	0.665	0.307	1.132	0.392	0.652	0.168
S.Em. ±	0.033	0.006	0.007	0.004	0.016	0.005	0.008	0.002
CD at 5 %	NS	0.016	NS	NS	NS	0.013	NS	NS
(3) Sulphur level (S)								
S ₁ – 0 kg/ha	2.831	0.451	0.689	0.283	1.111	0.344	0.640	0.162
S ₂ – 20 kg/ha	2.848	0.466	0.694	0.298	1.119	0.349	0.638	0.167
S ₃ – 30 kg/ha	2.958	0.475	0.697	0.325	1.158	0.352	0.650	0.171
S.Em. ±	0.040	0.007	0.008	0.005	0.02	0.006	0.010	0.002
CD at 5 %	NS	NS	NS	0.014	NS	NS	NS	0.006
Interaction	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
CV%	4.86	5.04	4.04	5.39	5.94	5.56	5.38	4.40

Table: 3 Effect of nitrogen, phosphorus and sulphur on total nutrient uptake by plant and available nutrient status of soil after harvest of black sesame.

Treatments	Total nutrient uptake (kg ha ⁻¹)	Available nutrients in soil
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	N	P	K	S	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	S
(1) Nitrogen level (N)								
N ₁ – 25 kg/ha	38.70	10.05	17.39	5.31	237.92	25.44	309.94	6.50
N ₂ – 50 kg/ha	54.49	11.89	20.24	6.41	281.22	26.70	292.19	6.88
S.Em. ±	1.17	0.26	0.46	0.12	4.75	0.47	6.62	0.14
CD at 5 %	3.44	0.78	1.34	0.36	13.93	NS	NS	NS
(2) Phosphorus level (P)								
P ₁ – 12.5 kg/ha	43.09	9.15	17.57	5.39	254.65	23.34	295.36	6.59
P ₂ – 25 kg/ha	50.10	12.79	20.07	6.33	264.50	28.81	306.77	6.80
S.Em. ±	1.17	0.26	0.46	0.12	4.75	0.47	6.62	0.14
CD at 5 %	3.44	0.78	1.34	0.36	NS	1.38	NS	NS
(3) Sulphur level (S)								
S ₁ – 0 kg/ha	41.62	9.84	17.15	5.09	253.75	25.05	299.19	5.91
S ₂ – 20 kg/ha	45.92	10.91	18.53	5.79	256.75	26.02	314.00	6.54
S ₃ – 30 kg/ha	52.24	12.17	20.78	6.70	268.21	27.15	290.00	7.63
S.Em. ±	1.44	0.32	0.56	0.15	5.82	0.57	8.11	0.18
CD at 5 %	4.21	0.95	1.64	0.44	NS	NS	NS	0.52
Interaction	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
CV%	10.68	10.24	10.31	8.82	7.76	7.64	9.33	9.13

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