

## Original Research Article

### EFFECT OF SOWING DATE ON ECONOMIC RETURN AND BIOCHEMICAL TRAITS OF BROCCOLI (*BRASSICA OLERACEA* VAR. *ITALICA*.PLENCK)

Comment [AS1]: Planting dates

#### ABSTRACT

A field experiment was conducted during the Rabi season of 2016 to 2017 at Vegetable Research Farm, Department of Horticulture, Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences, Allahabad (U.P.) to find out the optimum time of sowing and plant spacing for broccoli variety Palam Samridhi, Pusa Kanchan and Lufa F<sub>1</sub> Hybrid. Seedlings were raised by sowing on three different dates viz. 20th October, 04 November and 19 November were transplanted at spacing viz. 45 cm x 45 cm. Economic return and biochemical traits were significantly influenced by the treatments. The results regarding that, effect of date of sowing and different varieties on economic return and Biochemical traits of broccoli. In view of experimental results obtained during the present investigation, treatment T<sub>4</sub> D<sub>2</sub> V<sub>1</sub> 04 November + V<sub>1</sub> Palam Samridhi emerged as superior over all other treatments, in relation to economic return, cost benefit ratio and biochemical traits of Broccoli under the agro-climatic condition of Allahabad.

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**Key words:** Broccoli, Agro-climatic condition, Economic return, Biochemical traits.

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#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Broccoli is a cool season crop. It is more sensitive when the plants are small and tender. They are susceptible to cold injury. Warm weather is disadvantageous, since the bud cluster loose quickly. In Northern India, it is generally in the month of September and October and is ready for harvest from the November to early December and may continue till early February. The nutritive value of Broccoli per 100 g of edible portion is given below (Brown and Hutchison, 1949), [2]. Water -89.3%, Protein -3.6%, Fats - 0.2 %, Carbohydrates - 5.5%, Fiber- 1.2 g, Vitamin A- 900 (I.U.) mg, Vitamin B (combined) - 33 (I.U.) mg, Vitamin C - 137 (I.U.) mg, Vitamin E- 2.3(I.U.) mg, Vitamin K- 3.5 (I.U.) mg, Calcium -1.29 mg, Manganese - 20 mg, Iron - 1.3 mg, Phosphorus- 0.79 mg, Sulphur-1.26 mg, Chlorine- 40 .0 mg. Broccoli has lots of medicinal importance. The national research council committee on diet, nutrition and cancer has recommended increased consumption of broccoli to decrease the incidence of cancer. *Brassica* vegetables contain high concentrations of carotenoids, which are believed to be chemo preventive and associated with a decreased risk for various human cancers in epidemiological studies. . It has about 130 times more vitamin A content than cauliflower and 22 times more than cabbage. It contains Sulforaphane, which block growth of tumour and reduce the risk of cancer. It also contains a few important phyto-chemicals, beta-carotene, indoles and isothiocyanates. The excessive use of chemical fertilizers has caused tremendous harm to environment Although the use of chemical fertilizers have

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become essential part of production and a balanced form of fertilizer use is always a pre-requisite to higher yield. However, these chemical fertilizers are costlier and also pollute the environment through the process of de-nitrification and volatilization and soil water through leaching. Only 50% of available nitrogen being used and rest 50% goes as waste, which is an environmental hazard.

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## 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The details of various materials used and the methods employed in carrying out the experiment are described in detail under appropriate heading.

### 2.1 Experimental site

The experiment was conducted at Vegetable Research Farm, Department of Horticulture, Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences, Allahabad, during the (*Rabi*) season of 2016-2017. All the facilities necessary for conducting the experiment, including labour and resources, which were necessary for normal cultivation were readily available in the department.

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### 2.2 Climatic condition

The area of Allahabad district comes under subtropical belt in the South east of Uttar Pradesh, which experience extremely hot summer and fairly cold winter. The maximum temperature of the location reaches up to 32<sup>b</sup>C – 34<sup>o</sup>C and seldom falls as low as 4<sup>b</sup>C – 5<sup>o</sup>C. The relative humidity ranged between 20 to 94 per cent. The average rainfall in this area is around 1013.4 mm annually. The meteorological data (Oct, 2012 to March, 2013) with respective to total rainfall, maximum and minimum temperature, relative humidity are presented in table-1.

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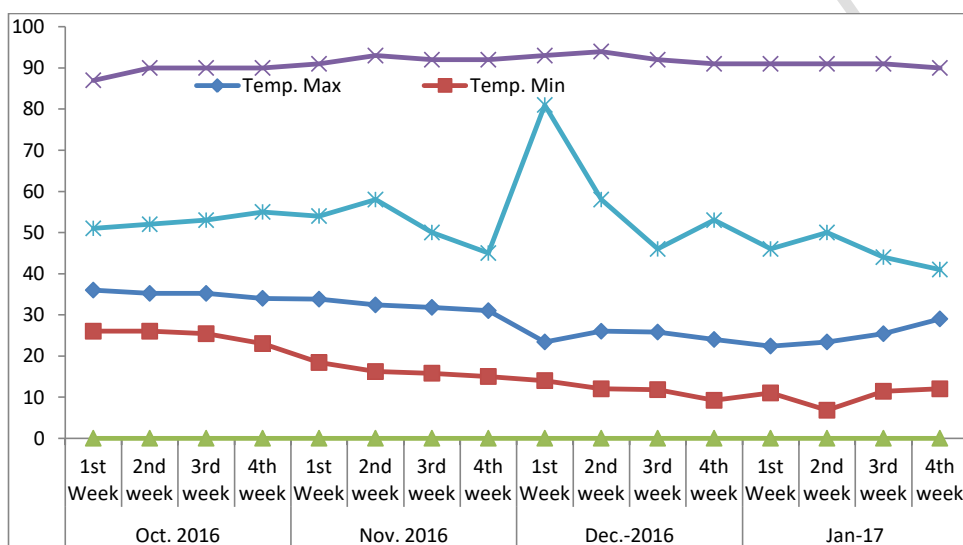
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**Table-1: Meteorological data (October 2016 –January 2017)**

Weeks	Temperature <sup>o</sup> C		Rainfall (mm)	Relative humidity (%)	
	Maximum	Minimum		Maximum	Minimum
<b>October 2016</b>					
1 <sup>st</sup> Week	36.00	26.00	0	87	51
2 <sup>nd</sup> week	35.20	26.00	0	90	52
3 <sup>rd</sup> week	35.20	25.40	0	90	53
4 <sup>th</sup> week	34.00	23.00	0	90	55
<b>November 2016</b>					
1 <sup>st</sup> Week	33.80	18.40	0	91	54
2 <sup>nd</sup> week	32.40	16.20	0	93	58
3 <sup>rd</sup> week	31.80	15.80	0	92	50
4 <sup>th</sup> week	31.00	15.00	0	92	45
<b>December 2016</b>					
1 <sup>st</sup> Week	23.40	14.00	0	93	81
2 <sup>nd</sup> week	26.00	12.00	0	94	58
3 <sup>rd</sup> week	25.80	11.80	0	92	46
4 <sup>th</sup> week	24.00	9.20	0	91	53

January 2017					
1 <sup>st</sup> Week	22.40	11.00	0	91	46
2 <sup>nd</sup> week	23.40	6.80	0	91	50
3 <sup>rd</sup> week	25.40	11.40	0	91	44
4 <sup>th</sup> week	29.00	12.00	0	90	41

**Source:** Agro-meteorological Observatory Unit, School of Forestry & Environment, Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences, (Deemed to be University), Allahabad.



**Fig.1 Meteorological data (October 2016 – January 2017).**

### 2.3 Soil characteristics of the experimental site

The experimental site is fairly level land with sandy loam soil of uniform fertility status with low clay and high sand percentage. Soil samples were collected at random spots from a depth of 0-30 cm and the soil was analyzed for pH, electrical conductivity (EC), organic carbon, available nitrogen, available phosphorus and available potassium, which are presented in table-2.

### 2.4 Field preparation

The experimental plot was prepared one month before transplanting. The soil was ploughed manually, levelled and the weeds were rooted out. The experimental area was laid out in raised beds with 1m width and 30 cm height. Well-decomposed farm yard manure was applied one week before transplanting at the rate of 15 t/ha.

**Table-2 Physical and chemical properties of soil at experimental site (SHUATS).**

Sl. No.	Particulars	Value(0-30cm depth)	Methods employed
<b>Physical properties</b>			
1	Sand	60.60%	Hydrometer Method ( <b>Bouyoucos, 1952</b> )
2	Silt	19.10%	
3	Clay	20.30%	
4	Textural class	Sandy loam	
<b>Chemical properties</b>			
1	Soil pH	6.5	Digital pH meter Mk. IV
2	EC	0.26 (dSm <sup>-1</sup> at 25 <sup>0</sup> C)	Electrical Conductivity Meter
3	Organic carbon	0.45 %	Hydrochloric oxidation Method ( <b>Walkely and Black,1934</b> )
4	Available nitrogen	212.56 kg ha <sup>-1</sup>	Alkaline permanganate method ( <b>Subbaiah and Asija, 1956</b> )
5	Available phosphorus	37.32 kg ha <sup>-1</sup>	Olsen's Colorimetric method ( <b>Olsen et al., 1954</b> )
6	Available potassium	210.05 kg ha <sup>-1</sup>	Flame photometric method ( <b>Jackson, 1958</b> )

## 2.5 Layout and Design of the Experiments

The experiment was laid in Factorial Randomized Block Design with 3x3 treatments, each replicated three times, thus making a total of 27 plots. The unit plot size was 1.8 x 1.5 m<sup>2</sup>. The plants were spaced at 45cm between the rows and 45 cm between the plants. There were total of 9 plants in each plot. The treatments were allocated randomly to a unit plot in each replication.

**Table-3 Treatment Combination**

Treatment No.	Treatment Symbol	Treatment combination
T <sub>1</sub>	D <sub>1</sub> V <sub>1</sub>	20 October + V <sub>1</sub> Palam Samridhi
T <sub>2</sub>	D <sub>1</sub> V <sub>2</sub>	20 October + V <sub>2</sub> Pusa Kanchan
T <sub>3</sub>	D <sub>1</sub> V <sub>3</sub>	20 October + V <sub>3</sub> Lufa F <sub>1</sub> Hybrid
T <sub>4</sub>	D <sub>2</sub> V <sub>1</sub>	04 November + V <sub>1</sub> Palam Samridhi
T <sub>5</sub>	D <sub>2</sub> V <sub>2</sub>	04 November + V <sub>2</sub> Pusa Kanchan
T <sub>6</sub>	D <sub>2</sub> V <sub>3</sub>	04 November + V <sub>3</sub> Lufa F <sub>1</sub> Hybrid
T <sub>7</sub>	D <sub>3</sub> V <sub>1</sub>	19 November + V <sub>1</sub> Palam Samridhi
T <sub>8</sub>	D <sub>3</sub> V <sub>2</sub>	19 November + V <sub>2</sub> Pusa Kanchan
T <sub>9</sub>	D <sub>3</sub> V <sub>3</sub>	19 November + V <sub>3</sub> Lufa F <sub>1</sub> Hybrid

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## 2.6 Nutrient application

Recommended dose of fertilizer, 120:60:60 kg of NPK per hectare was applied as basal dose. Sources of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium were Urea (46% nitrogen), single Super phosphate (16%) and Muriate of Potash (60% potassium). Half dose of nitrogen, total phosphorus and potash were well mixed and applied as basal dose before transplanting, according to the treatment. Balance half quantity of nitrogen was applied as top dressing at 30 days after transplanting.

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## 2.7 Transplanting of Seedlings

Broccoli plant was transplanted in the main field on 22<sup>th</sup> November 2012. Thirty days old healthy seedling having two pairs of leaves with a height of 10 to 15 cms were selected from the nursery and roots of the plant were treated first with Azospirillum according to treatment before transplanting and transplanted at the experimental plot and given light irrigation.

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## 3. OBSERVATIONS TO BE RECORDED

Observations were recorded on three randomly selected plants of each treatment to assess the effect of treatments on yield, economic return and Bio-chemical traits of broccoli in the following characters.

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### 3.1 Curd yield (t ha<sup>-1</sup>)

Curd yield of the crop was calculated immediately after removing the heads from the plant from each plot. Thus the total yield in quintals per hectare was worked out and statistically analysed.

### 3.2 Biochemical Traits

After harvesting of matured curds, in order to assess the quality of the curds, tests were carried out at the Laboratory of the Department of Horticulture, to find out the following:

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### 3.3 Ascorbic acid (mg/100g of edible portion)

Weigh 100mg of ascorbic acid on a chemical balance and dissolve in 3 per cent metaphosphoric acid, make the volume upto 500 ml.

### 3.4 Total soluble solid (%)

Total soluble solid was determined with the help of Erma hand refractometer (0.32 range) average and analyzed.

## 4. ECONOMICS OF CULTIVATION

Comment [AS43]: Economics of cultivation

As per the existing market prices, the input and output costs were computed treatment-wise and different economic parameters viz., cost of cultivation, gross return, net return and cost-benefit ratio were calculated.

### 4.1 Cost of cultivation (t ha<sup>-1</sup>)

The cost of the inputs that was prevailing at the time of their use was considered (Appendix) to work out the cost of cultivation which is given in rupees per hectare.

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## 4.2 Gross income

Gross income was calculated based on the prevailing market price for the produce.

## 4.3 Net income

The net income per hectare was calculated on the basis of gross income and cost of cultivation per hectare as follows-

$$\text{Net income} = \text{Gross income} - \text{Cost of cultivation}$$

## 4.4 Benefit to Cost ratio

The benefit to cost ratio was worked out by using the following formula.

$$\text{Benefit: Cost ratio} = \frac{\text{Gross income (Rs/ha)}}{\text{Cost of cultivation (Rs/ha)}}$$

All the recorded observations were subjected to the statistical analysis methods (Panse, G and Sukhatme, P.V. 1985), [11]. The significance and non-significance of the treatment effect was judged with the help of 'F' variance ratio test. Calculated 'F' value was compared with the table value of 'F' at 5% level of significance. If the calculated value exceeded the table value, the effect was considered to be significant. The significant differences between the means were tested against the critical differences at 5% level of significance.

## 5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 5.1 Curd yield (t ha<sup>-1</sup>)

The results of the investigation, regarding the effect of dates of sowing and different varieties on yield, economic return and Bio-chemical traits of broccoli have been presented in tables and bar-diagrams. Results of the experiment are summarized below. The Curd yield (t ha<sup>-1</sup>) as influenced by different treatments at presented in Table-4. The Curd yield (t ha<sup>-1</sup>) was found to be significant among the treatments. The maximum Curd yield (t ha<sup>-1</sup>) (14.07) was observed in D<sub>2</sub>- 4 Nov followed by the treatment D<sub>1</sub>-20 Oct and Minimum Curd yield (t ha<sup>-1</sup>) (13.08) was found to be in D<sub>3</sub>-19 Nov. The Curd yield (t ha<sup>-1</sup>) was found to be significant among the treatments. The maximum Curd yield (t ha<sup>-1</sup>) (14.29) was observed in Palam Samridhi followed by Pusa Kanchan and minimum Curd yield (t ha<sup>-1</sup>) (12.85) was found to be in Lufa F<sub>1</sub>. As far as interaction between date of sowing and different varieties is concerned; the maximum Curd yield (t ha<sup>-1</sup>) (16.25) was obtained with treatment T<sub>4</sub> D<sub>2</sub>V<sub>1</sub> 04 November + V<sub>1</sub> Palam Samridhi followed by treatments T<sub>7</sub> D<sub>3</sub>V<sub>1</sub>19 November + V<sub>1</sub> Palam Samridhi and the minimum Curd yield (t ha<sup>-1</sup>) (12.24) remained with treatment T<sub>9</sub> D<sub>3</sub>V<sub>3</sub>19 November + V<sub>3</sub> Lufa F<sub>1</sub> Hybrid. The findings are in agreement with the result of [1], [10], [7] and [9].

Table-4 Effect of sowing of dates and different varieties on Curd yield (t ha<sup>-1</sup>) of Broccoli.

Varieties	Curd yield (t ha <sup>-1</sup> )			
	Palam Samridhi	Pusa Kanchan	Lufa F-1	Mean
Date of sowing				

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D1-20 Oct	15.22	12.43	13.27	<b>13.64</b>
D2- 4 Nov.	16.25	12.92	13.04	<b>14.07</b>
D3-19 Nov.	14.20	12.80	12.24	<b>13.08</b>
<b>Mean</b>	<b>14.29</b>	<b>13.65</b>	<b>12.85</b>	
	<b>S.Ed.</b>	<b>C.D.</b>	<b>F-test</b>	
Due to Date of sowing	0.023	0.048	S	Comment [AS69]: Delete
Due to varieties	0.023	0.048	S	Comment [AS70]: V
Due to date of sowing x varieties	0.039	0.084	S	Comment [AS71]: D

### 5.2 Total soluble solids (<sup>0</sup>Brix)

The Total soluble solids (<sup>0</sup>Brix) as influenced by different treatments at presented in Table 4. and Fig. 1. The Total soluble solids (<sup>0</sup>Brix) was found to be significant among the treatments. The maximum Total soluble solids (<sup>0</sup>Brix) (3.96) was observed in D2- 4 Nov followed by the treatment D3-19 Nov. and Minimum Total soluble solids (<sup>0</sup>Brix) (3.59) was found to be in D1-20 Oct. The Total soluble solids (<sup>0</sup>Brix) was found to be significant among the treatments. The maximum Total soluble solids (<sup>0</sup>Brix) (4.30) was observed in Palam Samridhi followed by Pusa Kanchan and minimum Total soluble solids (<sup>0</sup>Brix) (3.36) was found to be in Lufa F<sub>1</sub>. As far as interaction between date of sowing and different varieties is concerned, the maximum Total soluble solids (<sup>0</sup>Brix) (5.17) was obtained with treatment T<sub>4</sub> D<sub>2</sub>V<sub>1</sub> 04 November + V<sub>1</sub> Palam Samridhi followed by treatments T<sub>7</sub> D<sub>3</sub>V<sub>1</sub> 19 November + V<sub>1</sub> Palam Samridhi and the minimum Total soluble solids (<sup>0</sup>Brix) (3.15) remained with treatment T<sub>9</sub> D<sub>3</sub>V<sub>3</sub> 19 November + V<sub>3</sub> Lufa F<sub>1</sub> Hybrid. The findings are in agreement with the result of [4], [6] and [5].

Table-5 Effect of sowing of dates and different varieties on TSS (<sup>0</sup>Brix) of Broccoli.

Varieties	Total soluble solids ( <sup>0</sup> Brix)			Mean
	Palam Samridhi	Pusa Kanchan	Lufa F-1	
Date of sowing				
D1-20 Oct	4.07	3.18	3.53	<b>3.59</b>
D2- 4 Nov.	5.17	3.30	3.40	<b>3.96</b>
D3-19 Nov.	4.55	3.27	3.15	<b>3.66</b>
	<b>4.30</b>	<b>5.34</b>	<b>3.36</b>	
	<b>S.Ed.</b>	<b>C.D.</b>	<b>F-test</b>	
Due to Date of sowing	0.026	0.055	S	Comment [AS78]: Delete
Due to varieties	0.026	0.055	S	Comment [AS79]: V
Due to date of sowing x varieties	0.044	0.095	S	Comment [AS80]: D

### 5.3 Ascorbic acid (mg/100g)

The Ascorbic acid (mg/100 g edible portion) as influenced by different treatments at presented in Table 4. and Fig. 2. The Ascorbic acid (mg/100 g edible portion) was found to be significant among the treatments. The maximum Ascorbic acid (mg/100 g edible portion) (113.04) was observed in D<sub>2</sub>- 4 Nov followed by the treatment D<sub>1</sub>-20 Oct and Minimum Ascorbic acid (mg/100 g edible portion) (110.82) was found to be in D<sub>3</sub>-19 Nov. The Ascorbic acid (mg/100 g edible portion) was found to be significant among the treatments. The maximum Ascorbic acid (mg/100 g edible portion) (113.98) was observed in Palam Samridhi followed by Pusa Kanchan and minimum Ascorbic acid (mg/100 g edible portion) (110.49) was found to be in Lufa F<sub>1</sub>. As far as interaction between date of sowing and different varieties is concerned; the maximum Ascorbic acid (mg/100 g edible portion) (117.97) was obtained with treatment T<sub>4</sub> D<sub>2</sub>V<sub>1</sub> 04 November + V<sub>1</sub> Palam Samridhi followed by treatments T<sub>7</sub> D<sub>3</sub>V<sub>1</sub>19 November + V<sub>1</sub> Palam Samridhi and the minimum Ascorbic acid (mg/100 g edible portion) (107.56) remained with treatment T<sub>9</sub> D<sub>3</sub>V<sub>3</sub>19 November + V<sub>3</sub> Lufa F<sub>1</sub> Hybrid. The findings are in agreement with the result of [6], [4] and [3].

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**Table-6 Effect of sowing of dates and different varieties on Ascorbic acid (mg/100 g) of Broccoli.**

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Varieties	Ascorbic acid (mg/100 g edible portion)			
	Palam Samridhi	Pusa Kanchan	Lufa F-1	Mean
Date of sowing				
D1-20 Oct	110.33	109.63	108.67	<b>112.64</b>
D2- 4 Nov.	117.97	116.90	113.57	<b>113.04</b>
D3-19 Nov.	115.32	109.60	107.56	<b>110.82</b>
<b>Mean</b>	<b>113.98</b>	<b>112.04</b>	<b>110.49</b>	
	<b>S.Ed.</b>	<b>C.D.</b>	<b>F-test</b>	
Due to Date of sowing	0.192	0.410	S	
Due to varieties	0.192	0.410	S	
Due to date of sowing x varieties	0.332	0.711	S	

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#### 5.4 Economic Returns

The Economic returns as influenced by different treatments at presented in Table-7 and Fig.2. The Economic returns was found to be significant among the treatments. The maximum curd yield t/h (16.25) was observed in D<sub>2</sub>- 4 Nov followed by the treatment D<sub>1</sub>-20 Oct and Minimum yield t/h (12.24) was found to be in D<sub>3</sub>-19 Nov. These findings are in agreement with the findings of [10], [1] and [7]. The Gross returns were found to be significant among the treatments. The maximum gross returns Rs./h (26,0000) was observed in D<sub>2</sub>- 4 Nov followed by the treatment D<sub>1</sub>-20 Oct and Minimum gross return Rs./h (195,840) was found to be in D<sub>3</sub>-19 Nov. These findings are in agreement with the findings of [8], [15] and [14]. The Economic returns were found to be significant among the treatments. The maximum net returns Rs./h (295,860) was observed in D<sub>2</sub>- 4 Nov followed by the treatment D<sub>1</sub>-20 Oct and Minimum net return Rs./h (131,700) was found to be in D<sub>3</sub>-19 Nov. These

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findings are in agreement with the findings of [17] and [16]. The Economic returns were found to be significant among the treatments. The maximum benefit cost ratio (1:4.05) was observed in D<sub>2</sub>- 4 Nov followed by the treatment D<sub>1</sub>-20 Oct and Minimum benefit cost ratio (1:3.05) was found to be in D<sub>3</sub>-19 Nov. These findings are in agreement with the findings of [12] and [13].

**Table-7 Effect of sowing of dates and different varieties on economic returns of Broccoli.**

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Table -7 Economics of different treatments and benefit cost ratio for Broccoli.							
S.No	Treatment Combination	Cost of cultivation (Rs. ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Curd yield (t ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Selling rate (Rs. t <sup>-1</sup> )	Gross return (Rs. ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Net return (Rs. ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Benefit cost ratio
T <sub>1</sub>	20 October + V <sub>1</sub> Palam Samridhi	64,140	15.22	16,000	243520	179380	1:3.80
T <sub>2</sub>	20 October + V <sub>2</sub> Pusa Kanchan	64,140	12.43	16,000	198880	134740	1:3.10
T <sub>3</sub>	20 October + V <sub>3</sub> Lufa F <sub>1</sub> Hybrid	64,140	13.27	16,000	212320	148180	1:3.31
T <sub>4</sub>	04 November + V <sub>1</sub> Palam Samridhi	64,140	16.25	16,000	260000	195860	1:4.05
T <sub>5</sub>	04 November + V <sub>2</sub> Pusa Kanchan	64,140	12.92	16,000	206720	142580	1:3.22
T <sub>6</sub>	04 November + V <sub>3</sub> Lufa F <sub>1</sub> Hybrid	64,140	13.04	16,000	208640	144500	1:3.25
T <sub>7</sub>	19 November + V <sub>1</sub> Palam Samridhi	64,140	14.20	16,000	227200	163060	1:3.54
T <sub>8</sub>	19 November + V <sub>2</sub> Pusa Kanchan	64,140	12.80	16,000	204800	140660	1:3.19
T <sub>9</sub>	19 November + V <sub>3</sub> Lufa F <sub>1</sub> Hybrid	64,140	12.24	16,000	195840	131700	1:3.05

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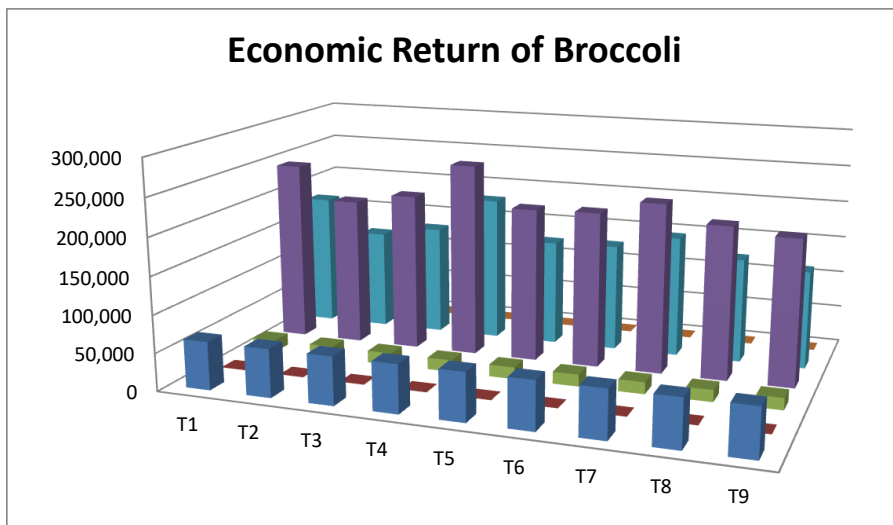


Fig.-2 Effect of sowing of dates and different varieties on economic returns of Broccoli.

## 6. CONCLUSION

It may be concluded from the experimental results obtained during the present investigation, treatment T<sub>4</sub>D<sub>2</sub>V<sub>1</sub> 04 November + V<sub>1</sub> Palam Samridhi emerged as superior over all other treatments, in relation to yield, Bio-chemical traits, economic return and cost benefit ratio 1:4.05 of Broccoli under the agro- climatic condition of Allahabad. However, as compared to all other treatments with lowest yield recorded in control, since this is based on one – season experiment.

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Comment [AS94]: Small

Comment [AS95]: Small

Comment [AS96]: Not clear

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