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Effect of urea-DAP briquettes and zinc levels on nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium uptake and yield of hybrid rice

A.B. DARADE* AND K.B. BANKAR

Department of Agronomy, College of Agriculture, Dr. B.S. Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli, RATNAGIRI (M.S) INDIA

ABSTRACT

A field experiment was conducted during *kharif* season of 2006 at Agronomy Farm, College of Agriculture, Dapoli, on clay lateritic loam soil. Results of the experiment revealed that the deep placement of urea-DAP briquettes (@ 114 kg N + 25.4 kg P) + 50 kg K_2O ha^{-1} recorded higher nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium uptake of 118, 29.0 and 95.58 kg ha^{-1}, respectively and grain yield (70.22 q ha^{-1}) which was significantly higher as compared to RDF (150:75:50 kg NPK ha^{-1}), deep placement of Urea-DAP briquettes (57 kg N + 12.7kg P) + 50 Kg K_2O ha^{-1} and control. Zinc levels also recorded significant effect on uptake of these nutrients and yield of hybrid rice. Soil application of $ZnSO_4$ @ 25 kg ha^{-1} produced significantly higher NPK uptake and yield of rice. Data also revealed that different levels of macronutrients and zinc levels interacted significantly in enhancing the grain yield of rice. Application of urea-DAP briquettes (@ 114 kg N + 25.4 kg P) + 50 kg K_2O ha^{-1} alongwith $ZnSO_4$ @ 25 kg ha^{-1} (F_3Z_2) recorded significantly higher grain yield as compared to all other treatment combinations except F_3Z_4 which was at par with F_3Z_2.

Key words : Hybrid rice, Urea-DAP briquettes, Zinc levels, NPK uptake, Yield

INTRODUCTION

Rice (*Oryza sativa L.*) is the most important food crop of India. Nearly three fourth of the people in the country subsist on it (Anonymous, 2000). The adoption of suitable fertilizer management within the reach of an ordinary farmer could be exploited to boost the yield. The important agronomic factor affecting the yield of paddy is fertilizer management practice. Nitrogen is major nutrient required for rice. Low recovery of applied nitrogen by rice has been attributed due to denitrification, ammonia volatilization, runoff and immobilization Thus it is necessary to increase N-use efficiency. Urea-DAP briquettes dissolve slowly and maintain higher level of NO_3 in soil upto the maximum period of crop growth and hence, were found beneficial in transplanted rice under anaerobic condition (Reddy and Reddy, 1986). Deep placement of briquettes is more efficient than conventionally applied prilled urea (Savant and Stangel, 1995). Now, it has been recognized that growing high yielding varieties of rice with repeated use of fertilizers, containing only major nutrients may necessitate the application of micronutrients for sustained crop production (Subbaiah and Mitra, 1997). Zinc, being third most important plant nutrient assumes significance in modern agriculture after N and P, limiting the growth and yield of rice. Zinc is essential for several enzymes that regulate various metabolic activities (Tandon, 1995). Therefore, present investigation was planned to study the effect of urea-DAP briquettes and zinc levels on the NPK uptake and yield of hybrid rice.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A field experiment was carried out during *kharif* season of 2006 at Agronomy Farm, College of Agriculture, Dapoli, dist. Ratnagiri (M.S). Rice variety 'Sahyadri-2' was grown in clay loam soil with pH 6.10. The experiment was conducted in split plot design with three replications. The treatments included four levels of fertilizers (macronutrients) *i.e.*, F_1- RDF (150:75:50 kg NPK ha^{-1}), F_2- deep placement of urea-DAP briquettes (57 kg N + 12.7kg P) + 50 Kg K_2O ha^{-1}, F_3- deep placement of urea-DAP briquettes (114 kg N + 25.4kg P) + 50 Kg K_2O ha^{-1} and F_4- control in main plot and Z_1-control, Z_2- soil application of 25 kg $ZnSO_4$ ha^{-1}, Z_3 -spraying of 0.5 per cent $ZnSO_4$ solution at flag leaf stage, and Z_4 -dipping of rice seedling roots in 2 per cent $ZnSO_4$ solution at the time of transplanting in sub plots. The gross plot size was 4.0 × 3.0 m. The values of available nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and zinc were 356.96, 15.78, 253.35 and 2.08 kg ha^{-1}, respectively. Fertilizers were applied as per the treatments. In case of F_1 first dose of 50 per cent nitrogen and full dose of phosphorus and potassium were applied at the time of transplanting. Remaining 50 per cent nitrogen was applied in two equal splits at one month after transplanting and at flag leaf stage. In case of F_2 placement of urea DAP briquettes (57 kg N + 12.7kg P) + 50 Kg K_2O ha^{-1} one briquette was placed in every alternate square of four hills by hand and two briquettes were placed at every alternate square of four hills, for the treatment of F_3. Zinc application was done as per the treatment. In case of dipping of seedling roots for two hours in two per cent zinc sulphate solution was done

* Author for correspondence