Cowpea [Vigna unguiculata (L.) Walp.] is an important dicotyledous crop belonging to the order Fabales, family Fabaceae, subfamily Faboideae, tribe Phasieoleae, subtribe Phasieoleneae and genus Vigna (Singh, 1993; Paudulosi and Ng, 1997). It is the most diverse of the cultivated subspecies and has the widest distribution (N’tare and Williams, 1992). Cowpea is extensively grown crop for edible pods during summer and rainy seasons in Jharkhand. In India, this crop is well-known table pulse as well as table vegetable because of high nutritional, particularly protein value of pods and seeds.

Favourable environmental requirements viz., high solar radiation, optimum temperature and rainfall, low pest infestation and good soil characteristics are readily available in Jharkhand leading to spread of this crop throughout state. Cowpea thrives well on a wide variety of soils and soil conditions but performs best on a well-drained sandy loam with pH range of 5.5-6.5 (N’tare and Williams, 1992). Cowpea is known to fix atmospheric nitrogen in the soil. It can fix sufficient atmospheric nitrogen to meet most of its requirements (Christo et al., 2008). Its growth and yield is affected by the quantity and quality of nutrients available in soil. Low organic matter content in soil and inorganic fertilizer coupled with low pH value, drought stress and high temperature frequently result to very low yield (Bationo and Mokwunye, 1991). Organic manures have excellent ability to improve and sustain the yield and also lead to steady build up of soil fertility if applied at higher rates (Lombin and Abdulahi, 1997). Organic manures can also sustain crop yield of most of annuals under continuous cultivation in most of soils unlike equivalent amounts of NPK through inorganic fertilizers (Maynard, 1991). These have been found to ensure early maturity, uniform ripening of fruits, increased...