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RESEARCH ARTICLE

GROWTH, YIELD ATTRIBUTES AND YIELD OF SESAME (*SESAMUM INDICUM* L.) AS INFLUENCED BY APPLICATION OF SULPHUR WITH FARMYARD MANURE

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ABSTRACT

A field experiment was conducted at college farm, college of agriculture, Rajendra nagar during *kharif* season of 2014 to study the effect of different levels of sulphur on growth, yield and yield attributes of *kharif* sesame with application of farmyard manure. The experiment was laid out in split-plot design with two main treatments *viz.*, M₁- RDF (40-60-40 kg NPK ha⁻¹), M₂- RDF along with application of 25% N through farmyard manure and three sub treatments *viz.*, S₁- 10 kg S ha⁻¹, S₂- 20 kg S ha⁻¹ and S₃- 30 kg S ha⁻¹. Application of RDF along with 25 % N through FYM recorded highest plant height, dry matter production, number of branches plant⁻¹, number of capsules plant⁻¹, number of seeds capsule⁻¹, seed and stover yield over application of RDF alone. Among sulphur levels application of 30 kg sulphur ha⁻¹ recorded highest number of capsules plant⁻¹, number of seeds capsule⁻¹, seed and stover yield over application of sulphur @ 10 and 20 kg ha⁻¹.

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INTRODUCTION

Sesame (*Sesamum indicum* L.) is one of the most important oil seed crops belongs to *Pedaliaceae* family and extensively grown in different parts of the world and it ranks fourth among oil seed crops in the world. Sesame occupies 19.42 lakh hectares area with production and productivity of 0.58 mt and 303 kg ha⁻¹ respectively during 2013 constituting 6.1 per cent and 2.8 per cent of area and production of total oilseeds in India (*Indiastat.com*). Telangana accounts for 0.24 lakh hectares with production and productivity of 0.09 lakh tonnes and 360 kg ha⁻¹ respectively. Sesame is drought resistant crop, which can be easily grown under rainfed conditions and it has been grown all over the world for thousands of years and said to be ancient crop in India. Sesame is a versatile crop with high quality edible oil having diversified usage. Sesame contains 46-55% oil, 20-25% protein and also contains vitamins, amino acids and polyunsaturated fatty acids. Sesame can play an important role to fulfill the local demand of edible oil. As sesame is short duration and photo insensitive crop with wider adaptability, it can be cultivated throughout the year.

In view of population growth, the requirement of edible oil is increasing day by day. It is therefore highly expected that the production of edible oil should be increased considerably to fulfill the increasing demand. The production may be increased by increasing the area under oil seed crop or increasing yield per unit area. But in the present condition scope of expansion of oilseeds is narrow. So, there is a general consensus that increasing yield vertically is more reasonable way to increase total production.

Prolonged use of chemical fertilizers alone in intensive cropping systems leads to unfavourable soil fertility, harmful effects on soil physico-chemical and biological properties and undermine sustainable crop production. Deficit of organic matter makes the situation worst for oil seed crops. The fact that crop deficiencies of sulphur have been reported with increase in frequency over the past several years greater attention has been focused on the importance of sulphur in plant nutrition (Scherer, 2001).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present experiment on sesame was conducted during *kharif* 2014 at College Farm, College of Agriculture, Rajendra nagar,

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Number of seeds capsule⁻¹ differed significantly among main plots. The treatment M₂ (RDF along with 25 % N through FYM) recorded higher number of seeds capsule⁻¹ (70.0) over application of RDF (64.0) alone. It was clearly indicated that there is a need for adding organic manures to the soil in conjunctive with inorganic fertilizers, which increased the availability of nutrients considerably resulting in positive effect on growth parameters. These results were in agreement with the findings of Babalad (1999).

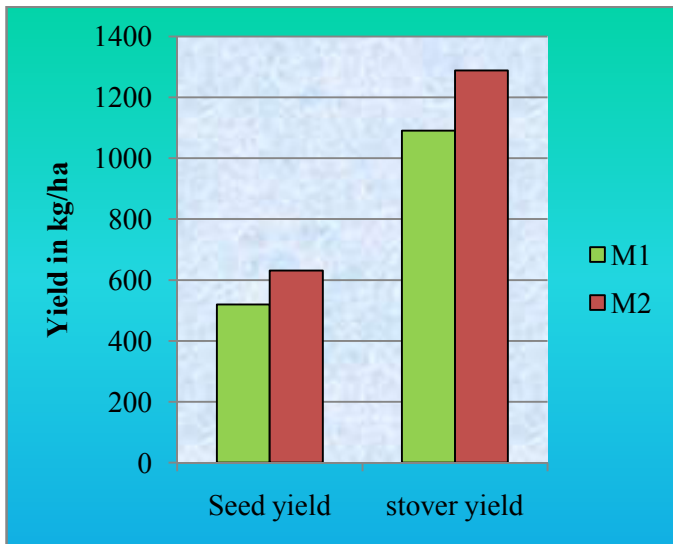


Figure 1. Seed yield and stover yield of sesame as influenced by main treatments

M₁: RDF

M₂: RDF along with 25 % N through FYM

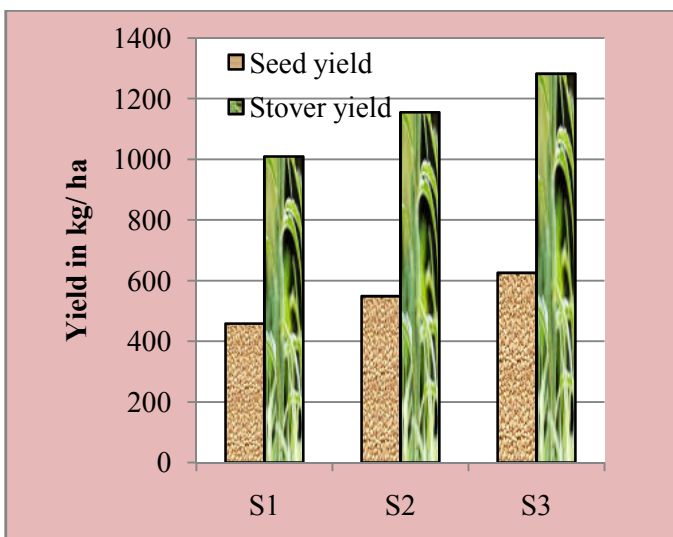


Figure 2. Seed yield and stover yield of sesame as influenced by sub treatments

S₁: 10 kg S ha⁻¹

S₂: 20 kg S ha⁻¹

S₃: 30 kg S ha⁻¹

Among sub treatments S₃ i.e. application of 30 kg S ha⁻¹ has recorded significantly higher number of seeds capsules⁻¹ (69.1) and it is significantly superior over S₂ i.e. application of 20 kg

S ha⁻¹ (67.1) and S₁ i.e. application of 10 kg S ha⁻¹ (62.2). From above findings, it is clear that yield attributing characters were greatly affected by increasing sulphur application upto certain level. The similar findings were also reported by Chaubey *et al.* (2000). Interaction effect of number of seeds capsule⁻¹ of sesame crop as influenced by main and sub treatments was non significant. 1000 seed weight of sesame found non significant with both main as well as sub treatments. The interaction affect was also found non significant.

The data pertaining to number of branches plant⁻¹ of sesame was significantly influenced by main treatments and sub treatments at all crop growth stages. The data on number of branches plant⁻¹ was found to be maximum (8.5) under M₂ i.e. RDF along with 25% N through FYM when compared to sole application of RDF (6.6). Highest number of branches plant⁻¹ was observed (8.5) in S₃ i.e. application of 30 kg S ha⁻¹ treatment which was significantly superior over S₁ i.e. 10 kg S ha⁻¹ (6.8) and S₂ i.e. 20 kg S ha⁻¹ (7.4). The data pertaining to seed and stover yield (Table 1) revealed that application of RDF along with 25 % N through FYM recorded significantly higher seed yield (631 kg ha⁻¹) and stover yield (1175 kg ha⁻¹) over application of RDF alone. Higher seed yield and stover yield of sesame was obtained with RDF along with 25% N through FYM significantly improved soil physico-chemical characters via modifying the soil environment, for sustained nutrient supply, better aeration and microbial activity influencing nutrient uptake and improving growth and yield components and ultimately yield of sesame. The results are in line with Maheshbabu *et al.* (2008).

Within the sub plots, the seed yield (626 kg ha⁻¹) and stover yield (1283 kg ha⁻¹) of sesame was significantly higher with S₃ (fertilized with 30 kg S ha⁻¹) followed by S₂ i.e. 20 kg S ha⁻¹ (549 kg ha⁻¹ seed yield and 1152 kg ha⁻¹ stover yield). The seed yield (459 kg ha⁻¹) and stover yield (1010 kg ha⁻¹) of sesame crop with S₁ i.e. 10 kg S ha⁻¹ was found to be lower. Cumulative influence of S application maintained balance source-sink relationship and ultimately resulted in increased seed yield and stover yield of sesame. The results were in close conformity with the findings of Ganeshmurthy (1996) and Hussain *et al.* (2011). Interaction effect of seed yield and stover yield of sesame crop as influenced by main and sub treatments was found to be non significant.

Conclusion

From the present investigation, it can be concluded that application of RDF (40-60-40 kg N P K ha⁻¹) along with 25 % N through FYM for sesame crop was ideal for obtaining higher growth, yield attributes and yield. Among different levels of sulphur, application of sulphur @ 30 kg ha⁻¹ was found ideal for sesame in order to obtain higher growth, yield attributes and yield.

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