

Research Article

Residual effect of organics and direct effect of mineral nitrogen on rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) in two different textural soils

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Abstract

Nitrogen through organics and inorganics application is an alternate to maintain soil health and crop productivity in the rice cropping system. With this background, field experiments were conducted in farmer's field at Kuttalam during 2012-2013, 2013-14 to evaluate residual organics and mineral nitrogen (100%N) on growth parameters and yield of rice (*Oryza sativa*) in sandy clay loam and clay loam soil. The treatments consisted of residual organics viz., composted coir pith (CCP), green manures (GM), sugarcane trash compost (STC), vermicompost (VC), poultry manure (PM) and FYM applied(100%N) and a combination of above residual organics with urea@50%N besides 100% recommended dose of nitrogen (RDN) and control. The results revealed that residual organics and urea recorded higher growth parameters like plant height, chlorophyll content, leaf area index (LAI), crop growth rate (CGR), relative growth rate(RGR), net assimilation rate(NAR), No. of tillers/hill compared to their individual addition. The growth parameters were more under residual PM in combination with mineral nitrogen in both the soils. Residual PM + fertilizer nitrogen (100% N) recorded highest grain (4485, 4693 kg ha⁻¹) and straw yield (6984, 5897 kg ha⁻¹) in clay loam and sandy clay loam soils, respectively. The lowest grain(3292, 2993 kg ha⁻¹) and straw yield(4998, 4003 kg ha⁻¹) were recorded in residual GM + fertilizer (100% N) in both soils. Among organics alone, residual PM(100% N) registered highest grain yield (4025, 4048 kg ha⁻¹) in both soils. It can be concluded that the application of poultry manure alone or in combination with N fertilizers enhanced the growth and improved soil health.

Keywords: Growth parameters, Mineral nitrogen, Residual organics, Rice, Yield

INTRODUCTION

Rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) is one of the most important cereal crops to satisfy the food requirement of the global population. India ranks first in the rice production area (45 million hectares) and second in rice production(117 million tonnes) after China(Indiastat, 2019). Nitrogen is one of the most crucial elements that is required for the growth and development of rice plants. It is involved in photosynthesis; a principal constituent of chlorophyll,

enzymes, proteins and vitamins assists in the production and use of carbohydrates and is required for the energy reactions taking place within the plants (Sara *et al.*, 2013). Intensive agriculture involving exhaustive high yielding varieties of rice has led to the heavy withdrawal of nutrients from the soil. Imbalanced and indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers has resulted in deterioration of soil health (John *et al.*, 2001). Despite the past gains in rice production through chemical fertilizers, recent observations of stagnant or declining yields

have raised concerns about the long term sustainability of crop production (Khan *et al.*, 2010). The negative impacts of chemical fertilizers coupled with escalating prices have led to growing interests in the use of organic fertilizers as a source of nutrients. Organic farming of rice increase the nutrient values of the product and reduce pesticide residues within it and allows the higher price of the crop in market (Rekha and Prasad, 2006). Poultry manure (PM) has been reported to supply P more readily to plants than other organic sources (Garg and Bahla, 2008). and also PM increased soil pH, organic carbon content, available P, exch. cations and micronutrients reduced exchangeable Al and Fe contents and bulk density (Uwah *et al.*, 2011 and 2012). In addition, organic manures can also generate a positive residual effect that should be taken into account when planning the next crop (Eghball *et al.*, 2004). Nutrients from organic manures (animal manures and crop residues) are released more slowly and are stored for a longer time in the soil, thereby ensuring a long residual effect (Amanullah and Khalid, 2016; Senthilvalavan and Ravichandran, 2020). With this background, the present study was conducted to study the residual effect of organics and the direct effect of mineral N in rice (*Oryza sativa*) in clay loam and sandy clay loam soils.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Field experiments were conducted in farmer's field at Kuttalam, Tamil Nadu in two different textured soils (sandy clay loam and clay loam) during 2012-2013, 2013-2014 in *rabi* and summer season to study the residual effect of organics and direct effect of mineral nitrogen on growth parameters and yield in rice (*O. sativa*) cultivation. The experimental soil was sandy clay loam (Typic Ustifluvents) and clay loam (Typic Haplusterts), pH (6.79, 8.19), EC (0.31, 0.36), available nitrogen (226.2, 227.9 kg ha⁻¹), available phosphorus (14.1, 14.9 kg ha⁻¹), available potassium (345.7, 316.7 kg ha⁻¹) and organic carbon (6.10, 6.20 g kg⁻¹). The experiment was laid out in randomized block design and replicated thrice. A short duration rice variety cv. ADT 38 was chosen for both soils. After harvesting the rice crop, the field was prepared to fine tillage with the spade without disturbing the individual plots. The same number of 42 plots of equal size (5'4m = 20m²) were used to test the residual effect of organics on the second crop by retaining the layout intact. The rice crop did not receive any organics, but it received the recommended dose of fertilizer nitrogen (100%). 150:50:50 kg N, P₂O₅ and K₂O ha⁻¹. All the treatments received phosphorus and potassium uniformly except absolute control, through superphosphate and muriate of potash. The entire dose of P₂O₅ was applied basally before transplanting. Efforts were taken to maintain a water level of 2.5 and 5 cm in the early and later stages

of the crop growth period, respectively. Irrigation was withheld 10 days before harvesting. Experiment consisted of T₁- Absolute control, T₂-Composted coir pith (CCP- 100% N), T₃-Green manure (GM-100% N), T₄- Sugarcane trash compost(STC-100%N), T₅- Vermicompost (VC-100% N), T₆-Poultry Manure (PM-100%N), T₇ - Farmyard Manure (FYM-100%N), T₈- CCP(50% N) + Urea (50% N), T₉- GM(50% N) + Urea (50% N) , T₁₀-STC(50% N) + Urea(50% N), T₁₁-VC (50% N) + Urea (50% N), T₁₂- PM (50% N) + Urea (50%N), T₁₃- FYM (50% N) + Urea (50% N), T₁₄- RDF(120:60:60 N, P₂O₅, K₂O Kg ha⁻¹). The N content in different organics include CCP (1.06%), GM (1.90%), STC (0.45%), VC (1.80%), PM (2.15%) and FYM (0.60%). All necessary management practices were carried out as per standard recommendation for rice crop. Biometric observations viz., plant height(cm), no of tillers/hill, chlorophyll content(mg/100 g), CGR(gm² d⁻¹), RGR(mg g⁻¹d⁻¹) and NAR (g dm² d⁻¹), grain (kg ha⁻¹) and straw yield (kg ha⁻¹) were recorded. The percent increase over control in grain and straw yield was calculated.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Growth and physiological parameters

Residual effect of organics alone or direct fertilizer nitrogen alone or integration of residual organics and fertilizer nitrogen on growth parameters over control significantly(p=0.05%) increased in both sandy clay loam and clay loam soil (Table 1 and 2). The highest growth of parameters viz., plant height (94.2, 92.1cm), no. of tillers/hill (12.52, 12.97), chlorophyll content(2.89,2.89), CGR(11.42,10.88 gm² d⁻¹), RGR(32.2, 34.7 mg g⁻¹d⁻¹) and NAR(1.23,1.89 g dm² d⁻¹) were recorded in residual PM + fertilizer nitrogen(T₁₂) in both soils. This may be due to enhanced growth characteristics resulting in increased photosynthetic activity, which resulted in better growth rate and yield in Typic Paleudult-(Sandy loam) in the Maize-soybean cropping system, as reported by Almaz and Martini (2020). The improvement in the growth due to improved physiological processes in plant height might be due to enhanced supply of nutrients from poultry manure and chemical fertilizers in sandy clay loam in finger millet and Groundnut cropping system (Prashantha *et al.*, 2019).

Grain and straw yield

Residual effect of organics alone or direct fertilizer nitrogen alone or integration of residual organics and fertilizer nitrogen on grain and straw yield over control significantly(p=0.05%) increased in both sandy clay loam and clay loam soil (Table 3). The highest grain yield (4485, 4693 kg ha⁻¹) and straw yield (6984, 5897 kg ha⁻¹) were noticed in residual poultry manure + fertilizer nitrogen (100%N) in both soils. Poultry manure incorporation in the main crop resulted in transformation and

Table 1. Residual effect of organics and direct effect of mineral nitrogen on growth parameters of rice (*O. sativa*).

| Soils | Clay loam | | | Sandy clay loam | | | |
|-------|--|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Treatments | Plant height (cm) | No. tillers/hill | Chlorophyll content (mg/100 g) | Plant height (cm) | No. tillers/hill | Chlorophyll content (mg/100 g) |
| | T ₁ - Absolute control | 72.4 | 6.72 | 2.20 | 71.8 | 5.87 | 2.20 |
| | T ₂ - (CCP-100% N) | 75.9 | 7.53 | 2.32 | 75.0 | 6.86 | 2.29 |
| | T ₃ - (GM-100% N) | 74.2 | 7.09 | 2.29 | 74.2 | 6.30 | 2.25 |
| | T ₄ - (CST-100% N) | 76.8 | 8.32 | 2.37 | 75.6 | 7.93 | 2.32 |
| | T ₅ - (VC-100% N) | 80.7 | 9.08 | 2.43 | 83.2 | 8.38 | 2.37 |
| | T ₆ - (PM-100% N) | 82.1 | 9.51 | 2.46 | 84.8 | 8.83 | 2.40 |
| | T ₇ - (FYM-100% N) | 78.3 | 8.83 | 2.40 | 82.1 | 8.14 | 2.36 |
| | T ₈ - CCP + Urea (100% N) | 87.6 | 10.47 | 2.56 | 86.1 | 9.73 | 2.53 |
| | T ₉ - GM + Urea (100% N) | 83.4 | 9.12 | 2.49 | 85.2 | 9.17 | 2.49 |
| | T ₁₀ - CST+ Urea (100% N) | 91.3 | 10.91 | 2.62 | 87.2 | 10.79 | 2.60 |
| | T ₁₁ - VC + Urea (100% N) | 93.6 | 12.06 | 2.80 | 91.3 | 12.32 | 2.80 |
| | T ₁₂ - PM+ Urea (100% N) | 94.2 | 12.52 | 2.89 | 92.1 | 12.97 | 2.89 |
| | T ₁₃ - FYM+ Urea(100% N) | 92.7 | 11.67 | 2.09 | 90.9 | 12.02 | 2.75 |
| | T ₁₄ - RDF (150:50:50 N, P ₂ O ₅ K ₂ O kg ha ⁻¹) | 92.0 | 11.24 | 2.69 | 90.1 | 11.83 | 2.69 |
| | C.D @ 5% | 0.47 | 0.05 | 0.06 | 0.27 | 0.04 | 0.02 |

Table 2. Residual effect of organics and direct effect of mineral nitrogen on physiological parameters of rice (*O. sativa*).

| Soils | Clay loam | | | Sandy clay loam | | | |
|-------|--|--|---|--|--|---|--|
| | Treatments | CGR (gm ² d ⁻¹) | RGR (mg g ⁻¹ d ⁻¹) | NAR (g dm ² d ⁻¹) | CGR (gm ² d ⁻¹) | RGR (mg g ⁻¹ d ⁻¹) | NAR (g dm ² d ⁻¹) |
| | T ₁ - Absolute control | 7.42 | 23.2 | 0.95 | 6.43 | 23.1 | 1.21 |
| | T ₂ -(CCP-100% N) | 8.10 | 25.7 | 1.01 | 7.91 | 26.8 | 1.43 |
| | T ₃ -(GM-100% N) | 7.83 | 25.0 | 0.98 | 7.13 | 26.0 | 1.40 |
| | T ₄ -(CST-100% N) | 8.42 | 26.4 | 1.02 | 8.12 | 27.0 | 1.47 |
| | T ₅ -(VC-100% N) | 8.92 | 27.4 | 1.06 | 8.774 | 28.3 | 1.59 |
| | T ₆ -(PM-100% N) | 9.06 | 27.9 | 1.08 | 8.91 | 29.2 | 1.65 |
| | T ₇ -(FYM-100% N) | 8.72 | 26.8 | 1.04 | 8.52 | 28.0 | 1.50 |
| | T ₈ - CCP + Urea (100% N) | 9.74 | 28.7 | 1.14 | 9.43 | 31.2 | 1.70 |
| | T ₉ - GM + Urea (100% N) | 9.42 | 28.5 | 1.10 | 9.02 | 30.6 | 1.64 |
| | T ₁₀ - CST+ Urea (100% N) | 10.13 | 29.2 | 1.16 | 9.63 | 32.0 | 1.74 |
| | T ₁₁ - VC + Urea (100% N) | 11.14 | 31.9 | 1.21 | 10.48 | 34.0 | 1.82 |
| | T ₁₂ - PM+ Urea (100% N) | 11.42 | 32.2 | 1.23 | 10.88 | 34.7 | 1.89 |
| | T ₁₃ - FYM+ Urea(100% N) | 10.80 | 31.4 | 1.20 | 10.02 | 33.2 | 1.79 |
| | T ₁₄ - RDF (150:50:50 N, P ₂ O ₅ K ₂ O kg ha ⁻¹) | 10.61 | 31.1 | 1.18 | 9.77 | 32.8 | 1.78 |
| | C.D @ 5% | 0.05 | 0.43 | 0.06 | 0.28 | 0.46 | 0.03 |

CGR-Crop growth rate; RGR- Relative growth rate; NAR- Net assimilation rate

modified the mechanics and dynamics of nutrient mobilization, resulting in increased grain yield in succeeding rice crop. It also resulted in the part of nutrients remained unutilized by the main crop is expected to help growth and development of succeeding crop. Present results corroborate with those of Singh *et al.* (2004). i.e. in addition to unutilized nutrient usage and advantages associated with improved physical properties of sandy clay loam in the rice-lentil cropping system had more residual benefits. Further, in the present study, results

where organics alone used, i.e. the residual poultry manure + fertilizer nitrogen, resulted in increased grain yield (4025, 4048 kg ha⁻¹) and straw yield (6132, 4945 kg ha⁻¹) in clay loam and sandy clay loam soils, respectively. On the other hand, the superiority of poultry manure was attributed to its slow and steady decomposition, which probably released the nutrients slowly and in higher quantity compared to other organic materials, which ultimately resulted in a superior grain and straw yield. Similar findings were reported by Mohammedre-

Table 3. Residual effect of organics and direct effect of mineral nitrogen on yield of rice (*O. sativa*).

| Soils | Clay loam | | | | Sandy clay loam | | | |
|--|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| | Grain yield (kg/ha) | % increase over control | Straw yield (kg/ha) | % increase over control | Grain yield (kg/ha) | % increase over control | Straw yield (kg/ha) | % increase over control |
| T ₁ - Absolute control | 3292 | – | 4998 | – | 2993 | - | 4003 | - |
| T ₂ -(CCP-100% N) | 3826 | 16.2 | 5800 | 16.0 | 3827 | 27.8 | 4593 | 14.7 |
| T ₃ -(GM-100% N) | 3731 | 13.3 | 5720 | 14.2 | 3682 | 23.0 | 4510 | 12.6 |
| T ₄ - CST-100% N) | 3987 | 21.1 | 5840 | 16.8 | 3912 | 30.7 | 4719 | 17.8 |
| T ₅ -(VC-100% N) | 4018 | 22.0 | 6108 | 22.2 | 4031 | 34.6 | 4879 | 21.8 |
| T ₆ -(PM-100% N) | 4025 | 22.3 | 6132 | 22.6 | 4048 | 35.2 | 4945 | 23.5 |
| T ₇ -(FYM-100% N) | 4010 | 21.8 | 5982 | 19.6 | 3929 | 31.3 | 4740 | 18.4 |
| T ₈ - CCP + Urea (100% N) | 4120 | 25.1 | 6657 | 33.2 | 4132 | 38.0 | 5298 | 32.3 |
| T ₉ - GM + Urea (100% N) | 4098 | 24.4 | 6242 | 30.1 | 4099 | 36.9 | 5120 | 27.9 |
| T ₁₀ - CST+ Urea (100% N) | 4133 | 25.5 | 6798 | 36.0 | 4283 | 43.1 | 5380 | 34.4 |
| T ₁₁ - VC + Urea (100% N) | 4386 | 33.2 | 6960 | 39.2 | 4527 | 51.2 | 5823 | 45.4 |
| T ₁₂ - PM+ Urea (100% N) | 4485 | 36.2 | 6984 | 39.7 | 4693 | 56.7 | 5897 | 47.3 |
| T ₁₃ - FYM+ Urea(100% N) | 4235 | 23.6 | 6840 | 36.8 | 4492 | 50.0 | 5781 | 44.4 |
| T ₁₄ - RDF (150:50:50 N, P ₂ O ₅ K ₂ O kg ha ⁻¹) | 4310 | 31.0 | 6832 | 36.7 | 4387 | 46.5 | 5692 | 42.2 |
| C.D @ 5% | 10.54 | | 12.55 | | 17.29 | | 19.93 | |

za Davari et al. (2012) for the rice-wheat- mungbean cropping system.

Conclusion

Based on the results, it can be concluded that application of residual poultry manure alone or in combination with fertilizer nitrogen(100%N) significantly(p=0.05%) improved the growth parameters and yield of rice (*O. sativa*) over control in both soils. Among the different organics applied, the poultry manure recorded higher residual effect (22%, 35.2%) in clay loam and sandy clay loam, respectively, over control. Therefore, the substitution of N fertilizer with poultry manure is recommended to improve the yield of subsequent rice crop.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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