Crop Performance and Estimation of the Effective Level of Phosphorus in Sesame (*Sesamum indicum* L.)


Regional Agricultural Research Station, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, Ishurdi, Pabna-6620, Bangladesh
Spices Research Centre, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, Bogra, Bangladesh
Agricultural Research Station, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, Comilla, Bangladesh
Pulses Research Centre, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, Ishurdi, Pabna-6620, Bangladesh

Abstract: The experiment was conducted at the Regional Agricultural Research Station, Ishurdi during early *khafir* (summer) season of 2008 and 2009 to observe the crop performance under variable phosphorus levels and to estimate the optimum and economic levels of phosphorus for yield of sesame. Five phosphorus levels viz. 0, 30, 60, 90 and 120 kg ha⁻¹ (P₀, P₃₀, P₆₀, P₉₀ and P₁₂₀) were selected as treatments. The highest seed yield of sesame was 1290-1366 kg ha⁻¹ at P₆₀ contributed by higher yield contributing characters like number of branches plant⁻¹ (3.98-4.26), number of capsules plant⁻¹ (65.15-81.40), length of capsule (2.51-2.54 cm) and 1000-seed weight (3.22-3.25 g). Moreover, 90 kg ha⁻¹ of phosphorus application gave the highest monetary advantage in respect of gross return (Tk. 5976.00 ha⁻¹) and gross margin (Tk. 2814.00 ha⁻¹). By using the developed functional relationship (*Y*-872.50+7.87*x*-0.0428*x², *R*²=0.91)) between yield of sesame and applied phosphorus level the estimation of optimum and economic levels of phosphorus were 92 and 63 kg ha⁻¹, respectively.

Key words: Sesame · Phosphorus · Crop yield · Fertilizer management · Oilseed

INTRODUCTION

Sesame (*Sesamum indicum* L.) is an important source of edible oil with diverse nutritive values. It is one of the popular oilseeds in Bangladesh which occupies the second position after mustard among the edible oils [1]. Total area coverage of sesame is 87,000 hectares with an annual production of 88,000 metric tones [2]. It has multiple uses for mixing with various food items. Sesame oil is used as hair tonic from very old age in the country. Therefore, it is traditionally cultivated in the different parts of Bangladesh. The yield of sesame is much lower in the farmers' field as compared to the research field. The yield of sesame can be increased in adopting modern production technologies. Nutrient management is very important for yield improvement of crop [3, 4]. Phosphorus is an important plant nutrient which helps in growth and development of plant and ultimately improved crop yield. It involves in many biochemical functions in the physiological system of plant. It is essential parts of skeleton of plasma membrane, nucleic acid, many coenzymes, organic molecules and phosphorylated compounds in plant system [5]. Phosphorus has very important capacity of forming energy bonds within the plant through such materials as adenosine diphosphate and adenosine triphosphate [6]. It plays an important role in energy transfer reactions and oxidation reduction process. Lack of phosphorus therefore hampers metabolic process such as the conversion of sugar into starch and cellulose. Phosphorus is mostly concentrated in the reproductive organ of plant contributing to seed development. A seed needs enough phosphorus and its deficiency therefore causes shriveled seed [6]. Thus phosphorus is an important nutrient for seed development and seed filling contributing to better yield formation [7]. Consequently, it increases seed yield of sesame especially under irrigation condition [8]. Therefore, the study was undertaken to observe the crop performance under variable phosphorus levels and to estimate the optimum and economic levels of phosphorus for yield of sesame.

Corresponding Author: N.A. Sultana, Agricultural Research Station, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, Comilla, Bangladesh
MATERIALS AND METHODS

The experiment was conducted at the Regional Agricultural Research Station, Ishurdi, Pabna (24° 8' 24" N and 89° 41' 11" E) during early kharif season of 2008 and 2009. The experiment was laid out in a randomized complete block design with four replications. The treatments were five phosphorus levels viz. 0, 30, 60, 90 and 120 kg ha⁻¹ of phosphorus (P₀, P₃₀, P₆₀, P₉₀ and P₁₂₀). The unit plot size was 5.0m x 4.8 m. BARITill 3 was on 15 March and harvested on 14-16 June for each year. Phosphorus was applied as per specification of the treatments. Other nutrients were applied @ 60-30-20-2-2 kg ha⁻¹ of N-K-S-Zn-B. All P-K-S-Zn-B and half of N was applied as basal. The rest amount of N was top dressed at 30 DAE (Days after emergence). Weeding cum thinning was done at 15 DAE. The soil was sandy loam representing low to very low status of initial nutrient elements (total N=0.069%, available P=12 ppm, exchange K=0.17 meq/100 g soil, available S=0.88 ppm and available Zn=0.20 ppm). The crop received 357 and 286 mm rainfall during the growing season of 2008 and 2009 respectively. The maximum and minimum temperature varied from 20.1 to 41.3 °C and 18.0 to 41.5 °C during the growing season of 2008 and 2009, respectively. Data on yield and yield contributing characters of sesame were collected and analyzed statistically. Means were separated by DMRT. Agronomic efficiency of phosphorus application was calculated using the following formula [9]:

\[
\text{AEP}_i = \frac{Y_p - Y_o}{A_p}
\]

Where,

AEPᵢ=Agronomic efficiency for phosphorus application
Yᵢ=Yield of sesame at applied P level
Y₀=Yield of sesame without P application
Aᵢ=Amount of P application for Yᵢ

Optimum and economic levels of phosphorus was estimated using the following polynomial function generally stated as bellow:

\[
Y=a+bx+cx^2
\]

where Y= Yield of sesame (dependent variable), a=Intercept (constant) and b and c are the regression coefficients, x= applied phosphorus level (independent variable). From the function, optimum and economic level of phosphorus for sesame can be determined as follows [10]:

\[
\text{Optimum level of phosphorus for maximum yield of sesame (Pₒ)} = \frac{-b}{2c}
\]

\[
\text{Economic level of phosphorus for maximum profit (Pₑ)} = \frac{1}{2c} \left( \frac{Rₑ}{Rₚ} - b \right)
\]

Rₑ and Rₚ are the prices of the phosphorus and yield of sesame, respectively.

Prediction of yield was also estimated against optimum and economic phosphorus levels through developed functional relationship.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Yield Contributing Characters and Yield of Sesame: All the studied characters of sesame varied significantly among the applied phosphorus levels except plant population and seeds capsule⁻¹ in both the years (Table 1 and Table 2). Plant height (91-99 cm) and branches plant⁻¹ (3.92-4.28) were the highest in P₃₀, P₆₀ and P₁₂₀ while the lowest in P₀ in 2008 and 2009 (Table 1). Capsules plant⁻¹ (65.15-81.40) were the highest in P₃₀ which was identical with P₁₀₀ (65.02-76.83) followed by P₆₀ but the lowest in P₀ in both the years. Similarly, increased number of branches and capsules plant⁻¹ were observed at higher level of phosphorus by Ojipong et al. [11]. Length of capsule was the highest (2.51-2.54 cm) in P₆₀ and P₁₂₀ followed by P₃₀ and P₉₀ producing the lowest in P₀ for both the years of 2008 and 2009 (Table 2). Weight of 1000-seed was the highest in P₆₀ (3.22-3.25 g) which was identical with P₁₀₀ (3.15-3.17 g) followed by P₉₀ and P₃₀ but the lowest in P₀ for each year. Sharar et al. [4] also observed increased 1000-seed weight in higher level of P application. Seed yield was the highest in P₆₀ (1290-1366 kg ha⁻¹) which was statistically at par with P₁₀₀ (1286-1355 kg ha⁻¹) followed by P₉₀ and P₃₀ while the lowest in P₀ in both the years. The higher level of phosphorus improved yield contributing characters contributing to higher seed yield of sesame. Similar results also have been reported by Sahrawat and Islam [7] and BARI [12].

Yield Increase and Agronomic Efficiency for Phosphorus Application: Sesame yield increase in applied P levels showing higher trend in higher levels of P application (Table 3). The results are in conformity with the findings of Sahrawat and Islam [7]. However, P₀ gave the highest average yield increase (52.44%) followed by P₁₀₀ (51.60%) while the lowest in P₃₀. Yield increase over control showed
higher values in 2008 than in 2009. This was happened due to lower seed yield of control treatment in 2008 over 2009. Agronomic efficiency was higher in \( P_{20} (6.90-8.02 \ kg \ seed \ yield \ per \ kg \ application \ of \ P) \) followed \( P_{10} \) and \( P_{10} \) while the lowest in \( P_{100} \). Agronomic efficiency for \( P \) application reduced in higher levels. The average agronomic efficiency ranged from 3.74 to 8.02 kg seed yield per kg application of \( P \).

Functional Relationship Between Seed Yield and Applied Phosphorus Level: The functional equation of \( Y=872.50+7.87x-0.0428x^2 \) \((R^2=0.91)\) was well fitted showing a second degree polynomial function (Fig. 1). The coefficient of determination representing \( R^2=0.91 \) expressed the yield response of sesame about 91\% due to \( P \) application. Sesame seed yield increased 7.87 kg ha\(^{-1}\) due to application of 1 kg ha\(^{-1}\) of phosphorus. The results are in agreement with the findings of Ullah et al. [13] and Mian [14].

Optimum and Economic Level of Phosphorus: By using the developed function, the optimum and economic levels of \( P \) were 92 and 63 kg ha\(^{-1}\), respectively (Table 4). The predicted yields of sesame were 1234 and 1198 kg ha\(^{-1}\) against the optimum and economic levels of \( P \). Similar prediction was also estimated by using the functional relationship in wheat by Hasan [15].
Table 4: Optimum and economic levels of P and predicted yield of sesame under estimated level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated level of phosphorus (kg ha⁻¹)</th>
<th>Predicted yield (kg ha⁻¹)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Optimum level</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic level</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5: Economic performance of sesame as influenced by phosphorus level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phosphorus level</th>
<th>Cost of cultivation (Tk. ha⁻¹)</th>
<th>Gross return (Tk. ha⁻¹)</th>
<th>Gross margin (Tk. ha⁻¹)</th>
<th>Benefit cost ratio (BCR)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$P_0$</td>
<td>21720.00</td>
<td>39263.00</td>
<td>17543.00</td>
<td>1.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$P_{30}$</td>
<td>25020.00</td>
<td>50805.00</td>
<td>25055.00</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$P_{60}$</td>
<td>28320.00</td>
<td>55283.00</td>
<td>26953.00</td>
<td>1.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$P_{90}$</td>
<td>31620.00</td>
<td>59760.00</td>
<td>28140.00</td>
<td>1.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$P_{120}$</td>
<td>34920.00</td>
<td>59423.00</td>
<td>24503.00</td>
<td>1.70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 USD = Aprox. 72 Tk.

Fig. 1: Functional relationship between seed yield of sesame and applied level of phosphorus

**Economic Performance:** The cost of cultivation was higher in higher level of P due to more cost involvement for higher amount of P application (Table 5). Gross return was the highest (Tk. 59,760.00 ha⁻¹) in $P_{90}$ followed by $P_{60}$ (Tk. 59,423.00 ha⁻¹) while the lowest in $P_0$. Similar trend was also observed in the case of gross margin showing the highest in $P_{90}$ (Tk. 28,140.00). The highest seed yield of sesame in $P_{10}$ produced the highest gross return and gross margin. The results have been supported by the findings of Mian (2008). The highest BCR was in $P_{30}$ (2.00) followed by $P_{60}$ (1.95) while the lowest in $P_{120}$ BCR reduced as the increasing level of phosphorus application. This was occurred due to higher cost involvement at higher level of P application. The results are in conformity with the findings of Mian [14].

Two years experimental results (2008 and 2009) indicates that $P_{30}$ is the best for producing the highest seed yield giving the highest gross return and gross margin. According to prediction, phosphorus 92 kg ha⁻¹ is optimum for the highest yield of sesame and 63 kg ha⁻¹ is the best maximum profit at Iswardi region of Bangladesh.

**REFERENCES**


