**Effect of Phosphorus and Vermicompost on Growth and Productivity of Black gram (*Vigna mungo* L.)**

# Abstract

A field experiment was conducted during the Rabi season of 2023–24 at the Experimental Farm, Department of Agronomy, Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Mewar University, Gangrar, Chittorgarh, Rajasthan. The study evaluated the effect of phosphorus and vermicompost on the growth and productivity of black gram (variety Pratap Urd-1). The result revealed that the maximum plant height (50.25 cm), dry matter accumulation (13.25/plant), number of nodules per plant (40.15), fresh weight of nodules per plant (71.02 mg/plant), dry weight of nodules per plant (51.02 mg/plant), leaf area index (3.52) and yield parameter such as number of pods per plant (35.15), number of seed per pod (7.15), grain yield (11.85 q/ha), straw yield (22.45 q/ha) and biological yield (34.30 q/ha) with application of T9-40 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 2.5 t vermicompost ha-1. Also, maximum net return (59501/ha) and B: C ratio (1.89) were recorded with T9-40 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 2.5 t vermicompost ha-1**.**

**Keywords: - Productivity; Black gram; Vermicompost; Phosphorus; Nutrients**

# Introduction

Our country is predominantly vegetarian and pulses are the main source of quality protein and essential amino acids. Black gram (*Vigna mungo* L.) is an important pulse crop among the grain legumes grown in India. It contains 24 % protein, 60 % carbohydrate, 1.3 % fat and is richest in phosphoric acid among the pulses being five to ten times richer than in others.

It is commonly known as “urd” or “urd bean” (Singh *et al.* (2022). Black gram plays an important role in maintaining and improving soil fertility through its ability to fix atmospheric nitrogen in the soil through root nodules which possess *Rhizobium* bacteria. This imbalanced nutrient supply adversely affects the seed yield of black gram, soil health, and even the profit of the farmers (Laddha *et al*. 2006). The supply of phosphorus to legumes is more important than nitrogen because, nitrogen is being fixed by symbiosis with *Rhizobium* bacteria (Singh and Singh, 2021). The beneficial effects of phosphorus on nodulation, growth, yield, and general behavior of legume crops have been well established because it play an important role in root development. Phosphorus application to legumes not only benefits the particular crop but also improves the soil nitrogen content for the succeeding non-legume crops requiring lower doses of nitrogen application (Yadav, 2011). Phosphorus stimulates seed setting, hastens maturity, and enhances protein content. It plays an important role in the nutrition of legumes and also improves biological nitrogen fixation and the quality of grains (Kumar *et al.* 2009).

Vermicompost has been emerging as an important source in supplementing chemical fertilizer in agriculture in view of sustainable development after Rio Conference, vermicompost is a biofertilizer enriched with all beneficial soil microbes and also contains all the essential plant nutrients like N, P, and K (Patel *et al.* 2017). Vermicompost that is prepared through the conventional method has standard values of total nitrogen: 0.94%, Phosphorous: 0.47%, and potassium: 0.70% it is also enriched with various micronutrients such as Mg (0.46%), Fe (7563 ppm), Zn (278 ppm), Mn (475 ppm), B (34 ppm), Cu (27 ppm). Thus, eliminating usage of any further artificial chemical inputs. Due to the absence of toxic enzymes, it is also eco-friendly and has a beneficial effect on the biochemical activities of the soil. It also increases the quality, fertility, and mineral content of the soil structure. It enhances soil aeration, texture, and silt thereby reducing soil compaction (Serawat *et al.* 2018).

# Materials and Methods

A field experiment was conducted during the *Rabi* season of 2022-23 at the experimental farm,

Department of Agronomy, Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Mewar University Gangrar, Chittorgarh (Rajasthan). Soil of the experimental field was sandy loam in texture, saline in reaction with a pH value of 7.6, poor in organic carbon (0.32%), deficient in available zinc (0.48 ppm) and iron (1.2 ppm) low in available nitrogen (176 kg/ha) and phosphorus (20.2 kg/ha) but medium in available potassium (320 kg/ha). The experiment was laid out in randomized block design with three replications consisting of nine treatments *viz.* The experiment was laid out in randomized block design with three replications and nine treatments *i.e.* T1-Control, T2-20 kg P2O5 ha-1, T3-40 kg P2O5 ha-1, T4-1.25 t vermicompost ha-1, T5-2.5 t vermicompost ha-1, T6-20 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 1.25 t vermicompost ha-1, T7-20 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 2.5 t vermicompost ha-1, T8-40 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 1.25 t vermicompost ha-1 and T9-40 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 2.5 t vermicompost ha-1. The required quantities of fertilizers as per treatments were applied. The doses of NPK were applied in the form of urea, diammonium phosphate, and murate of potash respectively. The half dose of nitrogen gives a basal dose and remaining two split doses after irrigation and a full dose of phosphorus and potassium at basal dose. Vermicompost was applied in the field at field preparation before sowing.

# Results and Discussion

## Growth attributes

Data (Table 1.) showed that at 35 DAS, the maximum plant height (30.20 cm) was recorded with T9 (40 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 2.5 t vermicompost ha-1), while the minimum was with the control treatment (23.33 cm). At 50 DAS, the maximum plant height (43.20 cm) was observed with T9, compared to 35.52 cm in the control. At harvest, the maximum plant height (51.00 cm) was recorded with T9, while the control had a minimum of 44.88 cm. Similar findings were also reported by Tagore *et al*. (2013), Gajera *et al.* (2014), Jha *et al.* (2015), Meena *et al*. (2016) and Singh *et al.* (2016).

Data (Table 1.) showed that at 35 DAS, the maximum dry matter accumulation (4.89 g) was recorded with T9 (40 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 2.5 t vermicompost ha-1), while the minimum was with the control treatment (3.15 g). At 50 DAS, the maximum dry matter accumulation (9.85 g) was recorded with T9, compared to 6.36 g in the control. At harvest, the maximum dry matter accumulation (13.25 g) was observed with T9, while the control had a minimum of 9.45 g. Comparable findings were also confirmed by Saxena *et al.* (2016), Mohammad *et al.* (2017), Kumar *et al*. (2017), and Nissa *et al.* (2017).

Data (Table 2.) at 40 DAS showed that the maximum number of nodules per plant (40.15) was recorded with T9 (40 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 2.5 t vermicompost ha-1), which was at par with T8 (40 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 1.25 t vermicompost ha-1) at 38.63. The minimum was recorded with the T1-control treatment (25.12). The maximum fresh weight of nodules per plant (71.02 mg) was also recorded with T9, followed by T8 (68.63 mg). The control had the minimum fresh weight (52.36 mg). The maximum dry weight of nodules per plant (51.02 mg) was observed with T9, followed by T8 (48.65 mg), while the T1 treatment had the minimum (34.36 mg). The increase in nodulation due to the application of P might be due to P helps in early root development and formation of lateral fibrous and healthy roots. Similar results were reported by Rani *et al.* (2016) revealed that the application of 40 kg P ha-1 increased the number of nodules per plant-1 over control. This might be due to better root development with increasing levels of P in black gram. Similar findings were also reported by Patel *et al.* (2017), Verma *et al.*, (2017), Dubey *et al.* (2018), Masih *et al.* (2020) and Reddy and Dawson (2021).

## Yield attributes and yield

Data revealed (Table 3.) (Table 3.0) showed that the maximum number of pods per plant (35.15) was recorded with T9 (40 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 2.5 t vermicompost ha-1), which was at par with T7 (20 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 2.5 t vermicompost ha-1) and T8 (40 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 1.25 t vermicompost ha-1) at 33.20 and 32.02, respectively. The minimum was recorded with the control treatment (20.25). The maximum number of seeds per pod (7.15) was recorded with T9, followed by T7 (6.85) and T8 (6.65). The control treatment had the minimum (5.05). These investigations also supported by Sharma *et al.* (2012), Singh *et al.* (2015), Tiwari *et al.* (2015), and Rani *et al*. (2016).

Data revealed (Table 3 and Figure 1) that the maximum grain yield was recorded with T9-40 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 2.5 t vermicompost ha-1 (11.85 q/ha), it was at par with T7-20 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 2.5 t vermicompost ha-1 andT8-40 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 1.25 t vermicompost ha-1 (11.08 and 10.45 q/ha). The minimum grain yield was recorded with the control treatment (8.75 q/ha). Data revealed that the maximum straw yield was recorded with T9-40 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 2.5 t vermicompost ha-1 (22.45 q/ha), it was at par with T7-20 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 2.5 t vermicompost ha-1 andT8-40 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 1.25 t vermicompost ha-1 (20.12 and 19.86 q/ha). The minimum straw yield was recorded with control treatment (16.02 q/ha). Data revealed that the maximum biological yield was recorded with T940 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 2.5 t vermicompost ha-1 (34.30 q/ha), it was at par with T7-20 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 2.5 t vermicompost ha-1 andT8-40 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 1.25 t vermicompost ha-1 (31.20 and 30.31 q/ha). The minimum biological yield was recorded with the control treatment (24.77 q/ha). Similar results were reported by Choudhary *et al*. (2017) that, the significant increase in straw of black gram due to phosphorus along with vermicompost. Sipai *et al*. (2016) concluded that the straw yield of black gram increased with levels of P up to 40 kg ha-1. In general, overall improvement in yield attributing characters because of P increased which helps to develop a more extensive root system and thus, enables the plant to extract more water and nutrients from soil depth. Similar data result were reported by Khan *et al*. (2017), Mehera *et al.* (2022), and Singh *et al.* (2022).

## Economics

Data revealed (Table 4.0) that the maximum cost of cultivation was recorded with T9-40 kg

P2O5 ha-1 + 2.5 t vermicompost ha-1 (31500 ₹/ha). The minimum cost of cultivation recorded with control treatment (24500 ₹/ha). The maximum gross return was recorded with T9-40 kg P2O5 ha1 + 2.5 t vermicompost ha-1 (91001 ₹/ha). The minimum gross return recorded with control treatment (62414 ₹/ha). The maximum net return was recorded with T9-40 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 2.5 t vermicompost ha-1 (59501 ₹/ha). The minimum net return recorded with control treatment (37917 ₹/ha). The maximum B:C ratio was recorded with T9-40 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 2.5 t vermicompost ha-1 (1.89). The minimum B:C ratio recorded with control treatment (1.55). Similar result also found by Kumar *et al.* (2017), Venkatarao (2017), Gohain and Jamir (2022) and Singh *et al.* (2022)

# Conclusion

The findings of present investigation revealed that significant effect of phosphorus and vermicompost application on the growth, yield and economics of the black gram. Among different T9-40 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 2.5 t vermicompost ha-1 registered the maximum productivity with higher net return. So, it was concluded that the treatment T9-40 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 2.5 t vermicompost ha-1 superior among all treatments.

# Table 1.0 Effect of phosphorus and vermicompost on plant height and dry matter accumulation at different days interval of black gram

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Treatments** |  | **Plant height (cm)** | | **Dry matter accumulation (g)** | | |
| **35 DAS** | **35 DAS** | **35 DAS** | **35 DAS** | **90 DAS** | **At harvest** |
| T1-Control | 23.33 | 35.52 | 44.88 | 3.15 | 6.36 | 9.45 |
| T2-20 kg P2O5 ha-1 | 24.66 | 36.85 | 45.25 | 3.22 | 7.02 | 10.45 |
| T3-40 kg P2O5 ha-1 | 25.15 | 37.12 | 46.14 | 3.35 | 7.36 | 10.85 |
| T4-1.25 t vermicompost ha-1 | 27.02 | 37.96 | 46.78 | 3.48 | 7.58 | 11.30 |
| T5-2.5 t vermicompost ha-1 | 27.85 | 38.78 | 47.68 | 3.75 | 7.98 | 11.85 |
| T6-20 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 1.25 t vermicompost ha-1 | 27.52 | 38.52 | 47.02 | 3.58 | 7.75 | 11.45 |
| T7-20 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 2.5 t vermicompost ha-1 | 29.05 | 39.44 | 49.05 | 4.30 | 8.78 | 12.52 |
| T8-40 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 1.25 t vermicompost ha-1 | 28.02 | 39.02 | 48.15 | 4.15 | 8.50 | 11.65 |
| T9-40 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 2.5 t vermicompost ha-1 | 29.85 | 42.78 | 50.25 | 4.89 | 9.85 | 13.25 |
| S. E. (m) | 0.61 | 1.28 | 0.71 | 0.25 | 0.46 | 0.55 |
| C.D. at 5% | 1.85 | 3.86 | 2.13 | 0.76 | 1.39 | 1.64 |

**Table 2.0 Effect of phosphorus and vermicompost on growth attributes of black gram**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Treatments** | **Number of nodules per plant at 40 DAS** | **Fresh weight of nodules per plant at 40**  **DAS (mg/plant)** | **Dry weight of nodules per plant at 40 DAS**  **(mg/plant)** |
| T1-Control | 25.12 | 52.36 | 34.36 |
| T2-20 kg P2O5 ha-1 | 31.63 | 58.63 | 40.12 |
| T3-40 kg P2O5 ha-1 | 34.96 | 62.14 | 43.25 |
| T4-1.25 t vermicompost ha-1 | 29.36 | 56.78 | 37.12 |
| T5-2.5 t vermicompost ha-1 | 32.25 | 60.45 | 40.74 |
| T6-20 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 1.25 t vermicompost ha-1 | 33.45 | 61.96 | 42.28 |
| T7-20 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 2.5 t vermicompost ha-1 | 35.15 | 65.74 | 45.96 |
| T8-40 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 1.25 t vermicompost ha-1 | 38.63 | 68.63 | 48.65 |
| T9-40 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 2.5 t vermicompost ha-1 | 40.15 | 71.02 | 51.02 |
| S. E. (m) | 0.51 | 0.80 | 0.81 |
| C.D. at 5% | 1.55 | 2.39 | 2.45 |

**Table 3.0 Effect of phosphorus and vermicompost on yield attributes and yield of black gram**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Treatments** | **Number of pods per plant** | **Number of seed per pod** | **Grain yield**  **(q/ha)** | **Straw yield**  **(q/ha)** | **Biological yield**  **(q/ha)** |
| T1-Control | 20.25 | 5.05 | 8.75 | 16.02 | 24.77 |
| T2-20 kg P2O5 ha-1 | 26.36 | 5.75 | 9.15 | 18.10 | 27.25 |
| T3-40 kg P2O5 ha-1 | 28.02 | 6.00 | 9.45 | 18.40 | 27.85 |
| T4-1.25 t vermicompost ha-1 | 30.15 | 6.15 | 9.52 | 18.85 | 28.37 |
| T5-2.5 t vermicompost ha-1 | 32.32 | 6.32 | 9.84 | 19.18 | 29.02 |
| T6-20 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 1.25 t vermicompost ha-1 | 31.45 | 6.45 | 9.90 | 19.00 | 28.9 |
| T7-20 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 2.5 t vermicompost ha-1 | 33.20 | 6.85 | 11.08 | 20.12 | 31.20 |
| T8-40 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 1.25 t vermicompost ha-1 | 32.02 | 6.65 | 10.45 | 19.86 | 30.31 |
| T9-40 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 2.5 t vermicompost ha-1 | 35.15 | 7.15 | 11.85 | 22.45 | 34.30 |
| S. E. (m) | 1.05 | 0.17 | 0.47 | 0.88 | 1.27 |
| C.D. at 5% | 3.17 | 0.53 | 1.42 | 2.65 | 3.80 |

# Table 4.0 Effect of phosphorus and vermicompost on economics

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Treatment** | **Cost of cultivation**  **(₹/ha)** | **Gross return**  **(₹/ha)** | **Net return**  **(₹/ha)** | **B:C ratio** |
| T1-Control | 24500 | 62414 | 37914 | 1.55 |
| T2-20 kg P2O5 ha-1 | 25500 | 65860 | 40360 | 1.58 |
| T3-40 kg P2O5 ha-1 | 26500 | 71770 | 45270 | 1.71 |
| T4-1.25 t vermicompost ha-1 | 27000 | 72333 | 45333 | 1.68 |
| T5-2.5 t vermicompost ha-1 | 29500 | 80638 | 51138 | 1.73 |
| T6-20 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 1.25 t vermicompost ha-1 | 28000 | 75358 | 47358 | 1.69 |
| T7-20 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 2.5 t vermicompost ha-1 | 30500 | 82268 | 51768 | 1.70 |
| T8-40 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 1.25 t vermicompost ha-1 | 29000 | 82870 | 53870 | 1.86 |
| T9-40 kg P2O5 ha-1 + 2.5 t vermicompost ha-1 | 31500 | 91001 | 59501 | 1.89 |

0

5

10

15

20

25

30

35

40

0

5

10

15

20

25

T1

T2

T3

T4

T5

T6

T7

T8

T9

**Grain yield (q/ha)**

**Straw yield (q/ha)**

**Biological yield (q/ha)**

**Figure 1.0 Effect of phosphorus and vermicompost** **on yields of black gram**

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