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Vikas Kumar

Department of Horticulture,
School of Agriculture Sciences,
Career Point University Kota,
Rajasthan, India

Krishan Kumar Singh

Department of Horticulture,
H.N.B. Garhwal University,
Srinagar, Garhwal, Uttarakhand,
India

Effect of bio-fertilizers on growth and yield of garlic (*Allium sativum* L.) under Kota region in Rajasthan

Vikas Kumar and Krishan Kumar Singh

Abstract

The field experiment conducted at Research Farm-I of the Department of Horticulture, School of agriculture Science, Career Point University Kota, Rajasthan during the year 2017-18. The experiment was laid out in Randomized Block Design with ten treatments and three replications. Significant the maximum height of plant (63.29 cm), number of leaves/ plant (7.21 cm), length of leaves (45.16 cm), Stem diameter (11.817 mm), number of cloves per bulb (27.420), diameter of bulb (5.000 cm), length of clove (4.980 cm), bulb yield (78.727 Q/ha.), T.S.S. of bulb (40.317), weight of bulb / plant (30.450g) was observed under T₉ (PAB + VAM + 50 kg/ha P₂O₅) treatment.

Keywords: Garlic, bio-fertilizers, yield, quality attributes

Introduction

Garlic (*Allium sativum* L.) belongs to the family Amaryllidaceae. It is the second most widely used cultivated *Allium* after onion. It has long been recognized all over the world as a valuable spice for food and a popular remedy for various ailments and physiological disorder. It is grown throughout the plains of India and consumed by most of the people. It is used practically all over the world for flavoring various dishes (Pruthi, 1979) [9]. The major garlic producing states of India are Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Karnataka, U. P. and Gujarat.

Bio-fertilizer secretes certain growth promoting substances. Further, they are harmless, eco-friendly and low cost agro- input supplementary to chemical fertilizers. They increase the soil fertility, improve soil structure, porosity and water holding capacity and also enhance seed germination. Under certain conditions they exhibit anti- fungal activities and thereby protect the plants from pathogenic fungi. The phosphate solubilizing bacteria are aerobic and heterotrophic in nature. Large numbers of microorganism have been tested and inoculants of *Bacillus megaterium*, *Pseudomonas striata*, *Bacillus polymyxa* are found suitable and available for seed inoculation. These bacteria solubilize phosphate in excess quantities for their own requirements and thus make it available to plants for their healthy growth. VAM belongs to endomycorrhiza group which penetrate in the cell wall of roots. These fungi enter in root cells and form hyphal masses within the cells. This group is most common and widespread. These micro-organisms have extensive mycelial network and can increase the transport of other mineral elements such as zinc and copper. VAM can also play an important role in enhancing phosphorus availability to the plants particularly in phosphorus deficient soils. VAM fungi can save phosphorus fertilizer by 25-30% (Somani *et al.*, 2004) [12].

Materials and methods

The present investigation entitled, Effect of Bio-fertilizers on Growth and Yield of Garlic (*Allium sativum* L.)” Under Kota Region in Rajasthan was carried out to evaluate the effect of Bio-fertilizers on growth, yield, and quality traits of garlic at the Research Farm-I of the Department of Horticulture, School of agriculture Science, Career Point University Kota, Rajasthan during the year 2017-18. Experimental soil was sandy loam and slightly alkaline in nature pH less than 8.2, Electrical conductivity more than 4.0 and Sodium exchangeable % less than 15.0. The field was thoroughly prepared. The experiment was conducted in a Randomized Block Design with ten treatments replicated thrice. Treatment combination T₁- Control, T₂- RDF 100%, T₃- RDF 90%, T₄- RDF 80%, T₅- VAM + 40 kg/ha P₂O₅, T₆- VAM + 50 kg/ha P₂O₅, T₇- VAM + 75 kg/ha P₂O₅, T₈- PSB + VAM+ 40 kg/ha P₂O₅, T₉- PAB + VAM + 50 kg/ha P₂O₅, T₁₀- PAB + VAM + 50 kg/ha P₂O₅. The observation will be recorded

Corresponding Author:

Vikas Kumar

Department of Horticulture,
School of Agriculture Sciences,
Career Point University Kota,
Rajasthan, India

Plant height (cm), number of leaves, length of leaves (cm), number of cloves per bulb, diameter of bulb (cm), Thickness of necks (mm), length of clove (cm), bulb yield ha. (q), T.S.S. of bulb, fresh weight of bulb / plant (g), dry matter content in bulb (%). The recorded data were analysed through statistical software for observation the parameter were statically significant (0.05%) statically difference (RBD) as described by Cochran and Cox (1992) [2].

Results and discussion

1. Vegetative attributes

The data obtained at 90 DAP, the maximum height (63.29 cm) of plant was noted under the treatment T₉ (PAB + VAM + 50 kg/ha P₂O₅) followed by T₁₀ (PSB + VAM + 75 kg/ha P₂O₅) (60.24 cm) and minimum plant height (41.56 cm) was recorded under T₁ (Control). The results corroborate the finding of Ghanti and Sharangi (2009) [4] in onion. The maximum number of leaves/ plant (7.21 cm) was noted under the treatment T₉ (PAB + VAM + 50 kg/ha P₂O₅) followed by T₁₀ (PSB + VAM + 75 kg/ha P₂O₅) (7.12 cm) and minimum number of leaves (5.14 cm) was recorded under control T₁(Control). The maximum length of leaves (45.16 cm) was observed under T₉ (PAB + VAM + 50 kg/ha P₂O₅) followed by T₁₀ (PSB + VAM + 75 kg/ha P₂O₅) while the minimum length of leaves (38.56 cm) recorded under T₁ (Control). These results are in conformity with the findings of Meena *et al.* (2019) [6] in Garlic. The increase in the vegetative growth of garlic plants by bio-fertilizers might be due to its effect on increasing availability of nitrogen and phosphorus beside improving biological fixation of atmospheric nitrogen and produce hormones and anti-metabolites in root zone (Zaki *et al.*, 2014) [15]. The maximum Stem diameter (11.817 mm) was observed under T₉ (PAB + VAM + 50 kg/ha P₂O₅) followed by T₁₀ (PSB + VAM + 75 kg/ha P₂O₅) and the minimum Stem diameter was recorded under T₁(Control). The present findings are also in agreement with the results of Kumar, *et al.*, (2019) [10] in Garlic.

2. Yield and quality attributes

The maximum number of cloves per bulb (27.420) was recorded under T₉ (PAB + VAM + 50 kg/ha P₂O₅) followed by T₁₀ (PSB + VAM + 75 kg/ha P₂O₅) and the minimum number of cloves per bulb (20.527) was observed under T₁(Control). These results are in conformity with the findings of Mohmoud and Amara (2000) [7] in tomato. The maximum diameter of bulb (5.000 cm) was recorded under T₉ (PAB + VAM + 50 kg/ha P₂O₅) followed by T₁₀ (PSB + VAM + 75 kg/ha P₂O₅) followed by T₁₀ (PSB + VAM + 75 kg/ha P₂O₅) while the minimum diameter of bulb (2.450 cm) was observed under T₁(Control). The maximum thickness of necks (8.113 mm) was recorded under T₉ (PAB + VAM + 50 kg/ha P₂O₅) followed by T₈ (PSB + VAM+ 40 kg/ha P₂O₅) and the minimum thickness of necks (4.450 mm) was observed under T₁(Control). The present findings are also in agreement with the results of Khandelwal and Pareek (2007) [5] in onion. VAM inoculation plays significant and unique role in phosphate mobilization and uptake of phosphorus, zinc, sulphur and water by plant. Although, there is limitation with

the use of VAM due to difficulty in producing clean pure inoculation on a large scale as the fungi are obligatory symbiotic and have to be maintained and multiplied on living plant. VAM inoculation helps in uniform crop growth, increased yield of crop and also enhance resistance to root disease and improve hardiness of transplant stock. So due to its obligatory symbiotic nature and above discussed characteristics, increases its use in various crops (Yawalkar *et al.*, 1996) [14].

The maximum length of clove (4.980 cm) was recorded under T₉ (PAB + VAM + 50 kg/ha P₂O₅) followed by T₈ (PSB + VAM+ 40 kg/ha P₂O₅) and the minimum length of clove (3.120 cm) was observed under T₁(Control) The highest bulb yield (78.727 Q/ha.) was recorded under T₉ (PAB + VAM + 50 kg/ha P₂O₅) followed by T₁₀ (PSB + VAM + 75 kg/ha P₂O₅) while the lowest bulb yield was recorded under T₁(Control). The results find support from the work of Singh and Singh (2005) [11] in cauliflower. Microorganisms such as *Azotobacter*, *Azospirillum* and *Kelbsiella*; can secrete growth promoting substance similar to gibberellic acid and indole acetic acid, cytokinins and auxins which could stimulate plant growth, increased the surface area/ plant unit root length and were responsible for root hair branching with an eventual increase in absorption of nutrients and improving plant growth (Gomaa, 1995). Many investigators reported that Bio-fertilizers application increased growth of garlic plants (El-Morsy *et al.*, 2009) [3].

The maximum T.S.S. of bulb (40.317) observed under T₉ (PAB + VAM + 50 kg/ha P₂O₅) followed by T₁₀ (PSB + VAM + 75 kg/ha P₂O₅) and the minimum T.S.S. of bulb (32.210) was recorded under T₁(Control). The maximum weight of bulb / plant (30.450g) was recorded under T₉ (PAB + VAM + 50 kg/ha P₂O₅) followed by T₈ (PSB + VAM+ 40 kg/ha P₂O₅) and the minimum weight of bulb / plant (25.420 g) was recorded under T₁ (Control). These results are in conformity with the findings of Narayanamma *et al.* (2005) [8] in cauliflower. Inoculation of seed with PSB also significantly enhanced the yield and yield attributes in garlic. The beneficial effect of phosphate solubilizing bacteria as explained earlier is due to increase in the availability of phosphorus. Greater root extension under higher availability of phosphorus might have helped in greater uptake of other nutrients, especially micronutrient and secondary nutrients, enhanced photosynthesis, production of photosynthates and their partitioning between vegetative and reproductive structure might have helped in improving the yield attributes. PSB + VAM provide avenues for improving P use efficiency. The increase in uptake was more pronounced with respect to PSB and VAM or their combinations. This may be ascribed to solubilization and mineralization of organic phosphorus, containing substances by production of aliphatic, aromatic acids, phytasis, phosphatic lipases by VAM and PSB (Chadha and Prabhakar, 1997) [1]. The maximum dry matter content in bulb (35.450%) was recorded under T₉ (PAB + VAM + 50 kg/ha P₂O₅) followed by T₁(Control). and the minimum dry matter content in bulb (31.260 g) was recorded under T₅ (VAM + 40 kg/ha P₂O₅). These results are in conformity with the findings of Vimala and Natarajan (2000) [13] in pea.

Table 1: Effect of organic manures and biofertilizers on Vegetative character of garlic

Treatments	Plant height (cm)			Number of leaves			Length of leaves (cm)			Stem diameter (mm)			
	30 DAP	60 DAP	90 DAP	30 DAP	60 DAP	90 DAP	30 DAP	60 DAP	90 DAP	30 DAP	60 DAP	90 DAP	
T1	Control	12.26	30.56	41.56	3.12	4.12	5.14	22.51	31.23	38.56	4.500	4.900	8.560
T2	RDF 100%	13.35	35.33	50.23	4.23	5.14	5.59	23.56	31.45	39.64	4.600	5.480	9.120
T3	RDF 90%	17.12	34.58	52.56	3.56	4.52	5.23	24.12	32.45	41.12	5.120	5.810	9.450
T4	RDF 80%	16.24	35.26	52.38	4.56	5.23	6.12	24.52	33.12	43.45	4.450	4.817	9.540
T5	VAM + 40 kg/ha P ₂ O ₅	16.62	37.56	54.58	4.52	5.12	6.23	25.37	33.15	41.45	5.080	5.890	10.120
T6	VAM + 50 kg/ha P ₂ O ₅	14.16	35.33	56.23	5.21	6.15	6.75	24.82	34.45	43.24	4.230	5.850	9.417
T7	VAM + 75 kg/ha P ₂ O ₅	17.22	36.56	54.55	4.45	5.45	6.51	25.23	35.45	44.12	4.560	5.450	10.350
T8	PSB + VAM+ 40 kg/ha P ₂ O ₅	18.79	34.23	58.47	4.67	5.50	7.12	26.12	34.60	45.15	4.260	6.120	10.120
T9	PAB + VAM + 50 kg/ha P ₂ O ₅	19.22	39.58	63.29	5.86	6.23	7.21	26.56	35.56	46.12	5.450	6.450	11.817
T10	PSB + VAM + 75 kg/ha P ₂ O ₅	18.50	38.007	60.24	5.12	6.11	7.04	25.59	34.35	45.16	5.100	6.080	10.450
SEm±		0.305	0.072	0.138	0.07	0.05	0.07	0.15	0.11	0.15	0.001	0.101	0.060
CD(P=0.05)		0.914	0.214	0.414	0.21	0.16	0.23	0.46	0.34	0.46	0.004	0.303	0.178

Table 2: Effect of bio-fertilizers on yield and quality of garlic

Treatments	Number of cloves per bulb	Diameter of bulb (cm)	Thickness of necks (mm)	Length of clove (cm)	Bulb yield ha. (q)	T.S.S. of bulb	Fresh weight of bulb / plant (g)	Dry matter content in bulb (%)	
T1	Control	20.527	2.450	4.450	3.120	64.630	32.210	25.420	34.007
T2	RDF 100%	21.250	3.220	5.420	3.720	67.473	33.450	28.360	31.450
T3	RDF 90%	22.703	3.450	6.590	4.020	74.590	36.340	29.320	33.120
T4	RDF 80%	24.320	3.707	7.487	3.747	76.150	35.540	26.967	32.450
T5	VAM + 40 kg/ha P ₂ O ₅	24.340	3.480	6.693	3.210	76.330	36.603	27.820	31.260
T6	VAM + 50 kg/ha P ₂ O ₅	23.487	3.207	6.247	4.273	76.513	37.527	28.867	32.250
T7	VAM + 75 kg/ha P ₂ O ₅	25.273	4.040	7.460	4.220	78.097	38.427	27.480	33.450
T8	PSB + VAM+ 40 kg/ha P ₂ O ₅	26.317	3.450	7.247	4.450	77.633	37.613	29.300	31.450
T9	PAB + VAM + 50 kg/ha P ₂ O ₅	27.420	5.000	8.123	4.980	78.727	40.317	30.450	35.450
T10	PSB + VAM + 75 kg/ha P ₂ O ₅	26.633	4.387	7.150	4.350	78.213	38.360	28.333	33.083
SEm±		0.150	0.033	0.038	0.072	0.540	0.054	0.009	0.015
CD(P=0.05)		0.449	0.099	0.112	0.216	1.617	0.160	0.028	0.046

Conclusion

The present investigation clearly revealed that the application of T₉ (PAB + VAM + 50 kg/ha P₂O₅) under the treatment T₉ has obtained best response of garlic over the all other treatment combinations.

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