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## Effect of growing media and bio fertilizers on growth, quality and yield of capsicum (*Capsicum annuum*) in shade net

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### Abstract

The present experiment was carried out during November, 2020 to May, 2021 in shade net, Research field, Department of Horticulture, SHUATS, Prayagraj. The experiment was conducted in randomized block design (RBD), with fifteen treatments replicated thrice with growing media (FYM + cocopeat + vermicompost + perlite + vermiculite) and application of biofertilizer (Azotobacter + PSB + Rhizobium) on variety (Arka Gaurav). On capsicum the treatments were used to find out the most suitable growing media and Biofertilizer for quality and growth of the capsicum. The results of the experiment have revealed that application of treatment of T<sub>9</sub> (cocopeat + vermicompost + perlite + vermiculite (1:1:1:1) + Azotobacter + PSB) has significantly increased the growth and yield parameters like plant height, number of branches, plant spread and yield parameters like days to first harvest, number of fruits per plant and maximum fruit yield. This study used to evaluate the effect of selected treatments on yield of capsicum. And the capsicum plants responded significantly to the growing media and biofertilizer supply.

**Keywords:** Shade net, capsicum, growing media, biofertilizer

### Introduction

Capsicum (*Capsicum annuum*), also called as pepper, is additionally a main vegetable and spice crop originated within the American tropics and belongs to the family solanaceae having somatic chromosome number 2n=22. It is rich in vitamin A, vitamin C and minerals like calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, potassium. The fruits may be thin and long, large and thick, short and bell-shaped, small and round. The unripe fruits may be green, creamy white, yellow, purple, red and orange. The pungency of fruit is mainly due to presence of a compound called capsaicin (0.1-1.5%). The genus capsicum includes over 30 species, five of which (*C. annuum*, *C. frutescens*, *C. chinense*, *C. baccatum*, and *C. pubescens*) are domesticated and mainly grown for consumption.

Growing media plays an important role in successful cultivation of any crop. It should have a property of good water holding capacity and also able to drain excess water to come to field capacity which creates congenial root environment. For proper plant growth, organic fertilizers such as farmyard manure and vermicompost etc. provide consistently all essential nutrients, be it macro or micro, in an adequate quantity resulting in healthy growth of the plants. Azotobacter improves seed germination. It helps to increase nutrient availability and restore fertility. Phosphate solubilizing bacteria increase the availability of phosphorus in media and increase root growth.

### Materials and Methods

This chapter contains the details of the materials used and the methods adopted in the present study entitled Effect of growing media and bio fertilizer on growth, quality and yield of capsicum in shade net was carried out on growth and yield parameters in capsicum during 2020 - 2021 at that Research Field, Department of Horticulture, Naini Agricultural Institute (NAI), Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences, Prayagraj. The experiment was laid by randomized block design (RBD) with 15 treatments T<sub>1</sub> control (Garden soil + FYM) T<sub>2</sub> (cocopeat + vermicompost (1:1) + Rhizobium + PSB), T<sub>3</sub> (cocopeat + vermicompost + Perlite (1:1:1) + Rhizobium + PSB), T<sub>4</sub> (cocopeat + vermicompost + vermiculite (1:1:1) + Rhizobium + PSB), T<sub>5</sub> (cocopeat + vermicompost + perlite + vermiculite (1:1:1:1) + Rhizobium + PSB, T<sub>6</sub> (cocopeat + vermicompost (1:1)+ Azotobacter + PSB), T<sub>7</sub> (Cocopeat + Vermicompost + Perlite (1:1:1) + Azotobacter + PSB), T<sub>8</sub> (Cocopeat + Vermicompost + Vermiculite (1:1:1) + Azotobacter + PSB), T<sub>9</sub> (Cocopeat + Vermicompost + Perlite + Vermiculite (1:1:1:1) + Azotobacter + PSB), T<sub>10</sub> (Cocopeat + Vermicompost +

Perlite (1:1:0.5) + Rhizobium + PSB), T<sub>11</sub> (Cocopeat + Vermicompost + Vermiculite (1:1:0.5) + Rhizobium + PSB), T<sub>12</sub> (Cocopeat + Vermicompost + Perlite + Vermiculite (1:1:0.5:0.5) + Rhizobium + PSB), T<sub>13</sub> (Cocopeat + Vermicompost + perlite (1:1:0.5) + Aztaobacter + PSB), T<sub>14</sub> (Cocopeat + Vermicompost + Vermiculite (1:1:0.5) + Azatobacter + PSB), T<sub>15</sub> (Cocopeat + Vermicompost + perlite + Vermiculite (1:1:0.5:0.5)). All the standard recommended cultural practices were followed to raise a successful crop during the course of investigation.

## Results and Discussion

The research results statically provided us with the evidence of improving growth, quality and yield traits of capsicum in response to growing media and bio fertilizers. The mean data showed significant to the Plant height, Tallest Plant height at 150 days after planting (52.63 cm) was recorded in T<sub>9</sub> followed by T<sub>15</sub> with (51.36cm), shortest plant height (42.08 cm) was recorded in control. The more number of primary branches at 150 days after planting (4.17) was recorded in T<sub>9</sub> followed by T<sub>15</sub> with (3.92) a smaller number of primary branches (2.81) was recorded in control. The highest plant spread at 150 days after planting (45.50 cm<sup>2</sup>) was recorded in T<sub>9</sub> followed by T<sub>15</sub> with (43.07 cm<sup>2</sup>), lowest plant spread (23.72 cm<sup>2</sup>) was recorded in control. The growth characters of capsicum were increased with application of cocopeat and vermicompost. These results may be attributed to the role of macro and micro-nutrients, as well as the improved soil conditions due to vermicompost application, which conducted to stimulate metabolic processes and encourage growth, synthesis and accumulation of more metabolites in plant tissues. Several investigators mentioned similar results on different plants such as Kumar and Kohli (2005) [1]. The mean data showed significant to the first flowering, a smaller number of days (45.56) was recorded in T<sub>9</sub>, followed by T<sub>15</sub> with (46.33), a greater number of days (53.00), was recorded in control. The mean showed significant to the Days to 50% flowering, a smaller number of days (51.00) was recorded in T<sub>9</sub>, followed by T<sub>15</sub> with (51.33), a greater number of days (57.33), was recorded in control. The mean showed significant to the Days to fruit setting, a smaller number of days (61.22) was recorded in T<sub>9</sub>, followed by T<sub>15</sub> with (62.67), a greater number of days (72.22), was recorded in T<sub>1</sub> control. The mean showed significant to the Days to first fruit picking, a smaller number of days (82.67) was recorded in T<sub>9</sub>, followed by T<sub>15</sub> with (84.89), a greater number of days (91.56), was recorded in T<sub>1</sub> control. Muro *et al.*, (2005) Among the treatments, cocopeat + vermiculite (1::1) was found to be earliest to 50% flowering and first harvest as compared to other growing media combinations. The better growth performance of capsicum plants in cocopeat + vermicompost may be due to the high water holding capacity, aeration, reduced bulk density and slightly high potassium content in the medium. The mean data showed significant to the Number of flower cluster/plant, a greater number of flower clusters (4.97) was recorded in treatment T<sub>9</sub> followed by T<sub>15</sub> with (4.78), a smaller number of flower cluster (2.00 cluster), was recorded in T<sub>1</sub> control. This might be due to

enhanced photosynthetic and other metabolic activities which leads to increases in various plant metabolites responsible for cell division and elongation. This correlates the finding of Ngupok *et al.* (2018) The mean data showed significant to the Fruit set/cluster, a greater number of fruit set (3.81) was recorded in T<sub>9</sub> followed by T<sub>15</sub> with (3.44), a smaller number of fruit set (1.00), was recorded in T<sub>1</sub> (control). The mean data showed significant to the Number of fruits/plants, more number of fruits per plant (8.02) was recorded in T<sub>9</sub>, followed by T<sub>3</sub> with (7.78), less number of fruits (2.22), was recorded in T<sub>1</sub> (control) Basavaraja *et al.* (2003) reported that the treatments receiving 50% cocopeat + Azatobacter root dipping + 50% vermicompost has significant and highest yield of capsicum. This could be attributed to the significant increase in the components number of fruits per plant and yield per plant. The mean data showed significant to the Average fruit weight, more fruit weight (74.11 g) was recorded in T<sub>9</sub> followed by T<sub>15</sub> with (72.89 g), less fruit weight (58.67 g), was recorded in T<sub>1</sub> (control). Nair and Peter (2002) reported the beneficial effect of combined application of organic manures and inorganic sources which increased fruit number, fruit weight per plant of capsicum compared with either organic or inorganic fertilizer applied alone. The mean data showed significant to the Fruit yield/plant, more fruit yield (594.36 g) was recorded in T<sub>9</sub> followed by T<sub>15</sub> with (567.08 g), less fruit yield (130.24 g), was recorded in T<sub>1</sub> (control). The mean data showed significant to the Fruit yield (qtl/ha), more fruit yield (21.38) was recorded in T<sub>9</sub> followed by T<sub>15</sub> with (19.47), lesser fruit yield (1.12 kg), was recorded in treatment T<sub>1</sub> (control) studies on sweet pepper production using different organic and soilless substrates compared to soil under high plastic tunnels were carried out by Popescu *et al.* (1995) found that plants grown on the organic substrates produced twice the yields more than grown in soil. The mean data showed significant to the Fruit length, highest fruit length (6.04 cm) was recorded in T<sub>9</sub> followed by T<sub>15</sub> with (4.17 cm), lowest fruit length (3.10 cm), was recorded in T<sub>6</sub> (control). The mean data showed significant to the Fruit diameter, highest fruit diameter (4.41cm) was recorded in T<sub>9</sub> followed by T<sub>15</sub> with (4.17cm), lowest fruit diameter (3.10 cm), was recorded in treatment T<sub>6</sub> (control). Saen and Pathom (2005) revealed that four branch pruning increased fruit length and fruit diameter in bell pepper variety. Thapa reported that pruned yellow pepper plants produce more number of fruits and higher yield as compare to non-pruned plants. The mean data showed significant to the Total Soluble Solids, more content of total soluble solids (8.11 °brix) was recorded in T<sub>9</sub> followed by T<sub>15</sub> with (7.96 °brix), less content of total soluble solids (6.20 °brix), was recorded in T<sub>1</sub> (control). Rahimi *et al.* (2013) reported higher sugar content in vermicompost related treatments. The mean data showed significant to the Ascorbic acid, more content of ascorbic acid (169.48 mg) was recorded in T<sub>9</sub> followed by T<sub>15</sub> with (168.76 mg), less content of ascorbic acid (164.28 mg), was recorded in T<sub>1</sub> (control). The mean data showed significant to the shelf life, a greater number of days (5.55) was recorded in T<sub>9</sub> followed by T<sub>15</sub> with (5.05), a smaller number of days (4.02), was recorded in T<sub>1</sub> (control).

**Table 1:** Effect of different concentration of growing media and bio fertilizers on growth and earliness parameters

SL. NO	Treatments	Plant height (cm)	No. of 1 <sup>o</sup> branches	Plant spread(cm <sup>2</sup> )	Days to first flowering	Days to 50% flowering	Days to fruit setting	Days to first fruit picking
1.	T <sub>1</sub>	42.08	2.81	23.72	53.00	57.33	72.22	91.56
2.	T <sub>2</sub>	46.33	3.34	36.83	50.78	56.00	69.22	89.67
3.	T <sub>3</sub>	45.2	3.22	40.47	50.22	52.06	69.89	88.23
4.	T <sub>4</sub>	46.13	3.32	42.60	51.11	56.63	68.89	87.40
5.	T <sub>5</sub>	45	3.06	38.47	52.56	56.66	69.67	88.67
6.	T <sub>6</sub>	48.67	3.36	42.67	50.11	55.00	65.33	85.24

7.	T <sub>7</sub>	48.73	3.35	41.43	49.11	54.66	64.56	87.00
8.	T <sub>8</sub>	50.05	3.03	42.37	47.00	52.33	63.22	86.22
9.	T <sub>9</sub>	52.63	4.17	45.50	45.56	51.00	61.22	82.67
10.	T <sub>10</sub>	45.95	3.26	41.83	52.44	56.66	70.67	89.11
11.	T <sub>11</sub>	44.73	3.39	38.40	52.78	56.00	68.33	86.99
12.	T <sub>12</sub>	42.67	3.12	38.10	51.78	55.00	70.00	88.66
13.	T <sub>13</sub>	48.00	3.24	38.77	51.44	56.00	66.22	85.68
14.	T <sub>14</sub>	49.00	3.42	42.37	52.33	55.70	65.67	83.76
15.	T <sub>15</sub>	51.36	3.92	43.07	46.33	51.33	62.67	84.89
	S.Ed (+)	0.82	0.32	1.02	3.58	1.05	0.97	0.97
	C.D. (0.05)	2.37	0.94	2.96	0.97	3.90	2.82	2.82

**Table 2:** Effect of different concentration of growing media and biofertilizers on quality parameter

SL.NO.	Treatments	No. of flower cluster/plant	Fruit set /plant	No. of fruits per plant	fruit weight(g)	Fruit yield/plant (g)	Fruit yield(qtl/ha)	Fruit length (cm)	Fruit diameter(cm)
1.	T <sub>1</sub>	2.00	1.00	2.22	58.67	130.24	1.12	3.82	3.1
2.	T <sub>2</sub>	2.33	1.44	3.01	68.15	205.13	8.14	4.52	3.43
3.	T <sub>3</sub>	3.00	1.33	3.46	64.81	224.24	10.18	4.54	3.38
4.	T <sub>4</sub>	3.73	2.00	3.13	65.78	205.89	9.15	4.30	3.51
5.	T <sub>5</sub>	3.55	1.67	3.22	60.55	194.97	7.38	4.70	3.09
6.	T <sub>6</sub>	3.67	2.11	3.89	62.67	243.78	10.91	5.14	3.84
7.	T <sub>7</sub>	3.70	2.22	5.56	66.44	369.40	13.47	5.00	3.74
8.	T <sub>8</sub>	3.35	2.33	7.03	71.78	504.61	17.91	5.48	3.9
9.	T <sub>9</sub>	4.97	3.81	8.02	74.11	594.36	21.38	6.04	4.41
10.	T <sub>10</sub>	3.91	1.67	7.47	63	470.61	15.07	5.00	3.57
11.	T <sub>11</sub>	3.71	1.22	5.56	61.78	343.49	12.09	5.21	3.62
12.	T <sub>12</sub>	3.02	1.13	5.33	66.53	354.60	13.00	5.30	3.47
13.	T <sub>13</sub>	5.44	1.11	7.63	64.67	493.43	16.47	5.05	3.88
14.	T <sub>14</sub>	4.22	1.89	6.89	64.01	441.02	14.64	4.96	3.78
15.	T <sub>15</sub>	4.78	3.44	7.78	72.89	567.08	19.47	5.87	4.17
	S.Ed (+)	0.38	0.18	0.44	1.65	4.49	17.09	0.23	0.13
	C.D. (0.05)	1.11	0.51	1.26	4.78	2.25	7.67	0.67	0.39

### Conclusion

From the present investigation, it is concluded that the treatment with a combination of different growing media and bio fertilizer i.e., T<sub>9</sub> (cocopeat + vermicompost + perlite + vermiculite (1:1:1:1) + Azotobacter + PSB) had showed significantly superior in terms of growth parameters like plant height, number of primary branches per plant, plant spread, days to first flowering, days to 50% flowering, days to fruit setting, days to first fruit picking and yield parameter like flower cluster per plant, fruit set per plant, average fruit weight, yield per plant, yield per hectare, total soluble solids, ascorbic acid and cost benefit ratio was found to be the best out of various combinations, so it may be recommended to eastern U.P. growers by few more conjunctive trials at different location.

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