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Effect of pre-harvest spray of bio-regulators and bagging on yield and post-harvest quality of mango (*Mangifera indica* L.) cv. Banganpalli

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Abstract

A field experiment was carried out at Fruit Research Station, Sangareddy, Telangana State during the year 2015- 2017 to study the effect of pre harvest spray of bio-regulators (S₁ - Ca (NO₃)₂ @ 1%, S₂ - Putrescine @ 0.1mM, S₃- CPPU (1-(2- Chloro-4-Pyridyl)-3-Phenyl Urea) @ 10 ppm, S₄ - Ca (NO₃)₂ @ 1%+ Putrescine @ 0.1mM+ CPPU @ 10 ppm, S₅ - Control) and bagging (B₁ - Two layers of brown paper, B₂ - No bagging) on export quality characters of mango cv. Banganpalli. The experiment results revealed that the pre-harvest spray of Ca (NO₃)₂ @ 1% + Putrescine @ 0.1mM + CPPU @ 10 ppm and bagging with two layers of brown paper (S₄B₁) resulted in maximum fruit TSS (18.47 °Brix) and shelf life (12.97 days) with better post-harvest quality attaining highest scores for all organoleptic characters evaluated viz., colour score (8.96), taste score (8.60), texture score (8.40), flavour score (8.7) and overall acceptance score (8.66).

Keywords: Bio-regulators, (Ca (NO₃)₂, Putrescine, CPPU (1-(2- Chloro-4-Pyridyl)-3-Phenyl Urea)) and Bagging

Introduction

Mango (*Mangifera indica* L.) belongs to the family Anacardiaceae considered as one of the most important fruits of the tropical and subtropical countries. India occupies the top position among mango growing countries of the world and produces 40.1% of the total world production. It is the premier and choicest fruit of India and undoubtedly one of the best fruits of the world. It is known as 'King of Fruits' due to its captivating flavour, irresistible taste and sweetness. Very aptly, Indians designated this fruit as the 'National Fruit' of the country. Mango is a highly nutritive fruit. It plays an important role in balancing the human diet by providing about 64-86 calories per 100 grams of ripe fruits (Rathore *et al.* 2007) [91]. It is a good source of vital protective nutrients like vitamins A, B, and C, niacin and is also rich in minerals including calcium, potassium and iron.

To improve the production and productivity in mango, there is a need to improve the physical appearance and exportable quality of the fruit to full fill the global market demand. Attractive fruits fetch a premium rate in the market. There are various approaches to improve the external appearance of the fruit. Bagging of fruit is one of the novel ways among these various means. Bagging is covering individual fruit with specially designed paper or cloth bags. Bagging protects fruits from pests, fungal infections, diseases, mechanical damage, reduces spraying of insecticides and provides an estimate of harvestable fruits per tree. Bagging of fruits is done to prevent damage occurring due to bruises, wounds, scars, diseases and pest attack and also to produce cleaner fruit skin with attractive colour. Moreover, reports are indicating that pre-harvest spray of bio regulators will improve the fruit physical and quality parameters. CPPU @ 10 ppm is effective for the improvement of fruit size through stimulating cell division in mango (Sasaki and Utsunomiya 2012) [98]. Exogenous application of polyamines has been demonstrated to influence yield, shelf life and quality of various fruit crops such as apple (Kramer *et al.*, 1989) [60], strawberry, plum (Ren *et al.*, 1995) [92], peaches (Romero *et al.*, 2000) [93] and mango (Purwoko *et al.*, 1998) [88]. The pre-harvest application of calcium nitrate is known to influence the quality and shelf-life of fruits during storage (Gill *et al.*, 2005) [32]. However, the studies made in combination of bagging and pre harvest spray of bio regulators was meagre in mango. In mango, heavy fruit drop and low shelf life are important factors contributing to low yield and fruit quality.

Pre-harvest application of bio regulators and bagging will improve the fruit yield and its quality in mango (Notodimedjo, S., 2000; Khattab *et al.*, 2005 and Jakhar and Pathak, 2014)^[82, 56, 47]. The aim of the present study was to determine the effect of pre-harvest bio regulators application and fruits bagging on post-harvest quality and shelf life of mango fruits cv. Banganpalli.

Material and Methods

Plant Material and Treatment

The present investigation was carried out during two succeeding seasons *i.e.*, 2015-16 and 2016-17 at Fruit Research Station, Sangareddy, SKLTSHU, Telangana State is situated at an altitude of 560.3 meters above mean sea level on 18°03 North latitude and 78°18 East longitude, with an annual average temperature of 26.0 °C and rainfall of 910 mm. The climate of Sangareddy is tropical, semi-arid and dry. Eight years old bearing trees of mango cv. Banganpalli, having uniform vigor and health were selected mango orchard. Trees were spaced 8×8 m and received uniform pruning and cultural operations. Sixty selected trees were subjected to ten pre-harvest treatments *viz.* B₁ S₁ - Two layers of brown paper + Ca (NO₃)₂ @ 1%, B₁ S₂- Two layers of brown paper + Putrescine @ 0.1mM, B₁ S₃- Two layers of brown paper + CPPU @ 10 ppm (1-(2- Chloro-4-Pyridyl)-3-Phenyl Urea), B₁ S₄- Two layers of brown paper + Ca (NO₃)₂ @ 1%+ Putrescine @ 0.1mM + CPPU @ 10 ppm, B₁ S₅- Two layers of brown paper + Control, B₂ S₁ - No bagging + Ca (NO₃)₂ @ 1%, B₂ S₂ - No bagging +Putrescine @ 0.1mM, B₂ S₃ - No bagging + CPPU @ 10 ppm (1-(2- Chloro-4-Pyridyl)-3-Phenyl Urea), B₂ S₄- No bagging + Ca (NO₃)₂ @ 1%+ Putrescine @0.1mM + CPPU @ 10 ppm, B₂ S₅- No bagging + Control with three replications. One tree was taken as a unit for a replication of treatment.

Treatments Methodology

Fruits were bagged at 30 days before harvesting of fruits using two brown paper bags per fruit. Twenty uniform sized fruits were marked at all directions of the canopy of the trees. Individual fruit was covered with brown paper bags and tied with thread on the stalk of fruits. Before bagging all selected trees were sprayed with above mentioned bio regulators.

Fruit Harvest and Storage

Fruits of all trees were separately harvested at optimum maturity stage by hand with 1.0 cm stalk to escape any damage of fruit. Harvesting was done in the morning hours during both years. The field heat of harvested fruits was removed by dipping in fresh water and then carefully sorted and graded as fresh and uniform sized fruits. These fruits were transported from orchard to the laboratory without any type of physical damage including bruising. In the laboratory, fruits were washed in running tap water and cleaned with muslin cloth. Fruits were packed in corrugated fiber board boxes with the use of newspaper as liner. All boxes were tagged as per treatments and stored under ventilated room (at ambient temperature) for 15 days.

Fruit physical parameters analysis

Days taken for fruit maturity (From fruit set to harvest) was recorded by counting calendar days from fruit set to fruit, number of fruits tree⁻¹ (at the time of harvest) calculated by adding different interval harvested fruits, yield (kg tree⁻¹)

recorded by using a manual weighing balance and the yield per plant was calculated by adding the weight of each harvest (Vijay Krishna, 2019)^[117]. Fruit length (cm) and breadth (cm) were measured with digital vernier callipers, weight (g) measured with digital electronic balance.

Canopy volume (m³)

The canopy volume (from the root base of a tree to maximum spreading) was measured using tape (fastened on a bamboo stick) and calculated by the formula suggested by Samadder and Chakrabarti (1988).

$$\text{Canopy volume (m}^3\text{)} = 4/3 \pi(r^2h)$$

Where r = diameter/2, h= height of the plant. The canopy diameter was measured in both the direction (NS and EW) of the canopy. Plant height (m) was measured from graft union to the top of the tree by measuring tape (fixed on a bamboo stick).

Fruit Quality Analysis

Fruit specific gravity determined by dividing the weight of the fruit in the air by the volume of the fruits obtained by the water displacement method (Gustafson, 1926)^[36]. Total soluble solids (⁰Brix) measured by using the 'Erma' hand refractometer. The total titratable acidity was calculated on the basis of one ml N/10 NaOH equivalent to 0.0064 g of anhydrous citric acid or per cent citric acid in juice. Sugar to acid ratio was calculated by dividing TSS (%) with titratable acidity (%). The total sugars were estimated by titrating the boiling mixture of 5 ml, each of Fehling A and Fehling B solution against the hydrolyzed aliquot by using methylene blue as an indicator. Non-reducing sugars were calculated by subtracting reducing sugars from the total sugars and multiplying the difference by standard factor *i.e.*, 0.95 and ascorbic acid was determined by AOAC (1980) method. The shelf life was determined by recording the number of days the fruits remained in good condition without spoilage. The organoleptic evaluation of ripe mango fruits was done on a 10-point Hedonic scale by a panel of five judges and scores were allotted accordingly for the fruits of each treatment for various quality attributes such as colour, aroma, texture and acceptability. The data obtained from the investigation were statistically analyzed according to the procedure out lined by Panse and Sukhatme (1985)^[84].

Results and Discussion

1. Number of days taken from fruit set to maturity (days)

Regarding the effect of the pre-harvest spray of different bio-regulators (S), application of Ca (NO₃) @ 1% + Putrescine @ 0.1mM + CPPU @ 10 ppm (S₄) has recorded (Table 1) the minimum number of days from fruit set to maturity (126.08 days) whereas the maximum number of days from fruit set to maturity (149.01 days) was recorded in control (S₅). Cytokinins are a class of plant hormones that promote cell division, or cytokinesis. They are involved primarily in cell growth and differentiation. Cell division at the early stage of fruit development has a major role in final fruit growth and size (Flaishman *et al.*, 2001; Biswal and Rout, 2020)^[28, 15]. At the early stage of fruit growth, CPPU stimulates effective cell division (Zhang *et al.*, 2007; Biswal and Rout, 2020)^[15, 126]. The positive effect of putrescine application on fruit

development might be attributed to increased nutrient uptake thereby improved fruit set and enhanced metabolic processes such as carbohydrate transport (El-Migeed *et al.*, 2013)^[24] resulting in improved fruit size and early development of fruits. The application of CPPU might have altered sink-source relations with more carbohydrate transport to developing fruits which led to improved fruit size (length) (Table 1) and fruit weight (Table 1) thus resulting in early development and maturity of fruits compared to control in the present study. Similar improved fruit development was reported earlier by Notodimedjo *et al.*, (2000)^[82] in Arumanis mango, Kulkarni *et al.*, (2017)^[61] in Kesar mango, Gattas *et al.*, (2018)^[30] in Keitt mango trees sprayed with CPPU and Shaban *et al.* (2017)^[100] on Ewais mango, Buronkar (2005)^[19] in Alphonso mango trees, Naser *et al.* (2016)^[79] in date palm and Fakir and Abed AL-Hussain (2009) on tomato sprayed with putrescine. Further, the calcium might be responsible for faster cell division and cell enlargement thereby increases in fruit volume (Sankar *et al.*, 2013)^[97]. Nitrates are the most readily available form of N for root absorption (Khan *et al.*, 2015)^[55]. A high N concentration stimulates the activities of the enzymes associated with ethylene synthesis (Tian *et al.*, 2009; Khan *et al.*, 2015)^[112, 55]. Ethylene might be an important second messenger in promoting flowering, fruit maturity and ripening (Burg and Burg, 1966)^[18]. These were the possible reasons for early fruit maturity with M₄ treatment under the present investigation. Similar minimization in the number of days taken for harvest from fruit set was earlier found by Raj Kumar *et al.*, (2006)^[89] in mango with Ca (NO₃)₂, Vijay Krishna *et al.*, (2012)^[116] in mango cv. Banganpalli with Ca (NO₃)₂ spray and Maurya *et al.*, (2016)^[72] in aonla cv. NA-6 with a spray of Ca (NO₃)₂ and potassium sulphate.

Regarding the effect of bagging treatments (B), bagging with two layers of brown paper (B₁) recorded the minimum number of days from fruit set to maturity (129.61 days) whereas control (B₂) recorded the maximum number of days from fruit set to maturity (141.96 days). The abiotic factors *viz.* temperature and humidity play a critical role in fruit growth and development (Kireeti *et al.*, 2018)^[58]. Islam *et al.*, (2017)^[45] reported that the microenvironment created by bagging material might have a congenial effect on the fruit growth of mango. Bagging improving fruit size was considered as a result of temperature increase (Wang *et al.*, 2007)^[119] or a result of humidity increase (Tombesi *et al.*, 1993; Thorp *et al.*, 2007; Wang *et al.*, 2007)^[113, 111, 119]. So, the warm temperature and increased humidity inside the brown paper bag might have contributed to the early growth and development of fruits resulting in the fewer number of days recorded from fruit set to maturity. These results are in agreement with the findings of Debnath and Mitra (2008)^[23] who reported that an increase in the temperature of microclimate inside the cellophane paper bags (different colours) caused earlier accumulation of the required heat units than un-bagged fruits, resulting in the advancement of fruit maturity in litchi.

However, the interaction effect of the pre-harvest spray of different bio-regulators and bagging (SxB) was found non-significant.

2. Number of fruits per tree at the time of harvest

Effect of different bio-regulators (S) and bagging (B) and their interaction (SxB) in mango cv. Banganpalli found non-

significant (Table 1).

3. Fruit length (cm) and fruit breadth (cm)

Application of Ca (NO₃) @ 1% + Putrescine @ 0.1mM + CPPU @ 10 ppm (S₄) recorded maximum fruit length (8.83 cm) which was on par with that of application of CPPU @ 10 ppm (S₃) (8.61 cm) whereas minimum fruit length (8.47 cm) was recorded with the application of Ca (NO₃) @ 1% (S₁) which was on par with fruit lengths recorded (8.47 cm and 8.60cm) with the application of Ca (NO₃) @ 1% (S₁) and Putrescine @ 0.1mM (S₂) respectively (Table 1). This might be due to the exogenous application of CPPU acts early on cell division in the fruit and also on subsequent growth. Thus, the fruit becomes bigger due to efficient cells, the building blocks of fruit mass and also because the cells have been able to attract so much water, minerals and carbohydrates that enable the fruit to expand to large size (Kano, 2003; Kulkarni *et al.*, 2017)^[51, 61]. Calcium is an important mineral in the formation of cell membrane and development hence increases in the fruit physical attributes (Bitange *et al.*, 2019)^[16]. Calcium improves the efficiency of photosynthesis and is associated with hormone metabolism, which promotes the synthesis of auxins, essential for fruit growth (Kazemi, 2014; Mosa *et al.*, 2015)^[53, 75] and thus it might have contributed to the increased fruit length. Further, Polyamines are associated with cell division (Shaban *et al.*, 2017)^[100].

The exogenous application of putrescine might have improved cell size or cell number resulting in improvement of fruit growth and uptake of nutrients that accelerate metabolic processes (El-Migeed *et al.*, 2013)^[24] thus increasing the fruit length. A similar increase in fruit length and size was reported earlier by Kulkarni *et al.*, (2017)^[61] in mango cv. Kesar, Greene (2001)^[35] in McIntosh apple, Said (2002)^[95] on Anna apple, Stern *et al.* (2002)^[110] on pear and Nampila *et al.* (2010)^[78] on the grape with the application of CPPU, Bitange *et al.* (2019)^[16] in mango, Kumar *et al.* (2003) in mango cv. Baneshan, Karemera and Habimana (2013) in mango cv. Totapuri, Kumari *et al.* (2018)^[65] in mango cv. Langra and Purohit *et al.* (2019)^[87] in guava cv. L-49 with the application of calcium nitrate and El-Migeed *et al.*, (2013)^[24] in Amhat date palm, Ayad *et al.* (2011)^[8] on olive and Ali *et al.* (2010) on apricot with the application of putrescine. However, no significant difference was found in fruit breadth among the treatments with a pre-harvest spray of different bio-regulators (S).

Regarding the effect of bagging treatments (B) on fruit length and breadth, bagging with two layers of brown paper (B₁) recorded maximum fruit length (8.75 cm) and fruit breadth (7.71 cm) whereas control (no bagging) (B₂) was recorded minimum fruit length (8.51 cm) and fruit breadth (7.61 cm). Bagging affects the size and the weight of pomegranate (Hussein *et al.*, 1994; Padmavathamma and Hulamani, 1996)^[44, 83], bitter melon (Kuo *et al.*, 1999)^[66], apple (Arakawa *et al.*, 1994)^[6] and banana (Johns and Scott, 1989; Hasan *et al.*, 2001)^[49, 39] fruits. Bagging improving fruit size was considered as a result of temperature increase (Wang *et al.*, 2007)^[119] or a result of humidity increase (Tombesi *et al.*, 1993; Thorp *et al.*, 2007; Wang *et al.*, 2007)^[111, 113, 119]. This increased fruit size can be attributed to the microenvironment created by bagging material which might have a congenial effect on fruit growth (Islam *et al.*, 2017)^[45]. These findings are in accordance with some previous reports that the effects of pre-harvest bagging increased fruit growth, size, and

weight by Islam *et al.*, (2017) ^[45] in mango cv. Mishribhog, Islam *et al.*, (2019) ^[46] in mango cv. Langra with brown paper bags. Yang *et al.*, (2009) in longan fruit; Harhash and Al-Obeed, (2010) ^[38] in date palm and Zhou *et al.*, (2012) ^[127] in mango. Kireeti *et al.*, (2018) ^[58] also reported increased fruit length of mango cv. Kesar significantly by bagging with newspaper bag and brown paper bag over control. Further, Xu *et al.* (2008) reported an increase in fruit width due to bagging in the carambola.

Further, no significant difference was found among the treatments regarding fruit length and fruit breadth with the interaction effect of the pre-harvest spray of different bio-regulators and bagging (SxB) in mango cv. Banganpalli.

4. Fruit weight (g)

Application of Ca (NO₃) @ 1% + Putrescine @ 0.1mM + CPPU @ 10 ppm (S₄) resulted in maximum fruit weight (294.43 g) whereas minimum fruit weight (256.51 g) was recorded in control with no chemical spray (S₅) (Table 1). This increase in fruit weight with application of Ca (NO₃) @ 1% + Putrescine @ 0.1mM + CPPU @ 10 ppm (S₄) could be attributed to increase in fruit size (length) with this treatment in the present study. Cell division and enlargement of the cell is a complicated process involving the synthesis of many organic compounds such as proteins, cellulose and nucleic acids in mango (Kumar, 2006). Calcium might be responsible for cell division and enlargement thereby increase in fruit length and volume which were directly proportional to fruit weight (Sankar *et al.*, 2013) ^[97]. Calcium increase weight might be due to faster mobilization of metabolites in the fruits and involvement in cell division and cell expansion as well as the increase in the volume of intercellular space in mesocarpic cells (Purohit *et al.*, 2019) ^[87]. The above finding is in accordance with the results of Parkhe *et al.* (2015) ^[85] in guava. The findings are confirmed with findings of Purohit *et al.*, (2019) ^[87] in guava cv. L-49, Sankar *et al.*, (2013) ^[97] in Alphonso mango and Jyothi *et al.*, (2018) ^[50] in mango cv. Langra. CPPU is a synthetic cytokinin that can stimulate cell division and cell elongation in pear (Flaishman *et al.*, 2001) ^[28]. Any increase in length, width and thickness of fruit brought a corresponding increase in weight of fruit (Kulkarni *et al.*, 2017) ^[61], the possible explanation for the increase in fruit size and weight was also due to faster movement of simple sugars and involvement in cell expansion (Brahmachari *et al.*, 1996) ^[17]. CPPU increases cell size and is also responsible for the production and transport of plant sugars that increase the weight of fruit (Singh *et al.*, 1994). These reasons might be responsible for the increase in fruit weight with the CPPU application. A similar increase in fruit weight with CPPU was earlier reported by Kumar *et al.*, (2013) in apple cv. Red delicious, Kulkarni *et al.*, (2017) ^[61] in Kesar mango and Gattass *et al.*, (2018) ^[30] in Keitt mango trees. Application of putrescine improves cell size or cell number resulting in improvement of fruit growth and uptake of nutrients that accelerate metabolic processes. This improvement in nutrient status increases the rate of sugar transport to actively growing regions and also in developing fruits thus resulting in increased fruit size and weight (El-Migeed *et al.*, 2013) ^[24]. A similar increase in fruit weight with the application of putrescine was earlier reported by These results are in agreement with the findings by Shaban *et al.* (2017) ^[100] in Ewais mango, Ali *et al.* (2017) on mango, El-Migeed *et al.*, (2013) ^[24] and Naser *et al.* (2016) ^[79] on date

palm and Ataweia *et al.* (2012) ^[7] on Washington navel orange as they increased fruit weight with the application of putrescine.

Recorded maximum fruit weight (297.04 g) with two layers of brown paper (B₁) whereas control (B₂) recorded minimum fruit weight (254.94 g) (Table 1). This can be attributed to improvement in a microclimate around the fruit bagging would have helped in the increase in fruit weight (Gethe *et al.*, 2021; Kireeti *et al.*, 2016) ^[31, 59]. Fallahi *et al.* (2001) observed the highest average fruit weight in bagged fruit of 'BC-2 Fuji' apple as compared to non-bagged fruit. Debnath and Mitra (2008) ^[23] found the highest fruit weight in newspaper bags as compared to control in litchi. Watanawan *et al.* (2008) noticed the highest fruit weight in the 2-layer paper bag followed by the paper bag as compared to control in mango cv. 'Nam Dok Mai'. These results are in agreement with Gethe *et al.* (2021) ^[31], Hussien *et al.* (1994); Abd El-Rhman (2010) ^[1] and Samra and Shalan (2013) ^[96] in pomegranate. Similar results were also reported by Hossain *et al.* (2020), Haldankar *et al.* (2015) ^[37] and Islam *et al.* (2019) ^[46] in mango, Wang *et al.* (2007) ^[119] in Tomato; Purbey and Kumar (2015) ^[86] and Debnath and Mitra (2008) ^[23] in litchi and Harshash and Al-Obeed (2010) ^[5] in date palm and Lal (2019) in guava.

However, no significant difference was found in interaction of bio-regulators and bagging (SxB) in mango cv. Banganpalli.

5. Yield per tree (kg)

Maximum fruit yield per tree (42.46 kg) was recorded with application of Ca (NO₃) @ 1% + Putrescine @ 0.1mM + CPPU @ 10 ppm (S₄) whereas minimum fruit yield per tree (30.99 kg) was recorded in control (S₅) (Table 1). This increase in fruit yield per tree with the application of Ca (NO₃) @ 1% + Putrescine @ 0.1mM + CPPU @ 10 ppm (S₄) could be attributed to an increase in yield attributing characters *viz.*, fruit size (length) and fruit weight (Table 1.) with this treatment under present study. A similar increase in fruit yield was also reported earlier by Vijay Krishna *et al.*, (2012) ^[116] in mango cv. Banganpalli, Sankar *et al.*, (2013) ^[97] in Alphonso mango, Jyothi *et al.*, (2018) ^[50] in mango cv. Langra with calcium nitrate, Notodimedjo. (2000) ^[82] in Arumanis mango, Kulkarni *et al.*, (2017) ^[61] in Kesar mango, Gattass *et al.*, (2018) ^[3] in Keitt mango trees sprayed with CPPU and Shaban *et al.* (2017) ^[100] on Ewais mango, Buronkar (2005) ^[19] in Alphonso mango trees, Naser *et al.* (2016) ^[79] in date palm and Fakir and Abed AL-Hussain (2009) on tomato sprayed with putrescine.

Regarding the effect of bagging treatments (B), bagging with two layers of brown paper (B₁) recorded maximum yield per tree (40.21 kg) whereas control (B₂) recorded minimum fruit yield per tree (32.51 kg) (Table 1). The increased fruit yield could be attributed to an increase in yield attributing characters *viz.*, fruit size (length) and fruit weight (Table 1.) with this treatment under the present study. The results are in close agreement with the findings of Gethe *et al.*, (2021) ^[31] who reported increased fruit size, weight and yield in pomegranate due to bagging. A similar increase in fruit yield with bagging was also reported by El-Wafa (2014) ^[25] in pomegranate and Nehad, *et al.* (2017) ^[80] in mango.

However, no significant difference was found in fruit yield per tree among bio-regulators and bagging (SxB) in mango cv. Banganpalli.

6. Canopy volume (m³)

The data obtained for the effect of the pre-harvest spray of bio-regulators and bagging on canopy volume (m³) was presented in Table 1. The analysis of pooled data revealed that the application of different bio-regulators (S) and bagging (B) treatment has no significant effect on canopy volume (m³) in mango cv. Banganpalli.

7. Fruit yield per m³ canopy volume of the tree (kg)

Maximum fruit yield per m³ canopy volume of the tree (0.81 kg) recorded with the application of Ca (NO₃) @ 1% + Putrescine @ 0.1mM + CPPU @ 10 ppm (S₄) whereas minimum fruit yield per m³ canopy volume of the tree (0.58 kg) was recorded in control (S₅) (Table 1). This increase in fruit yield per m³ canopy volume of the tree with the application of Ca (NO₃) @ 1% + Putrescine @ 0.1mM + CPPU @ 10 ppm (S₄) could be attributed to an increase in yield attributing characters *viz.*, fruit size (length) and fruit weight (Table 1.) with this treatment under present study. This is due to cytokinin's are reported to alter sink-source relations, is a promising approach to improve yield attributes, and they regulate important physiological parameters that determine biomass formation and distribution via central genes of primary metabolite pathways, including invertases, hexose transporters and key genes of phosphate and nitrogen metabolism and signalling (Schmülling, 2004, Niederholzer *et al.*, 2006 and Gattass *et al.*, 2018) ^[99, 81, 30] contributing to increased fruit growth resulting in more yield per m³ canopy volume of the tree. Calcium is involved in the faster mobilization of metabolites in the fruits and cell division and cell expansion, as well as the increase in the volume of intercellular space in mesocarpic cells (Purohit *et al.*, 2019) ^[87] increasing in fruit size and weight and this, led to more yield per m³ canopy volume of tree in the present study with calcium application. Further, the positive impact of polyamine spraying on fruit physical properties was reported by many investigators in fruit crops (Ayad *et al.*, 2011) ^[8]. This positive impact of putrescine might be attributed to increased nutrient uptake thereby improved fruit set and enhanced metabolic processes such as carbohydrate transport (El-Migeed *et al.*, 2013) ^[24] resulting in improved fruit size and yield. A similar increase in fruit size and yield was also reported earlier by Notodimedjo. (2000) ^[82] in Arumanis mango, Kulkarni *et al.*, (2017) ^[61] in Kesar mango, Gattass *et al.*, (2018) ^[30] in Keitt mango trees sprayed with CPPU, Shaban *et al.* (2017) ^[100] on Ewais mango, Buronkar (2005) ^[19] in Alphonso mango trees, Naser *et al.* (2016) ^[79] in date palm and Fakir and Abed AL-Hussain (2009) on tomato sprayed with putrescine and Vijay Krishna *et al.*, (2012) ^[16] in mango cv. Banganpalli, Sankar *et al.*, (2013) ^[97] in Alphonso mango, Jyothi *et al.*, (2018) ^[50] in mango cv. Langra with calcium nitrate application.

Regarding the effect of bagging treatments (B), bagging with two layers of brown paper (B₁) recorded maximum yield per m³ canopy volume of the tree (0.75 kg) whereas control (B₂) recorded minimum fruit yield per m³ canopy volume of the tree (0.63 kg). The increased fruit yield could be attributed to an increase in yield attributing characters *viz.*, fruit size (length) and fruit weight (Table 1) with this treatment under the present study. Bagging on fruits alters the microenvironment around fruits (Kireeti *et al.*, 2018; Sharma *et al.*, 2014) ^[58, 102] and this might have created better conditions for fruit growth and development. The results are in close agreement with the findings of El-Wafa (2014) ^[25]

and Gethe *et al.*, (2021) ^[31] in pomegranate and Nehad, *et al.* (2017) ^[80] in mango who reported increased fruit size, weight and yield due to bagging.

However, the interaction effect of the pre-harvest spray of different bio-regulators and bagging (SxB) was found not significant.

8. Specific gravity of fruit

Application of Ca (NO₃) @ 1% + Putrescine @ 0.1mM + CPPU @ 10 ppm (S₄) has resulted in maximum specific gravity (1.03) which was on par with that of (1.00) resulted with the application of CPPU @ 10 ppm whereas the minimum value for specific gravity (0.93) was recorded in control (S₅) (Table 2). This increase in specific gravity of fruit with application of Ca (NO₃) @ 1% + Putrescine @ 0.1mM + CPPU @ 10 ppm (S₄) could be attributed to increased individual fruit weight (Table 1) in present treatment. Similar improvements in fruit weight and fruit quality were also reported by Sankar *et al.*, (2013) ^[97] in Alphonso mango and Jyothi *et al.*, (2018) ^[50] in mango cv. Langra with the application of Ca (NO₃)₂ Kumar *et al.*, (2013) in apple cv. Red delicious, Kulkarni *et al.*, (2017) ^[61] in Kesar mango and Gattass *et al.*, (2018) ^[30] in Keitt mango trees with CPPU application and Shaban *et al.* (2017) ^[100] in Ewais mango, Ali *et al.* (2017) on mango, El-Migeed *et al.*, (2013) ^[24] and Naser *et al.* (2016) ^[79] on date palm and Ataweia *et al.* (2012) ^[7] on Washington navel orange with putrescine application.

Regarding the effect of bagging treatments (B), bagging with two layers of brown paper (B₁) recorded maximum specific gravity (1.02) whereas control (B₂) recorded minimum specific gravity (0.96). The improvement in the fruit quality may be due to the environment created inside by the bagging material that plays a significant role in the growth and development of fruits (Sharma *et al.*, 2014) ^[102]. The increased specific gravity of fruits in the present study could be due to the increased fruit size (Table 1) and individual fruit weight (Table 1) with the bagging of fruits over control treatment. These results are in agreement with Hossain *et al.* (2020), Haldankar *et al.* (2015) ^[37] and Islam *et al.* (2019) ^[46] in mango, Gethe *et al.* (2021) ^[31], Hussien *et al.* (1994); Abd El-Rhman (2010) ^[1] and Samra and Shalan (2013) ^[96] in pomegranate who reported increased fruit weight and fruit quality with bagging.

However, the interaction effect of the pre-harvest spray of different bio-regulators and bagging (SxB) was found not significant on the specific gravity of fruits.

9. Fruit TSS (°Brix)

The maximum fruit TSS (17.73 °Brix) was recorded with the application of Ca (NO₃) @ 1% + Putrescine @ 0.1mM + CPPU @ 10 ppm (S₄) whereas control (S₅) recorded minimum fruit TSS (15.64 °Brix) (Table 2). The higher TSS content with CPPU application might be attributed to a higher rate of photosynthates assimilation, as cytokinin are known to influence sink-source relations by mobilization of metabolites and nutrients to the developing fruits (Leopold and Kriedemann, 1975; Banyal and Banyal, 2020) ^[69, 12]. The results of the present study are in conformity with the studies conducted by Kim *et al.*, (2006) ^[57] on kiwi fruit and Barkule *et al.* (2018) ^[13] on sapota who reported that foliar application of CPPU increased the fruit TSS content. The increase in TSS with Ca (NO₃)₂ application may be attributed to the conversion of starch and other polysaccharides into soluble

forms of sugars (Mukherjee and Dutta, 1967). A similar increase in TSS with Ca (NO₃)₂ was earlier reported by Bhatt *et al.*, (2012) [114] in Dashehari mango and Sankar *et al.*, (2013) [97] in mango cv. Alphonso. The increased TSS of fruits with putrescine could be attributed to improved fruit growth and nutrient uptake that accelerated metabolic processes and sugar transport to actively growing regions and developing fruits (El-Migeed *et al.*, 2013) [24]. These results are in agreement with the findings by Ali *et al.* (2017) on mango, Naser *et al.* (2016) [79] and El-Migeed *et al.*, (2013) [24] on date palm and Ataweia *et al.* (2012) [7] on Washington navel orange who reported increased fruit TSS with the application of putrescine.

Regarding the effect of bagging treatments (B) on fruit TSS (°Brix), no significant difference was found among the treatments (Table 2).

Regarding the interaction effect of the pre-harvest spray of different bio-regulators and bagging (SxB), on fruit TSS (°Brix), maximum TSS (18.47 °Brix) was recorded with a pre-harvest spray of Ca (NO₃) @ 1% + Putrescine @ 0.1mM + CPPU @ 10 ppm followed by bagging with two layers of brown paper (S₄B₁) whereas the control treatment (no chemical spray and no bagging) (S₅B₂) recorded minimum TSS (15.54 °Brix) of fruits (Table 2). From the results, it is evident that the individual effect of bagging treatment did not influence the fruit TSS but the synergistic effect of bagging and pre-harvest sprays has significantly influenced the fruit TSS. This could be attributed to the improved fruit growth and nutrient uptake with accelerated metabolic processes and sugar transport to the developing fruits due to the pre-harvest spray of Ca (NO₃) @ 1% + Putrescine @ 0.1mM + CPPU @ 10 ppm and congenial microclimate created by the bagging treatment for fruit growth and development. These results are in close agreement with the findings of Jakhar and Pathak (2016) [47] who reported maximum TSS content of fruits with a pre-harvest spray of 2% CaCl₂+1% K₂SO₄ followed by bagging with brown paper bags in mango cv. Amrapali.

10. Reducing and non-reducing sugars (%)

The application of Ca (NO₃) @ 1% + Putrescine @ 0.1mM + CPPU @ 10 ppm (S₄) has resulted in maximum reducing sugars (2.86%) and non-reducing sugars (8.31%) whereas control (S₅) recorded minimum reducing sugars (2.56%) and non-reducing sugars (7.66%) (Table 2). Calcium or nitrogen elements might be involved in hydrolytic enzymes activation which led to the conversion of carbohydrates into simple sugars (Sankar *et al.*, 2013) [97]. The present results were in conformity with earlier findings of Bhatt *et al.*, (2012) [14] in Dashehari mango with the application of Ca (NO₃)₂ and Bushan *et al.*, (2015) in Amrapali mango trees applied with Ca (NO₃)₂. The higher sugar content with CPPU might be attributed to a higher rate of photosynthates assimilation, as cytokinins are known to influence the mobilization of metabolites and nutrients to the cytokinin treated portion of the plant (Leopold and Kriedemann, 1975) [69]. The results of the present study are in conformity with the studies conducted by Babita and Rana (2015) [9] and Kim *et al.*, (2006) [57] on kiwi fruit and Barkule *et al.* (2018) [13] on sapota who reported increased sugar content with CPPU. The increased sugars of fruits with putrescine could be attributed to improved nutrient uptake and sugar transport to actively growing regions and developing fruits during fruit development (El-Migeed *et al.*, 2013) [24]. Similar results were reported by El-Migeed *et al.*,

(2013) [24] on date palm with putrescine application.

Regarding the effect of bagging treatments (B) on reducing and non-reducing sugars, bagging with two layers of brown paper (B₁) recorded maximum reducing sugars (2.81%) and non-reducing sugars (8.09%) whereas control (B₂) recorded minimum reducing sugars (2.64%) and non-reducing sugars (7.90%) (Table 2). This is due to the congenial microclimate around the fruit with bagging treatment and conversion of starch into simple sugars resulting in increased reducing sugars and non-reducing sugars (Jakhar and Pathak, 2016; Banday, 1996) [47] during subsequent growth and development stages of fruit. A similar increase in reducing and non-reducing sugars of fruits due to bagging was earlier reported by Jakhar and Pathak, (2016) [47] in mango cv. Amrapali, Islam *et al.*, (2017) [45] in mango cv. Mishribhog and Akter *et al.*, (2020) [3] in mango cv. Amrapali.

However, the interaction effect of the pre-harvest spray of different bio-regulators and bagging (SxB) has recorded no significant differences in reducing and non-reducing sugars (%) among the treatments.

11. Total sugars (%)

The maximum (11.16%) total sugar was recorded with the application of Ca (NO₃) @ 1% + Putrescine @ 0.1mM + CPPU @ 10 ppm (S₄) and control (S₅) recorded minimum total sugars (10.17%) (Table 2). During the ripening process of fruits activation of hydrolytic enzymes which aid in the conversion of starch, hemicelluloses and organic acids into various forms of sugars, α-amylase is one of the hydrolytic enzymes, which involves in the breakdown of the glucosidic linkage of starch (Glasson, 1970) [33]. Calcium or nitrogen elements might be involved in hydrolytic enzymes activation which led to the conversion of carbohydrates into simple sugars (Sankar *et al.*, 2013) [97]. The higher sugar content with CPPU might be attributed to a higher rate of photosynthates assimilation, as cytokinin are known to influence the mobilization of metabolites and nutrients to the cytokinin treated portion of the plant (Leopold and Kriedemann, 1975) [69]. Further, putrescine treatment was reported to increase the nutrient status of foliage and flowers especially N and B (Callan *et al.*, 1978 and Crisosto *et al.*, 1988) [21, 22] in pear. This improvement in nutrient status might have increased the rate of sugar transport to actively growing regions and developing fruits during fruit development (El-Migeed *et al.*, 2013) [24] resulting in increased sugar content of fruits in the present study. These might be possible reasons behind the increase in total sugars content of fruits with M₄ treatment used in the present investigation. A similar line of findings was earlier reported by Sankar *et al.*, (2013) [97] mango cv. Alphonso with the application of Ca (NO₃)₂, Walid *et al.*, (2015) [118] in Anna apple with the application of potassium and calcium mineral elements, Babita and Rana (2015) [9] and Kim *et al.*, (2006) [57] on kiwi fruit and Barkule *et al.* (2018) [13] on sapota with CPPU application, El-Migeed *et al.*, (2013) [24] on date palm and Ayad *et al.* (2011) [8] on olive with putrescine application.

Regarding the effect of bagging treatments (B) on total sugars (%) of fruit, bagging with two layers of brown paper (B₁) recorded the maximum total sugars (10.88%) whereas control (B₂) recorded the minimum total sugars (10.55%) (Table 2). This increase in the sugars content of fruits during storage might be because of an increase in reducing sugars and non-reducing sugars (Tables 2) resulting from the conversion of

starch into simple sugars (Jakhar and Pathak, 2016; Bandy, 1996) [47]. These results are in conformity with the findings of Akter *et al.*, (2020) [3] in mango cv. Amrapali, Jakhar and Pathak, (2016) [47] in mango cv. Amrapali, Islam *et al.*, (2017) in mango cv. Mishribhog and Nagaharshitha *et al.*, (2014) in mango cv. Alphonso reported increased total sugar content of fruits with bagging.

However, the effect of bagging treatment (B) and the interaction effect of the pre-harvest spray of different bio-regulators and bagging (S x B) was found not significant.

12. Titratable acidity (%)

The perusal of the pooled data revealed that the individual effect of the pre-harvest spray of different bio-regulators (S) and bagging treatment (B) along with their interaction (S x B) has resulted in no significant difference in titratable acidity (%) of fruits among the treatments (Table 2).

13. TSS/Acidity ratio

The perusal of the pooled data revealed that the individual effect of a pre-harvest spray of different bio-regulators (S) and bagging treatment (B) along with their interaction (S x B) has resulted in no significant difference in the TSS/acidity ratio of fruits among the treatments (Table 2).

14. Fruit ascorbic acid (mg/100 g. F.W.)

The application of Ca (NO₃) @ 1% + Putrescine @ 0.1mM + CPPU @ 10 ppm (S₄) has resulted in maximum fruit ascorbic acid (18.35 mg/100 g. F.W.) whereas minimum (16.29 mg/100 g. F.W.) was recorded in control (S₅). This increase in the ascorbic acid content of fruits in the present treatment is mainly attributed to the application of calcium nitrate. This might be due to calcium compounds bind with the membrane and increase its stability, therefore, they prevent free radicals and reactive oxygen species from connecting to the membrane and contribute to the maintenance of the health of biological membranes (Veltman *et al.*, 2000) [144]. Additionally, calcium compounds cause a delay in the rapid oxidation of ascorbic acid by increasing the activity of ascorbate peroxidase (APX) (Zeraatgar *et al.*, 2018) [125]. Activities of oxidizing enzymes might be reduced with Ca (NO₃)₂ resulting in the higher ascorbic acid content of fruits (Goutam *et al.*, 2010) [34]. This finding is in agreement with those of Singh (1988), Ahmed and Singh (2000) and Singh *et al.* (2008) in guava, mango and ber fruits, respectively. Further, the application of polyamines (putrescine) may have inhibited ascorbate oxidase activities, which is responsible for the degradation of ascorbic acid (Malik and Singh, 2006.). A similar increase in fruit ascorbic acid content of fruits was reported by Bhatt *et al.*, (2012) [14] in Dashehari mango, Zeraatgar *et al.*, (2018) [125] in fresh jujube fruit and Walid *et al.*, (2015) [118] in "Le Conte" pear with the application of Ca (NO₃)₂ and Venu and Ramdevputra, (2018) on mango cv. Kesar with putrescine application and Malik and Singh (2006) in mango with the application of polyamines reported that putrescine was effective in improving fruit quality of ripe fruit.

Regarding the effect of bagging treatments (B), bagging with two layers of brown paper (B₁) recorded maximum fruit ascorbic acid (18.03 mg/100 g. F.W.) whereas control (B₂) recorded minimum fruit ascorbic acid (16.92 mg/100 g. F.W.) (Table 2). These results are strongly supported by the findings of Akter *et al.*, (2020) [3] who reported that the fruits bagged with the brown paper bag are not directly exposed to the

sunlight which ensures higher xanthophylls content therefore, stored more ascorbic acid than unbagged control in mango cv. Amrapali. A similar increase in the ascorbic acid content of bagged fruits was reported by Islam *et al.*, (2017) [45] in mango cv. Mishribhog, Hongxia *et al.*, (2009) [42] in Zill mango, Haldankar *et al.*, (2015) [37] in mango cv. Alphonso and Sharma *et al.*, (2013) [101] in apple cv. Delicious.

However, the interaction of pre-harvest spray of different bio-regulators and bagging (SxB) has shown no significant effect on fruit ascorbic acid among the treatments.

15. Shelf life of fruits (days)

Maximum shelf life of fruits (12.43 days) was recorded with the application of Ca (NO₃) @ 1% + Putrescine @ 0.1mM + CPPU @ 10 ppm (S₄) whereas minimum shelf life (8.95 days) was recorded in control (S₅) (Table 2). Calcium compounds extend the shelf-life of fruits by maintaining firmness, minimizing the rate of respiration, protein breakdown and disintegration of tissues (Bangerth *et al.*, 1972; Purohit *et al.*, 2019) [87]. Calcium decreases the loss of weight by the maintenance of the fruit firmness, retardation of respiratory rate and delayed senescence (Yadav *et al.* 2009; Purohit *et al.*, 2019) [87]. Calcium, as a constituent of the cell wall, plays an important role in forming cross-bridges, which influence cell wall strength and are regarded as the last barrier before cell separation (Fry, 2004). Another possible reason might be that calcium nitrate has been reported in the literature to delay the ripening and senescence in fruits by lowering the respiration rate (Singh *et al.* 1993; Singh *et al.* 2017) [106]. CPPU, which is a synthetic cytokinin, is used to extend the shelf and storage life of fruits especially in grapes (Marzouk and Kassem, 2011) [71]. The increased shelf life with CPPU application might be due to the anti-senescence role of CPPU which lower the rate of respiration and retard the activity of enzymes responsible for ripening which slow down the process of senescence and deterioration thus extending shelf life (Barkule *et al.*, 2018) [13]. Further, the possible reasons for increased shelf life by the application of putrescine could be due to delayed changes associated with the senescence such as ethylene production, browning, peroxide level and cell leakage (Jiang and Chen, 1995) [48] and retardation of fruit softening due to the inhibition of polygalacturonase activities, presumably through binding to pectic substances (Kramer *et al.*, 1989; Venu and Ramdevputra, 2018) [60]. A similar increase in the shelf life of fruits was reported earlier by Purohit *et al.* (2019) [87] in guava cv. L-49, Singh *et al.* (2017) in mango cv. Dashehari, Romero-Gomezcana, *et al.* (2006) [94] with mango cv. 'Haden', Singh, *et al.* (1998) [108] with mango cv. Amrapali with calcium application, Barkule *et al.*, (2018) [13] in sapota cv. Kalipatti and Al-Obeed (2011) [5] in grape with CPPU application and Venu and Ramdevputra, (2018) in mango cv. Kesar, Malik and Singh (2006) in mango cv Kensington Pride, Khan and Singh (2008) [54] in plum, Mirdehghan *et al.*, (2013) in pistachio nut and Mirdehghan *et al.*, (2013) in grape with putrescine application.

Regarding the effect of bagging treatments (B), bagging with two layers of brown paper (B₁) recorded the maximum shelf life (11.90 days) whereas control (B₂) recorded minimum shelf life (10.02 days) of fruits (Table 2). This could be due to bagging modified the microenvironment near fruit especially with respect to temperature and humidity. Bagging provided a physical barrier between fruit and pests (Islam *et al.*, 2017) [45] and save fruits from pesticides residues, blemishes, sunburn

and pests (Karar *et al.*, 2019) resulting in better growth and development of fruits with improved quality. These are the possible reasons for an improved shelf life of mango fruits with bagging treatment in the present study. These results are strongly supported by the findings of Akter *et al.*, (2020) [3] who recorded increased shelf life of fruits of mango cv. Amrapali bagged with brown paper bags and they reported that brown paper bags shown the maximum shelf life because, these bagged fruits are always dry, healthy and have no chance for disease and insect infestation. Islam *et al.* (2017) [45] also reported that pre-harvest bagging delayed ripening resulting in the extended shelf life of mango cv. Mishribhog. Further, Islam *et al.* (2019) [46] reported that fruits with brown paper bagging shown increased shelf life with lowest weight loss and good physical quality over unbagged fruits (control) through diminution in disease and insect-pest infestation and shelf life of mango cv. Langra. The longer shelf life of bagged fruits indicated that the effect of bagging persisted after ripening. A similar increase in the shelf life of fruits with bagging was also reported earlier by Jakhar and Pathak (2016) [47] in mango cv. Amrapali. Signes *et al.* (2007) [103] also reported that pre-harvest bagging delayed ripening resulting in the extended shelf life of 'Perla', a black table-grape. Further, regarding the interaction effect of the pre-harvest spray of different bio-regulators and bagging (SxB), the maximum shelf life of fruits (12.97 days) was recorded with a pre-harvest spray of Ca (NO₃) @ 1% + Putrescine @ 0.1mM + CPPU @ 10 ppm followed by bagging with two layers of brown paper (S₄B₁) whereas the control treatment (no chemical spray and no bagging) (S₅B₂) recorded minimum shelf life of fruits (8.15 days) (Table 2). The combined application of pre-harvest spray of Ca (NO₃) @ 1% + Putrescine @ 0.1mM + CPPU @ 10 ppm followed by bagging with two layers of brown paper (S₄B₁) has synergistically increased shelf life over control and their application. Cell wall integrity maintenance nature of Ca (NO₃)₂, the anti-senescence role of CPPU, delayed changes associated with the senescence and retardation of fruit softening due to putrescine application and congenial microclimate created by bagging with protection from sunscald, pests and diseases have resulted in better growth and development with an increased shelf life of fruits. Similar results of increased shelf life with pre-harvest chemical spray and bagging were reported by Jakhar and Pathak (2016) [47] who reported increased shelf life of mango cv. Amrapali treated with 2% CaCl₂+1% K₂SO₄+bagging over control.

16. Organoleptic characters of fruits

Regarding the effect of the pre-harvest spray of different bio-regulators (S), application of Ca (NO₃) @ 1% + Putrescine @ 0.1mM + CPPU @ 10 ppm (S₄) has resulted in fruits with good organoleptic characters attaining the highest score for all recorded characters *viz.*, colour (8.68), texture (8.13), flavour (8.38), taste (8.34) and overall acceptance (8.38) whereas fruits from the control treatment (S₅) attained lowest scores for colour (6.83), texture (6.40), flavour (6.32), taste (6.64) and overall acceptance (6.55) (Table 3). Regarding the effect of bagging treatments (B), bagging with two layers of brown paper (B₁) resulted in fruits with good organoleptic characters attaining the highest score for all recorded characters *viz.*, colour (8.39), texture (7.87), flavour (8.06), taste (8.08) and overall acceptance (8.10) whereas fruits from the control treatment (S₅) attained lowest scores for colour (7.40), texture

(6.93), flavour (6.96), taste (7.16) and overall acceptance (7.11) (Table 3). Further, regarding the interaction effect of the pre-harvest spray of different bio-regulators and bagging (SxB) on organoleptic characters of fruits, the pre-harvest spray of Ca (NO₃) @ 1% + Putrescine @ 0.1mM + CPPU @ 10 ppm and bagging with two layers of brown paper (S₄B₁) has resulted in fruits with good organoleptic characters attaining highest score for all recorded characters *viz.*, colour (8.96), texture (8.40), flavour (8.70), taste (8.60) and overall acceptance (8.66) whereas fruits from the control treatment (S₅) attained lowest scores for colour (6.40), texture (6.00), flavour (5.85), taste (6.25) and overall acceptance (6.12) (Table 3).

The treatment pre-harvest spray of Ca (NO₃) @ 1% + Putrescine @ 0.1mM + CPPU @ 10 ppm has led to improved fruit size, fruit weight (Table 1), TSS, total sugars, ascorbic acid resulting in good quality fruits with increased shelf life. The increased fruit size due to more dry matter accumulation, uniform colour development, more firmness, increased fruit TSS and total sugars improved the appearance, flavour and sweetness of fruit resulting in better taste and texture of fruits with overall acceptance. This improved physical, chemical and quality attributes of fruits with a pre-harvest spray of Ca (NO₃) @ 1% + Putrescine @ 0.1mM + CPPU @ 10 ppm resulted in fruits attaining the highest scores for all evaluated organoleptic characters in the present study. These results are in conformity with the findings of Jakhar and Pathak (2016) [47] who reported that fruits treated with 2% CaCl₂+1% K₂SO₄+bagging were significantly superior in organoleptic quality. Bagging treatments had a significant effect on fruit appearance as it protects fruits from insects, sunburn, uneven colouring resulted from strong sunshine (Wu *et al.*, 2013) and it improved the fruit surface promoting the fruit colour when fruit was ripe. This is attributed to the decrease in green skin due to degradation of skin chlorophyll with reduced light intensity from bagging (Hofman *et al.*, 1997) [44]. Bagging on the other hand changed the micro-environment of the bagged fruit and increased fruit size, weight, the sugar content of fruits (Table 2) improving the taste, texture and flavour in the present study resulting in good acceptability of fruits. These results are in agreement with the findings of Jakhar and Pathak (2016) [47] who reported that pre-harvest spray of 2% CaCl₂+1% K₂SO₄ followed by bagging with brown paper bags resulted in best quality fruits superior in organoleptic quality with good acceptability. Hayat *et al.* (2003) [44] reported that the pre-harvest treatment of 2% CaCl₂ on apple cv. Banky retained the best general appearance, organoleptic quality, and consumer acceptability during storage. Similarly, Sharma *et al.* (2013) [101] reported that the preharvest bagging improved the visual quality of fruit by promoting skin colouration and reducing blemishes, it also changed the micro-environment for fruit development resulting in improved fruit quality in apple cv. Delicious.

Summery and Conclusion

Among different bio-regulators, the pre-harvest spray of Ca (NO₃)₂ @ 1% + Putrescine @ 0.1mM + CPPU @ 10 ppm (S₄) has shown significant influence on fruit growth and development and recorded early harvesting with the minimum number of days taken for the maturity of the fruit and it also recorded maximum fruit length and fruit weight with maximum yield per tree and unit (m³) canopy volume. In case of different bagging treatments on fruit growth and

development, bagging with two layers of brown paper (B₁) has resulted in early harvesting with the minimum number of days taken for the maturity of the fruit, maximum fruit size (length and breadth) and weight, maximum yield per tree and yield per unit (m³) canopy volume. However, the interaction effect of Ca (NO₃)₂ @ 1% + Putrescine @ 0.1mM + CPPU @ 10 ppm and bagging with two layers of brown paper (S₄B₁) resulted in the highest fruit TSS with maximum shelf life of

fruits, best quality attaining highest score for all organoleptic characters evaluated (*viz.*, colour, texture, flavour, taste and overall acceptance). Thus, it can be concluded that pre harvest spray of Ca (NO₃)₂ @ 1% + Putrescine @ 0.1mM + CPPU @ 10 ppm followed by two layers of brown paper (S₄B₁) bagging may be recommended to get superior yield and quality of fruits mango cv. Banganpalli.

Table 1: Effect of pre-harvest spray of bio-regulators and bagging on physical and yield parameters of mango (*Mangifera indica* L.) cv. Banganpalli

Treatment s	Number of days taken from fruit set to maturity			Number of fruits per tree at the time of harvest			Fruit length (cm) at the time of harvest			Fruit breadth (cm) at the time of harvest		
	POOLED			POOLED			POOLED			POOLED		
	B ₁	B ₂	Mean of S	B ₁	B ₂	Mean of S	B ₁	B ₂	Mean of S	B ₁	B ₂	Mean of S
S ₁	136.66	147.25	141.96 ^b	128.79	122.01	125.4	8.52	8.42	8.47 ^b	7.68	7.49	7.59
S ₂	133.14	150.78	141.96 ^b	122.49	122.17	122.33	8.74	8.46	8.60 ^b	7.64	7.5	7.57
S ₃	126.08	140.19	133.14 ^a	139.6	125.52	132.56	8.73	8.49	8.61 ^a	7.64	7.35	7.5
S ₄	122.55	129.61	126.08 ^a	148.64	138.71	143.67	9	8.66	8.83 ^a	7.89	7.39	7.64
S ₅	143.72	154.3	149.01 ^b	126.62	114.64	120.63	8.57	8.37	8.47 ^b	7.5	7.34	7.42
Mean of B	129.61 ^a	141.96 ^b	135.78	134.88	127.1	130.99	8.75 ^a	8.51 ^b	8.63	7.71 ^a	7.43 ^b	7.57
	SEm±	C.D. at 5%		SEm±	C.D. at 5%		SEm±	C.D. at 5%		SEm±	C.D. at 5%	
S	2.76	8.19		5.52	NS		0.07	0.22		0.06	NS	
B	1.74	5.18		3.49	NS		0.05	0.14		0.04	0.11	
SXB	3.9	NS		7.8	NS		0.1	NS		0.08	NS	
Treatments	Fruit weight (g)			Yield (kg) per tree			canopy volume (m ³)			Fruit yield per m ³ canopy volume of tree (kg)		
	POOLED			POOLED			POOLED			POOLED		
	B ₁	B ₂	Mean of S	B ₁	B ₂	Mean of S	B ₁	B ₂	Mean of S	B ₁	B ₂	Mean of S
S ₁	288.69	242.91	265.80 ^b	37.24	29.71	33.47 ^b	56.96	47.77	52.36	0.67	0.62	0.64 ^b
S ₂	282.72	255.01	268.86 ^b	34.62	31.16	32.89 ^b	51.55	47.78	49.67	0.67	0.65	0.66 ^b
S ₃	295.06	254.65	274.86 ^b	41.21	32.04	36.62 ^b	55.66	56.65	56.15	0.74	0.56	0.65 ^b
S ₄	321.68	267.18	294.43 ^a	47.78	37.14	42.46 ^a	51.72	52.71	52.21	0.92	0.7	0.81 ^a
S ₅	276.52	236.49	256.51 ^c	35.1	26.89	30.99 ^c	53.69	54.68	54.18	0.66	0.49	0.58 ^b
Mean of B	297.04 ^a	254.94 ^b	275.99	40.21 ^a	32.51 ^b	36.36	53.97	51.22	52.6	0.75 ^a	0.63 ^b	0.69
	SEm±	C.D. at 5%		SEm±	C.D. at 5%		SEm±	C.D. at 5%		SEm±	C.D. at 5%	
S	3.78	11.23		1.72	5.11		1.51	NS		0.03	0.1	
B	2.39	7.1		1.09	3.23		0.96	NS		0.02	0.06	
SXB	5.34	NS		2.43	NS		2.14	NS		0.05	NS	

*Figures with same alphabet did not differ significantly

S₁ - Ca (NO₃)₂ @ 1%

S₂ - Putrescine @ 0.1mM

S₃ - CPPU @ 10 ppm (1-(2-Chloro-4-Pyridyl)-3-Phenyl Urea)

S₄ - Ca (NO₃)₂ @ 1% + Putrescine @ 0.1mM + CPPU @ 10 ppm

S₅ - Control (no chemical spray)

B₁ - Two layers of brown paper

B₂ - No bagging

Table 2: Effect of pre-harvest spray of bio-regulators and bagging on bio chemical characters of mango (*Mangifera indica* L.) cv. Banganpalli

Treatments	Specific gravity			TSS (°Brix)			Reducing sugars (%)			Non-reducing sugars (%)		
	POOLED			POOLED			POOLED			POOLED		
	B ₁	B ₂	Mean of S	B ₁	B ₂	Mean of S	B ₁	B ₂	Mean of S	B ₁	B ₂	Mean of S
S ₁	0.99	0.94	0.96 ^b	16.60 ^c	16.28 ^d	16.44 ^b	2.67	2.66	2.66 ^{bc}	7.99	7.72	7.85 ^c
S ₂	1	0.93	0.96 ^b	16.89 ^b	16.27 ^d	16.58 ^b	2.83	2.64	2.73 ^{ab}	8.07	8.03	8.05 ^b
S ₃	1.03	0.97	1.00 ^a	16.17 ^d	15.75	15.96 ^c	2.74	2.55	2.65 ^{bcd}	7.93	7.63	7.78 ^{cd}
S ₄	1.05	1.02	1.03 ^a	18.47 ^a	16.99 ^b	17.73 ^a	3	2.72	2.86 ^a	8.38	8.24	8.31 ^a
S ₅	0.96	0.91	0.93 ^b	15.73	15.54	15.64 ^d	2.63	2.5	2.56 ^{bcd}	7.71	7.62	7.66
Mean of B	1.02 ^a	0.96 ^b	0.99	17.03	16.32	16.68	2.81 ^a	2.64 ^b	2.72	8.09 ^a	7.90 ^b	8
	S.E.m±	C.D. at 5%		S.E.m±	C.D. at 5%		S.E.m±	C.D. at 5%		S.E.m±	C.D. at 5%	

S	0.01	0.04		0.03	0.1		0.05	0.16		0.04	0.12				
B	0.01	0.02		0.02	NS		0.03	0.1		0.03	0.08				
SXB	0.02	NS		0.05	0.14		0.08	NS		0.06	NS				
Treatments	Total sugars (%)			Acidity (%)			TSS/Acidity			Ascorbic acid (mg/100 g. F.W.)			Shelf life		
	POOLED			POOLED			POOLED			POOLED			POOLED		
	B ₁	B ₂	Mean of S	B ₁	B ₂	Mean of S	B ₁	B ₂	Mean of S	B ₁	B ₂	Mean of S	B ₁	B ₂	Mean of S
S ₁	10.65	10.38	10.52 ^c	0.42	0.49	0.45	39.53	35.05	37.29	17.4	16.45	16.92 ^c	10.83 ^e	9.22	10.02 ^c
S ₂	10.9	10.66	10.78 ^b	0.49	0.55	0.52	33.62	29.54	31.58	17.72	16.13	16.92 ^c	11.36 ^d	8.69	10.02 ^c
S ₃	10.57	10.2	10.38 ^d	0.45	0.49	0.47	36.66	32.81	34.74	18.35	17.08	17.71 ^b	12.43 ^b	10.29	11.36 ^b
S ₄	11.38	10.95	11.16 ^a	0.47	0.51	0.49	40.47	34.31	37.39	18.67	18.03	18.35 ^a	12.97 ^a	11.90 ^c	12.43 ^a
S ₅	10.25	10.09	10.17 ^e	0.49	0.49	0.49	33.62	35.41	34.51	16.77	15.82	16.29 ^d	9.76	8.15	8.95 ^d
Mean of B	10.88 ^b	10.55 ^a	10.71	0.45	0.51	0.48	37.57	32.93	35.25	18.03 ^a	16.92 ^b	17.48	11.90 ^a	10.02 ^b	10.96
	SEm±	C.D. at 5%		SEm±	C.D. at 5%		SEm±	C.D. at 5%		SEm±	C.D. at 5%		SEm±	C.D. at 5%	
S	0.04	0.13		0.03	NS		2.08	NS		0.16	0.49		0.11	0.33	
B	0.03	0.08		0.02	NS		1.32	NS		0.1	0.31		0.07	0.21	
SXB	0.06	NS		0.04	NS		2.94	NS		0.23	NS		0.16	0.47	

*Figures with same alphabet did not differ significantly

S₁ - Ca (NO₃)₂ @ 1%

B₁ - Two layers of brown paper

S₂ - Putrescine @ 0.1mM

B₂ - No bagging

S₃ - CPPU @ 10 ppm (1-(2- Chloro-4-Pyridyl)-3-Phenyl Urea)

S₄ - Ca (NO₃)₂ @ 1%+ Putrescine @ 0.1mM+ CPPU @ 10 ppm

S₅ - Control (no chemical spray)

Table 3: Effect of pre-harvest spray of bio-regulators and bagging on organoleptic characters of mango (*Mangifera indica* L.) cv. Banganpalli

Treatment s	Colour score			Texture score			Flavour score			Taste score			Overall acceptance score		
	POOLED			POOLED			POOLED			POOLED			POOLED		
	B ₁	B ₂	Mean of S	B ₁	B ₂	Mean of S	B ₁	B ₂	Mean of S	B ₁	B ₂	Mean of S	B ₁	B ₂	Mean of S
S ₁	7.82	6.97	7.40 ^c	7.33	6.53	6.93 ^c	7.43	6.48	6.96 ^c	7.56	6.77	7.16 ^c	7.54	6.69	7.11 ^c
S ₂	8.11 ^b	6.68	7.40 ^c	7.60 ^b	6.27	6.93 ^c	7.75 ^b	6.17	6.96 ^c	7.82 ^b	6.51	7.16 ^c	7.82 ^d	6.41	7.11 ^c
S ₃	8.68 ^a	7.54	8.11 ^b	8.13 ^a	7.07	7.60 ^b	8.38 ^a	7.11	7.75 ^b	8.34 ^a	7.29	7.82 ^b	8.38 ^b	7.25	7.82 ^b
S ₄	8.96 ^a	8.39 ^{ab}	8.68 ^a	8.40 ^a	7.87 ^{ab}	8.13 ^a	8.70 ^a	8.06 ^{ba}	8.38 ^a	8.60 ^a	8.08 ^{ba}	8.34 ^a	8.66 ^a	8.10 ^c	8.38 ^a
S ₅	7.25	6.4	6.83 ^d	6.8	6	6.40 ^d	6.8	5.85	6.32 ^d	7.03	6.25	6.64 ^d	6.97	6.12	6.55 ^d
Mean of B	8.39 ^a	7.40 ^b	7.89	7.87 ^a	6.93 ^b	7.4	8.06 ^a	6.96 ^b	7.51	8.08 ^a	7.16 ^b	7.62	8.10 ^a	7.11 ^b	7.61
	SEm±	C.D. at 5%		SEm±	C.D. at 5%		SEm±	C.D. at 5%		SEm±	C.D. at 5%		SEm±	C.D. at 5%	
S	0.08	0.23		0.08	0.25		0.08	0.25		0.07	0.2		0.03	0.09	
B	0.05	0.15		0.05	0.16		0.05	0.16		0.04	0.13		0.02	0.06	
SXB	0.11	0.32		0.12	0.35		0.12	0.35		0.1	0.28		0.04	0.13	

*Figures with same alphabet did not differ significantly

S₁ - Ca (NO₃)₂ @ 1%

B₁ - Two layers of brown paper

S₂ - Putrescine @ 0.1mM

B₂ - No bagging

S₃ - CPPU @ 10 ppm (1-(2- Chloro-4-Pyridyl)-3-Phenyl Urea)

S₄ - Ca (NO₃)₂ @ 1%+ Putrescine @ 0.1mM+ CPPU @ 10 ppm

S₅ - Control (no chemical spray)

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