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Effect of different land uses on chemical properties of soil in a Mollisol

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Abstract

The different land-use system has a significant impact on soil chemical properties. In order to ascertain the effect of different land-use systems on soil chemical properties, the present study was carried out at Norman E. Borlaug Crop Research Centre, G. B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar. The land-use systems selected for study were T₁ (rice–potato–okra), T₂ (rice–pea (vegetable)–maize), T₃ (sorghum multi-cut (fodder)–yellow sarson–black gram), T₄ (rice–wheat–green gram), T₅ (rice–berseem + oat + mustard (fodder)–maize + cowpea (fodder)), T₆ (guava + lemon), S₇ (poplar + turmeric), T₈ (eucalyptus + turmeric), T₉ (fallow (uncultivated land)). T₁ (rice – potato – okra), T₂ (rice – pea (vegetable) – maize), T₃ (sorghum multicut (fodder) – yellow sarson – black gram), T₄ (rice – wheat – green gram), T₅ (rice – berseem + oat + mustard (fodder) – maize + cowpea (fodder)), T₆ (guava + lemon), S₇ (poplar + turmeric), T₈ (eucalyptus + turmeric), T₉ (fallow (uncultivated land)). The highest value of were obtained for organic carbon (1.51%), organic matter (2.59%), available soil nitrogen (312.00 kg ha⁻¹), available soil phosphorus (24.80kg ha⁻¹) and available soil potassium (259.11 kg ha⁻¹) under T₈, which was significantly higher than T₉. According to the above-mentioned result, soil under agroforestry based land-use systems was found to be better soil fertility concerning soil chemical properties than other land-use systems.

Keywords: Organic matter, macronutrient, mollisol, land-use systems

1. Introduction

The thin layer of soil covering the earth's surface represents the difference between survival extinction for most terrestrial life (Doran and Parkin, 1994) [4]. Soil is the biologically active, porous medium developed below the continental land surface on our earth. Soils are one of the most complex and dynamic natural systems. Therefore, knowledge about their physical, chemical and biological properties is more important for sustaining the productivity of the land. On the basis of the amount of the elements required for the normal growth of plants, nutrient are classified as macronutrients or micronutrients (Allaway, 1975; Epstein and Bloom, 2005) [1]. Macronutrients are required in large amounts and usually constitute 1000 mg kg⁻¹ (0.1%) or more of the dry weight of the plant. On the other hand, micronutrients are also required for the plants in small quantities. Plants contain small amounts of 90 or more elements, but only 17 are known to be essential to higher plants (Epstein and Bloom, 2005; Finkl, 1988) [6]. Macro and micronutrients both contribute to soil fertility and crop productivity. Nitrogen is essential for all amino acids, which are the building blocks of all proteins, including the enzymes, which control virtually all biological processes. The upper soil horizons content much more organic form nitrogen because nitrogen reserve is stored in the soil as organic matter. That stored reserve of organic nitrogen (N) release plant available form of nitrogen by mineralization (nitrate, nitrite and ammonia) in the upper horizon of soil. Many aspects of soil and plant are completed by phosphorous (P), including plant physiology, photosynthesis, nitrogen fixation, flowering, fruiting, root growth, lateral roots and fibrous rootlets etc. Available form of P ions usually in inorganic form (HPO₄²⁻ and H₂PO₄²⁻) in soils and sometimes as soluble organic P. Potassium (K) is the third most essential nutrient after N and P. K work as an activator for 80 different enzymes and that enzymes utilized in plant and animal processes like energy metabolism, starch synthesis, nitrate reduction, photosynthesis, and sugar degradation.

The agro-forestry, agri-horticulture, and agri-pastoral systems can reduce erosion, runoff, increase soil fertility chemical properties, nitrogen fixation, and increase nutrient recycling in soil (Nair, 1985). The agro-forestry-based land-use systems contribute an important role in

increasing the productivity, fertility, and health of soil and improving the soil quality. Several researchers also found that the agro-forestry land-use system increases the soil organic carbon content, total nutrients, and available nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium to the crop plants. Keeping in mind these findings, objective of our study was to assess the effect of different land-use systems i.e. fallow land, agricultural land and agroforestry land on soil chemical properties.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1 Physiographic description of the study area

The present study was conducted at Norman E. Borlaug crop research centre, G. B. Pant University, Pantnagar, and District U.S. Nagar in the Terai region of Uttarakhand. The order of the soil was Mollisol. Pantnagar falls under sub-humid and sub-tropical climate zone with hot, dry summer and cool winter. The region has thick vegetation because of the prevalence of high moisture in the Terai belt, and the forest area is classified as low alluvial savannah (Puri, 1960) [17]. Soil samples were collected from the plough layer 0-20 cm depth representing the whole area randomly from different land-use systems.

2.2 Treatment details

Nine land-use system have been taken as a treatment with three replication. The land-use systems selected for study were T₁ (rice–potato–okra), T₂ (rice–pea (vegetable)–maize), T₃ (sorghum multi-cut (fodder)–yellow sarson–black gram), T₄ (rice–wheat–green gram), T₅ (rice–berseem + oat + mustard (fodder)–maize + cowpea (fodder)), T₆ (guava + lemon), S₇ (poplar + turmeric), T₈ (eucalyptus + turmeric), T₉ (fallow (uncultivated land)).

2.3 Soil analysis

2.3.1 Soil organic carbon and organic matter

The organic carbon content in soil was determined by the wet digestion method given by Walkley and Black (1934). In which, one gram of air dried soil sample was put in a 500 mL capacity conical flask. Then 10 mL of 1 N K₂Cr₂O₇ was added to conical flask. Flask was gently shaken for mixing. Then after, 20 mL of concentrated H₂SO₄ was added in conical flask. The flask was kept for half an hour for complete digestion. Then, the soil was diluted with 200 mL distilled water and, 10 mL of 85% H₃PO₄, 0.2 g of NaF and 30 drops of DPA were added and mixed. The dull green colour is seen immediately after the addition of the indicator in the soil. It was then titrated with 0.5 N ferrous ammonium sulphate (FAS) solution till a brilliant green colour appeared as an endpoint. The same procedure was carried for blank.

Soil organic carbon (%) was then determined using the following formula:

$$OC(\%) = \frac{(\text{meq. of } K_2Cr_2O_7 - \text{meq. of FAS}) \times 0.003 \times 100 \times 1.3}{\text{wt. of soil (g)}}$$

Where

meq. of K₂Cr₂O₇ = Volume x normality

meq. of FAS = FAS consumed in titration with soil ×

Available K (kg ha⁻¹) = Concentration (ppm) of K as read from standard curve x dilution factor x 2.24

Normality of FAS

Normality of FAS = meq. of K₂Cr₂O₇ / Volume of FAS solution consumed in titration without soil, i.e. blank

0.003 = Factor, i.e. 1ml of N K₂Cr₂O₇ reacts with 0.003 g of C.

A devisor 0.76, the average fraction of OM oxidized, can replace the multiplier 1.3.

Organic carbon content is the indirect determination of organic matter through the correction factor (Pribyl, D. W. (2010) [15]. The "Van Bemmelen factor" of 1.724 has been used to calculate organic matter (%). The equation used for the estimation of the organic matter as:

$$OM(\%) = 1.724 \times OC(\%)$$

2.3.2 Available soil nitrogen

Available nitrogen in soil was determined by alkaline potassium permanganate method (Subbiah and Asija, 1956) [20]. Twenty gram of soil sample was taken in the kjeldahl's flask and was treated within (0.32%) alkaline KMnO₄ (with 2.5% NaOH) and was immediately used in the distillation process. The NH₃ was absorbed in 2% boric acid containing with mixed indicator, adjusted pH 4.5. It was titrated with 0.02 N H₂SO₄. Available nitrogen was calculated by using the following formula:

$$\text{Available N (kg ha}^{-1}\text{)} = \frac{(S-B) \times N \times 14 \times 1000 \times 2.24}{W}$$

Where, S=Volume (mL) of 0.02 N H₂SO₄ is required for titration of sample; B= Volume(mL) of 0.02 N H₂SO₄ required for titration of blank; W=Weight of soil(g); 14=equivalent weight of nitrogen; 100 = to convert in mg kg.

2.3.3 Available soil phosphorus

Available phosphorus in soil was extracted by sodium bicarbonate (0.5 M NaHCO₃) at pH 8.5 (Olsen *et al.*, 1954) [12]. For this, 1g of soil sample was treated with 20 mL of extracting solution (0.5 M NaHCO₃) of pH 8.5. The suspension was filtered, and the extracted solution was treated with ammonium molybdate and ascorbic acid. The blue colour was developed using ascorbic acid described by Murphy and Riley (1962) [10]. The blue colour intensity was recorded with the help of a spectrophotometer at 882 nm.

Available P (Kg ha⁻¹) was then calculated using the following formula:

Available P (Kg ha⁻¹) = Concentration of P (ppm) from standard curve x dilution factor x 2.24

2.3.4 Available soil potassium

Available K in soil was determined by neutral N ammonium acetate (1N NH₄OAc) at adjusted pH 7 method given by Black (1965) [2]. was taken 5.0 g of soil sample, then added 25 mL of extracting solution and after it was shaken on a reciprocating shaker for 5 minutes. The soil sample was filtered through whatman no. 42 filter paper to obtain a clear extract. The potassium concentration in the filtrate was measured using flame photometer and worked out with the help of standard curve.

2.4 Statistical analysis

Randomized block design was used to conduct the experiment, in which 9 treatments were replicated 3 times. The obtained experimental data were statistically analyzed by applying the analysis of variance (ANOVA) technique (Panse and Suchatme, 1978). The difference among treatments was compared by applying "F" test of significance at 5 per cent level of significance (0.05 LSD).

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Soil organic carbon (OC)

The data on the OC content in soil under different land-use systems are given in table 1. It is found from the data that the OC in soil significantly differed under different land-use systems. The OC content in different land-use systems were ranged between 0.51 to 1.5% at 0-20 cm depth. The highest OC (1.5%) was obtained under the treatment T₈ treatment. It was significantly higher than that under T₁ (0.98%), T₂ (0.63%), T₃ (0.72%), T₄ (0.82%), T₅ (0.93%), T₆ (0.60%), T₇ (1.24%) and T₉ (0.51%) treatment. Treatment T₉ (0.51%) obtained a significantly lower value than all other treatments. The over dominance agroforestry-based treatment (i.e. eucalyptus + turmeric followed by poplar + turmeric) over agricultural land-use systems might be due to more canopy on the surface, increasing more nutrients in the soil by reducing soil erosion. While among agricultural land-use systems, rice-potato-okra was obtained better as compared to others due to higher accumulation of organic matter. Rice crops added more high root biomass, and okra contributes more litter fall on the soil surface that promotes higher accumulation of organic matter in the soil. Lowest soil OC content under fallow treatment due to poor vegetation on the soil, regular cutting of weed and grasses from the soil surface. The agroforestry based land-use system contain more OC and

organic matter due to more fall of litter by the tree on soil surface Singh *et al.* (2006) [18] and Patil and Prasad (2004) [14]. The maize-based cropping system as agricultural land-use system has the lowest OC due to maize being a highly exhaustive cereals crop (Yadda, 2007) [23]. Cultivated soil contains more OC and organic matter than uncultivated soil due to the addition of more crop residue by cultivation (Tiwari *et al.*, 1995).

3.2 Organic matter (OM)

The data on the OM in soil under different land-use systems is tabulated in table 1. It is obtained from the data that the OM in soil significantly differed under different treatments. The OM in soil varied between 0.87 to 2.59% at 0-20 cm depth. The highest OM (2.59%) was obtained under the treatment T₈ eucalyptus + turmeric land-use system, which was significantly higher than all other land-use systems. T₉ (0.87%) treatment was obtained significantly lower value than other all treatment. T₈ eucalyptus + turmeric was significantly higher than that under T₁ (1.68%), T₂ (1.05%), T₃ (1.25%), T₄ (1.41%), T₅ (1.60%), T₆ (1.03%), T₇ (2.14%) and T₉ (0.87%) treatment. T₉ (0.87%) fallow uncultivated treatment was obtained lowest value of soil OM then that under T₁ (1.68%), T₂ (1.05%), T₃ (1.25%), T₄ (1.41%), T₅ (1.60%), T₆ (1.03%), T₇ (2.14%) and T₈ (0.87%) treatment. Agroforestry based land-use system accumulates more OM and organic carbon due to more accumulation of litter and root residue on the surface of soil under this land uses in soil. Land use changes affect soil OM accumulation in topsoil and subsoil due to more organic residue in soil Benjapon *et al.* (2020). Soil OM content as a function of different land-use and change of land-use create a positive effect on soil OM in soil (Pulleman *et al.*, 2000) [16].

Table 1: Effect of different land-use systems on the chemical properties at 20 cm soil depth

Symbol	Treatment	Soil organic carbon (%)	Soil organic matter (%)	Available N (kg ha ⁻¹)	Available P (kg ha ⁻¹)	Available K (kg ha ⁻¹)
T ₁	Rice – potato – okra	0.98	1.68	230.00	22.53	232.25
T ₂	Rice – pea vegetable – maize	0.63	1.05	171.33	15.25	170.56
T ₃	Sorghum multicut fodder – yellow sarson – black gram	0.72	1.25	181.00	16.49	182.19
T ₄	Rice – wheat – green gram	0.82	1.41	191.33	18.36	190.88
T ₅	Rice – berseem + oat + mustard – maize + cowpea fodder	0.93	1.60	198.00	20.49	204.84
T ₆	Guava + lemon	0.60	1.03	161.00	14.80	161.60
T ₇	Poplar + turmeric	1.24	2.14	288.00	23.46	243.25
T ₈	Eucalyptus + turmeric	1.51	2.59	312.00	24.80	259.11
T ₉	Fallow uncultivated land	0.51	0.87	148.00	13.76	154.14
S.Em±		0.007	0.015	2.003	0.265	1.038
CD at 5%		0.022	0.046	6.057	0.801	3.139

3.3 Available nitrogen (N) in soil

The data on the available N under different land-use systems is given in table 1. It is noted from the data that the available N in soil significantly differed under different treatments. The available N in soil varied between 148.00 to 312.00 kg ha⁻¹ at 0-20 cm depth. The highest available N (312.00 kg ha⁻¹) was obtained under the treatment T₈ (eucalyptus + turmeric) land-use system, which was significantly higher than all other land-use systems. T₉ (148.00 kg ha⁻¹) treatment was obtained significantly lower value available N than other all treatment. T₈ (eucalyptus + turmeric) was significantly higher than that under T₁ (230.00 kg ha⁻¹), T₂ (171.33 kg ha⁻¹), T₃ (181.00 kg ha⁻¹), T₄ (191.33 kg ha⁻¹), T₅ (198.00 kg ha⁻¹), T₆ (161.00), T₇ (288.00 kg ha⁻¹) and T₉ (148.00 kg ha⁻¹) treatment. T₉ (148.00

kg ha⁻¹) fallow uncultivated treatment was obtained lowest value of available N then that under T₁, T₂, T₃, T₄, T₅, T₆, T₇ and T₈ treatment. High availability of N in agro-forestry land-use system is due to the congenial condition of agroforestry system contribute high OM and OC. That type soil have high water holding capacity, porosity.

Dinesh (2015) reported that OC and O₂ are considered directly related to the available nitrogen content of soils. Tisdale *et al.* (1995) also observed that the total nitrogen content of a soil directly relates to OC content. Srivastava *et al.* (2015) [19] recorded that fruit crop-based land-use systems have a lower value of available N due to their high exhaustive ability.

3.4 Available phosphorus (P)

The data on the available phosphorus under different land-use systems is tabulated in table 1. It is observed from the data that the available phosphorus in soil significantly differed under different treatment. The available phosphorus in soil varied between 13.76 to 24.80(kg ha⁻¹) at 0-20 cm depth. The highest available phosphorus (24.80 kg ha⁻¹) was obtained under the treatment T₈eucalyptus + turmeric land-use system, which was significantly higher than all other land-use systems. T₉(13.76 kg ha⁻¹) treatment was obtained significantly lower value available nitrogen then other all treatment. T₈eucalyptus + turmeric (24.80 kg ha⁻¹) was significantly higher than that under T₁ (22.53 kg ha⁻¹), T₂ (15.25kg ha⁻¹), T₃ (16.49 kg ha⁻¹), T₄ (18.36 kg ha⁻¹), T₅ (20.49 kg ha⁻¹), T₆ (14.80 kg ha⁻¹), T₇ (23.46 kg ha⁻¹) and T₉ (13.76 kg ha⁻¹) treatment. T₉ (13.76 kg ha⁻¹) fallow uncultivated treatment was obtained lowest value of available nitrogen then that under T₁ (22.53 kg ha⁻¹), T₂ (15.25kg ha⁻¹), T₃ (16.49 kg ha⁻¹), T₄ (18.36 kg ha⁻¹), T₅ (20.49 kg ha⁻¹), T₆ (14.80 kg ha⁻¹), T₇ (23.46 kg ha⁻¹) and T₈ (24.80 kg ha⁻¹) treatment. The results of the this study are in correlate with the findings of Yadda *et al.*, (2007) [23] who reported that with increase in the organic carbon content and organic matter of the soil then the available phosphorus increases because of its fast mineralization in agroforestry based land use systems. The phosphorus content under Cultivated land use systems was significantly higher phosphorus content over uncultivated(fallow) land use system. This due to be because of use of phosphate fertilization. Under field crop based land use systems have lower value of phosphorus due to legume remove more amount phosphorus. (Tiwariet *al.*, 1995).

3.5 Available potassium (K)

The data on the available K under different land-use systems is categorized in table 1. It is evacuated from the data that the available K in soil significantly differed under different treatments. The soil's available K ranged from 154.14 to 259.11kg ha⁻¹ at 0-20 cm depth. The highest available K (259.11kg ha⁻¹) was obtained under the treatment T₈(eucalyptus + turmeric) land-use system, which was significantly higher than all other land-use systems. Treatment T₉(154.14 kg ha⁻¹) was obtained significantly lower valueavailable K than other all treatments. Treatment T₈(259.11kg ha⁻¹) was significantly higher K than that under T₁ (232.25kg ha⁻¹), T₂ (170.56kg ha⁻¹), T₃ (182.19kg ha⁻¹), T₄ (190.88kg ha⁻¹), T₅ (204.84 kg ha⁻¹), T₆ (161.60 kg ha⁻¹), T₇ (243.25kg ha⁻¹) and T₉ (154.14kg ha⁻¹) treatment. T₉ (154.14 kg ha⁻¹) fallow uncultivated treatment was obtained lowest value of available potassiumthan that under T₁, T₂, T₃, T₄, T₅, T₆, T₇ and T₈ treatment.The lower value of available K under field crop land-use system was recorded due to higher removal of nutrients by crop and loss by erosion, but under agro-forestry based land-use system is vice versa (Kumar, 2005 and Khongjee, 2012) [7]. Similar results were also recorded by Srivastava *et al.* (2016).

4. Conclusion

The OC, OM, available N, available P and available K in soil differed significantly under different land-use systems, and highest were found under T₈(eucalyptus + turmeric) treatment. At the same time, the lowest were under T₉(fallow uncultivated) treatment. According to these findings, it can be concluded that among different land-use systems superior

value of chemical parameters i.e. OC, OM, available N, available P and available K were found under agroforestry based land-use systems (T₈ andT₇ treatments). So, It is recommended that scientists should promote the agroforestry land-use system in combination with agricultural systems.

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