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Soil fertility status: As affected by micronutrient application in groundnut

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Abstract

Groundnut (*Arachis hypogaea* L.) is important oilseed crop of Gujarat. It has good nutritional value in terms of 25 to 30% protein and 45 to 50% oil. Groundnut also known as king of oilseeds and various names viz., goober peas, pindas, jacknut, peanut and earthnut. The micronutrient have greater role growth stages and reproduction of plants i.e. iron, manganese, molybdenum, nickel, boron, chlorine, copper and zinc. An experiment was carried out during *kharif* season of years from 2020 to 2022 at Agricultural Research Station, S.D. Agricultural University, Aseda, Gujarat to find out the response of ferrous sulphate and zinc sulphate on pod yield and soil fertility. Soil application and foliar spray of ferrous sulphate and zinc sulphate were tested by for identifying their effect on soil fertility status after harvest of crop. Organic carbon, Available phosphorus and potash were non significantly influenced by the micronutrient application but higher value of both iron (5.044 mg/kg of soil) and zinc (0.489 mg kg⁻¹ of soil) were found under the treatment T₇ (FeSO₄@ 15 kg ha⁻¹ + ZnSO₄ @ 8 kg ha⁻¹) on pooled data basis of three years.

Keywords: Iron sulphate, zinc sulphate, soil application, soil fertility status

Introduction

Groundnut (*Arachis hypogaea* L.) is important oilseed crop of Gujarat and have good nutritional value in terms of 25 to 30% protein and 45 to 50% oil. As king of oilseeds, groundnut is also known with different names viz, pindas, jacknut, peanut, goober peas and earthnut. Micronutrients plays essential role in growth and development of plant. Due to high pH, salt stress, low organic matter, drought and judicious application of fertilizers leads micronutrients deficiency in animal plants and humans, especially in many arid countries. In the developing world, malnutrition accounts for more than 30 million deaths a year in mostly resource-poor families. Lacking of intakes of available trace elements in the food diets of the poor peoples leads much of this malnutrition. By linking agricultural systems and human nutrition could be meet the solutions for malnutrition on the future by changing agricultural systems in such a ways that it will help supply enough essential trace elements to the poor people to meet their needs for good healthy and productive lives (Welch, 2002) [1]. Micronutrients are very essential elements for plant growth, development and reproduction and needed it in very small quantities, higher yield as well as quality characters of agricultural products will increased with micronutrients application. Whenever, the one or more of these micronutrient element lacking, quality will be reduced and the yield of crop products impaired, but it varies with crop species and cultivars in their susceptibility to deficiencies (Alloway, 2008) [2]. It has significant contribution in confectionery and culinary preparations and value added products. Groundnut has higher amount of vitamins B, K, E and higher value of niacin as compared to cereals. The productivity of crop lowers in India due to cultivating it under rainfed condition and dryland areas with lower fertility status of soil and lack of nutrient management leads to zinc and iron deficiency. Soil and foliar application of micronutrient improve the status in soil and their by increase the yield of groundnut (Naveen BT. 2012) [3]

Materials and Methods

The experiment was conducted at Agricultural Research Station, SDAU, Aseda, Gujarat during the years 2020, 2021 and 2022 in *kharif* season. The experimental sites soil was

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loamy sand in texture with 8.01 pH, low in organic carbon (0.316%), medium in available phosphorus (57.30 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹) and higher in available potash (271.66 kg K₂O ha⁻¹). Groundnut var. GG 20 (Gujarat Groundnut 20) was sown during second fortnight of June with 45 cm distance line sowing method in randomized block design with total ten treatments replicated thrice. The experiment consist of ten treatments viz., T₁: Water spray, T₂: FeSO₄ @ 15 kg ha⁻¹, T₃: ZnSO₄ @ 8 kg ha⁻¹, T₄: Foliar spray of FeSO₄ @1%, T₅: Foliar spray of ZnSO₄ @ 0.5%, T₆: Foliar spray of FeSO₄ @ 1% + Foliar spray of ZnSO₄ @ 0.5%, T₇: FeSO₄ @ 15 kg ha⁻¹ + ZnSO₄ @ 8 kg ha⁻¹, T₈: FeSO₄ @ 15 kg ha⁻¹ + Foliar spray of ZnSO₄ @ 0.5%, T₉ – ZnSO₄ @ 8 kg/ha + Foliar spray of FeSO₄ @1%, T₁₀: Foliar spray of multi-micronutrient (grade-IV). Application of micronutrient were

made at time of field preparation and soil was matured with 5 t FYM ha⁻¹. Herbicide (Pendimethalin @ 1 kg a.i / ha) was applied one day after sowing, while application of foliar spray was done at 30 and 45 days after sowing (DAS). Nitrogen applied in half dose and full dose of phosphorus were applied as basal through urea and di ammonium phosphate respectively at the time of sowing and remaining half dose of nitrogen was top dressed after 30 days after sowing.

Results and Discussion

OC (%), available P₂O₅ and K₂O in soil

Effect of different treatments on organic carbon, available phosphorus and available potash content remained non significant.

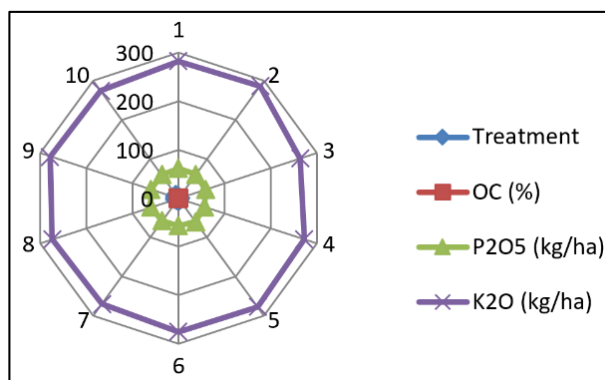


Fig 1: Effect of micronutrient application on soil fertility status after harvest

Effect on DTPA extractable Fe and Zn in soil

The effect of micronutrient application on Fe status in soil after harvest of *kharif* groundnut was affected significantly in all season as well as in pooled. Higher build up of Fe was found in the treatment T₇ (FeSO₄ @ 15 kg ha⁻¹ + ZnSO₄ @ 8 kg ha⁻¹) in 2020 and 2021 and remained at par with the treatment T₇ and T₈ during the season 2022, treatment T₈ recorded higher value in soil and remained at par with T₂ and T₇. Pooled data revealed that T₇ recorded higher status of Fe after crop harvest and remained at par with all treatment except T₂ and T₈. The Zn status was significantly

affected with micronutrient application in all season. Higher value of Zn status after crop harvest was recorded under the treatment receiving soil application of T₇ (FeSO₄@ 15 kg ha⁻¹ + ZnSO₄ @ 8 kg ha⁻¹) in all season as well as in pooled data and remained at par with treatment T₃ and T₉. These findings were supported by Aboyeji *et al.* (2020)^[4], Ali and Mowafy (2003)^[5], Arunachalam *et al.* (2013)^[6], Elayaraja (2014)^[7], Habbasha (2014)^[8], Majumdar (2001)^[9], Manasa (2013)^[10], Meena *et al.* (2015)^[11], Polara *et al.* (2009)^[12], Rekhi *et al.* (2000)^[13] Saha *et al.* (2015)^[14], Veeramani *et al.* (2015)^[15].

Table 1: Effect of different treatment on Organic carbon, available P₂O₅ and K₂O in soil after harvest of groundnut

Treatment	OC (%)				P ₂ O ₅ (kg/ha)				K ₂ O (kg/ha)			
	2020	2021	2022	Pooled	2020	2021	2022	Pooled	2020	2021	2022	Pooled
T ₁ – Water spray	0.333	0.480	0.181	0.331	42.68	64.56	74.96	60.73	247.3	312.3	287.0	282.2
T ₂ – FeSO ₄ @ 15 kg/ha	0.347	0.459	0.176	0.327	39.40	62.38	82.62	61.46	242.8	323.9	288.2	285.0
T ₃ – ZnSO ₄ @ 8 kg/ha	0.361	0.485	0.167	0.338	39.94	57.45	76.05	57.82	225.3	293.4	271.4	263.4
T ₄ – Foliar spray of FeSO ₄ @1%	0.361	0.489	0.176	0.342	37.75	58.55	74.96	57.09	239.2	300.6	278.4	272.8
T ₅ – Foliar spray of ZnSO ₄ @ 0.5%	0.319	0.502	0.153	0.325	38.30	59.64	80.98	59.64	248.6	301.1	282.6	277.4
T ₆ – Foliar spray of FeSO ₄ @1% + Foliar Spray of ZnSO ₄ @ 0.5%	0.357	0.489	0.171	0.339	39.94	58.00	74.96	57.63	236.5	312.3	279.8	276.2
T ₇ – FeSO ₄ @ 15 kg/ha + ZnSO ₄ @ 8 kg/ha	0.324	0.485	0.167	0.325	37.21	61.28	74.96	57.82	240.4	296.6	272.2	269.7
T ₈ – FeSO ₄ @ 15 kg/ha + Foliar spray of ZnSO ₄ @ 0.5%	0.375	0.476	0.181	0.344	41.04	63.47	78.24	60.92	235.1	306.4	280.9	274.1
T ₉ – ZnSO ₄ @ 8 kg/ha + Foliar spray of FeSO ₄ @1%	0.329	0.507	0.190	0.342	41.58	57.45	81.53	60.19	238.3	304.6	291.3	278.1
T ₁₀ – Grade IV Multi micronutrient spray @ 1%	0.343	0.485	0.181	0.336	42.13	54.72	80.43	59.09	224.4	306.4	289.9	273.6
S.Em. ±	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	2.12	2.92	2.55	1.50	10.08	14.56	6.21	5.71
CD @ 0.05	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
C.V.%	8.47	7.20	8.29	8.25	9.18	8.46	5.66	7.46	7.34	8.25	3.81	6.82
Y x T	-	-	-	NS	-	-	-	NS	-	-	-	NS

Table 2: Effect of different treatment on DTPA- extractable Fe and Zn in soil after harvest of groundnut

Treatment	Fe in soil (mg/kg)				Zn in soil (mg/kg)			
	2020	2021	2022	Pooled	2020	2021	2022	Pooled
T ₁ – Water spray	4.953	4.097	3.853	4.301	0.347	0.340	0.463	0.384
T ₂ – FeSO ₄ @ 15 kg/ha	5.450	4.810	4.427	4.896	0.323	0.357	0.477	0.386
T ₃ – ZnSO ₄ @ 8 kg/ha	5.067	4.180	3.733	4.327	0.404	0.407	0.573	0.461
T ₄ – Foliar spray of FeSO ₄ @1%	5.173	4.033	3.627	4.278	0.362	0.374	0.495	0.410
T ₅ – Foliar spray of ZnSO ₄ @ 0.5%	5.173	3.927	3.967	4.356	0.322	0.384	0.430	0.379
T ₆ – Foliar spray of FeSO ₄ @1% + Foliar spray of ZnSO ₄ @ 0.5%	5.153	4.410	4.053	4.539	0.368	0.363	0.473	0.402
T ₇ – FeSO ₄ @ 15 kg/ha + ZnSO ₄ @ 8 kg/ha	5.610	5.133	4.390	5.044	0.440	0.441	0.586	0.489
T ₈ – FeSO ₄ @ 15 kg/ha + Foliar spray of ZnSO ₄ @ 0.5%	5.557	5.000	4.513	5.023	0.360	0.380	0.447	0.396
T ₉ – ZnSO ₄ @ 8 kg/ha + Foliar spray of FeSO ₄ @1%	5.070	4.253	3.977	4.433	0.422	0.423	0.550	0.465
T ₁₀ – Grade IV Multi micronutrient spray @ 1%	4.843	4.127	3.963	4.311	0.346	0.373	0.470	0.396
S.Em. ±	0.13	0.19	0.15	0.09	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01
CD @ 0.05	0.40	0.57	0.45	0.26	0.05	0.04	0.07	0.03
C.V.%	4.46	7.57	6.51	6.14	7.78	6.65	8.09	7.70
Y x T	-	-	-	NS	-	-	-	NS
Initial	4.72	4.05	3.98		0.332	0.326	0.472	

Conclusion

The farmers of North Gujarat Agro-climatic Zone IV growing *kharif* groundnut on Zn deficient light textured soil are recommended to apply 15 kg FeSO₄ and 8 kg ZnSO₄.7H₂O/ha as basal in addition to recommended dose of fertilizers (12.5-25 kg N-P₂O₅ /ha) for obtaining higher yield and improve the status of iron and zinc in the soil.

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