

Research Article

Effect of organic and inorganic fertilizers on yield and yield attributes of wheat variety Ujala-2015 under irrigated conditions of Balochistan

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Abstract

The study objective was to check the effect of organic and inorganic fertilizers on wheat variety Ujala-2015 yield and yield attributes under irrigated conditions of Naseerabad and Jaffarabad Districts. The experiment was consist of four treatments i.e. T1-Farmer own practices of fertilizer N:P 90:60 kg ha^{-1} , T2-Biofertilizer+N:P 45:22.5 kg ha^{-1} , T3- Humic acid+N:P:P 45:22.5 kg ha^{-1} and T4- Balance nutrient management N:P 60:30 kg ha^{-1} . Two years pooled data indicated that the application of Biofertilizer in combination with N-45 kg ha^{-1} P-22.5 kg ha^{-1} enhanced 3.4% to 21.5% grain yield and 2.5% to 22.3% fresh biomass yield as compared to the treatment-1(Farmer own practices of fertilizer N: P 90:60 kg ha^{-1}). Biofertilizer+half NP dose is a beneficial product that contains many elements which improved the soil fertility and increase the availability of macro and micro nutrient elements. Treatment-2 significantly uptake of various macro and micronutrients such as N, P, K, Zn, Fe, Cu, Mn and B contents of wheat tissue. Also, soil characteristics of Naseerabad and Jaffarabad districts were evaluated overall soil physicochemical, macro and micronutrients i.e., pH, EC, lime contain%, O.M, N, P, K, Zn, Fe, Cu, Mn and B were increased with Biofertilizer+half NP application. Biofertilizer+N:P 45:22.5 kg ha^{-1} > Humic acid+N:P: P 45:22.5 kg ha^{-1} > Balance Nutrient Management N:P 60:30 kg ha^{-1} >.

Keywords: Inoculum; Humic acid; Nitrogen; Phosphorous; Wheat; Yield components

Introduction

Wheat is the staple food of the people. Pakistan ranks 10th among the wheat-

producing countries of the world with an average per annum yield of 22 million tons. The wheat cultivated area in Balochistan

0.34 million hectares with 0.663 m tons production which average 1,946 kg ha^{-1} . The wheat cultivation of province has 4.1% area with a 3.4% production of the country. Balochistan province produces 60% of its requirement, while the lack met regarding imports from than other provinces. There has been substantial reduction in yield because of late sowing of crop, unavailability of improved seed quality, excess use of fertilizer input and not uses of Biofertilizer, improper practices, lack of rainfall during first stage of the crop and warm temperature at the time of grains formation. The climate of is extremely hot and highly humid in summer, particularly in the area adjacent to the Pat Feeder Canal, where rice cultivation takes place. The rainy season is mostly in the months of July and August. Naseerabad and Jaffarabad have largest canal irrigated land also major wheat producing districts of Balochistan. Under what cultivation area in the 0.311 m ha are canal irrigated and rainfed 0.30 m ha. The crop can be augmented without carrying more area under cultivation. Particularly, Balance use of fertilizer and Biofertilizers with combination of NP application for wheat production. Biofertilizer is well-defined as a substantial which holds living organisms that when applied to seed, plant surface, or soil, colonize the rhizosphere or the inside of plant and stimulate growth by increasing amount or accessibility of primary nutrients to the host plant [1]. Biofertilizers are well known as a significant factor of integrated plant nutrient managing for sustainable agriculture and control a great promise to increase crop yield [2]. Microbial inoculation is an important element of organic farming as the microbes help to fix atmospheric nitrogen, solubilize and activate phosphorous, translocate slight elements like zinc and copper to the plants, produce plant growth stimulating hormones, vitamins and amino acids and control plant pathogenic fungi. It increases soil health and increases crop production. *Azospirillum* inoculants are recommended

mostly for wheat, sorghum, millets, maize, sugarcane and vegetable crops. Plant growth stimulating rhizobacteria are free living microorganisms having useful effects on plants by colonizing their roots. They include such effects as the production of phytohormones; auxin, cytokinins and gibberellins [3], enhancing release of the nutrients [4]. The microorganisms involved in P solubilization can enhance plant growth by increasing the efficiency of biological nitrogen fixation, enhancing the availability of other trace elements and by production of plant growth promoting substances [5]. Biofertilizer have earlier significantly improved wheat and barley yield in irrigated as well as in rainfed crops [6]. Biofertilizer treatment enhanced irrigated grain yield by 11%, while the yield of rainfed barley improved by 36% grain yield of irrigated wheat increased by 24% while rainfed barley yield doubled [7]. These variances in response are recommended to be an effect of the productive level of the soil and fertilizer application. Wheat, and in specific irrigated wheat, is grown on the most fertile soils and obtains mineral fertilizers. On the conflicting, rainfed barley is full-grown on the most marginal soils with low inherent fertility; this opinion is supported by other researchers [7]. Suitable biotechnological approaches could be used to improve crop productivity in salt affected areas [8, 9]. Moreover, salt-tolerant microorganisms may improve soil fertility through decomposition of organic matter and nutrient cycling, by fixation of atmospheric nitrogen or through production of growth hormones [10-13]. Recently, emphasis is also given on the application of trait-specific microbial inoculants that can be used for detoxification of toxicants [14, 15], disease suppression of pathogenic organisms [12] and stress tolerance in plants [16-18] found that eight *Pseudomonas* spp. strains (out of 25 isolated strains) having highest level of salt tolerance, exhibited ACC deaminase activity and also showed several growth-

promoting characteristics. The study was conducted to investigate the effect of *Azospirillum* biofertilizer with the combinations of Inorganic fertilizers on wheat variety Ujala-2015 yield under the irrigated areas (Naseerabad and Jaffarabad) locations of Balochistan.

Materials and methods

Field experiments were carried out during the Rabi season of 2015-16 and 2016-17 at the farmers' fields of irrigated areas of Naseerabad and Jaffarabad Districts of Balochistan, to check the effect of Organic and inorganic fertilizers on growth and yield of wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) variety Ujala-2015. The experiment was laid out in randomized complete block design with four replications and the experiment was consist of four main treatments i.e. T1- Farmer own practices of fertilizer N:P 90:60 kg ha⁻¹, T2-Biofertilizer+ N:P 45:22.5 kg ha⁻¹, T3- Humic acid+N:P:P 45:22.5 kg ha⁻¹ and T4- Balance Nutrient Management N:P 60:30 kg ha⁻¹. Each treatment plot size was kept 250m² and total plot size was one acre (4000m²) in each experimental location. The crop was sown on 7th and 9th November 2015 and 2016. The seed @ 100 kg ha⁻¹ and Broadcast sowing method was applied. Seeds were treated with calculated quantities of biofertilizer (A1-Q) provided by National Agricultural Research Centre, Islamabad and also seed was treated with Humic acid @ 0.5 kg ha⁻¹ at the sowing time. Nitrogen and phosphorus were applied at the time of sowing in the form of urea and Di Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) was applied. The soil was collected from Jaffarabad and Naseerabad to investigate the nature, extent, and severity of nutrient disorders from both districts of Balochistan, the soil survey of research study sites was conducted and selected four farmers field at each district. Soil and plant sampling of each site was collected the plant tissue samples randomly selected farmer field of each district. Processed and analyzed plant samples for N, P, K, and B, Zn, Cu, Fe, Mn,

was carried out by the standard method. Soil sampling collected from the depth of (0-15 and 15-30 cm). Soil samples were processed & analyzed for physicochemical properties, macro and micro nutrients. Soil pH (alkalinity and basicity) and electrical conductivity (EC) soluble ions were determined in a 1:2 soil-water extract using pH and EC meter, respectively. Soil texture was determined by the hydrometer method [19], soil organic carbon by Walkley-Black method and corrected to organic matter by Vant Hoof's factor (1.724) [20], lime analysis by acid neutralization method [21]. Available P was determined by the Olsen NaHCO₃ extraction [22] followed by colour development using ascorbic acid method as described by [23]. Exchangeable K was determined by extraction with 1 N NH₄OAC (CH₃COONH₄) followed by subjecting the extract on an emission flame photometer as described by [24]. The extractable micronutrients (Cu, Fe, Mn and Zn) were determined by (AB-DTPA) method [25] and the extracts were subjected to atomic absorption spectrophotometer (AAS).

Results and discussion

The data results before the experiment stated in 2015-16 collected soil samples from the project site and analyzed for pH (8.0), non-alkaline EC (3270µS), non-calcareous in nature (6.8%) CaCO₃ the organic matter (0.219%), Nitrite (0.008%), Phosphors (2.1 ppm) and Potassium was found (29 ppm) shown in (Table 1). Soil were deficient in macro and micro nutrients in the nature and soil status were recorded Mn (0.07 ppm), Fe (0.1 ppm), Cu (0.1 ppm), B (0.1 ppm) and Zn (0.5 ppm) whereas the same year same treatment-1 (Biofertilizer with the combination of inorganic fertilizer improved the soil physicochemical, macro and micronutrients pH (5.0%), EC (18%), CaCO₃ (28%), organic matter (8%), Nitrite (17%), Phosphors (59%), Potassium (7.5%) Zn, (33%), Fe (85%), Cu (67%), Mn (75%) and B (95%) respectively.

Table 1. Mean value of Nutrients and soil physiochemical properties of Jaffarabad district 2015-16

Before sowing data		After Harvesting data			
Parameters		Treatment-1	Treatment-2	Treatment-3	Treatment-4
pH	8.0	7.5	7.8	7.9	7.7
EC (uS)	3270	3147	3090	3120	3311
TDS (ppm)	207	305	751	452	331
CaCO ₃ %	6.8	4.6	3.3	3.5	3.5
Texture class	Clay loam	Clay loam	Clay loam	Clay loam	Clay loam
O.M%	0.21875	1.724	1.581	1.437	1.571
N%	0.0081	0.0086	0.0071	0.007	0.004
P (ppm)	2.1	0.03	0.01	0.03	0.03
K (ppm)	29	17.6	16.3	15.1	15.1
Zn (ppm)	0.5	0.9	0.6	0.7	0.6
Fe (ppm)	0.1	0.7	0.1	0.5	0.6
Cu (ppm)	0.1	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.4
Mn (ppm)	0.07	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.4
B (ppm)	0.1	4.4	0.2	2.1	2.0

The data contents of N, P, K, Zn, Fe, Mn, Cu and B in wheat plant tissue were obtained maximum at the vegetative growth stage (flag leaves) during period 2015-16. Macro and micronutrient content in leaves of wheat were significantly affected by Biofertilizer+Half NP dose of application. Result indicated that Biofertilizer+Half NP dose application enhanced plant absorption N, P, K, Zn, Fe, Cu, Mn and B by increasing these concentrations in the leaves of wheat plants. The N range between (2.01-2.82 %) and P was obtained from (0.50-0.32 ppm)

whereas the K was observed from (1.50-2.23 ppm) respectively. Micronutrients were obtained i.e., Zn (10.31-15.20 ppm), Fe (2.9-7.9 ppm), Cu (5.1-7.0 ppm), Mn (5.50-9.00 ppm) and B (0.07-0.10 ppm) was recorded in treatment-2 control (Farmers own practice full NP dose) and Biofertilizer+Half NP dose application improved plant absorption. As macro and micronutrients are often present in the soil but immobile due to unfavorable condition but when suitable climatic conditions are provided these nutrients used to be mobile and data is presented in (Table 2).

Table 2. Mean table of plant analytical data of Jaffarabad 2015-2016

Parameters	Treatment-1	Treatment-2	Treatment-3	Treatment-4
N%	2.8	2.0	2.5	2.3
P (ppm)	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1
K (ppm)	2.2	1.5	2.1	2.0
Zn (ppm)	15.2	10.3	12.1	10.4
Fe (ppm)	7.9	2.9	5.4	4.9
Cu (ppm)	7.0	5.1	6.0	6.5
Mn (ppm)	9.0	5.5	5.9	6.5
B (ppm)	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0

Data is presented in (Table 3) that the analyzed 70 soil samples of the Naseerabad and Jaffarabad districts during 2016-17 for different physicochemical and macro & micro nutrients investigated. It has been observed that amount of various macro and

micronutrients level was low and the soil was saline in reaction pH (7.5- 7.9), and non-alkaline EC range was (3090-3147uS), non-calcareous in nature (3.3-4.6%) CaCO₃. The soil texture was determined by the Bouyocous Hydrometer

method [26]. The soil particles size analysis indicated that the proportion of sand in the soil profile ranged between (6.5%), silt ranged between (37.5%) and clay ranged between (56%). The organic matter was (0.632167-0.8335) and Nitrite range was determined from 0.003161 to 0.004168 % according to the methods [27]. Phosphorus was observed low in soil and Potassium was found moderate in all treatments i.e., (0.011-0.042, 19-21 ppm). It has been observed that amount of various macro and

micronutrients has been raised to a significant level in treatment 1 (Biofertilizer+Half N:P dose) and 3 (Humic acid+Half N: P dose.) where humic acid and Biofertilizer was applied. For example ratio of Zn, Fe, Cu, Mn and B was recorded in the range of 0.1, 0.1, 0.2, 0.05 to 0.1 in the samples collected before sowing and was raised to 2.6, 0.4, 0.5, 0.4 and 1.4 respectively in treatment-1 (Biofertilizer+Half NP dose).

Table 3. Mean of soil nutrients physiochemical properties of Naseerabad district 2016-17

Before sowing data		After Harvesting data			
Parameters		Treatment-1	Treatment-2	Treatment-3	Treatment-4
pH	8.1	7.5	7.7	7.9	7.6
EC (uS)	6051	3410	5101	5902	3961
TDS (ppm)	142	894	449	204	531
CaCO ₃ %	3.1	3.9	4.1	4.1	4.0
Texture class	Clay loam	Clay loam	Clay loam	Clay loam	Clay loam
O.M%	0.2	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.8
N%	0.001	0.004	0.003	0.003	0.004
P (ppm)	0.05	0.04	0.02	0.01	0.03
K (ppm)	25	21	20	19	20
Zn (ppm)	0.1	2.6	2.4	0.4	2.5
Fe (ppm)	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.3
Cu (ppm)	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.3
Mn (ppm)	0.05	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.2
B (ppm)	0.1	1.4	1.0	0.1	1.1

The data is presented in (Table 4) that the contents of N, P, K, Zn, Fe, Mn, Cu and B in wheat plant tissue were obtain maximum at the vegetative growth stage (flag leaves) during period 2016-17. Macro and micronutrient content in leaves of wheat were significantly affected by Biofertilizer+Half NP dose of application. Result indicated that Biofertilizer+75% fertilizer of treatment-2 application enhanced plant absorption N, P, K, Zn, Fe, Cu, Mn and B by increasing these concentrations in the leaves of wheat plants. The N range between (2.05-2.44 %) and P was obtained from (0.10-0.34 ppm) whereas the K was observed from (1.55-2.33 ppm) respectively. Micronutrients were obtained i.e., Zn (7.67.90-13.33 ppm), Fe (2.5-7.7 ppm), Cu (4.6-5.8 ppm), Mn (5.45-9.11 ppm) and B (0.05-0.84 ppm)

was recorded in treatment-3 (Farmers own practice of fertilizer N: P 90: 60 Kg ha⁻¹) and T1 (Biofertilizer+75% fertilizer of treatment-2 dose application improved plant absorption.

Plant height (cm)

The result indicated significant effect of Bio-fertilizers+N:P 45:22.5 kgha⁻¹ on growth of plant height of wheat (Table 5). Combined application of Bio-fertilizers produced broad increase in plant height overall the treatments at all locations during both years. The highest (112cm) plant height was received from the treatment-2 from Naseerabad location-2 followed by treatment-3 which gave (101cm) plant height from the Naseerabad location-2 whereas the minimum (95cm) plant height was recorded from the treatment-4 from Jaffarabad location-1 followed by the

treatment-1 which gave (87cm) plant height from Naseerabad location-2) respectively. From the above results it maybe stated that the combined use of bio-fertilizers is useful

in improving the plant height growth of wheat. Corroborative findings have been reported by [28] for wheat grown under irrigation and fertility variables.

Table 4. Mean table of Naseerabad plant analytical field data 2016-2017

Parameters	Treatment-1	Treatment-2	Treatment-3	Treatment-4
N%	2.4	2.1	2.0	2.3
P (ppm)	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1
K (ppm)	2.3	1.9	1.5	2.0
Zn (ppm)	13.3	9.9	7.6	10.5
Fe (ppm)	7.7	2.7	2.5	4.4
Cu (ppm)	5.8	4.9	4.6	5.2
Mn (ppm)	9.11	5.23	5.45	5.55
B (ppm)	0.84	0.05	0.05	0.07

Table 5. Effect of organic and inorganic fertilizers on Plant height (cm) of wheat variety Ujala-2015 (pooled data of 2015-16 and 2016-17)

Treatments	Plant height (cm)							
	Naseerabad Location-1	% Increase	Naseerabad Location-2	% Increase	Jaffarabad Location-1	% Increase	Jaffarabad Location-2	% Increase
T1-Farmer own practices of fertilizer N:P 90:60 kg ha^{-1}	90	-	87	-	88	-	89	-
T2-Biofertilizer+N:P 45:22.5 kg ha^{-1}	110	18.2	112	22.3	108	18.5	108	17.6
T3- Humic acid+N:P 45:22.5 kg ha^{-1}	101	10.9	99	12.2	97	9.3	100	11.0
T4- Balance Nutrient Management N:P 60:30 kg ha^{-1}	98	8.2	97	10.3	95	7.4	98	9.2

Number of tillers/m²

The data revealed that through the Biofertilizer+N:P 45:22.5 kg ha^{-1} applications showed to increase number of tillers/m² at all locations, the results were significant in (Table 6). The highest (457) number of tillers/m² was received from the treatment-2 from Jaffarabad location-2 followed by treatment-3 which produced (418) number of tillers/m² from same location-2 while the minimum (355) number of tillers/m² was gave by the treatment-4 from Naseerabad location-2 followed by the treatment-1 which received (335) number of tillers/m² from same location-2) correspondingly. The similar

kind of study was carried out by [29] who described that a treatment getting Phosphorous+ Azotobacter enhanced number of tillers/m² of wheat crop.

Total Dry Matter (TDM) kg ha^{-1}

The data indicated that the use of biofertilizer with combination of NP increased total dry matter yield at all locations (Table 7). At the Naseerabad location-1 the treatment-2 Biofertilizer + N:P 45:22.5 kg ha^{-1} significantly out yielded all the high mineral fertilizer treatments. The highest (12830) total dry matter kg ha^{-1} was received from treatment-2 followed by treatment-3 which gave (11350) total dry matter kg ha^{-1} from the Naseerabad location

-1 whereas the lowest (9970) total dry matter kg ha^{-1} was produced by treatment-4 from Jaffarabad location-1 followed by

treatment-1 which gave (10320) total dry matter kg ha^{-1} from Jaffarabad location-2 respectively.

Table 6. Effect of organic and inorganic fertilizers on Number of tillers/ m^2 of wheat variety Ujala-2015 (pooled data of 2015-16 and 2016-17)

Treatments	Number of tillers/ m^2							
	Naseerabad Location-1	% Increase	Naseerabad Location-2	% Increase	Jaffarabad Location-1	% Increase	Jaffarabad Location-2	% Increase
T1-Farmer own practices of fertilizer N:P 90:60 kg ha^{-1}	340	-	335	-	350	-	362	-
T2-Biofertilizer+N:P 45:22.5 kg ha^{-1}	430	20.9	410	18.3	419	16.5	457	20.8
T3- Humic acid+N:P 45:22.5 kg ha^{-1}	402	15.4	390	14.1	384	8.8	418	13.4
T4- Balance Nutrient Management N:P 60:30 kg ha^{-1}	357	4.7	355	5.6	375	6.6	379	4.5

Table 7. Effect of organic and inorganic fertilizers on Total Dry Matter of wheat variety Ujala-2015 (pooled data of 2015-16 and 2016-17)

Treatments	Total Dry Matter (TDM) kg ha^{-1}							
	Naseerabad Location-1	% Increase	Naseerabad Location-2	% Increase	Jaffarabad Location-1	% Increase	Jaffarabad Location-2	% Increase
T1-Farmer own practices of fertilizer N:P 90:60 kg ha^{-1}	9970	-	9890	-	9660	-	10320	-
T2-Biofertilizer+N:P 45:22.5 kg ha^{-1}	12830	22.3	12010	17.6	11980	19.4	12350	16.4
T3- Humic acid+N:P 45:22.5 kg ha^{-1}	11350	12.2	11360	12.9	10820	10.7	11210	7.9
T4- Balance Nutrient Management N:P 60:30 kg ha^{-1}	10720	7.0	10660	7.2	9970	3.1	10590	2.5

Grain Yield kg ha^{-1}

The data also exposed in (Table 8) that the effect of Biofertilizer+N:P 45:22.5 kg ha^{-1} fertilizers were significant and gave excellent performance than other treatments. The maximum (4410 kg ha^{-1}) grain yields was received by the treatment-2 (Biofertilizer+N:P 45:22.5 kg ha^{-1}) from Jaffarabad location-2 followed by treatment-3 (Humic acid+N:P 45:22.5

kg ha^{-1}) which produced (4020 kg ha^{-1}) grain yield from the same Jaffarabad location-2 whereas the minimum (3590 kg ha^{-1}) grain yields were received by the treatment-4 (Balance Nutrient Management N:P 60:30 kg ha^{-1}) from Jaffarabad location-2 followed by treatment-4 (Farmer own practices of fertilizer N:P 90:60 kg ha^{-1}) which produced (3290 kg ha^{-1}) grain yields from Naseerabad location-2 respectively.

Table 8. Effect of organic and inorganic fertilizers on Grain Yield of wheat variety Ujala-2015 (pooled data of 2015-16 and 2016-17)

Treatments	Grain Yield kg ha ⁻¹							
	Naseerabad Location-1	% Increase	Naseerabad Location-2	% Increase	Jaffarabad Location-1	% Increase	Jaffarabad Location-2	% Increase
T1-Farmer own practices of fertilizer N:P 90:60 kg ha ⁻¹	3390	-	3290	-	3340	-	3470	-
T2-Biofertilizer+ N:P 45:22.5 kg ha ⁻¹	4320	21.5	4030	18.4	4010	16.7	4410	21.3
T3- Humic acid+N:P 45:22.5 kg ha ⁻¹	4000	15.3	3830	14.1	3680	9.3	4020	13.7
T4- Balance Nutrient Management N:P 60:30 kg ha ⁻¹	3560	4.7	3490	5.72	3490	4.3	3590	3.4

Conclusion

The main impacts of biofertilizer application to agricultural soils can be summarized as it is useful soil reclamation by improving soil organic matter content, soil structure and increase crop production. Crop yields responded will be depending on the type of biofertilizer and with combination of inorganic fertilizers. Application of biofertilizer with N:P 75 kg ha⁻¹ significantly increased the growth and yield of wheat crop and decreasing the soil pH in the saline soil. In both Districts the treatment-1 (Biofertilizer and 75% of treatment-2 fertilizers application) performed better than other treatments. The treatment-1 (Biofertilizer and 75% of treatment-2 fertilizers application) produced 07% to 12% more wheat grain yield than other treatments. Therefore, it is concluded that the minimum use of chemical fertilizers, promote the use of biofertilizer with combination of N: P fertilizers (chemical) as the result improving soil structure and enhanced over all yield of the crop.

Authors' contributions

Conceived and designed the experiments: Amanullah, ZA Rahujo, H Mehdi & M Yaqub, Performed the experiments: Amanullah, MI Jakhro, NS Naseer & N Sadiq, Analyzed the data: S Ahmed, N Ahmed & MA Kehtran, Contributed reagents/ materials/ analysis tools: Amanullah, NS Naseer & N Sadiq, Wrote

the paper: Amanullah, NS Naseer & MI Jakhro.

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