Effect of Organics on Content and Uptake of Nutrients by Fenugreek (Trigonella foenum-graecum L.) Grown under Organic Farming System

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A B S T R A C T

A field experiment was conducted at the certified organic farm, Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari during rabi season of 2016-2017 to study the “Effect of organics on soil properties, growth, yield and quality of fenugreek (Trigonellafoenum-graecum L.) grown under organic farming system”. The treatment comprising three treatment of solid organics (S0: Control, S1: NADEP compost @ 5 t ha⁻¹ and S2: Vermicompost @ 2.5 t ha⁻¹) and four treatment of liquid organics (L0: Control, L1: Panchagavya @ 20 L ha⁻¹, L2: Jeevamruta @ 200 L ha⁻¹ and L3: Enriched banana pseudostemsap @ 5 L ha⁻¹) were evaluated in Factorial Randomized Block Design with three replication on fenugreek variety “GM-2”. After harvest, significantly higher nutrient content (N, P, K, Mn and Zn content in seed and N, P, K, Mn, Zn and Cu content in straw) were recorded with the treatment S1 (NADEP compost @ 5 t ha⁻¹) and it was at par with treatment S2 (Vermicompost @ 2.5 t ha⁻¹) except N content in seed. Similarly, treatment receiving NADEP compost @ 5 t ha⁻¹ recorded significantly higher macro and micronutrient uptake by fenugreek and statistically remained at par with treatment S2 (Vermicompost @ 2.5 t ha⁻¹).Significantly higher N, K and Mn content in seed and N, P and Mn content in straw were recorded with the treatment L3 (enriched banana pseudo stem sap @ 5 L ha⁻¹) and was at par with treatment L1 in case of N content in seed and Mn content in straw. L3 also found at par with treatment L1 and L2 in case of K content in seed of fenugreek. Application of enriched banana pseudostem sap @ 5 L ha⁻¹ recorded significantly higher macro and micronutrient uptake by fenugreek and statistically remained at par with treatment L1. In case of interaction, the combined application of NADEP compost @ 5 t ha⁻¹ and enriched banana pseudostem sap @ 5 L ha⁻¹ (S1L3) recorded significantly higher fenugreek total N, P and K uptake and was found statistically at par with treatment combination S1L1, S1L2, S2L1, S2L2 and S2L3 in case of seed and straw yield, and S1L1, S2L1 and S2L3 in case of total N, P and K uptake.

Keywords
Solid organics, Liquid organics, Nutrient content, Uptake

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Introduction

Fenugreek (Trigonellafoenum-graecumL.), locally known as Methi, is a multipurpose crop grown in Northern Indian states like Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh, during winter season. Every part of this plant is utilized as leafy vegetable, fodder and condiments (Khiriya and Singh, 2003). Its seeds are a good source of protein, vitamins, alkaloid trigonellin and...
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essential oil and have an immense medicinal value particularly against digestive disorders (Bhunia et al., 2006). Seeds are used for the treatment of diabetes, dysentery, diarrhoea and rickets. Diosgenin, which is extracted from the seeds is used in synthesis of sex hormones. Its roots are endowed with mini factory to synthesize nitrogen for plant. Thus, its cultivation enriches the soil in primary nutrient. Plant nutrient reach to the root surface by mass flow, diffusion, and root interception. Microorganism play important role in make immobilized nutrient available form to the plant. Phosphate-solubilizing bacteria (PSB) species like Pseudomonas striata and Bacillus polymyxa are also reported to be beneficial in increasing the phosphorus availability in soil and thereby seed yield of pulses (Gupta, 2006). Nitrogen plays a key role in the synthesis of chlorophyll. Nitrogen is an essential constituent of compounds like amino acids, proteins, nucleic acids, prophyrin, flavin, pyridines nucleotides, enzymes, coenzymes and alkaloids which contributes to the growth of plant. The general role of phosphorus on plant metabolism is known to enhance the symbiotic nitrogen fixation.

Plant root releases siderophore, which are help to make available micronutrient to the plant by metallic bond. They have also been reported to produce siderophore, antibiotics and exogenous compounds, which directly or indirectly increase the growth of the crop (Registeri et al., 2012). Sivaprakashan (1991) reported that plant debris, farmyard manure, and compost improved crop productivity by improving nutrient status and soil tilth, besides increasing microbial activity in the soil. For sustaining soil health and productivity of soil use different organics not only reduce the dependence on chemical fertilizers but also improve the soil structure, encourage the growth and activity of beneficial organisms in the soil, alleviate the deficiency of secondary and micronutrients, and sustain higher productivity due to improved soil health (Singh et al., 2006; Tiwari, 2002). In view content and uptake of fenugreek grown under organic farming system as evident from the above cited literature, the present study was carried out to find out the organics on content and uptake by fenugreek.

Materials and Methods

A field experiment on “Effect of organics on soil properties, growth, yield and quality of fenugreek (Trigonellafoenum-graecum L.) grown under organic farming system” was carried out at Organic Farm (F block), Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari during rabi season of 2016-17. The soil had pH 7.78 and electrical conductivity 0.44 dSm⁻¹. The soil was low in organic carbon (0.79) and available nitrogen (258.12 kg ha⁻¹), low in available P₂O₅ (45.58 kg ha⁻¹) and high in respect to available K₂O (273.52 kg ha⁻¹). The experiment was laid out in factorial randomized block design with three replications.

There were twelve treatment combinations consisting of three levels of solid organics (S₀: Control, S₁: NADEP compost @ 5 t ha⁻¹ and S₂: Vermicompost @ 2.5 t ha⁻¹) and four levels of liquid organics (L₀: Control, L₁: Panchagavya @ 20 L ha⁻¹, L₂: JeevaMruta @ 200 L ha⁻¹, L₃: Banana pseudostem sap @ 5 L ha⁻¹). The solid organics were applied one day before sowing and liquid organics were incorporated in soil by drenching in the basal as per treatments. It was sown manually at 30 cm row to row spacing keeping seed rate of 20 kg ha⁻¹. The fenugreek variety Gujarat Methi-2 was sown in December during 2016-17. Standard agronomic practices were adopted for raising healthy crop. Data of growth and yield attributes were taken from 5 tagged plants. Biological and economic yields were taken from net plot.
Effect of solid organics

Significantly higher N, P, K content and uptake by seed (2.79% and 31.89 kg ha\(^{-1}\)), (0.353% and 4.016 kg ha\(^{-1}\)), (1.05% and 11.91 kg ha\(^{-1}\)) and straw (0.89% and 18.25 kg ha\(^{-1}\)), (0.142% and 2.93 kg ha\(^{-1}\)), (0.453% and 9.35 kg ha\(^{-1}\)) were recorded under the treatment S\(_1\), but N, P, K content and uptake by seed and straw was at par with treatment S\(_2\) except N content in straw. The significantly highest total uptake of N, P and K (50.14 kg ha\(^{-1}\), 6.94 kg ha\(^{-1}\) and 21.26 kg ha\(^{-1}\) was found with the application of NADEP compost @ 5 t ha\(^{-1}\) (S\(_1\)). However, significantly lowest N, P, K content and uptake in seed and straw were noted under treatment S\(_0\) (Control). The data indicated that Fe and Cu content in seed and Fe content straw in seed of fenugreek didn’t show significantly by the application of different solid organics, but gave significantly higher Fe, Mn, Zn and Cu uptake by seed and straw. Significantly higher ZnMn and Zn content in seed (26.58 mg kg\(^{-1}\), 20.40 mg kg\(^{-1}\)) and Mn, Zn and Cu content in straw (40.23 mg kg\(^{-1}\), 18.47 mg kg\(^{-1}\), 6.20 mg kg\(^{-1}\)) were recorded under the treatment NADEP compost @ 5 t ha\(^{-1}\) (S\(_1\)) which was at par with treatment S\(_2\). However, significantly the lowest Mn, Zn and Cu content and uptake by seed and straw were observed with the treatment S\(_0\) (Control) except Cu content in seed. The total Fe, Mn, Zn and Cu uptake by fenugreek was significantly increased with the application of NADEP compost @ 5 t ha\(^{-1}\) and remained at par with the application of vermicompost @ 2.5 t ha\(^{-1}\) (340.62 g ha\(^{-1}\)). Significantly the lowest total uptake was observed under control. Statistically remained at par with treatment S\(_2\). The increase in nutrient content due to addition of low C:N ratio containing NADEP compost and vermicompost enhanced early mineralization thus increasing the availability of macro and micronutrient and minimizing the fixation of plant nutrient like phosphorus, potassium etc. These organics also helped in steady supply of balanced nutrient throughout the growth period due to improvement in soil fertility status. These findings are in general agreement with the experimental results reported by Naikwade et al., (2011), Kumar et al., (2012), Das (2014), Naikwade (2014), Dekhane et al., (2011), Jat et al., (2012), Kumar and Sharma (2014), Verma et al., (2014) and Tak et al., (2014) (Table 1).

Effect of liquid organics

Application of liquid organics were also shows significantly effect on N, P, K content and uptake by fenugreek (Table 3). The significantly higher N, K content in seed (2.74%, 1.03%) and N, P content in straw (0.89%, 0.144%), also N, P, K uptake by seed (30.32 kg ha\(^{-1}\), 3.866 kg ha\(^{-1}\),11.39 kg ha\(^{-1}\)) and by straw (17.71 kg ha\(^{-1}\), 2.89 kg ha\(^{-1}\), 9.10 kg ha\(^{-1}\)) were recorded under the treatment L\(_3\) while N, K content in seed, N, P content in straw and uptake by seed and straw was at par with treatment L\(_1\). However, significantly the lowest N, K content in seed and N, P content in straw were noted under the treatment L\(_0\) (Control). The data indicated that Fe, Zn and Cu content in seed and straw of fenugreek were not influenced significantly by the application of liquid organics, but it was influenced significantly on uptake by seed and straw. The higher Fe, Zn and Cu content in seed (43.06 mg kg\(^{-1}\), 20.36mg kg\(^{-1}\), 6.15 mg kg\(^{-1}\)) and straw (147.60 mg kg\(^{-1}\), 18.48 mg kg\(^{-1}\), 6.20 mg kg\(^{-1}\)) were found with the treatment L\(_3\). Significantly higher Mn content in seed (26.73 mg kg\(^{-1}\)) and straw (39.69 mg kg\(^{-1}\)) were recorded under the treatment L\(_3\) which was at par with treatment L\(_1\). The application of enriched banana pseudostem sap @ 5 L ha\(^{-1}\) (L\(_3\)) gave significantly higher Fe, Mn, Zn and Cu uptake by seed and straw and statistically at par with treatment L\(_1\). However, significantly the lowest uptake by seed and straw were noted with the treatment L\(_0\) (Control).
Table 1 Effect of solid and liquid organics on N, P, K content and uptake by fenugreek

| Treatment          | N Content (% | N Uptake (kg ha⁻¹) | P Content (%) | P Uptake (kg ha⁻¹) | K Content (%) | K Uptake (kg ha⁻¹) |
|--------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------------|
|                    | Seed | Straw | Seed | Straw | Total | Seed | Straw | Seed | Straw | Total | Seed | Straw | Seed | Straw | Total |
| Solid organics (S) | S₀   | 2.31  | 0.82 | 18.25 | 11.69 | 29.94 | 0.342 | 0.127 | 2.70  | 1.82  | 4.52  | 0.94  | 0.400 | 7.44  | 5.72  | 13.16 |
|                    | S₁   | 2.79  | 0.89 | 31.89 | 18.25 | 50.14 | 0.353 | 0.142 | 4.02  | 2.93  | 6.94  | 1.05  | 0.453 | 11.91 | 9.35  | 21.26 |
|                    | S₂   | 2.67  | 0.88 | 29.13 | 17.74 | 46.87 | 0.352 | 0.141 | 3.81  | 2.84  | 6.65  | 1.04  | 0.449 | 11.23 | 9.06  | 20.29 |
| S.Em. (±)          |      | 0.03  | 0.005| 0.86  | 0.42  | 1.01  | 0.002 | 0.002 | 0.107 | 0.08  | 0.13  | 0.01  | 0.008 | 0.32  | 0.31  | 0.41  |
| CD at 5%           |      | 0.09  | 0.015| 2.51  | 1.24  | 2.96  | 0.007 | 0.005 | 0.313 | 0.23  | 0.38  | 0.03  | 0.02  | 0.93  | 0.91  | 1.20  |
| Liquid organics (L)| L₀   | 2.40  | 0.84 | 20.20 | 12.96 | 33.16 | 0.342 | 0.132 | 2.87  | 2.03  | 4.90  | 0.98  | 0.417 | 8.26  | 6.44  | 14.69 |
|                    | L₁   | 2.64  | 0.87 | 28.56 | 16.99 | 45.54 | 0.351 | 0.137 | 3.75  | 2.70  | 6.45  | 1.02  | 0.439 | 10.92 | 8.66  | 19.58 |
|                    | L₂   | 2.60  | 0.86 | 26.61 | 15.93 | 42.54 | 0.350 | 0.134 | 3.55  | 2.50  | 6.05  | 1.00  | 0.428 | 10.20 | 7.98  | 18.18 |
|                    | L₃   | 2.74  | 0.89 | 30.32 | 17.71 | 48.03 | 0.353 | 0.144 | 3.87  | 2.89  | 6.76  | 1.03  | 0.452 | 11.39 | 9.10  | 20.49 |
| S.Em. (±)          |      | 0.03  | 0.006| 0.99  | 0.49  | 1.01  | 0.003 | 0.002 | 0.123 | 0.09  | 0.15  | 0.01  | 0.009 | 0.37  | 0.36  | 0.47  |
| CD at 5%           |      | 0.10  | 0.018| 2.90  | 1.44  | 3.42  | NS    | 0.005 | 0.361 | 0.26  | 0.44  | 0.03  | NS    | 1.07  | 1.05  | 1.39  |
| Interaction (S X L)| S.Em. (±) | 0.06 | 0.010| 1.71  | 0.85  | 2.02  | 0.005 | 0.003 | 0.213 | 0.16  | 0.26  | 0.02  | 0.016 | 0.63  | 0.62  | 0.82  |
|                    | CD at 5% | NS | NS | NS | NS | 5.92 | NS | NS | NS | NS | 0.76 | NS | NS | NS | NS | 2.41 |
|                    | CV % | 3.94 | 2.11 | 11.21 | 9.25 | 8.27 | 2.31 | 4.01 | 10.53 | 10.69 | 7.44 | 3.00 | 6.32 | 10.76 | 13.33 | 7.80 |

Table 2 Interaction effect of solid and liquid organics on total N, P, K uptake by fenugreek

| Liquid organics | Solid organics | Total N uptake (kg ha⁻¹) | Total P uptake (kg ha⁻¹) | Total K uptake (kg ha⁻¹) |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|                | S₀ | S₁ | S₂ | S₀ | S₁ | S₂ | S₀ | S₁ | S₂ | S₀ | S₁ | S₂ |
| L₀             | 26.94 | 38.29 | 34.25 | 4.19 | 5.54 | 4.96 | 12.33 | 16.72 | 15.03 |
| L₁             | 31.04 | 53.79 | 51.80 | 4.64 | 7.42 | 7.28 | 13.51 | 22.98 | 22.25 |
| L₂             | 29.64 | 51.21 | 46.76 | 4.48 | 6.95 | 6.71 | 12.99 | 21.19 | 20.36 |
| L₃             | 32.15 | 57.27 | 54.67 | 4.77 | 7.85 | 7.65 | 13.80 | 24.14 | 23.52 |
| S.Em. (±)      | 2.02 | 0.26 | 0.82 | 5.92 | 0.76 | 2.41 |
| CD at 5%       | 8.27 | 7.44 | 7.80 |
### Table 3 Effect of solid and liquid organics on Micronutrient content and uptake by fenugreek

| Treatment      | Fe Content (mg kg\(^{-1}\)) | Fe Uptake (g ha\(^{-1}\)) | Mn Content (mg kg\(^{-1}\)) | Mn Uptake (g ha\(^{-1}\)) |
|----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                | Seed  | Straw | Seed  | Straw | Seed  | Straw | Seed  | Straw | Seed  | Straw | Seed  | Straw |
| Solid organics (S) |      |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| S\(_0\)       | 39.72 | 142.27| 31.22 | 203.98| 235.20| 25.59 | 36.93 | 20.16 | 52.90 | 73.06 |
| S\(_1\)       | 42.48 | 147.35| 48.37 | 302.38| 350.75| 26.58 | 40.23 | 30.26 | 82.60 | 112.86|
| S\(_2\)       | 42.37 | 146.57| 45.95 | 295.25| 340.62| 26.42 | 40.03 | 28.66 | 80.39 | 109.05|
| S.Em. (±)     | 0.88  | 2.13  | 1.33  | 7.49  | 7.46  | 0.15  | 0.17  | 0.85  | 1.86  | 3.03  |
| CD at 5%      | NS    | NS    | 3.90  | 21.96 | 21.88 | 0.45  | 0.50  | 2.50  | 5.46  | 8.90  |
| Liquid organics (L) |      |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| L\(_0\)       | 40.55 | 143.30| 34.06 | 219.76| 253.82| 25.84 | 38.08 | 21.67 | 58.54 | 80.21 |
| L\(_1\)       | 41.80 | 146.38| 44.75 | 286.62| 331.37| 26.19 | 39.33 | 28.03 | 77.21 | 105.25|
| L\(_2\)       | 40.69 | 144.32| 41.20 | 266.64| 307.84| 26.02 | 38.89 | 26.39 | 72.20 | 98.59 |
| L\(_3\)       | 43.06 | 147.60| 47.37 | 295.80| 342.40| 26.73 | 39.69 | 29.35 | 79.87 | 109.25|
| S.Em. (±)     | 1.01  | 2.45  | 1.53  | 8.64  | 10.38 | 0.18  | 0.20  | 0.98  | 2.34  | 3.50  |
| CD at 5%      | NS    | NS    | 4.50  | 25.35 | 30.45 | 0.52  | 0.58  | 2.71  | 6.87  | 10.27 |
| Interaction (S X L) |      |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| S.Em. (±)     | 1.75  | 4.25  | 2.66  | 14.97 | 17.98 | 0.31  | 0.34  | 1.71  | 4.06  | 6.07  |
| CD at 5%      | NS    | NS    | NS    | NS    | NS    | NS    | NS    | NS    | NS    | NS    |
| CV %          | 7.31  | 5.06  | 11.00 | 9.70  | 10.08 | 2.03  | 1.53  | 11.20 | 9.77  | 10.69 |
## Table 3

| Treatment      | Zn Content (mg kg\(^{-1}\)) | Zn Uptake (g ha\(^{-1}\)) | Cu Content (mg kg\(^{-1}\)) | Cu Uptake (g ha\(^{-1}\)) |
|----------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
|                | Seed | Straw | Seed | Straw | Total | Seed | Straw | Seed | Straw | Total |
| Solid organics (S) |     |       |      |       |       |      |       |      |       |       |
| S\(_0\)        | 19.74 | 17.91 | 15.54 | 25.63 | 41.17 | 6.08 | 5.98 | 4.79 | 8.58 | 13.37 |
| S\(_1\)        | 20.40 | 18.47 | 23.21 | 37.89 | 61.10 | 6.15 | 6.20 | 6.99 | 12.74 | 19.74 |
| S\(_2\)        | 20.29 | 18.29 | 22.01 | 36.73 | 58.74 | 6.13 | 6.17 | 6.64 | 12.40 | 19.04 |
| S.Em. (±)      | 0.15  | 0.11  | 0.62  | 0.94  | 1.53  | 0.04 | 0.05 | 0.19 | 0.33 | 0.53  |
| CD at 5%       | 0.45  | 0.32  | 1.83  | 2.75  | 4.48  | NS  | 0.15 | 0.54 | 0.97 | 1.56  |
| Liquid organics (L) |     |       |      |       |       |      |       |      |       |       |
| L\(_0\)        | 19.92 | 18.01 | 16.67 | 27.63 | 44.31 | 6.09 | 6.03 | 5.10 | 9.25 | 14.36 |
| L\(_1\)        | 20.24 | 18.29 | 21.68 | 35.70 | 57.38 | 6.13 | 6.16 | 6.55 | 12.07 | 18.61 |
| L\(_2\)        | 20.05 | 18.10 | 20.33 | 33.50 | 53.83 | 6.11 | 6.08 | 6.18 | 11.27 | 17.45 |
| L\(_3\)        | 20.36 | 18.48 | 22.34 | 36.82 | 59.16 | 6.15 | 6.20 | 6.74 | 12.37 | 19.11 |
| S.Em. (±)      | 0.18  | 0.13  | 0.72  | 1.08  | 1.76  | 0.05 | 0.06 | 0.21 | 0.38 | 0.61  |
| CD at 5%       | NS   | NS   | 2.11  | 3.18  | 5.17  | NS  | NS  | 0.63 | 1.12 | 1.80  |
| Interaction (S X L) |     |       |      |       |       |      |       |      |       |       |
| S.Em. (±)      | 0.31  | 0.22  | 1.25  | 1.88  | 3.05  | 0.09 | 0.10 | 0.37 | 0.66 | 1.06  |
| CD at 5%       | NS   | NS   | NS   | NS   | NS   | NS  | NS  | NS  | NS   | NS    |
| CV %           | 2.63  | 2.06  | 10.65 | 9.73  | 9.86  | 2.45 | 2.95 | 10.44 | 10.17 | 10.58 |
Total Fe, Mn, Zn and Cu uptake by fenugreek was significantly varied with different treatment. The treatment L\textsubscript{3} recorded significantly higher total uptake and was at par with treatment L\textsubscript{1}. The least value of total uptake was recorded under control (L\textsubscript{0}). Sreenivasa 	extit{et al.}, (2010) reported the presence of many beneficial microorganisms 	extit{viz.}, nitrogen fixers, phosphorus solubilizers, actinomycetes and fungi in panchagavya, increases the availability of nutrients and helps in absorption of these nutrients and finally increased the total uptake. These finding are in general agreement with the experimental results reported by Sathish and Paramaguru (2010), Choudhary 	extit{et al.}, (2013), Patil and Kolambe (2013), Salunkhe 	extit{et al.}, (2013) and Boraiah 	extit{et al.}, (2015).

**Interaction effect**

The interaction of solid and liquid organics on N, P and K content and uptake by seed and straw of fenugreek were found to be non-significant, but total N, P and K uptake by fenugreek was found to be significant (Table 3). The combined application of NADAP compost @ 5 t ha\textsuperscript{-1} or vermicompost @ 2.5 t ha\textsuperscript{-1} along with soil application of enriched banana pseudostem sap @ 5 L ha\textsuperscript{-1} increased nutrient content and uptake by fenugreek and improved soil properties as well as farmers economy grown under organic farming system in South Gujarat conditions.

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