Effect of Different Dose of Nitrogen on Various Varieties of Potato in South Eastern Rajasthan

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ABSTRACT

The experiment was conducted at Agricultural Research Station, Kota during 2018-19 to evaluate potato cultivars viz. AICRP -P-39, KufriBahar and KufriPukhraj at four N levels (0, 80, 160 and 240 kg N/ha), to find out the N requirement and agronomic use efficiency of N. Results revealed that KufriPukhraj recorded maximum yield, agronomic efficiency and net return at 160kg/ha of nitrogen followed by AICRP-P-39. KufriPukhraj proved to possess high tolerance to N stress and was the most nitrogen efficient variety followed by AICRP -P-39. This variety can be useful for resource poor farmers as this produces higher yield compared to other released varieties even at lower doses of N.

Keywords: Agronomic use efficiency (AUE), Net returns, nitrogen, Potato, Yield, Dry matter, AICRP-P-39 and KufriPukhraj

Introduction

Potato plays a vital role in food security for ever increasing world population (Thiele et al., 2010; Scott and Sourez, 2012). It is highly capital and labour intensive crop (Kushwah and Singh, 2011). Presently, India is the second largest potato producer in the world. For achieving higher productivity, the use of nitrogenous fertilizers is increasing, which is leading to the increase in cost of production and also the environmental pollution. Potato is a very sensitive crop to nitrogen fertilization. Excess nitrogen may prolong the vegetative phase and thus, interfere with the initiation of tuberization, decreasing yield and dry matter accumulation in the tubers. On the other hand, a low nitrogen application rate may produce premature senescence in the plants due to early translocation of nitrogen from the leaves to the tubers (Saluzzo et al., 1999).

Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla (India) has developed a number of potato varieties for different agro-climatic conditions which vary in their response to nitrogen. Therefore, identification of nitrogen efficient varieties which produce higher yields per unit of nitrogen was required. Keeping this in view, the present study was undertaken to find out nitrogen requirement of the promising potato varieties and to work out their agronomic use efficiency (AUE) under Indo Gangetic plains of India.
Materials and Methods

A field experiment was conducted at Agriculture Research Station Ummedganj, Kota, Research Farm with popular potato cultivars AICRP-P-39, KufriPukhraj and K. Bahar. The soil of the experimental field was clay loam in texture with low organic matter (0.3%), pH (7.54), available N (150 kg/ha), available P (45 kg/ha) and available K (351 kg/ha). Treatments included combinations of eight varieties (AICRP -P-39, KufriBahar and KufriPukhraj) and four N levels (0, 80, 160 and 240 kg/ha), replicated three times in factorial randomized block design. Surface soil samples taken before planting of potato crop were analyzed for their physico-chemical properties employing standard procedures. Well sprouted seed tubers were planted in the 2nd week of November. Half of the N was applied as Urea in side-band along with a uniform dose of 125 kg P2O5/ha through single super phosphate and 125 kg K2O/ha through muriate of potash at planting while the remaining N was applied through urea at 30 days after planting i.e. at the time of earthing up. Recommended package of practices were followed for raising the crop, haulms were cut at 100 days after planting and harvesting was done 15 days later. In situ green manuring with dhaincha (Sesbania aculeata) was buried in the soil before planting of potato. Agronomic use efficiency (AUE) measures the amount of tuber yield produced per unit of nutrient supplied (soil supply + fertilizer applied) (Fageria et al., 2008). Nutrient use efficiency viz. agronomic efficiency was computed using following formula.

\[ \text{AUE of N} = \frac{\text{TY}}{\text{SN + QF}} \]

Where,

TY, SN and QF are tuber yield in a particular treatment (kg/ha), soil available N (kg/ha) and quantity of fertilizer N applied (kg/ha), respectively.

Net return for all the varieties was calculated taking nitrogen price 5.77 Rs./kg for urea, SSP 4.8Rs./kg and MOP 13 Rs./kg and potato price as 6000/t.

Results and Discussion

 Marketable yield, dry matter and tuber yield were significantly influenced by levels of N and potato varieties (Table 1). Maximum tuber yield, which was significantly higher over other varieties, was obtained from 160 kg/ha of nitrogen on KufriPukhraj (22.83 t/ha) followed by AICRP -P-39 (21.68 t/ha). While, minimum yield was observed in KufriBahar (19.72 t/ha). The interaction between N levels and varieties was found significant. KufriPukhraj produced the highest tuber yield at 160 kg/ha of N as compared to other varieties. However, the response to N application rate decreased significantly in all varieties up to the highest levels of N (240 kg/ha). Tuber yield response at 80 kg N/ha was higher in AICRP -P-39. Among the different nitrogen doses (80, 160 and 240 kg/ha), maximum N response in terms of yield was observed at 160 kg/ha. Duynisveld et al., (1988) and Sharifi et al., (2007) have also reported that different cultivars behave differently in terms of yield and bulking rate, to the applied nitrogen. Agronomic use efficiency of nitrogen Agronomic use efficiency (AUE) of nitrogen by various potato varieties calculated as kg tuber produced per kg N supply (soil + fertilizer) showed considerable variation (Table 2). Results showed that KufriPukhraj was the most nitrogen efficient cultivar followed by AICRP -P-39. The efficient cultivars gave higher tuber yield under nutrient stress (i.e. with less dose of N) than less efficient cultivars. The main reason for higher nitrogen efficiency in the presence or absence of N was the capacity of a genotype to use/absorb more N per unit from soil (Trehan, 2009).
Net returns

Net returns increased with increase in N levels (Table 2). KufriPukhraj gave maximum returns at 160 kg/ha of nitrogen net return of 97403/ha followed by KufriPukhraj (93383/ha). KufriPukhraj followed by KufriPukhraj proved to be the best variety as far as yield, AUE of N and net returns were concerned.

Total tuber yield of these two varieties obtained higher at 160 kg N/ha. The benefit: cost ratio (2.57) was highest in the KufriPukhraj followed by AICRP-P-39 (2.5).

Table.1 Effect of various dose of Nitrogen on different varieties of potato

| Variety      | % emergence | Foliage Senescence (%) | Marketable yield (t/ha) | Total yield (t/ha) | Tuber dry matter (%) |
|--------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. AICRP-P-39| 94.91       | 79.02                  | 20.02                   | 21.68              | 18.55                |
| 2. K. Bahar  | 95.33       | 83.82                  | 18.05                   | 19.72              | 22.70                |
| 3. K. Pukhraj| 95.10       | 77.49                  | 21.17                   | 22.83              | 19.56                |
| CD           | 0.18        | 1.93                   | 1.38                    | 1.37               | 0.17                 |
| SE(M)        | 0.06        | 0.66                   | 0.47                    | 0.47               | 0.06                 |

Nitrogen level kg/ha.

| Nitrogen level kg/ha. | Yield (t/ha) | Cost of cultivation (Rs/ha) | Sale price (Rs/t) | Net returns* (Rs/ha) | B:C ratio |
|-----------------------|--------------|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------|
| 1. Control 80N kg/ha  | 14.78        | 24000                      | 6458              | 29675                | 60133     | 38547    | 1.47     |
| 2. 60N kg/ha         | 15.74        | 24000                      | 6458              | 29675                | 60133     | 34307    | 1.57     |
| 3. 240N kg/ha        | 17.22        | 24000                      | 6458              | 29675                | 60133     | 43187    | 1.72     |
| CD                   | 0.20         | 2.23                       | 1.59              | 1.59                 | 0.20      | 0.07     |
| SE(M)                | .07          | 0.76                       | 0.54              | 0.54                 | 0.07      |          |

Table.2 Net returns (Rs/ha) from different potato cultivars at different N levels

| Treatments | Yield (t/ha) | Cost of cultivation (Rs/ha) | Sale price (Rs/t) | Net returns* (Rs/ha) | B:C ratio |
|------------|-------------|------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------|
| V1N0       | 14.78       | 24000                        | 6458              | 29675                | 60133     | 38547    | 1.47     |
| V2N0       | 15.74       | 24000                        | 6458              | 29675                | 60133     | 34307    | 1.57     |
| V3N0       | 17.22       | 24000                        | 6458              | 29675                | 60133     | 43187    | 1.72     |
| V1N1       | 23.51       | 24000                        | 7460              | 29675                | 61135     | 141060   | 2.31     |
| V2N1       | 20.66       | 24000                        | 7460              | 29675                | 61135     | 123960   | 2.03     |
| V3N1       | 22.78       | 24000                        | 7460              | 29675                | 61135     | 136680   | 2.24     |
| V1N2       | 25.92       | 24000                        | 8462              | 29675                | 62137     | 155520   | 2.50     |
| V2N2       | 21.56       | 24000                        | 8462              | 29675                | 62137     | 129360   | 2.08     |
| V3N2       | 26.59       | 24000                        | 8462              | 29675                | 62137     | 159540   | 2.57     |
| V1N3       | 22.52       | 24000                        | 9464              | 29675                | 63139     | 135120   | 2.14     |
| V2N3       | 20.92       | 24000                        | 9464              | 29675                | 63139     | 125520   | 1.99     |
| V3N3       | 24.74       | 24000                        | 9464              | 29675                | 63139     | 148440   | 2.35     |

Note:
V1=AICRP-P-39, V2=K.Bahar, V3=K.Pukhraj
N0=control, N1=80kg, N2=160 and N3=240kg/ha Nitrogen
**Fig. 1** Effect of different nitrogen dose on various potato varieties

**Fig. 2** B:C Ratio of different nitrogen dose on various varieties of potato

Aerial view of experiment
Treatment wise photos of experiment

- Control + AICRP-P-39
- 80kg N + AICRP-P-39
- 160kg N + AICRP-P-39
- 240kg N+AICRP-P-39
- Control + K.Bahar
- 80kg N + K.Bahar
- 160kg N + K.Bahar
- 240kg N+K.Bahar
Present study concluded that potato cultivars showed wide variation in agronomic use efficiency (AUE of N) with respect to nitrogen. Potato cultivar KufriPukhraj was the highest yielder and most N efficient variety followed by AICRP-P-39. Nitrogen dose was significantly observed in various varieties as well as higher dose of Nitrogen response in decrease tuber yield.

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