Original Research Article

Assess the Effect of Integrated Nutrient Management on Vegetative Growth and Quality of Aonla cv. Francis

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Abstract

Soil type, fertility and nutrient management play an important role in obtaining higher growth and yields of aonla. An investigation was conducted with aim to assess the effect of integrated nutrient management on vegetative growth of cv. Francis. The study was conducted during two consecutive years. The present study revealed that plant growth characters viz. height and spread were found to be increased significantly in all the treatments. The maximum per cent increase plant in height, trunk girth and spread were recorded with the soil application of T₇ during both year which was found at par with T₆. The highest TSS in aonla fruit was recorded during both the year 2018-19 and 2019-20 with the application of T₇ followed by T₅ and minimum TSS per cent was obtained with the use of T₈. The acidity per cent was noted minimum during both the year of experimentation with the help of T₈. The maximum acidity was noted with 100% FYM alone treatment. Ascorbic acid (mg/100g pulp) content was recorded maximum in T₇ during both the experimentation year which was at par with T₆. Per cent reducing sugars were noticed maximum under T₇ which was at par with T₆, T₅ and T₄ during both the years. The minimum non reducing sugar was obtained with the use of T₈. The maximum non reducing sugar per cent was obtained with the application of T₇ which was at par with T₆, T₅ and T₄ and minimum non-reducing sugar was recorded with the use of T₈.

Keywords
Aonla, Vegetative growth, Fruit quality and INM

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Introduction
Aonla or Indian gooseberry (Emblica officinalis Gaertn. Syn. Phyllanthus emblica) is one of the important indigenous fruits of the Indian subcontinent, known for its medicinal and therapeutic properties and considered as a wonder fruit for the health-conscious population. It has been grown and known in India for last more than 3500 years. In fact, it finds a special mention in ancient Indian text ‘Ayurveda’ by Sushruta, the father
of ancient medicine during 1500 BC-1300 BC. The aonla tree is native to tropical Southeast Asia, particularly central or southern India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Malaya, Southern China and to Mascarene Islands and it is also growing naturally in Cuba, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, Florida, Iran, Iraq, Java, West Indies, Trinidad, Singapore, southern Thailand, Pakistan, Malaya and China and Panama Canal regions.

Aonla fruit is rich in vitamin C and pectin. On an average, aonla fruit contains 82.2 per cent water, 0.5 per cent protein, 0.1 per cent fat, 14 per cent carbohydrates and 600 mg vitamin C/100g of pulp. The fruit contains chemical substance known as leucoanthocyanins (Polyphenol), which retards the oxidation of vitamin C. It also contains calcium, phosphorus and iron. It is a fair source of vitamin B (30 mg/100 g) and nicotinic acid (0.2 mg/ 100 g).

The aonla fruit has calorific value of 59 per 100 g of fruit and due to its ant scorbutic, diuretic, laxative, alternative and antibiotic properties, it is regarded as high value having diverse medicinal, industrial and other applications. Many medicinal virtues have been attributed to aonla and have been found effective in treatment of tuberculosis of lungs, asthma, bronchitis (Kumar et al., 2016). It is also beneficial for the treatment of conjunctivitis, glaucoma, diabetes, rheumatism, diarrhoea and dysentery. It tones up the functions of all organs of the body and builds up health by destroying the heterogeneous elements and renewing the body energy. It has a revitalizing effect. It is said that the great ancient sage Mini chywan rejuvenated himself in his late 70s and regained his virility by the use of aonla (Wali et al., 2015). Besides, fruits are commonly used for preparation of preserve (murabba), pickle, candy, jelly, etc. It can be dried and powdered to be used subsequently. It is also used in the preparation of inks, hair dyes, hair oils (Tripathi et al., 1988).

Soil type, fertility and nutrient management play an important role in obtaining higher growth and yields of aonla. Inadequate nutrition has very often been attributed as the cause of lower yields in aonla. Therefore, balanced nutrition is important, both for young growing plants as well as grown up fruit bearing trees. However, a bearing tree requires balanced nutrient application for maintenance of vegetative growth along with fruit production. Indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers had adversely affected the soil fertility, water quality, yield and quality of the produce and increased level of resistance in pests (Kalloo, 2003). Due to poor physical properties of soil it becomes very hard during season and crop suffers due to deficiency of major plant nutrients (Mandal et al., 2013). Crop nutrition is one of the most essential factor, which greatly affect the yield and quality of aonla (Mustafa et al., 2013). Fruit productivity and quality can be maintained in subsequent generation by integrated nutrient management system and contribute share in input cost of production (Singh et al., 2012). Therefore, efficient use of integrated plant nutrient supply system is a prerequisite for achieving continuous advances in productivity of fruits crops in ecologically sustainable manner (Chundawat, 2001).

Materials and Methods

The experiment carried out at Main Experiment Station (MES) Horticulture A.N.D. University of Agriculture &Technology, Kumarganj, Ayodhya (U.P.) on 28-year-old plants of aonla uniformly healthy and well-maintained square system of an orchard.
The details of the experiment are given below-

1. Age of the tree: 28 year
2. Design: Randomized Block Design (R.B.D.)
3. Replication: 03
4. Number of treatments: 13
5. Plant Unit: 01
6. Number of plants: 39

Treatment details

T1 : 100 % RDF (1:0.5:1: N: P: K + 10kg FYM plant⁻¹)
T2 : 75 % RDF + 10kg Vermicompost
T3 : 75 % RDF + 10kg Vermicompost + 250g Azotobacter + 250g PSB
T4 : 75 % RDF + 20kg Vermicompost
T5 : 75 % RDF + 20kg Vermicompost + 250g Azotobacter + 250g PSB
T6 : 75 % RDF + 30kg Vermicompost
T7 : 75 % RDF + 30 kg Vermicompost + 250g Azotobacter + 250g PSB
T8 : 50 % RDF + 10kg Vermicompost
T9 : 50 % RDF + 10kg Vermicompost + 250g Azotobacter + 250 g PSB
T10 : 50 % RDF + 20kg Vermicompost
T11 : 50 % RDF + 20kg Vermicompost + 250g Azotobacter + 250g PSB
T12 : 50% RDF + 30kg Vermicompost
T13 : 50% RDF+ 30 kg Vermicompost+ 250g Azotobacter + 250g PSB

Total soluble solids

It was recorded with the help of hand refractometer of 0 to 32% range at 20°C and mean value was expressed as per cent total soluble solids.

Acidity

The known quantity of fruit pulp (10g) was macerated and diluted in a small amount of distilled water and filtered through muslin cloth. The volume was made up to 100 ml, 5 ml aliquot was taken for titration. The acidity of fruit was estimated by titrating of the aliquot against N/10 NaOH solution using phenolphthalein as an indicator. The total titrable acidity was expressed as per cent citric acid.

\[
\text{Acidity (\%)} = \frac{\text{Titrated value} \times \text{Normality of NaOH} \times \text{Volume maintain (100 ml)} \times 64 \times 100}{\text{Aliquot Taken (5 ml) \times weight of a sample (10g)}} \times 100
\]

Ascorbic acid

5 g fruit pulp was dissolved in 3% metaphosphoric acid and volume was made up to 100 ml. five ml aliquot was titrated against standardized 2, 6-dichloro indophenol dye. The endpoint was marked as when pink colour appeared and retained for at least 15 seconds. The ascorbic acid content was expressed as mg ascorbic acid per 100 g of pulp (A.O.A.C., 1990).

\[
\text{Ascorbic acid (mg100g of pulp)} = \frac{\text{Titrated value} \times \text{Dye factor} \times \text{Volume made up \times 100}}{\text{Aliquot of extract for estimation} \times \text{volume of sample}}
\]

Sugars

Reducing sugars

The total reducing sugar was estimated by Fehling solution method as advocated by Lane and Eynon (1943). To determine the reducing sugars gram 10 g pulp was crushed with distilled water, filtered with muslin cloth and volume was maintained up to 100 ml. 5 ml aliquot was taken with 5 ml Fehling solution ‘A’ and ‘B’ in 100 ml conical flask and titrated against 1 per cent glucose solution when boiling by using methylene blue as the indicator. The endpoint was marked by the appearance of the brick red colour.
Non-reducing sugars

Non-reducing sugars were estimated by deducting quantity of reducing sugars from total invert sugars and multiplied by factors 0.95. The results were expressed as per cent non reducing sugars.

Total sugars

Out of 100 ml sample 5ml aliquot was taken, mixed with 3 drops of HCl and kept overnight. Next day 2-3 drop phenolphthalein indicator was added and neutralized with 30 per cent sodium hydroxide (NaOH) solution. It was titrated against 1.0 per cent glucose in boiling solution using methylene blue as an indicator. The appearance of brick red colour was marked as the endpoint. The results were expressed as per cent total sugars.

\[
\text{Total invert sugar} = \frac{(B - S) \times \text{Volume made up (100 ml)}}{\text{Aliquot taken (5 ml)} \times \text{weight of a sample (10 g)}}
\]

Where,
B= Blank reading
S= Sample titrate reading

Results and Discussion

Plant growth characters viz. height and spread were found to be increased significantly in all the treatments. The maximum per cent increase plant in height, trunk girth and spread were recorded with the soil application of T7 which was at par with T6, T3, T4 and T5 and T1. It might be due to proper combination of chemical fertilizer, organic manure and bio- fertilizers. Chemical fertilizers which provide nutrient in proper amount and proportion at right time which increased vegetative growth. Farm Yard Manure and chemical fertilizers make favourable condition for growth and development of microbes of bio- fertilizers by providing the nutrients and shelter respectively. The chelating properties of vermicompost reduce nutrient losses and also improve the physical and chemical properties of soil, making suitable condition for plant growth. In addition to this bio-fertilizer also fixes the atmospheric nitrogen and solubulize the soil natural phosphorus during entire crop period and also improved the efficiency of applied phosphorus. These synergistic effects of different sources of nutrient of each other, might distinguished these treatments over rest of the treatment. Similar results are also noted by Yadav et al., (2007) and reported 50% NPK + 25g sulphur + 100kg FYM + 200g each (Azotobacter + Azospirillum + PSB) gave maximum per cent increase in plant growth in aonla.

Gogaiet al. (2004) studied the effect of biofertilizer (Azotobacter + Azospirillum + PSB) in combination with the recommended dose of NPK fertilizers and half dose of recommended dose of N on growth and development of banana. The treatment combination of 50% recommended dose of N+RD of K + biofertilizers (Azospirillum omozonere + Bacillus + meagraticum) resultant in maximum plant height, girth, leaf area and leaf area index at shooting stage, functional leaves at large stage, number of leaves and reduced the duration of shooting to harvesting.

Manjunatha et al., (2002) reported, papaya plant responded better increasing plant height with the application of Glomus fasciculatum with 75% recommended dose of phosphorus also on in combination. The results are also corroborating with the findings of Sharma et al., (2003) as application of integrated nutrient management through Vermicompost and inorganic fertilizer 50:50 favoured the plant growth and yield of pomegranate crop while the combination of sheep and cattle manure improved the water holding capacity under sandy soil (Table 1-3).
**Table 1** Effect of integrated nutrient management on vegetative growth of aonla

| Treatments                                                                 | Plant height (% increase) | Plant spread (% increase) |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
|                                                                            | 2018          | 2019         | 2018          | 2019         |
| **T1** 100 % RDF (1:0.5:1: N: P: K + 10kg FYM plant⁻¹)                      | 8.01          | 11.53        | 14.87         | 15.48        |
| **T2** 75 % RDF + 10kg Vermicompost                                       | 10.21         | 13.95        | 16.14         | 19.48        |
| **T3** 75 % RDF + 10kg Vermicompost + 250g Azotobacter + 250g PSB         | 12.41         | 21.88        | 21.04         | 23.73        |
| **T4** 75 % RDF + 20kg Vermicompost                                       | 11.01         | 19.73        | 18.44         | 21.58        |
| **T5** 75% RDF + 20kg Vermicompost + 250g Azotobacter + 250g PSB         | 13.81         | 25.31        | 24.74         | 24.84        |
| **T6** 75% RDF + 30kg Vermicompost                                       | 11.71         | 21.23        | 20.54         | 22.34        |
| **T7** 75% RDF + 30 kg Vermicompost + 250g Azotobacter + 250g PSB        | 16.26         | 26.45        | 26.11         | 27.02        |
| **T8** 50 % RDF + 10kg Vermicompost                                      | 8.41          | 13.33        | 15.44         | 19.28        |
| **T9** 50% RDF + 10kg Vermicompost + 250g Azotobacter + 250 g PSB        | 12.01         | 21.53        | 20.74         | 23.08        |
| **T10** 50 % RDF + 20kg Vermicompost                                     | 10.51         | 14.63        | 16.94         | 19.68        |
| **T11** 50 % RDF + 20kg Vermicompost + 250g Azotobacter + 250g PSB       | 13.01         | 23.03        | 22.33         | 24.35        |
| **T12** 50% RDF + 30kg Vermicompost                                      | 11.01         | 19.23        | 18.34         | 21.28        |
| **T13** 50% RDF + 30 kg Vermicompost + 250g Azotobacter + 250g PSB      | 13.31         | 24.73        | 22.91         | 24.38        |
| **SEm ±**                                                                 | 0.47          | 0.58         | 0.63          | 0.77         |
| **CD**                                                                    | 1.37          | 1.71         | 1.86          | 2.27         |
### Table 2: Effect of INM on TSS and acidity of aonla

| Treatments                                                                 | Total soluble solids (°Brix) | Acidity (%) |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|
|                                                                           | 2018 | 2019 | 2018 | 2019 |
| **T1** 100 % RDF (1:0.5:1: N: P: K + 10kg FYM plant⁻¹)                     | 9.47 | 9.84 | 1.770 | 1.820 |
| **T2** 75 % RDF + 10kg Vermicompost                                       | 9.77 | 9.87 | 1.690 | 1.740 |
| **T3** 75 % RDF + 10kg Vermicompost + 250g Azotobacter + 250g PSB         | 9.98 | 10.07| 1.470 | 1.520 |
| **T4** 75 % RDF + 20kg Vermicompost                                      | 9.86 | 9.96 | 1.580 | 1.630 |
| **T5** 75% RDF + 20kg Vermicompost + 250g Azotobacter + 250g PSB         | 11.03| 11.15| 1.400 | 1.440 |
| **T6** 75% RDF + 30kg Vermicompost                                       | 9.90 | 10.00| 1.550 | 1.600 |
| **T7** 75% RDF + 30 kg Vermicompost + 250g Azotobacter + 250g PSB        | 11.15| 11.25| 1.360 | 1.410 |
| **T8** 50 % RDF + 10kg Vermicompost                                      | 9.76 | 9.86 | 1.720 | 1.780 |
| **T9** 50% RDF + 10kg Vermicompost + 250g Azotobacter + 250g PSB         | 9.93 | 10.03| 1.500 | 1.550 |
| **T10** 50 % RDF + 20kg Vermicompost                                     | 9.80 | 9.90 | 1.640 | 1.700 |
| **T11** 50 % RDF + 20kg Vermicompost + 250g Azotobacter + 250g PSB      | 10.01| 10.11| 1.440 | 1.490 |
| **T12** 50% RDF + 30kg Vermicompost                                     | 9.83 | 9.93 | 1.610 | 1.660 |
| **T13** 50% RDF + 30 kg Vermicompost + 250g Azotobacter + 250g PSB      | 10.50| 10.60| 1.410 | 1.460 |
| SEm ±                                                                     | 0.44 | 0.29 | 0.03  | 0.05  |
| CD                                                                         | 1.28 | 0.86 | 0.10  | 0.15  |
**Table 3** Effect of INM on ascorbic acid, reducing sugar and non reducing sugar of aonla

| Treatments                                                                 | Ascorbic acid (mg/100g pulp) | Reducing sugar (%) | Non Reducing sugar (%) |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
|                                                                           | 2018            | 2019             | 2018     | 2019     | 2018     | 2019     |
| **T1 100 % RDF (1:0.5:1: N: P: K + 10kg FYM plant⁻¹)**                     | 475.2           | 479.60           | 2.60     | 2.64     | 2.51     | 2.55     |
| **T2 75 % RDF + 10kg Vermicompost**                                       | 491.4           | 495.9            | 2.68     | 2.73     | 2.59     | 2.63     |
| **T3 75 % RDF + 10kg Vermicompost + 250g Azotobacter + 250g PSB**         | 561.60          | 566.80           | 3.07     | 3.12     | 2.96     | 3.01     |
| **T4 75 % RDF + 20kg Vermicompost**                                       | 523.8           | 528.7            | 2.86     | 2.91     | 2.76     | 2.81     |
| **T5 75% RDF + 20kg Vermicompost + 250g Azotobacter + 250g PSB**          | 599.4           | 604.9            | 3.27     | 3.33     | 3.16     | 3.21     |
| **T6 75% RDF + 30kg Vermicompost**                                        | 540.0           | 545.0            | 2.95     | 3.00     | 2.85     | 2.90     |
| **T7 75% RDF + 30 kg Vermicompost+ 250g Azotobacter + 250g PSB**          | 615.60          | 621.30           | 3.36     | 3.42     | 3.25     | 3.30     |
| **T8 50 % RDF + 10kg Vermicompost**                                       | 486.0           | 490.5            | 2.66     | 2.70     | 2.56     | 2.61     |
| **T9 50% RDF + 10kg Vermicompost+ 250g Azotobacter+ 250 g PSB**           | 550.8           | 555.9            | 3.01     | 3.06     | 2.90     | 2.95     |
| **T10 50 % RDF + 20kg Vermicompost**                                      | 502.2           | 506.8            | 2.74     | 2.79     | 2.65     | 2.69     |
| **T11 50 % RDF + 20kg Vermicompost+ 250g Azotobacter + 250g PSB**         | 572.4           | 577.7            | 3.13     | 3.18     | 3.02     | 3.07     |
| **T12 50% RDF + 30kg Vermicompost**                                       | 513.0           | 517.8            | 2.80     | 2.85     | 2.70     | 2.75     |
| **T13 50% RDF + 30 kg Vermicompost+ 250g Azotobacter + 250g PSB**         | 588.6           | 594.0            | 3.22     | 3.27     | 3.10     | 3.16     |
| **SEm ±**                                                                 | 23.55           | 20.19            | 0.13     | 0.12     | 0.13     | 0.14     |
| **CD**                                                                   | 68.73           | 58.93            | 0.38     | 0.35     | 0.37     | 0.42     |
Fig 1: Effect of integrated nutrient management on vegetative growth of aonla
Fig. 2: Effect of INM on TSS and acidity of aonla.
Fig. 4: Effect of INM on ascorbic acid, reducing sugar and non reducing sugar of aonla
The better vegetative growth of plant observed in present investigation have also been partially supported by NareshBabu (2003) Kumar et al., (1998), Rani and Sathiamoorti (1997), Wagh and Mahajan (1985, 87) and Chaudhaiy et al., (1975).

Quality of fruit was influenced remarkably due to application of various treatments. The total soluble solids, non reducing, reducing and total sugars were obtained maximum with the soil application of T₇ which was at par with T₆.

The minimum acidity per cent and maximum ascorbic acid content in aonla fruit were recorded with T₆. Results indicated that T₇ gave response in improving fruit quality of aonla fruit. Yadav et al., (2007) reported in guava fruit was found to be enhanced with the increased dose of FYM, biofertilizers and potassium. The results are also confirmed with the findings of Yadav et al., (2007). They conducted integrated nutrient management experiment to find out the vegetative growth, yield, quality, nutrient status in aonla leaves and improvement in soil properties and found best quality fruit with the soil application of T₇. The improvement in fruit quality with the application of T₇ in present investigation was might be due to increased continuous supply of nutrients and growth promoting substances.

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