Response to date of sowing and nitrogen levels on growth, yield and yield attributes and economics of fodder barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) under north Gujarat condition

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DOI: https://doi.org/10.22271/chemi.2020.v8.i2u.8953

Abstract
A field experiment was conducted at Agronomy Instructional Farm, Chimanbhai Patel College of Agriculture, S.D.A.U., Sardarkrushinagar to study the “Response of fodder barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) To date of sowing and nitrogen levels” during *Rabi* season of 2018-19. The soil of experimental field was loamy sand in texture with low in organic carbon (0.25%) and available nitrogen (163 kg/ha), medium in available phosphorus (38.2 kg/ha) and high in available potash (288 kg/ha) having pH value of 7.40. Total twelve treatment combinations comprising four levels of date of sowing in main plot viz., 20th October, 1st November, 10th November and 20th November and three levels of nitrogen in sub plot viz., 80 kg N/ha, 100 kg N/ha and 120 kg N/ha were laid out in split plot design with four replications. Sowing of the fodder barley on 10th November recorded significantly higher growth and yield attributes, green forage (362.7 q/ha), dry fodder (93.7 q/ha), net returns (38,104 Rs/ha) and BCR ratio (2.11) at total of both cuts than other date of sowing. Fertilizing the fodder barley crop with 120 kg N/ha gave significantly higher value for all growth and yield attributes, green forage, dry fodder, net returns and BCR ration than other nitrogen levels.

Keywords: barley, date of sowing, economics, growth, nitrogen levels, yield and yield attributes

Introduction
Agriculture and animal husbandry in India are interwoven with the intricate fabric of the society in cultural, religious and economical ways as mixed farming and livestock rearing forms an integral part of rural living. The farmer possessing the livestock breeds with higher milk yield potential and suffering from deficit in fodder availability in the country. Total forage production in India is 866.6mt. In which 400mt. green fodder production and 446mt. dry fodder production. Whereas, the annual forage requirement is 1706mt. (1097mt. green fodder and 609mt. dry fodder). Deficit in green fodder production is 696mt. (63.50%) and 143mt. (23.56%) deficit in dry fodder (Bhagmal et al., 2014) [3].

Among various cereals, Barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) is one of the founder crops of old world agriculture and was one of the first domesticated cereals. Barley is the major cereal in many dry areas of the world and is vital for the livelihoods of many farmers. Barley fodder may be a viable source of income generation for farmers. It has high capacity for tilling and re-growth after cutting and additional capacity for large accumulation of biomass rapidly after re-growth. Its fodder is also palatable.

Date of sowing is one of the important factors for higher production as it determines the optimum time of sowing of the crop. An optimum time of sowing enhances the efficiency of barley by exploiting growth factors in an effective manner. Optimum date of sowing is necessary for maximum possible yield of good quality green fodder because availability of highest nutritive stage for longer duration is desired. It is therefore, almost necessary to determine the optimum date of sowing of barley crop for good quality and quantity of green forage yield.

Plant nutrients also play an important role in fodder crop production. Nitrogen is the key element in achieving consistently high yields in cereals. The major constraints for production in the state are poor nitrogen status of the soils.
Nitrogen is commonly the most limiting nutrient for crop production in the majority of the world's agricultural areas and therefore adoption of good nitrogen management strategies often results in large economic benefits to farmers. Nitrogen is a vitally important and is one of the universally deficient plant nutrients in most of the Indian soils particularly in the loamy sand soils of semi-arid regions. It is an essential constituent of plant proteins and chlorophyll and is present in many other compounds of greater physiological importance in plant metabolism viz., nucleotides, phospholipids, enzymes, hormones, vitamins etc. It governs to a considerable degree the utilization of carbohydrates, potassium, phosphorous and other elements. Nitrogen being an essential constituent of protein, nucleic acid and chlorophyll plays a major role in photosynthesis and chlorophyll synthesis (Kanwar, 1976) [12].

Materials and Methods
The field experiment was conducted at Agronomy Instructional Farm, Chimanbhai Patel College of Agriculture, S.D.A.U., Sardarkrushinagar to study the “Response of fodder barley (Hordeum vulgare L.) To date of sowing and nitrogen levels” during Rabi season of 2018-19. Geographically, Sardarkrushinagar Dantiwada Agricultural University, where the experiment was laid out is situated at 24°19’ North latitude and 72°19’ East longitude with an elevation of 154.52 metre from the mean sea level. The climate of this region is sub-tropical monsoon type and falls under semi-arid region. In general, monsoon is warm and moderately humid, winter is fairly cold and dry, while summer is largely hot and dry. The soil of experimental field was loamy sand in texture with low in organic carbon (0.25%) and available nitrogen (163 kg/ha), medium in available phosphorus (38.2 kg/ha) and high in available potash (288 kg/ha) having pH value of 7.40. Total twelve treatment combinations comprising four levels of date of sowing in main plot viz., 20th October, 1st November, 10th November and 20th November and three levels of nitrogen in sub plot viz., 80 kg N/ha, 100 kg N/ha and 120 kg N/ha were laid out in split plot design with four replications. The seed of fodder barley (RD 2052) variety were drilled manually to a depth of 2-3 cm in the previously opened furrows at a distance of 22.5 cm between the two rows and lightly covered with the soil. The crop was fertilized as per treatments where the half dose of nitrogen in the form of urea and full dose of phosphorus in the form of di-ammonium phosphate were applied as basal dose in the previously opened furrow just before sowing. Nitrogen was applied as per treatments in two equal split at basal and after first cut phosphorous was applied as a common dose @ 60kg/ha for all plots as basal. The crop was harvested treatment wise at 50% flowering stage.

Results and Discussion

Growth attributes

 Barely crop exhibited significant response to date of sowing and nitrogen level on growth attributes. The periodical observation viz., plant height, leaf length, number of leaves per plant, number of tillers per meter row length and leaf: stem ratio (Table 1) at 1st and 2nd cut showed significant difference due to date of sowing. The maximum values for plant height (81.55 and 73.51 cm), leaf length (19.80 and 16.07 cm), number of leaves per plant (10.59 and 9.87), number of tillers per meter row length (89.5 and 95.8) and leaf: stem ratio (0.51 and 0.46) at 1st and 2nd cut were recorded under barley sowing during 10th November. The taller plants in the 10th November sowing might be due to favourable temperature effect on the growth of plants. The present findings are in accordance with the findings of Fazal et al. (2012a) [9], Khan et al. (2014) [13] and Sharma et al. (2017) [19]. The application of 120 kg N/ha at 1st and 2nd cut increased plant height, leaf length, number of leaves per plant, number of tillers per meter row length and leaf: stem ratio but, it was statistically Sam bar with nitrogen level 100 kg/ha than 80 kg N/ha. Improvement in growth attributes due to application of nitrogen 120 kg/ha accelerated meristic activity on account of availability of nitrogen in sufficient quantity and right time during the entire growth period of the crop and higher rate of nitrogen per hectare to enhanced production of leaf material as compared to stem in plant. These results confirm the findings of Fazal et al. (2012) [10], Dubey et al. (2013) [9], Khan et al. (2014) [13] and Aleminew and Legas (2015) [2].

Yield attributes and yield

Date of sowing influence significantly on green forage and dry fodder yield at first cut, second cut and total of both cuts (Table 2). The better performance of forage barley observed in term of plant height, leaf length, number of leaves per plant, number of tillers per meter row length and leaf: stem ratio was observed by sowing the fodder barley on 10th November which ultimately reflected on higher green forage and dry fodder yield of barely. Significantly the highest green forage yield (207.4, 154.6 and 362.1 q/ha) was recorded by taking first, second and total cut on 10th November sowing. The increased in green forage yield by the 10th November sowing was to the tune of 15.80, 17.03 and 16.31 per cent than that of 20th October sowing at first cut, second cut and total green forage yield, respectively. The remarkable increase in yields with normal sowing might be attributed due to favourable effect on growth attributes. This might have ultimately resulted in higher photosynthetic activities and also in production of more photosynthesis. The increase in green forage yield was also observed by Singh et al. (2004) [23] and Sharma et al. (2017) [19]. Similar trend was also observed for dry fodder yield (53.7, 39.9 and 93.7 q/ha) of barely because of higher forage green yield, so the dry fodder yield was more in the 10th November of sowing as compared to other date of sowing. The increased in dry fodder yield was also observed by Razzaque and Rafiquzzaman (2006) [17], Shekara and Lohithaswa (2012) [20] and Dar et al. (2014) [6]. Significantly higher green forage yield (211.2, 155.0 and 366.3 q/ha) was recorded by the application of 120 kg N/ha at first cut, second cut and total green forage yield, respectively. The percentage increased in green forage yield by the application of 120 kg N/ha was to the tune of 18.05, 15.84 and 17.10 per cent than that of 80 kg N/ha at first cut, second cut and total green forage yield, respectively. The remarkable increase in yields with higher levels of nitrogen might be attributed due to favourable effect on growth attributes (Table 1). The increase in leafy part due to nitrogen application might have ultimately resulted in higher photosynthetic activities and also in production of more photosynthesis. As a result of which, nitrogen yielded better response on forage yield of barely crop. More or less similar response to nitrogen has been reported by Yadav and Mali (2012) [22], Dubey et al. (2013) [8], Choudhary et al. (2014) [4] and Dahipahle et al. (2017) [5]. Similarly, dry fodder yield were also recorded significantly higher with application of nitrogen 120 kg/ha than other treatments. Application of 120 kg N/ha which accounted 8.75, 16.56 and 12.01 per cent higher than that of 80 kg N/ha at first cut, second cut and total dry fodder yield, respectively.
The dry fodder yield followed the same trend as observed in green forage yield due to application of nitrogen. Nitrogen is used largely in synthesis of protein, but structurally it is a constituent of chlorophyll molecule combined with carbohydrates and fatty acids. It helps in formation of protoplasm, which is the physical base of a life of the plant. Thus, more production of dry matter can be explained at higher nitrogen rates. The higher dry matter yield with higher nitrogen rates also reported by Alam and Haider (2006) [1], Meena et al. (2012) [15], Dubey et al. (2013) [8] and Dahiphyale et al. (2017) [9].

**Economics**

Economics is the major consideration for the farmers while taking a decision regarding the adoption of new technology. Fodder barely sowing during 10th November recorded higher net returns (38,104 Rs/ha) and benefit cost ratio (2.11) over other date of sowing (Table 3). This was due to higher green forage yield recorded barely during 10th November sowing. These results are conformity with those reported by Kalhapure and Shete (2013) [11], Dar et al. (2016) [7] and Reddy et al. (2018) [18]. Application of nitrogen 120 kg/ha recorded higher net returns (46,396 Rs/ha) and benefit cost ratio (2.73) over 100 and 80 kg N/ha. The higher net returns and BCR under these treatments was mainly due to higher yields. Similar results were also reported by Kumpawat (2009) [14], Meena et al. (2012) [15] and Puniya et al. (2015) [16].

**Conclusion**

It can be concluded that fodder barley (RD 2052) should be sown during on 1st to 20th November and fertilizing with 120 kg N/ha under North Gujarat condition for obtaining higher green forage yield and net realization.

Table 1: Plant height, leaf length, number of leaves per plant, number of tillers per metre row length and leaf: stem ratio of fodder barley as influenced by date of sowing and nitrogen levels

| Treatments | Plant height (cm) | Leaf length (cm) | Number of leaves per plant | Number of tillers per metre row length | Leaf: stem ratio |
|------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
|            | 1st cut | 2nd cut | 1st cut | 2nd cut | 1st cut | 2nd cut | 1st cut | 2nd cut | 1st cut | 2nd cut |
| 20th October | 60.00 | 61.16 | 17.12 | 14.26 | 9.20 | 8.61 | 77.0 | 85.1 | 0.37 | 0.34 |
| 1st November | 78.18 | 71.82 | 19.62 | 15.02 | 9.56 | 9.46 | 87.7 | 91.4 | 0.48 | 0.45 |
| 10th November | 81.55 | 73.51 | 19.80 | 16.07 | 10.59 | 9.87 | 89.5 | 95.8 | 0.51 | 0.46 |
| 20th November | 73.00 | 65.62 | 19.50 | 14.66 | 9.36 | 8.81 | 80.0 | 85.2 | 0.41 | 0.39 |
| S.Em.± | 2.495 | 2.037 | 0.546 | 0.377 | 0.316 | 0.272 | 2.62 | 2.58 | 0.013 | 0.012 |
| C.D. at 5% | 7.98 | 6.52 | 1.75 | 1.21 | 1.01 | 0.97 | 8.41 | 8.26 | 0.04 | 0.04 |
| C.V. (%) | 11.57 | 10.37 | 9.94 | 8.72 | 11.30 | 10.25 | 10.89 | 10.00 | 10.36 | 10.18 |

Sub plot: Nitrogen levels (N) kg/ha:

| Treatments | Nitrogen levels (N) kg/ha: |
|------------|---------------------------|
|            | 80 kg/ha | 100 kg/ha | 120 kg/ha |
|            | 65.84 | 64.21 | 18.25 | 14.46 | 9.20 | 8.93 | 80.1 | 85.3 | 0.42 | 0.36 |
|            | 76.73 | 68.96 | 19.06 | 15.18 | 9.88 | 9.04 | 84.1 | 88.6 | 0.44 | 0.42 |
|            | 81.47 | 70.91 | 19.73 | 15.36 | 9.96 | 9.60 | 86.4 | 94.3 | 0.46 | 0.44 |
|            | 1.92 | 1.41 | 0.38 | 0.22 | 0.22 | 0.19 | 1.68 | 2.04 | 0.01 | 0.01 |
|            | 5.61 | 4.11 | 1.11 | 0.64 | 0.65 | 0.57 | 4.91 | 5.95 | 0.03 | 0.03 |
|            | 10.29 | 8.28 | 7.98 | 5.83 | 9.18 | 8.49 | 8.05 | 9.11 | 9.21 | 9.40 |

Table 2: Green forage yield and dry fodder yield of fodder barley as influenced by date of sowing and nitrogen levels

| Treatments | Green forage yield (q/ha) | Dry fodder yield (q/ha) |
|------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
|            | 1st cut | 2nd cut | Total | 1st cut | 2nd cut | Total |
| 20th October | 179.1 | 132.1 | 311.3 | 46.3 | 34.2 | 80.6 |
| 1st November | 196.6 | 146.8 | 343.4 | 50.8 | 38.0 | 88.9 |
| 10th November | 207.4 | 154.6 | 362.1 | 53.7 | 39.9 | 93.7 |
| 20th November | 193.5 | 143.2 | 336.7 | 50.1 | 37.0 | 87.2 |
| S.Em.± | 5.91 | 4.31 | 10.16 | 1.52 | 1.17 | 2.67 |
| C.D. at 5% | 18.9 | 13.8 | 32.5 | 4.89 | 3.75 | 8.55 |
| C.V. (%) | 10.55 | 10.37 | 10.41 | 10.52 | 10.87 | 10.57 |

Sub plot: Nitrogen levels (N) kg/ha:

| Treatments | Nitrogen levels (N) kg/ha: |
|------------|---------------------------|
|            | 80 kg/ha | 100 kg/ha | 120 kg/ha |
|            | 178.9 | 133.8 | 312.8 | 48.0 | 34.4 | 82.4 |
|            | 192.4 | 143.6 | 336.1 | 50.4 | 37.5 | 87.9 |
|            | 211.2 | 155.0 | 366.3 | 52.2 | 40.1 | 92.3 |
|            | 4.25 | 3.39 | 6.29 | 1.06 | 0.86 | 1.46 |
|            | 12.4 | 9.9 | 18.3 | 3.09 | 2.51 | 4.26 |
|            | 8.76 | 9.41 | 17.44 | 8.42 | 9.21 | 6.66 |

Table 3: Economics of the different treatments on fodder barley as influenced by date of sowing and nitrogen levels

| Treatments | Green forage yield (q/ha) | Gross realization (Rs/ha) | Cost of production (Rs/ha) | Net realization (Rs/ha) | Benefit: Cost ratio (BCR) |
|------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
|            | 20th October | 311.3 | 62264 | 35422 | 26842 | 1.76 |
|            | 1st November | 343.4 | 68684 | 34322 | 34362 | 2.00 |
|            | 10th November | 362.1 | 72426 | 34322 | 38104 | 2.11 |
|            | 20th November | 336.7 | 67354 | 33222 | 34132 | 2.03 |

Sub plot: Nitrogen levels (kg/ha) (N):

| Treatments | Nitrogen levels (kg/ha) (N) |
|------------|----------------------------|
|            | 80 kg/ha | 100 kg/ha | 120 kg/ha |
|            | 312.8 | 62562 | 26308 | 36254 | 2.38 |
|            | 336.1 | 67224 | 26586 | 40638 | 2.53 |
|            | 366.3 | 73260 | 26864 | 46396 | 2.73 |
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