Influence of combined application of organic and inorganic amendments on nutrient status in a typic Haplaquept soil of West Bengal

Tapas Kumar Halder, Ajit Kumar Dolui and Dipankar Saha

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Abstract
Balanced nutrition based on soil test value is the key to sustain and improve soil productivity. Integrated management of organic, secondary and micronutrient inputs along with inorganic fertilizers in soils is required to prevent decline in soil fertility, crop productivity and sustainability. In present investigation is conducted to study the influence of farmyard manure (FYM), sulphur and zinc along with inorganic NPK fertilizers either alone or in combination on the nutrient availability in soil. Results revealed that use of FYM increased the organic carbon content and availability of nutrients over soil alone and soil treated with only inorganic fertilizers. Results further revealed that the beneficial effects of FYM got enhanced when it is applied along with S and Zn.

Keywords: Organic, secondary, micronutrient, farmyard manure

Introduction
Use of inorganic fertilizers has increased considerably to meet the higher nutrient requirements of the present day which creates imbalance in nutrient supply in soil. A suitable combination of secondary and micronutrients is an important factor that affects the productivity of the crops. Organic resources play a dominant role in soil properties through their short-term effects on nutrient supply and longer-term contribution to soil organic matter (SOM) formation (Palm et al., 2001) [1]. In order to supply all the nutrients to soil in adequate amount and to maintain its good health, it is necessary to use organic sources like FYM in combination with fertilizers. They not only supply macro-nutrients but also meet the demand of micro nutrients, besides improving soil health (Arbad and Ismail, 2011) [2]. Many studies have shown the possibility to increase the content of N, P, K by using sulphur fertilizers (Klikocka et al., 2017) [3]. Zn is a micro nutrient which is deficient in most of the soils of West Bengal (AICRP-MSPE, 2015) [4], plays a vital role in protein and starch synthesis, (Marschner, 1995) [5], protect cell membrane against oxidative damage from superoxide radicals (Cakmak, 2000) [6]. Zinc deficiency has been recognized as an important and widespread nutritional disorder of rice (Niraj et al., 2014) [7]. The present investigation was, therefore conducted to monitor the changes in nutrient status of an alluvial soil amended with organic and inorganic fertilizers including S and Zn.

Materials and Methods
Collection of soil sample
Composite soil sample was collected from a farmer’s field situated at Gotra mouza in Chakdah block in the district of Nadia West Bengal. The soil has been classified as Typic Haplaquept by National Bureau of Soil Science (NBSS & LUP). The field was generally cultivated for rice-mustard cropping sequence. The soils were collected prior to rice cultivation. The collected soil sample was air-dried, ground in wooden pestle and mortar and passed through 80 mesh seive. The soil sample was analyzed for different physical, chemical and microbiological parameters following standard analytical procedures and the data are presented in Table 1. Farm yard manure (FYM) used in the present experiment as treatment material was analyzed and the data are presented in Table 2.
Table 1: Physical and chemical properties of the soil used for the incubation study

| Sl. No | Parameters                              | Result          | Reference Method  |
|--------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1.     | pH                                      | 7.56            | Jackson, 1973 [8]|
| 2.     | Electrical Conductivity (ds m⁻¹)         | 0.190           | Jackson, 1973 [8]|
| 3.     | Mechanical Separates                     |                 |                  |
| i)     | Sand (%)                                 | 16.8            |                  |
| ii)    | Silt (%)                                 | 18.0            |                  |
| iii)   | Clay (%)                                 | 65.2            |                  |
|        | Textural class                           | Clay loam       | USDA, 1975 [10]  |
| 4.     | Cation exchange capacity C mol(p⁺) kg⁻¹   | 24.6            | Schollen Berger and Simon, (1945) [11]|
| 5.     | Organic carbon (%)                       | 0.52            | Walkley and Black, 1934 [12]|
| 6.     | Water holding capacity (%)               | 47.90           | Baruah and Barthakur, 1997 [13]|
| 7.     | Total Nitrogen (%)                       | 0.088           | Stevenson, 1996 [14]|
| 8.     | Available (NH₄⁺)                         | 123.47          | Bremner and Keeney, 1966 [15]|
| 9.     | Available (NO₃⁻)                         | 24.16           |                  |
| 10.    | Available phosphorus (kg ha⁻¹)           | 36.34           | Olsen et al., 1954 [16]|
| 11.    | Available potassium (kg ha⁻¹)            | 150.74          | Jackson, 1973 [14]|
| 12.    | Available sulphur (mg kg⁻¹)              | 6.38            | Chesnin and Yien, 1951 [17]|
| 13.    | Available Zn (mg kg⁻¹)                   | 0.56            | Lindsay & Norvell, 1978 [18]|
| 14.    | Microbial biomass carbon (microgram kg⁻¹)| 95.36           | Joergenson, 1995 [19]|
| 15.    | USDA Nomenclature                        | Typic Haplaquept| USDA, 1975 [10]  |

Table 2: Characterization of FYM used in the incubation study

| Parameters                          | N (%) | P₂O₅ (%) | K₂O (%) | S (%) | Zn (%) | C/N ratio |
|-------------------------------------|-------|----------|---------|-------|--------|-----------|
| Oxidizable Organic Carbon (%)       | 1.8   | 0.38     | 0.22    | 0.5   | 0.02   | 0.0027    | 18        |

Experimental setup and Methodology
The laboratory experiment was conducted during September-November 2014-2015 under controlled laboratory conditions in Department of Agricultural Chemistry and Soil Science, instate of Agricultural Science, University of Calcutta. Each pot containing three kg soils were incubated for a period of ninety days. Arable moisture level (60% of water holding capacity of the soil) was maintained throughout the incubation study. Loss of moisture due to evaporation was replenished every alternate day by difference in weight. In order to ascertain the effect of added secondary and micronutrients along with NPK fertilizers and FYM, the following six treatment combinations in completely randomized design were adopted. All the treatments are replicated thrice.

Treatment wise soils were applied with N, P and K at 60, 30 and 30 Kg ha⁻¹ as N, P₂O₅ and K₂O through Urea, Single super phosphate and Muriate of potash respectively. Well decomposed FYM was added as treatment material at 1% dry weight basis. Sulphur was applied through elemental sulphur (95% purity) at 20mgkg⁻¹ and Zn was applied through Zn-EDTA (12% Zn) at 10mgkg⁻¹. All treatment materials were added to soil as basal soil on the 1st day of experiment. Samples from each pot were analyzed on the 15th, 30th, 60th and 90th day of incubation study. Soils are analysed periodically for oxidisable organic carbon, available nitrogen, available phosphorus, available potassium, available sulphur, DTPA extractable Zn and Microbial Biomass carbon. Different soil parameters were analyzed statistically following the methods of Walter T. Federar (1927) [20] to study the significance of means among treatments at different sampling stages of incubation study.

Result and Discussion
Organic Carbon
Changes in the amount of oxidizable organic carbon in soil treated with different combinations of inorganic and organic fertilizers are presented in Figure 1. Results revealed that oxidizable organic carbon increased with increase in the period of incubation. The increase in organic carbon is more prominent in organic matter treated systems. As organic matter contains organic carbon, therefore addition of FYM increased the organic carbon content in soil. Highest amount of oxidizable organic carbon accumulated in soil in T₃ closely followed by T₄ treatment. Balanced fertilization increased the proliferation of microbial population and its activities in soil. The death of these microbes enhances microbial biomass carbon which in turn increases the oxidizable organic carbon content in soil (Sarkar, 1997) [21]. The increase in oxidizable organic carbon with the period of investigation particularly at the last stage is due to increase in number of microorganisms. Decomposition of dead cells of these organisms increased the organic carbon content in soil at the later stage of incubation (Premi, 2003) [22]. Earlier works of Abraham and Lal (2003) [23] reported that the percentage of organic carbon in the soil increased due to integration of different nutrient sources. Statistical analysis of the results revealed that the treatments differ significantly among themselves.
Microbial biomass carbon
In general, microbial biomass carbon increased with increase in the period of incubation (Figure 2). The increase in microbial biomass carbon with time is due to proliferation of microbial activities in soil. Results also revealed that addition of organic matter further increased the microbial biomass carbon in soil. This is due to supply of energy rich materials for the growth and activities of microorganisms prevail in soil (Kanchikerimath and Singh, 2001)[24]. Treatment T₅ and T₆ are statistically at par with each other. Results clearly pointed out that biomass carbon was increased within 15 days very sharply and reached a near constant level after 30 days of incubation (Paul and Solaiman, 2004)[25]. In T₆, T₅ and T₄ treatments MBC results showed significant results for all the incubation stages due to balanced fertilization which help to proliferate microbial growth and in turn higher MBC in organic matter added under treatments. Results of treatments and stages of sampling as well as their interactions differ significantly.

Available N
Irrespective of treatments, available N decreased up to 60th (except in treatment T₃) thereafter showed an increasing trend upto 90th day of incubation (Table 3). The effect of added N fertilizer is well marked in all the treatments. The decrease in available N upto 60th day of the experiment is due to consumption of N by the microbial population as well as losses through denitrification and volatilization (Burger and Ventera, 2008) [26]. As there is no plant in the system, exchangeable NH₄⁺ which is consumed by the microbial population and converted to microbial biomass N again comes into available form leading to higher amount of available N in the system ((Kanchikerimath and Singh, 2001)[24].

| Table 3: Influence of inorganic and organic amendments on different soil parameters |
|-----------------------------------------------|
| **Treatments** | **Incubation Period (Days)** | **Av. N kg ha⁻¹** | **Av. P kg ha⁻¹** | **Av. K kg ha⁻¹** | **Av. S mg kg⁻¹** | **DTPA Ext.-Zn mg kg⁻¹** |
|----------------|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| T₁ = Soil      | 15                          | 234.13           | 65.92            | 189.06           | 5.34            | 0.78                     |
|                | 30                          | 245.04           | 64.83            | 187.94           | 5.54            | 0.84                     |
|                | 60                          | 240.34           | 64.33            | 180.64           | 5.68            | 0.87                     |
|                | 90                          | 241.91           | 63.12            | 178.24           | 5.78            | 0.88                     |
| T₂ = Soil +    | 15                          | 245.5            | 81.15            | 220.09           | 6.65            | 0.88                     |
|                | 30                          | 245.5            | 81.15            | 220.09           | 6.65            | 0.88                     |
|                | 60                          | 240.34           | 80.34            | 212.34           | 6.54            | 0.87                     |
|                | 90                          | 241.91           | 80.01            | 209.21           | 6.61            | 0.88                     |

Fig 1: Influence of inorganic and organic amendments on changes in Organic Carbon content (%)

Fig 2: Influence of inorganic and organic amendments on changes in Microbial Biomass Carbon (µg kg⁻¹)
Available P
Irrespective of treatments (except in control), in general, available phosphorus showed an decreasing trend up to 30th day and then slightly decreased up to the last stage of incubation (Table 3). The highest amount of accumulation of available phosphorus on 60th day was due to mineralization of organic phosphorus as well as non-utilization of available phosphorus by the growing crops. The decrease in available phosphorus at the last stage of incubation in some treatments is due to consumption of available phosphorus by the microorganisms and the conversion of available phosphorus into other inorganic and organic form with time (Clark, 1998) [27]. The decrease in available phosphorus at the last stage of incubation in some treatments is due to consumption of available phosphorus by the microorganisms and the conversion of available phosphorus into other inorganic and organic form with time (Antil and Singh, 2007) [28]. The effect of added treatment materials is very prominent in accumulation of available P. Addition of organic and inorganic fertilizers including micronutrients is essential for the proliferation of P-solubilizing organisms in soil (Buurash, 1997) [29], which in turn increased the available P content in soil (Fraser, 1994) [30].

DTPA Extractable Zn
In general, the amount of DTPA-extractable Zn increased with the period of investigation except in control (Table 3). The highest amount of DTPA-extractable Zn was obtained in treatment T4 in all the sampling stages. Dash (2015) [32] stated that interaction effect of Zn with other nutrients is synergistic and higher than S. However, the combined effect of Zn and S was additive. Data are statistically significant with respect to treatments and stages of sampling as well as their interaction.

**Application of research**
The results of the laboratory experiment can be extrapolated under field condition. The results of field experiment may be then implemented in vast area of alluvial soil of West Bengal to raise rice crop with high yield.

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| NPK | 30 | 175.06 | 52.28 | 240.48 | 19.58 | 1.02 |
|-----|----|--------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| 60  | 168.13 | 94.00 | 175.12 | 12.36 | 0.74 |
| 90  | 226.79 | 83.13 | 173.62 | 18.23 | 0.78 |

| T=S|NPK+NPK+ FYM | 15 | 274.73 | 167.38 | 263.41 | 10.22 | 0.98 |
|-----|-------------|----|--------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| 30  | 210.58 | 107.19 | 257.01 | 19.06 | 1.20 |
| 60  | 240.7 | 159.34 | 218.09 | 14.96 | 1.32 |
| 90  | 252.73 | 144.81 | 207.33 | 19.6 | 1.84 |

| T=S|NPK+ FYM+S | 15 | 256.28 | 146.55 | 259.07 | 16.74 | 1.10 |
|-----|-------------|----|--------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| 30  | 203.96 | 132.35 | 205.63 | 33.28 | 1.32 |
| 60  | 194.46 | 157.98 | 224.05 | 28.22 | 1.24 |
| 90  | 237.23 | 160.20 | 182.26 | 26.84 | 1.02 |

| T=S|NPK+ FYM+Zn | 15 | 252.76 | 116.75 | 256.23 | 13.32 | 1.22 |
|-----|-------------|----|--------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| 30  | 194.76 | 97.29 | 218.76 | 25.24 | 1.40 |
| 60  | 185.03 | 172.66 | 205.32 | 24.52 | 1.02 |
| 90  | 261.36 | 157.02 | 218.68 | 23.19 | 2.12 |

| T=S|NPK+ FYM+S +Zn | 15 | 266.4 | 100.69 | 218.83 | 18.55 | 1.56 |
|-----|-------------|----|--------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| 30  | 196.06 | 109.25 | 205.9 | 28.5 | 1.92 |
| 60  | 202.88 | 194.21 | 197.27 | 25.67 | 1.34 |
| 90  | 238.95 | 158.20 | 189.35 | 30.32 | 2.48 |

| SE(Tr x Days) | 4.56 | 2.80 | 0.96 | 0.91 | 0.02 |
| CD (P=0.05) | 12.97 | 7.96 | 2.75 | 2.6 | 0.04 |
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