

REPORT

ON

**ASSESSMENT OF THE ABSORPTION OF
PHOSPHORUS, POTASSIUM AND SODIUM
APPLIED THROUGH PSAP BY MAIZE CROP**

OF

**ISHA AGRO SCIENCES
PVT. LTD.**

(2022)



**MACS-AGHARKAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE
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महाराष्ट्र असोसिएशन फॉर द कल्चिव्हेशन ऑफ सायन्स

आधारकर अनुसंधान संस्थान

(विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग, भारत सरकार के अधिन स्वायत्त संस्थान)

गो. ग. आगरकर पथ, पुणे - ४११ ००४.

Maharashtra Association for the Cultivation of Science

AGHARKAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE

(An Autonomous Body under the Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India)

G. G. Agarkar Road, Pune - 411 004.

PRODUCT TESTING TRIAL

ON

ASSESSMENT OF THE ABSORPTION OF PHOSPHORUS, POTASSIUM AND SODIUM APPLIED THROUGH PSAP BY MAIZE CROP AT MACS- AGHARKAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE, PUNE

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Title of experiment | : | Assessment of the absorption of Phosphorus and Potassium applied through PSAP by Maize crop |
| Objective: | : | 1) To assess the absorption of nutrients through foliage by Maize at various stages of growth |
| Name and address of the sponsorer | : | ISHA AGRO SCIENCES PVT. LTD., PUNE Sr. No. 17/2C, Ashwamedh Bunglow, Ambedkar Chowk, Shahanu Patel School Road, Warje, Pune 411 058 |
| Location | : | Experimental Farm at Hol-Sortewadi, Tal. Baramati, Dist. Pune of MACS-Agharkar Research Institute, G.G. Agarkar Road, Pune 411 004. |
| Duration of the project | : | 2021-22 (One Year) |
| Name of scientist | : | Mr. S. A. Jaybhay |
| Name of Product tested | : | Potassium Salt of Active Phosphorus (PASP) |
| Crop | : | Maize |
| Variety | : | Maize: Gold 1166 (Hybrid) |
| Institute acceptance/ consent letter number | : | 3/478/2021/711 Dated 03/01/2022 |

General Information about the Maize field trial conducted

- | 1. | Location | : | ARI, Research Farm, Hol-Sortewadi,
Taluka Baramati, District Pune. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|------|---|-------|-------|----|---|---|---|------|------|-----|--------|-------|-------|--|--------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 2. | Season | : | Rabi 2021-22 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3. | Crop | : | Maize | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4. | Variety | : | Gold 1166 (Hybrid) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5. | No. of treatments | : | Seven | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6. | Design | : | RBD | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7. | No. of replications | : | Three | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8. | Spacing | : | 2 ft. between rows | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9. | Plot size | : | 3 m x 3 m | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10. | Date of sowing | : | 17/01/2022 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11. | Date of harvest (Pickings) | : | 23/06/2022 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12. | Recommended dose of fertilizer | : | 120:60:40 kg NPK/ha | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13. | Product under testing applied | : | As per treatments given in Table 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14. | Method of application | : | Foliar application at 30, 45 and 60 days after sowing | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15. | Previous crop | : | Soybean | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16. | Soil type | : | Medium black | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 17. | Irrigations given | : | Five | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18. | Initial soil nutrition status (OC%, Available P & K kg/ha) | : | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 12.5%;">PH</th> <th style="width: 12.5%;">EC</th> <th style="width: 12.5%;">OC</th> <th style="width: 12.5%;">N</th> <th style="width: 12.5%;">P</th> <th style="width: 12.5%;">K</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>7.59</td> <td>0.44</td> <td>(%)</td> <td>183.68</td> <td>28.22</td> <td>201.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>(dS/m)</td> <td>0.70</td> <td>kg/ha</td> <td>kg/ha</td> <td>kg/ha</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | PH | EC | OC | N | P | K | 7.59 | 0.44 | (%) | 183.68 | 28.22 | 201.6 | | (dS/m) | 0.70 | kg/ha | kg/ha | kg/ha |
| PH | EC | OC | N | P | K | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7.59 | 0.44 | (%) | 183.68 | 28.22 | 201.6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | (dS/m) | 0.70 | kg/ha | kg/ha | kg/ha | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 19. | Occurrence of diseases | : | Nil | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20. | Occurrence of insect-pests | : | Nil | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21. | Plant protection measures | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | i) Seed treatment | : | Seed treatment with Carbendazim 3 g/kg seed | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ii) Soil application of insecticides/ fungicides | : | Nil | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

- iii) Post emergence application of insecticides/fungicides :
- iv) Sprayer used : HTP Sprayer

Table 1: Treatment wise dose of fertilizers & quantity of fertilizers to be used with time of application.

| Sr. No. | Treatments |
|---------|------------------------------------|
| 1. | T1: RDF + PSAP 4 g /lit. water |
| 2. | T2: RDF + PSAP 6 g /lit. water |
| 3. | T3: RDF + 19:19:19 4 g /lit. water |
| 4. | T4: RDF + 19:19:19 6 g/lit water |
| 5. | T5: RDF + 00:52:34 4 g/lit water |
| 6. | T6: RDF + 00:52:34 6 g/lit water |
| 7. | T7: RDF + Water spray (Control) |

Foliar sprays after 30, 45 and 60 days after sowing (DAS).

Table 2: Quantity of nutrients applied through spray

| Treatment | Dose (g/lit) | Dose (kg/ha) | Quantity of Nutrient (kg/ha) | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------------|------|
| | | | P2O5 | K2O |
| T1: RDF + PSAP 4 g /lit. water | 4 | 2.00 | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| T2: RDF + PSAP 6 g /lit. water | 6 | 3.00 | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| T3: RDF + 19:19:19 4 g /lit. water | 4 | 2.00 | 0.38 | 0.38 |
| T4: RDF + 19:19:19 6 g/lit water | 6 | 3.00 | 0.57 | 0.57 |
| T5: RDF + 00:52:34 4 g/lit water | 4 | 2.00 | 1.04 | 0.68 |
| T6: RDF + 00:52:34 6 g/lit water | 6 | 3.00 | 1.56 | 1.02 |
| T7: RDF + Water spray (Control) | - | - | - | - |

Details of Observations: Biometric observations on plant height, number of cobs per plant and dry matter per plant were recorded on randomly selected five plants per plot. Yield attributing traits *viz.*, yield per plot and biological yield was recorded. Available soil nutritional status of the representative soil sample from experimental plot was determined before sowing. Nutrient absorption was determined by analyzing the plant samples for P, K & Na nutrient and arsenic and lead elemental content and before 30, 45 and 60 DAS and after 30, 45 and 60 DAS, respectively.

TABLE 3: EFFECT ON GROWTH ATTRIBUTES OF MAIZE

Location: MACS-ARI Hol Farm, Baramati, Distt. Pune

Variety: Gold 1166 (Hybrid)

| Treatments | Increase in dry matter content (g/plant) after application | | | Dry matter (g) per plant | | | Crop growth rate | | Relative growth rate | |
|------------------------------------|--|--------|--------|--------------------------|--------|--------|------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|
| | 30 DAS | 45 DAS | 60 DAS | 30 DAS | 45 DAS | 60 DAS | 30-45 DAS | 45-60 DAS | 30-45 DAS | 45-60 DAS |
| T1: RDF + PSAP 4 g /lit. water | 41.00 | 28.40 | 44.67 | 14.37 | 25.05 | 73.23 | 0.712 | 3.212 | 0.0160 | 0.0310 |
| T2: RDF + PSAP 6 g /lit. water | 41.53 | 33.17 | 45.70 | 15.32 | 24.71 | 77.82 | 0.626 | 3.540 | 0.0140 | 0.0330 |
| T3: RDF + 19:19:19 4 g /lit. water | 38.90 | 25.13 | 38.20 | 14.03 | 23.04 | 73.89 | 0.600 | 3.390 | 0.0143 | 0.0336 |
| T4: RDF + 19:19:19 6 g/lit water | 38.63 | 25.47 | 39.20 | 13.42 | 23.29 | 72.85 | 0.658 | 3.303 | 0.0156 | 0.0330 |
| T5: RDF + 0:52:34 4 g/lit water | 37.73 | 25.00 | 41.20 | 12.72 | 23.27 | 72.49 | 0.703 | 3.282 | 0.0176 | 0.0333 |
| T6: RDF + 0:52:34 6 g/lit water | 38.23 | 21.67 | 37.87 | 12.51 | 22.75 | 68.46 | 0.682 | 3.047 | 0.0173 | 0.0317 |
| T7: RDF + Water spray (Control) | 34.43 | 19.43 | 37.07 | 12.07 | 22.55 | 67.49 | 0.699 | 2.995 | 0.0180 | 0.0317 |
| SE m | 1.715 | 1.66 | 1.86 | 0.750 | 0.975 | 2.231 | 0.107 | 0.178 | 0.026 | 0.016 |
| CD at 0.05% | NS | 5.10 | 5.73 | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS |

TABLE 4: YIELD RESPONSE OF MAIZE TO PSAP

Location: MACS-ARI Hol Farm, Baramati, Distt. Pune

Variety: Gold 1166 (Hybrid)

| Treatments | Plant height (cm) | No. of cobs/plant | Harvest index (%) | 1000 Seed weight (g) | Seed yield (kg/plot) | Seed yield (kg/ha) |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| T1: RDF + PSAP 4 g /lit. water | 189 | 1.00 | 26.60 | 336.00 | 9.64 | 10707 |
| T2: RDF + PSAP 6 g /lit. water | 198 | 1.00 | 28.94 | 337.33 | 9.88 | 10974 |
| T3: RDF + 19:19:19 4 g /lit. water | 187 | 1.00 | 25.91 | 321.33 | 9.06 | 10067 |
| T4: RDF + 19:19:19 6 g/lit water | 189 | 1.00 | 27.77 | 328.00 | 9.49 | 10544 |
| T5: RDF + 0:52:34 4 g/lit water | 190 | 1.00 | 25.34 | 327.33 | 9.01 | 10011 |
| T6: RDF + 0:52:34 6 g/lit water | 179 | 1.00 | 26.47 | 340.33 | 8.68 | 9640 |
| T7: RDF + Water spray (Control) | 189 | 1.00 | 27.07 | 313.33 | 8.12 | 9022 |
| SE m | 5.95 | - | 1.023 | 6.66 | 0.336 | 373.97 |
| CD at 0.05% | NS | - | NS | NS | 1.035 | 1151.73 |

TABLE 5: NUTRIENT ABSORPTION (%) BY MAIZE BEFORE AND AFTER FOLIAR APPLICATION

Location: MACS-ARI HoI Farm, Baramati, Distt. Pune

Variety: Gold 1166 (Hybrid)

| Treatments | Phosphorus (%) | | Potassium (%) | | Sodium (%) | | Phosphorus (%) | | Potassium (%) | | Sodium (%) | | Lead (ppm) | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------|---------------|--------|------------|--------|----------------|--------|---------------|--------|------------|--------|------------|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| | 30 DBA | 30 DAA | 30 DBA | 30 DAA | 30 DBA | 30 DAA | 45 DBA | 45 DAA | 45 DBA | 45 DAA | 60 DBA | 60 DAA | | Arse nic (ppm) | | | | | |
| T1: RDF + PSAP 4 g /lit. water | 0.44 | 0.37 | 1.70 | 1.25 | 0.10 | 0.20 | 0.34 | 0.35 | 1.30 | 0.35 | 0.08 | 0.18 | 0.30 | 0.17 | 1.47 | 0.16 | 0.15 | <1.0 | <0.5 |
| T2: RDF + PSAP 6 g /lit. water | 0.44 | 0.34 | 1.42 | 1.13 | 0.08 | 0.13 | 0.33 | 0.33 | 1.48 | 0.33 | 0.08 | 0.15 | 0.27 | 0.16 | 1.40 | 0.10 | 0.10 | <1.0 | <0.5 |
| T3: RDF + 19:19:19 4 g/lit. water | 0.40 | 0.38 | 1.67 | 1.13 | 0.13 | 0.15 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 1.60 | 0.36 | 0.11 | 0.12 | 0.25 | 0.17 | 1.48 | 0.08 | 0.12 | <1.0 | <0.5 |
| T4: RDF + 19:19:19 6 g/lit water | 0.51 | 0.35 | 1.50 | 1.10 | 0.17 | 0.16 | 0.30 | 0.34 | 1.10 | 0.34 | 0.30 | 0.12 | 0.25 | 0.23 | 1.50 | 0.17 | 0.28 | <1.0 | <0.5 |
| T5: RDF + 0:52:34 4 g/lit water | 0.44 | 0.36 | 1.57 | 1.23 | 0.05 | 0.17 | 0.35 | 0.39 | 1.35 | 0.39 | 0.11 | 0.08 | 0.26 | 0.19 | 1.33 | 0.15 | 0.15 | <1.0 | <0.5 |
| T6: RDF + 0:52:34 6 g/lit water | 0.48 | 0.34 | 1.53 | 1.08 | 0.12 | 0.12 | 0.34 | 0.33 | 1.25 | 0.33 | 0.05 | 0.17 | 0.26 | 0.19 | 1.23 | 0.10 | 0.12 | <1.0 | <0.5 |
| T7: RDF + Water spray (Control) | 0.51 | 0.33 | 1.58 | 0.83 | 0.12 | 0.12 | 0.34 | 0.37 | 1.10 | 0.37 | 0.07 | 0.13 | 0.24 | 0.20 | 1.30 | 0.16 | 0.13 | <1.0 | <0.5 |
| SE m | 0.027 | 0.015 | 0.181 | 0.143 | 0.027 | 0.031 | 0.013 | 0.022 | 0.185 | 0.022 | 0.066 | 0.035 | 0.021 | 0.020 | 0.088 | 0.204 | 0.022 | 0.049 | |
| CD at 0.05% | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | |

DBA: Days before application, DAA: Days after application

TABLE 6: NUTRIENT UPTAKE, SOIL NUTRITION STATUS AND NUTRIENT BALANCE SHEET

Location: MACS-ARI Hol Farm, Baramati, Distt. Pune

Variety: Gold I 166 (Hybrid)

| Initial Soil Nutrition Status | | P | | | K | | | Na | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|------------|-------------------|-----------|------------|------------------|-----------|------------|---------------------------------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| | | (kg/ha) | | | (kg/ha) | | | (kg/ha) | | | | | | | |
| | | 28.22 | | | 201.6 | | | 0.32 | | | | | | | |
| Treatments | Nutrient Uptake | | | Nutrients Applied | | | Nutrient Removal | | | Available soil nutrients status | | | Gain/ Loss | | |
| | P (kg/ha) | K (kg/ha) | Na (kg/ha) | P (kg/ha) | K (kg/ha) | Na (kg/ha) | P (kg/ha) | K (kg/ha) | Na (kg/ha) | P (kg/ha) | K (kg/ha) | Na (kg/ha) | P (kg/ha) | K (kg/ha) | Na (kg/ha) |
| T1: RDF + PSAP 4 g /lit. water | 146.69 | 1268.40 | 129.43 | 62.83 | 43.38 | 0.0129 | 335.91 | 1522.08 | 0.0129 | 32.6 | 250 | 0.301 | 4.38 | 48.4 | -0.0190 |
| T2: RDF + PSAP 6 g /lit. water | 130.10 | 1138.33 | 81.31 | 64.24 | 45.08 | 0.0081 | 297.92 | 1366.00 | 0.0081 | 35.5 | 235 | 0.289 | 7.28 | 33.4 | -0.0310 |
| T3: RDF + 19:19:19 4 g/lit. water | 142.27 | 1238.62 | 100.43 | 61.70 | 41.91 | 0.0100 | 325.81 | 1486.34 | 0.0100 | 38.6 | 260 | 0.309 | 10.38 | 58.4 | -0.0110 |
| T4: RDF + 19:19:19 6 g/lit water | 187.45 | 1222.50 | 228.20 | 62.55 | 42.87 | 0.0228 | 429.26 | 1467.00 | 0.0228 | 31.2 | 235 | 0.289 | 2.98 | 33.4 | -0.0310 |
| T5: RDF + 0:52:34 4 g/lit water | 162.40 | 1136.83 | 128.21 | 64.38 | 42.88 | 0.0128 | 371.91 | 1364.20 | 0.0128 | 30.6 | 244 | 0.331 | 2.38 | 42.4 | 0.0110 |
| T6: RDF + 0:52:34 6 g/lit water | 147.57 | 955.30 | 93.20 | 66.58 | 44.32 | 0.0093 | 337.93 | 1146.36 | 0.0093 | 33.5 | 251 | 0.298 | 5.28 | 49.4 | -0.0220 |
| T7: RDF + Water spray (Control) | 143.05 | 929.81 | 92.98 | 62.83 | 43.38 | 0.0093 | 327.58 | 1115.77 | 0.0093 | 41.6 | 215 | 0.289 | 13.38 | 13.4 | -0.0310 |

TABLE 7: Nutrient and element content of soil after harvest

| Representative soil sample | Before sowing | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|------------|--------------------|
| | Arsenic (ppb) | Lead (ppb) | Organic carbon (%) |
| | BDL | 9.50 | 0.69 |
| Treatments | After harvest | | |
| | Arsenic (ppb) | Lead (ppb) | Organic carbon (%) |
| T1: RDF + PSAP 4 g /lit. water | BDL | 12.3 | 0.77 |
| T2: RDF + PSAP 6 g /lit. water | BDL | 8.30 | 0.71 |
| T3: RDF + 19:19;19 4 g /lit. water | BDL | 13.6 | 0.74 |
| T4: RDF + 19:19:19 6 g/lit water | BDL | 10.3 | 0.71 |
| T5: RDF + 0:52:34 4 g/lit water | BDL | 10.28 | 0.64 |
| T6: RDF + 0:52:34 6 g/lit water | BDL | 6.50 | 0.74 |
| T7: RDF + Water spray (Control) | BDL | 11.8 | 0.74 |

BDL: Below detectable level; ppb: parts per billion

TABLE 8: Quantification of phosphorus and potassium removal from soil

| Tr No | Treatments | Initial soil available P (kg/ha) | After harvest soil available P (kg/ha) | P Removal from soil (kg/ha) | Initial soil available K (kg/ha) | After harvest soil available K (kg/ha) | K Removal from soil (kg/ha) |
|-------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| 1 | RDF + PSAP 4 g /lit. water | 28.22 | 32.6 | -4.38 | 201.6 | 250 | -48.4 |
| 2 | RDF + PSAP 6 g /lit. water | 28.22 | 35.5 | -7.28 | 201.6 | 235 | -33.4 |
| 3 | RDF + 19:19:19 4 g/lit. water | 28.22 | 38.6 | -10.38 | 201.6 | 260 | -58.4 |
| 4 | RDF + 19:19:19 6 g/lit water | 28.22 | 31.2 | -2.98 | 201.6 | 235 | -33.4 |
| 5 | RDF + 0:52:34 4 g/lit water | 28.22 | 30.6 | -2.38 | 201.6 | 244 | -42.4 |
| 6 | RDF + 0:52:34 6 g/lit water | 28.22 | 33.5 | -5.28 | 201.6 | 251 | -49.4 |
| 7 | RDF + Water spray (Control) | 28.22 | 41.6 | -13.38 | 201.6 | 215 | -13.4 |

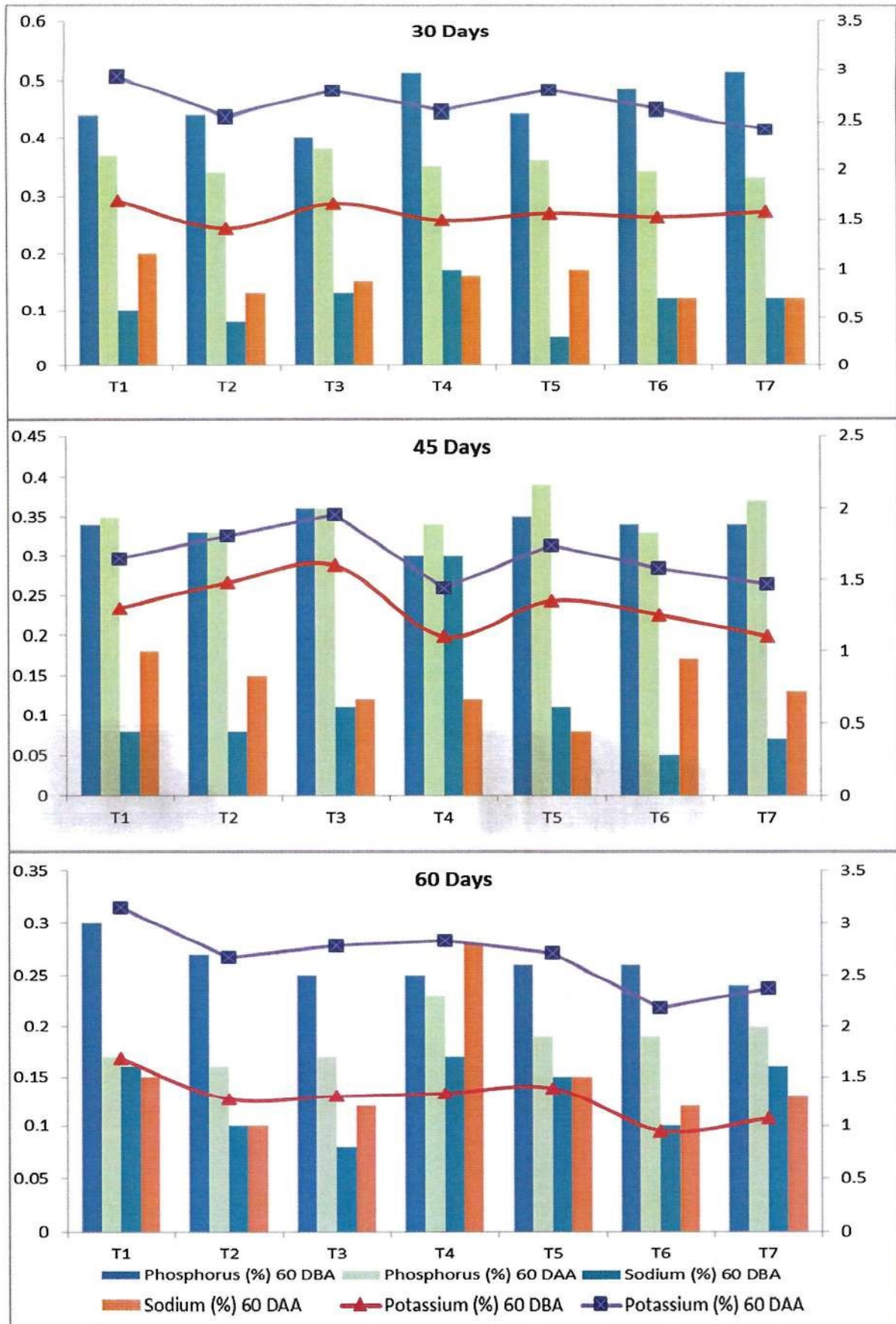
TABLE 9: Phosphorus and Potassium uptake from foliar spray of fertilizer

| Tr No | Treatments | Total P uptake (kg/ha) | Contribution of soil (kg/ha) | P uptake due to fertilizers (kg/ha) | P uptake from soil applied fertilizer (kg/ha) | P uptake due to foliar spray of fertilizer (kg/ha) | Total K uptake (kg/ha) | Contribution of soil (kg/ha) | K uptake due to fertilizers (kg/ha) | K uptake from soil applied fertilizer (kg/ha) | K uptake due to foliar spray of fertilizer (kg/ha) |
|-------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| a | b | c | d i.e. nutrient removal from soil | e i.e. c-d | f i.e. P uptake of T7 | g | c | d i.e. nutrient removal from soil | e i.e. c-d | f i.e. P uptake of T7 | g |
| 1 | RDF + PSAP 4 g /lit. water | 146.69 | -4.38 | 151.07 | 143.05 | 8.02 | 1268.4 | -48.4 | 1316.80 | 943.21 | 373.59 |
| 2 | RDF + PSAP 6 g /lit. water | 130.1 | -7.28 | 130.10 | 143.05 | -12.95 | 1138.33 | -33.4 | 1171.73 | 943.21 | 228.52 |
| 3 | RDF + 19:19:19 4 g/lit. water | 142.27 | -10.38 | 142.27 | 143.05 | -0.78 | 1238.62 | -58.4 | 1297.02 | 943.21 | 353.81 |
| 4 | RDF + 19:19:19 6 g/lit water | 187.45 | -2.98 | 187.45 | 143.05 | 44.40 | 1222.5 | -33.4 | 1255.90 | 943.21 | 312.69 |
| 5 | RDF + 0:52:34 4 g/lit water | 162.4 | -2.38 | 162.40 | 143.05 | 19.35 | 1136.83 | -42.4 | 1179.23 | 943.21 | 236.02 |
| 6 | RDF + 0:52:34 6 g/lit water | 147.57 | -5.28 | 147.57 | 143.05 | 4.52 | 955.3 | -49.4 | 1004.70 | 943.21 | 61.49 |
| 7 | RDF + Water spray (Control) | 143.05 | -13.38 | 143.05 | 143.05 | | 929.81 | -13.4 | 943.21 | 943.21 | 0.00 |

TABLE 10: Effect of PSAP on yield, nutrient uptake and Physiological Nutrient Use Efficiency of P & K in maize

| Tr. No. | Treatments | Grain yield (kg/ha) | Nutrient Uptake (kg/ha) | | Physiological Nutrient Use Efficiency | |
|---------|--------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------|---------------------------------------|------|
| | | | P | K | P | K |
| 1. | RDF + PSAP 4 g /lit. water | 10707 | 146.69 | 1268.40 | 462.9 | 5.0 |
| 2. | RDF + PSAP 6 g /lit. water | 10974 | 130.10 | 1138.33 | -150.7 | 9.4 |
| 3. | RDF + 19:19:19 4 g /lit. water | 10067 | 142.27 | 1238.62 | -1339.7 | 3.4 |
| 4. | RDF + 19:19:19 6 g/lit water | 10544 | 187.45 | 1222.50 | 34.3 | 5.2 |
| 5. | RDF + 0:52:34 4 g/lit water | 10011 | 162.40 | 1136.83 | 51.1 | 4.8 |
| 6. | RDF + 0:52:34 6 g/lit water | 9640 | 147.57 | 955.30 | 136.7 | 24.2 |
| 7. | RDF + Water spray (Control) | 9022 | 143.05 | 929.81 | 462.9 | 5.0 |
| | SE m | 373.97 | | | | |
| | CD at 0.05% | 1151.73 | | | | |

Figure 1: Nutrient Absorption (%) by Maize before and after foliar application



Results:

Effect on growth attributes:

The data on growth and its attributes presented in Table 3. The differences for growth attributes *viz.*, plant dry matter per plant at 30, 45 and 60 days after sowing (DAS), crop growth rate (CGR) and relative growth rate (RGR) at 30-45 and 45-60 DAS were non-significant in various treatments studied. The difference between plant dry matter content before and after application of the treatments at 45 and 60 DAS was significantly high in treatment T2: RDF + PSAP 6 g/lit. water over T7: RDF + water spray (control) and at par with rest of the treatments. Similarly, the plant height at harvest was non significantly different among the treatments.

Effect on yield and its attributes:

Among the yield and its attributes, the differences for number of cobs per plant and 1000 seed weight were numerically similar (Table 4). However, the seed yield was significantly higher under treatment T2- RDF + PSAP 6 g/lit. water (10974 kg/ha) over treatment T7- RDF + water spray (9022 kg/ha) and at par with the treatments T1, T3, T4 and T5. Increase in seed yield of maize in treatment T2- RDF + PSAP 6 g/lit. water was 21.64% over T7- RDF + water spray (control).

Effect of soil nutrition status and nutrient uptake by crop:

The data on the nutrient absorption at 30, 45 and 60 days after sowing by maize plants is presented in Table 5. The values of the nutrient absorption at 30, 45 & 60 DAS and DAA were non significantly different due to various treatments of foliar application. The differences for Arsenic and Lead absorption was observed non significantly different for all the treatments (<1 and <0.5%, respectively). Whereas, nutrient and element content of the soil before sowing and after harvest showed non consistent trend between the different treatments studied. This might be due to the first year of testing.

Nutrient uptake, Soil nutrition status and nutrient balance sheet:

Uptake of nutrients based on the biological yield of maize crop showed the inconsistency among the various treatments and were numerically different over the control (Table 6). Soil nutrient content of the soil after harvest of maize crop has recorded increase over its initial values, hence it turned into the net gain in phosphorus, potassium and sodium in soil.

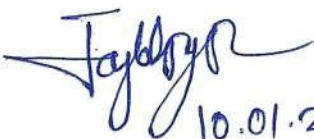
Quantification of the phosphorus and potash removal by plant from soil and its uptake due to foliar application of the fertilizers:

The values for Phosphorus and potash removal by maize from soil (Table 8) were in negative values, as the after-harvest values for the phosphorus and potassium are greater than the initial.

Uptake of phosphorus due to foliar application of fertilizers (Table 9) showed the inconsistent trend among the different treatments studied. Potassium uptake due to foliar application of fertilizers was maximum with treatments RDF + PSAP 4 g/lit of water (374 kg/ha) and RDF + 19:19:19 4 g/lit of water (354 kg/ha) followed by rest of the treatments.

Physiological nutrient use efficiency:

Physiological nutrient use efficiency of Phosphorus and potassium in terms of ability of plant to transform nutrients acquired from fertilizer into economic yield was varying under different treatments (Table 10).


10.01.23
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View of field trial at ARI Hol Farm

