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## Influence of biofortification of zinc and iron on yield and economics of chickpea (*Cicer arietinum* L.)

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### Abstract

The present investigation "Influence of biofortification of zinc and iron on yield and economics of chickpea (*Cicer arietinum* L.) was carried out during Rabi season in 2016-17 and 2017-18 at Instructional Cum Research Farm of IGKV, Raipur (Chhattisgarh). The soil of experimental field was clayey (*Vertisols*) in texture, locally known as "Kanhar" which was low, medium and high in available N, P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and K<sub>2</sub>O, respectively. The experiment was laid out in Split Plot Design with four replications. The experiment consists of two genotypes and six different nutrient levels treatment combinations. It was found significantly difference between both genotypes and all nutrient levels treatment. The chickpea genotype Indira chana-1 was found significantly higher in seed yield, stover yield, harvest index, gross return, net return and B:C Ratio over the genotype Vaibhav during both the years and on mean basis except stover yield (2016-17) and harvest index (2017-18). In all nutrient levels treatment is significantly difference except stover yield during both the years and on mean basis. Treatment RDF (20:50:20) + 0.5% ZnSO<sub>4</sub> and 0.1% FeSO<sub>4</sub> through foliar application in pre flowering and pod development stage recorded significantly highest in seed yield, stover yield, harvest index, gross return, net return and B:C Ratio over all nutrient levels treatment followed by treatment RDF (20:50:20) + Soil application of ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 25 kg/ha at basal and lowest in RDF (20:50:20) (Standard control) during both the years and on mean basis.

**Keywords:** Chickpea, biofortification, zinc and iron, seed yield, economics

### Introduction

Pulse produced on 12-13 percent of global arable land. India is the first in the world production and area contributed around 70 percent to the world production. Chickpea grown over 40 countries. Pulses are important source of proteins and it also constituent starch, vitamin, and minerals. Chick pea (*Cicer arietinum*) is a very important pulse crop in the leguminous family. This light brown coloured pulse is considered to be a good source of protein and is also called by the name of "Garbanzo beans legumes are vital sources of protein, calcium, iron, phosphorus, and other minerals, they form a significant part of the diet of vegetarians since the other food items they consume do not contain much protein (Latham, M. C. 1997). Human nutrition in the developing world (No. 29). Rome: Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Chickpea is the second most important pulse crop after pigeon pea in the world for human diet and other use. Since 1990, a rise in the productivity of chickpea in India has been observed from 614 kg per hectare to 735 kg per hectare. The yield of chickpea was highest in Andhra Pradesh (1615 kg./ha), followed by Bihar (1000 kg./ha), West Bengal (1000 kg./ha.) M.P. (926 kg./ha). U.P. (892 kg./ha) and Gujrat (892 kg./ha.). The yield of other states is below the country average (808 kg./ha.). In Chhattisgarh, chickpea is grown over an area of 366.10 thousand ha and average productivity of 1100 kg/ha (Anonymous, 2016-17).

Chickpea seed has carbohydrate (38-59%), fiber (3%), oil (4.8 to 5.5%), ash (3%), Calcium (0.2%) and phosphorus (0.3%). Digestibility of protein varies from 76-78 % and its carbohydrate from 57-60 % (Hulse, 1991, Huisman and van der poel, 1994). Micronutrient deficiency Zn and Fe is major problem of now days because of use of high yielding varieties, intensive cropping system, inadequate supply of micronutrient and loss of organic matter content by erosion and pollution. Iron involved in chlorophyll and thylakoid synthesis and development of chloroplast and important element for plant growth and development. Zn application influence on synthesis of auxine, nodulation and nitrogen fixation which enhance the plant growth and development of crop and ultimately influence the seed yield (Kasthurikrishna and Ahlawat, 2000). Application of Zn enhance quality and yields of chickpea reported by Khan *et al.*, 2003<sup>[4]</sup>.

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## Material and Methods

A field experiment was carried out at Instructional Cum Research Farm of IGKV, Raipur (Chhattisgarh), during Rabi season in 2016-17 and 2017-18. The experiment was conducted with two main plots of varieties viz., Vaibhav, Indira chana-1 and six sub-plot with treatment viz., T1: Recommended dose of NPK (Standard control), T2: RDF (20:50:20)+ 0.5% ZnSO<sub>4</sub> foliar application at flowering and pod formation stage, T3: RDF(20:50:20)+ 0.1% FeSO<sub>4</sub> foliar

application at pre flowering and pod formation stage, T4: RDF(20:50:20)+ 0.5% ZnSO<sub>4</sub> and 0.1% FeSO<sub>4</sub> through foliar application at pre flowering and pod formation stage, T5: RDF(20:50:20)+ Seed treatment 2g ZnSO<sub>4</sub>/ kg of seed, T6: RDF(20:50:20)+ Soil application of ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 25 kg/ha at basal in sub plots. The data on seed yield, stover yield, harvest index, gross return, net return and B: C Ratio were recorded based on two years and on mean basis were tabulated and statistically analyzed.

**Table 1:** Yields of chickpea as influenced by bio-fortification through foliar supplementation of Zn and Fe (Pooled data mean of 02 years)

Treatment	Seed yield (kg/ha)			Stover yield (kg/ha)			Harvest index (%)		
	2016-17	2017-18	Mean	2016-17	2017-18	Mean	2016-17	2017-18	Mean
Genotype									
Vaibhav	1563.85	1616.10	1589.98	2642.65	2733.62	2688.14	37.17	37.10	37.14
Indira chana 1	1692.47	1742.74	1717.60	2744.03	2800.96	2772.50	38.16	38.30	38.23
CD (0.05%)	82.25	81.82	82.02	NS	56.74	57.58	0.66	NS	1.00
<b>Nutrient levels</b>									
Recommended dose of NPK (control)	1420.00	1450.27	1435.14	2651.83	2719.22	2685.53	34.87	34.78	34.83
RDF(20:50:20) + 0.5% ZnSO <sub>4</sub> foliar application	1680.65	1740.74	1710.69	2795.26	2779.50	2787.38	37.53	38.47	38.00
RDF(20:50:20) + 0.1% FeSO <sub>4</sub> foliar application	1621.38	1668.51	1644.94	2736.41	2764.49	2750.45	37.20	37.62	37.42
RDF(20:50:20)+ 0.5%ZnSO <sub>4</sub> and 0.1%FeSO <sub>4</sub> through foliar application	1743.84	1818.09	1780.96	2614.87	2814.46	2714.66	40.06	39.26	39.65
RDF(20:50:20)+ Seed treatment 2g ZnSO <sub>4</sub> /kg of seed	1599.11	1633.31	1616.21	2785.13	2731.98	2758.55	36.52	37.38	36.95
RDF(20:50:20)+ Soil application of ZnSO <sub>4</sub> @ 25 kg/ha basal (Recommended practice)	1703.98	1765.61	1734.79	2576.57	2794.12	2685.35	39.81	38.71	39.27
CD (0.05%)	84.08	86.05	84.95	NS	NS	NS	1.24	1.28	1.14

**Table 2:** Economics of chickpea as influenced by bio-fortification through foliar supplementation of Zn and Fe (Pooled data mean of 02 years)

Treatment	Cost of cultivation (Rs/ha)	Gross return (Rs/ha)			Net return (Rs/ha)			B:C ratio		
		2016-17	2017-18	Mean	2016-17	2017-18	Mean	2016-17	2017-18	Mean
Genotype	Mean									
Vaibhav	20972	73015.90	74767.16	73891.53	52043.90	53795.16	52919.53	2.48	2.56	2.52
Indira chana 1	20972	78905.03	80523.11	79714.07	57933.03	59551.11	58742.07	2.76	2.84	2.80
CD (0.05%)		3785.80	3707.72	3746.18	3785.80	3707.72	3746.18	0.18	0.18	0.18
<b>Nutrient levels</b>										
Recommended dose of NPK (control)	20557	66551.83	67325.29	66938.57	45994.83	46768.29	46381.57	2.24	2.28	2.26
RDF + 0.5% ZnSO <sub>4</sub> foliar application	20822	78424.51	80423.54	79424.02	57602.51	59601.54	58602.02	2.77	2.86	2.81
RDF + 0.1% FeSO <sub>4</sub> foliar application	20887	75698.28	77138.95	76418.62	54811.28	56251.95	55531.62	2.62	2.69	2.66
RDF+ ZnSO <sub>4</sub> and FeSO <sub>4</sub> through foliar application	21152	81087.55	83889.06	82488.31	59935.55	62737.06	61336.31	2.83	2.97	2.90
RDF+ Seed treatment 2g ZnSO <sub>4</sub> /kg of seed	20607	74745.19	75544.15	75144.67	54138.19	54937.15	54537.67	2.63	2.67	2.65
RDF+ Soil application of ZnSO <sub>4</sub> @ 25 kg/ha (Recommended practice)	21807	79255.45	81549.80	80402.63	57448.45	59742.80	58595.63	2.63	2.74	2.69
CD (0.05%)		3898.37	3867.79	3876.47	3898.37	3867.79	3876.47	0.19	0.18	0.18

## Results and Discussion

### Seed and stover yields (kg/ha)

The data on seed yield, stover yield and harvest index of chickpea genotypes and different nutrient levels treatments during both the years and on mean basis was recorded and presented in Table 1.

Data indicated that chickpea genotype Indira chana-1 was found significantly higher in seed yield, stover yield and harvest index over the variety Vaibhav during both the years and on mean basis except stover yield during year 2016-17 and harvest index during year 2017-18.

Seed yields of chickpea genotype were significantly influence under different nutrient levels treatments. It was recorded that treatment RDF(20:50:20)+ 0.5% ZnSO<sub>4</sub> and 0.1% FeSO<sub>4</sub> through foliar application at pre flowering and pod formation stage has maximum seed yield, stover yield and harvest index compared to other treatments which is par to treatment

RDF(20:50:20)+ Soil application of ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 25 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> at basal and RDF(20:50:20)+ 0.5% ZnSO<sub>4</sub> foliar application at pre flowering and pod formation stage during both the years and on mean basis and the minimum seed yield under treatment RDF(20:50:20) (Standard control). The stover yield was showing non-significant among all nutrient levels treatments during both the years and on mean basis. Highest harvest index was recorded with treatment RDF (20:50:20) + 0.5% ZnSO<sub>4</sub> and 0.1% FeSO<sub>4</sub> through foliar application at pre flowering and pod formations stage which is at par to treatment RDF (20:50:20) + Soil application of ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 25 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> at basal during both years and on mean basis and RDF (20:50:20)+ 0.5% ZnSO<sub>4</sub> foliar application at flowering and pod formation stage during 2017-18. This might be due to zinc application enhance protein and carbohydrates synthesis and their transportation to the site of seed formation. The application of iron sulphate play an important role in

synthesis of chlorophyll and plant growth regulator and also improves photosynthesis and assimilates transportation to sink and finally increases seed yields. Similar results were reported by Mali *et al.* (2003)<sup>[5]</sup>. The treatment RDF (20:50:20) + Soil application of ZnSO<sub>4</sub>@ 25 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> at basal, RDF (20:50:20) + 0.5% ZnSO<sub>4</sub> foliar application at pre flowering and pod formation stage and RDF (20:50:20)+0.5% FeSO<sub>4</sub> foliar application at pre flowering and pod formation stage was at par with treatment RDF (20:50:20)+ZnSO<sub>4</sub> and FeSO<sub>4</sub> through foliar application at pre flowering and pod formation stage. Similar results observed by Anitha *et al.* (2005)<sup>[1]</sup>.

### Economics

The Chickpea genotypes and all nutrient levels treatments wise economic returns were worked out by calculating operating cost of individual treatment. The data on gross returns, cost of cultivation, net return and B:C ratio of chickpea genotypes and different nutrient levels treatments during both the years and on mean basis was recorded and presented in Table.2.

Among chickpea genotypes Indira chana-1 was found significantly higher in gross return and net return and B: C ratio over the variety Vaibhav during both the years and on mean basis.

As regards to different nutrient levels treatments combination of Zn and Fe, the significant variation was found in all treatments. The maximum gross return, net return and B:C ratio was recorded under treatment RDF(20:50:20)+ 0.5% ZnSO<sub>4</sub> and 0.1% FeSO<sub>4</sub> through foliar application at pre flowering and pod formation stage compared to other treatments. However it was at par to treatment RDF(20:50:20)+ Soil application of ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 25 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> at basal and treatment RDF(20:50:20)+ 0.5% ZnSO<sub>4</sub> foliar application at pre flowering and pod formation stage during both the years and on mean basis and minimum under treatment RDF(20:50:20) (Standard control).

Among the various zinc and iron fortification treatments, the treatment T4 treatment (RDF + Zn (0.5%) and Fe (0.05%) foliar spray) registered highest net returns (40960 ₹/ha) and gross returns (57833 ₹/ha) which was followed by treatment T7 (RDF+ seed treatment + Soil application of ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 25Kg/ha and T6 (RDF + soil application of ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 25 kg/ha). However, application of T4 treatment (RDF + Zn (0.5%) and Fe (0.05%) foliar spray) registered its superiority in obtaining highest B: C ratio (2.42) which was followed by treatment T7 i.e. RDF+ seed treatment + Soil application of ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 25 kg/ha) (1.93). Whereas, the lowest benefit: cost ratio 1.15 was recorded with the treatment T1 (Recommended dose of NPK (control) (Kapilashiv Bazgalia and Brij Nandan *et al* 2017).

### Conclusion

On the basis of two years data and on mean basis it concluded that the chickpea genotype Indira chana-1 give higher seed yield, stover yield, harvest index, gross return and net return than genotype Vaibhav. Nutrient levels treatments application of RDF (20:50:20) +0.5% ZnSO<sub>4</sub> and 0.1% FeSO<sub>4</sub> through foliar application at pre flowering and pod formation stage has beneficial influence on seed yield, gross return and net return.

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