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## Evaluation of integrated nutrient management on the performance of quality and yield attributes of hybrid bitter gourd VNR 22 [*Momordica charantia* L.]

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### Abstract

The present investigation was conducted at Fruit Research Station, Lal baugh. College of Agriculture, Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh during summer 2018 to find out the effect of inorganic and organic along with biofertilizers in an integrated manner for yield maximization and quality improvement in hybrid bitter gourd VNR 22. The experiment consisted of ten treatment with three replication, including different level of applications of inorganic fertilizers (Urea, DAP and Muriate of potash), organic manure (FYM) and biofertilizers (Azotobacter and PSB). The results illustrated that the plants treated with 100% RDF of NPK + FYM 5 t/ha + Biofertilizers 4 kg/ha (*Azotobacter* and Phosphate Solubilizing bacteria) has recorded maximum total soluble solids (3.19°Brix), protein content (1.75 %), ascorbic acid (81.35 mg/100g) and shelf life (5.71 days) as well as maximum total fruit yield (5.65 t/ha) and higher benefit: cost ratio (2.99).

**Keywords:** NPK, farm yard manure, biofertilizers, yield, quality, bitter gourd

### 1. Introduction

Bitter gourd or balsam pear (*Momordica charantia* L.) is one of the commercially important cucurbitaceous vegetable crops. Bitter gourd is extensively grown throughout the country for its nutritive value and medicinal properties. India occupies an area of vegetables about 10295 thousand ha with an annual production of 176177 thousand MT. Gujarat occupies an area of vegetables about 643.87 thousand ha with an annual production of 13161.25 thousand MT and bitter gourd is cultivated in an area of 98 thousand ha with a production of 1106 thousand MT, having productivity of 11.28 MT/ha (Anon., 2017) [1]. Unlike other cucurbitaceous vegetables, the bitter fruit flavour of *M. charantia* is considered desirable for consumption, and thus bitter flavour has been selected during domestication (Marr *et al.*, 2004) [4].

### 2. Materials and Methods

The present study was laid out in Randomized Block Design (RBD) with three replications involving ten treatments with three replication at Fruit Research Station, Lal baugh. College of Agriculture, Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh during summer 2018. This experiment includes ten treatments like 100 % RDF of NPK (60 : 60 : 60 kg/ha) (T<sub>1</sub>), 100 % RDF of NPK + FYM 5 t/ha (T<sub>2</sub>), 100 % RDF of NPK + FYM 5 t/ha + Biofertilizers 4 kg/ha (T<sub>3</sub>), 75 % RDF of NPK (45 : 45 : 45 kg/ha) (T<sub>4</sub>), 75 % RDF of NPK + FYM 5 t/ha (T<sub>5</sub>), 75 % RDF of NPK + FYM 5 t/ha + Bio fertilizers 4 kg/ha (T<sub>6</sub>), 50 % RDF of NPK (30 : 30 : 30 kg/ha) (T<sub>7</sub>), 50 % RDF of NPK + FYM 5 t/ha (T<sub>8</sub>), 50 % RDF of NPK + FYM 5 t/ha + Bio fertilizers 4 kg/ha (T<sub>9</sub>), Absolute control (T<sub>10</sub>). Bitter gourd seeds of hybrid variety VNR 22 were sown at a spacing of 1.50 m × 2.0 m. The plot size was 7.50 m × 6.00 m and sowing was done during the summer 2018. Data were taken five plants were selected randomly from each plot and tagged. Quality (TSS, protein content, ascorbic content, shelf life), yield (number of fruit per vine, length and girth of fruit, weight of fruit, yield per plant, yield per hectare) and benefit cost ratio were recorded as per standard methodology.

### 3. Results and Discussion

#### Effect of INM on quality parameters of bitter gourd:

The data presented in (Tables 1). Organic manure, inorganic fertilizers along with biofertilizers effect on quality of bitter gourd. The application of 100 % RDF of NPK + FYM 5 t/ha + Biofertilizers 4 kg/ha recorded total soluble solids (3.19° Brix), protein content (1.75%),

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ascorbic acid (81.35 mg/100g) and shelf life (5.71 days). These findings clearly indicated that INM played a significant role on enhancing the quality of bitter gourd. Which helped in better uptake of NPK nutrients including micronutrients, nitrogen is a major constituent of plant protein, amino acids, chlorophyll and protoplasm. It is also a constituent nucleic acid, phospholipids and more vitamins, all of which play definite role in the physiology of plant and growth which in turn influenced the quality traits in fruit. More or less the above findings are in close agreement with the results of Meerabai *et al.* (2007) [5] and Thriveni *et al.* (2015) [9] (Table 1).

#### Effect of INM on yield and yield attributes of bitter gourd:

Fertility levels had significant response on yield attributes. The application of 100% RDF of NPK + FYM 5 t/ha + Biofertilizers 4 kg/ha produced maximum number of fruits per plant (20.63), highest fruit weight (83.71 g) and fruit yield (5.65 t/ha) (Table 2). The fruit yield depends mainly on the length of fruit, girth of fruit, fruit yield per plant (kg), fruit yield per plot (kg), and average weight of fruit. The highly suitability of INM treatment increased number of fruit might be due to combined effect of organic manure, inorganic fertilizer and biofertilizers which favourably influenced translocation of nutrient to the fruiting nodes results in higher fruiting. The increase in fruit length and girth might have been due to the diversion of photosynthates to reproductive organs and organic manure with biofertilizers provide a production of carbohydrates. In this situations, flow of

assimilates to sink was high and might be a reason of higher fruit length and girth (Prasad *et al.* 2009, Thriveni *et al.* 2015) [9]. Higher yield of bitter gourd in the present study is also related to the influence of luxurious supply of nitrogen, phosphorus, potash, FYM and biofertilizers and their effect absorption which the various physiological and metabolic processes especially protein metabolism. The translocation of these nutrients to the fruiting nodes results in higher fruiting and fruit development and ultimately yield. Similar findings with respect to nitrogen and phosphorus on yield attributes were also reported by Pulak Bhunia Mandai (2009) [7] and Thriveni *et al.* (2015) [9] in bitter gourd, Saravaiya *et al.* (2012) [8] in pointed gourd, Kameswari and Narayanamma (2011) [3] in ridge gourd. Minimum results of yield attributing characters were obtained in control. Thus, the results of the present experiment are in a good agreement with the above mentioned findings (Table 2).

#### Effect of INM on economics of bitter gourd

The gross realization, net returns and benefit: cost ratio was computed for combinations of organic manure, inorganic fertilizers and biofertilizers. It was observed from data that maximum gross realization (₹ 2,26,000), net returns (₹1,69,336), Benefit: Cost ratio (2.99) of bitter gourd crop production in one-hectare area recorded with application of 100 % RDF of NPK + FYM 5 t/ha + Biofertilizers 4 kg/ha. Similar results finding with Bindhya *et al.* (2006) [2] and Prabhu *et al.* (2006) [6] in cucumber and Meerabai *et al.* (2007) [5] in bitter gourd (Table 3).

**Table 1:** Influence of INM on quality of hybrid bitter gourd

| Tr. No.         | Treatments   | TSS (°Brix) | Ascorbic acid (mg/100g) | Protein content (%) | Shelf life (days) |
|-----------------|--|-------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| T <sub>1</sub>  | 100 % RDF of NPK (60 : 60 : 60 kg/ha)                  | 2.60        | 68.87                   | 1.56                | 5.15              |
| T <sub>2</sub>  | 100 % RDF of NPK + FYM 5 t/ha                          | 2.95        | 75.74                   | 1.60                | 5.56              |
| T <sub>3</sub>  | 100 % RDF of NPK + FYM 5 t/ha + Biofertilizers 4 kg/ha | 3.19        | 81.35                   | 1.75                | 5.71              |
| T <sub>4</sub>  | 75 % RDF of NPK (45 : 45 : 45 kg/ha)                   | 1.62        | 67.00                   | 1.22                | 4.59              |
| T <sub>5</sub>  | 75 % RDF of NPK + FYM 5 t/ha                           | 2.81        | 73.04                   | 1.36                | 4.96              |
| T <sub>6</sub>  | 75 % RDF of NPK + FYM 5 t/ha + Biofertilizers 4 kg/ha  | 3.10        | 75.40                   | 1.69                | 5.56              |
| T <sub>7</sub>  | 50 % RDF of NPK (30 : 30 : 30 kg/ha)                   | 1.91        | 62.93                   | 1.22                | 4.31              |
| T <sub>8</sub>  | 50 % RDF of NPK + FYM 5 t/ha                           | 2.70        | 65.14                   | 1.39                | 4.71              |
| T <sub>9</sub>  | 50 % RDF of NPK + FYM 5 t/ha + Biofertilizers 4 kg/ha  | 2.85        | 74.90                   | 1.54                | 5.24              |
| T <sub>10</sub> | Absolute control                                       | 1.74        | 57.31                   | 1.19                | 4.12              |
|                 | S.Em.±   | 0.124       | 2.479                   | 0.083               | 0.221             |
|                 | C.D. at 5%   | 0.37        | 7.37                    | 0.25                | 0.66              |
|                 | C. V.%   | 8.44        | 6.12                    | 9.94                | 7.66              |

**Table 2:** Influence of INM on yield and yield attributes of hybrid bitter gourd

| Tr. No.         | Treatments   | Number of fruits per plant | Fruit length (cm) | Fruit girth (mm) | Fruit weight (g) | Fruit yield /plant (kg) | Fruit yield/plot (kg) | Total yield (t/ha) |
|-----------------|--|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| T <sub>1</sub>  | 100 % RDF of NPK (60 : 60 : 60 kg/ha)                  | 17.06                      | 12.35             | 45.42            | 73.82            | 1.25                    | 11.00                 | 4.20               |
| T <sub>2</sub>  | 100 % RDF of NPK + FYM 5 t/ha                          | 18.08                      | 14.49             | 46.83            | 77.19            | 1.39                    | 12.73                 | 4.32               |
| T <sub>3</sub>  | 100 % RDF of NPK + FYM 5 t/ha + Biofertilizers 4 kg/ha | 20.63                      | 14.87             | 50.82            | 83.71            | 1.72                    | 15.20                 | 5.65               |
| T <sub>4</sub>  | 75 % RDF of NPK (45 : 45 : 45 kg/ha)                   | 16.70                      | 12.20             | 40.53            | 64.82            | 1.08                    | 9.14                  | 3.28               |
| T <sub>5</sub>  | 75 % RDF of NPK + FYM 5 t/ha                           | 17.50                      | 13.82             | 44.86            | 66.42            | 1.17                    | 10.15                 | 3.97               |
| T <sub>6</sub>  | 75 % RDF of NPK + FYM 5 t/ha + Biofertilizers 4 kg/ha  | 18.17                      | 14.39             | 47.49            | 77.89            | 1.41                    | 12.88                 | 4.72               |
| T <sub>7</sub>  | 50 % RDF of NPK (30 : 30 : 30 kg/ha)                   | 13.67                      | 11.13             | 38.23            | 62.78            | 0.85                    | 7.72                  | 2.86               |
| T <sub>8</sub>  | 50 % RDF of NPK + FYM 5 t/ha                           | 15.98                      | 12.13             | 42.12            | 67.55            | 1.08                    | 9.38                  | 3.60               |
| T <sub>9</sub>  | 50 % RDF of NPK + FYM 5 t/ha + Biofertilizers 4 kg/ha  | 18.36                      | 13.40             | 46.03            | 72.91            | 1.33                    | 12.09                 | 4.42               |
| T <sub>10</sub> | Absolute control                                       | 9.89                       | 10.86             | 30.76            | 50.46            | 0.49                    | 4.13                  | 1.67               |
|                 | S.Em.±   | 1.179                      | 0.858             | 2.247            | 3.951            | 0.094                   | 0.605                 | 0.307              |
|                 | C.D. at 5%   | 3.50                       | 2.55              | 6.67             | 11.74            | 0.28                    | 1.80                  | 0.91               |
|                 | C. V.%   | 12.30                      | 11.47             | 8.99             | 9.81             | 13.85                   | 10.03                 | 13.76              |

**Table 3:** Influence of INM on economics of hybrid bitter gourd

| Tr. No.         | Treatments   | Gross realization (₹/ha) | Net returns (₹/ha) | BCR  |
|-----------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------|------|
| T <sub>1</sub>  | 100 % RDF of NPK (60 : 60 : 60 kg/ha)                  | 168000                   | 116896             | 2.29 |
| T <sub>2</sub>  | 100 % RDF of NPK + FYM 5 t/ha                          | 172800                   | 116696             | 2.08 |
| T <sub>3</sub>  | 100 % RDF of NPK + FYM 5 t/ha + Biofertilizers 4 kg/ha | 226000                   | 169336             | 2.99 |
| T <sub>4</sub>  | 75 % RDF of NPK (45 : 45 : 45 kg/ha)                   | 131200                   | 81523              | 1.64 |
| T <sub>5</sub>  | 75 % RDF of NPK + FYM 5 t/ha                           | 158800                   | 105373             | 1.97 |
| T <sub>6</sub>  | 75 % RDF of NPK + FYM 5 t/ha + Biofertilizers 4 kg/ha  | 188800                   | 134953             | 2.51 |
| T <sub>7</sub>  | 50 % RDF of NPK (30 : 30 : 30 kg/ha)                   | 114400                   | 66150              | 1.37 |
| T <sub>8</sub>  | 50 % RDF of NPK + FYM 5 t/ha                           | 144000                   | 93250              | 1.84 |
| T <sub>9</sub>  | 50 % RDF of NPK + FYM 5 t/ha + Biofertilizers 4 kg/ha  | 176800                   | 125770             | 2.46 |
| T <sub>10</sub> | Absolute control                                       | 66800                    | 21404              | 0.47 |

### Conclusion

It is concluded that treatment consisted of 100 % RDF of NPK + FYM 5 t/ha + Biofertilizers 4 kg/ha gave significant effect on quality and yield attributing characters as well as net return. Treatment control was the lowest performer for the results of the said characters. So, keeping view on yield sustainability, balance in ecosystem, soil health improvement and good health of human beings it may be suggested that vegetable growers may supplement through the judicious and efficient use of organic, inorganic fertilizers and biofertilizers alone or in combination.

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