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Crop residue effect evaluation on soil physical and Chemecal properties after harvest of wheat

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Abstract

A field experiment was carried out during rabbi season 2018-19 to find out the effect of crop residue on physical and chemical properties of soil at Agronomy Instructional Farm, Chimanbhai Patel College of Agriculture, Sardarkrushinagar Dantiwada Agricultural University, Sardarkrushinagar. Total eight treatments of different crop residue were tested randomized complete block design. An application of castor shell @ 1.00t/ha + mustard husk @ 1.00t/ha + cumin straw @ 1.00 t/ha improved water holding capacity of soil and reduced bulk density and their by improved soil physical property, where as an application of castor shell @ 2.50 t/ha (T₂) registered significantly highest value of organic carbon, N, P₂O₅ and K₂O.

Keywords: Crop residue, soil physical property, soil chemical property

Introduction

Wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) has been described as “Staff of life or king of cereals” and one of the most important staple food crop. Wheat has its own outstanding importance as a human food; it is rich in carbohydrates and protein. About 35 per cent of the world’s population directly or indirectly depends upon wheat for food and providing 20% of humanity’s dietary energy supply and serving as the main source of protein in developing nations (Braun et al., 2010) [3]. The farmers are using high analyzed inorganic fertilizers to get higher yield of wheat, but continuous and uncontrolled uses of these chemical fertilizers ultimately deteriorate the soil health or physical, chemical and biological properties. Soils which receive plant nutrients only through chemical fertilizers are showing declining productivity despite being supplied with sufficient nutrients. The physical condition of the soil is deteriorated as a result of long-term use of chemical fertilizers, especially the nitrogenous ones. Therefore, integrated nutrient management is highly essential to maintain the soil fertility, productivity and minimize the land degradation and environmental pollution for sustainable agriculture. The incorporation of crop residues can play a vital role in agriculture.

Materials and Methods

A field experiment was conducted on wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) during rabi Season 2018-19 with different crop residues on a loamy sand soil at Agronomy Instructional Farm, C. P. College of Agriculture., S.D. Agricultural University, Sardarkrushinagar. The soil of experiment plot was loamy sand in texture having pH 7.8 and EC 0.11 dS/m. Analysis showed that the experimental soil was low in organic carbon (0.17%) and available nitrogen (159 kg/ha) and medium phosphorus (38.9 kg/ha) and potassium status (270 kg/ha).

Total eight treatments of crop residue like T₁: Control, T₂: Castor shell @2.50 t/ha, T₃: Mustard husk @2.50 t/ha T₄: Cumin straw @2.50 t/ha T₅: Castor shell @1.25 t/ha + Mustard husk @1.25 t/ha T₆: Castor shell @1.25 t/ha + Cumin straw @1.25 t/ha T₇: Mustard husk @ 1.25 t/ha + Cumin straw @1.25 t/ha T₈: Castor shell @ 1.00 t/ha + Mustard husk @ 1.00 t/ha + Cumin straw @1.00 t/ha were tried with Randomized Complete Block Design (RBD) with three replications. The process of decomposing crop residues was started before 180 days prior to the rabi experiment on wheat. The preparation of crop residues viz., each of 300 kg of castor shell, mustard husk and cumin straw were thoroughly filled prior into pre dug pits size of 2.0 × 1.0 × 1.5 m³. The contents were thoroughly mixed overturning it continuously to attain a proper mixer. After mixing crop residues, water was applied periodically at 10 days interval to maintain proper moisture content of 50-60% in the decomposing of crop residues during entire period in pit. The bacterial decomposer consortium was applied @1 lit/tonnes crop residues during preparation of different layers of crop residues in pit. A uniform application of the entire quantity of phosphorus and half dose of N in form of DAP and Urea were manually

applied before sowing of wheat crop in the previously opened furrows as per treatments. After required quantity of crop residues were applied as per the treatment. The remaining half dose of N as per treatments was applied in the form of urea at 21 days after sowing.

Data on soil physical properties i.e bulk density (mg/m^3) and soil moisture content (%) at 21 DAS and 65 DAS and soil chemical properties i.e EC, pH, OC and available N,P and K after harvest of crop were measured.

Result and Discussion

Effect of crop residues on soil physical properties

(A) Soil moisture content (%): Data on moisture content (%) at 21 DAS and at 65 DAS before irrigation as influenced by different treatments were shown significant result. An

application of castor shell @ 1.00t/ha + mustard husk @ 1.00 t/ha + cumin straw @ 1.00 t/ha (T8) registered significantly higher value of moisture content in soil after harvest of wheat. An application of castor shell @ 1.00t/ha + mustard husk @ 1.00 t/ha + cumin straw @ 1.00 t/ha (T8) registered significantly higher value of moisture content (%) at 21 DAS and at 65 DAS before irrigation over the rest of other treatments, but, remained at par with remaining all treatments except treatment T1(control) at 21 DAS and at 65 DAS. The increase in moisture content might be due to application of crop residues add organic matter improve soil physical properties (Table 1) of soil owing to soil aeration and reduced bulk density of soil which ultimately increase moisture content in soil. The similar results reported by Singh and Kaur (2012) [15], Hari ram *et al.* (2013) [6] and Singh *et al.* (2007) [16].

Table 1: Effect of different crop residues on physical and chemical properties of soil

Treatment	Soil physical properties			Soil Chemical Properties					
	Soil moisture content (%)		Bulk density (mg/m^3)	EC (ds/m)	pH	OC (%)	Available nutrient (kg/ha)		
	21 DAS	60 DAS					N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O
T ₁ : Control	4.50	6.71	1.47	0.173	7.69	0.26	157.2	41.33	247
T ₂ : Castor shell @ 2.50 t/ha	5.00	8.10	1.32	0.147	7.42	0.35	189.2	48.82	300
T ₃ : Mustard husk @ 2.50 t/ha	5.04	8.19	1.32	0.170	7.57	0.33	175.2	46.20	297
T ₄ : Cumin straw @ 2.50 t/ha	5.11	8.38	1.35	0.160	7.53	0.30	167.7	44.37	277
T ₅ : Castor shell @ 1.25 t/ha + Mustard husk @ 1.25 t/ha	4.88	7.76	1.39	0.140	7.39	0.32	172.9	44.77	290
T ₆ : Castor shell @ 1.25 t/ha + Cumin straw @ 1.25 t/ha	4.94	7.90	1.34	0.137	7.36	0.27	169.8	44.72	289
T ₇ : Mustard husk @ 1.25 t/ha + Cumin straw @ 1.25 t/ha	5.00	8.07	1.40	0.147	7.54	0.32	165.6	43.72	269
T ₈ : Castor shell @ 1.00 t/ha + Mustard husk @ 1.00 t/ha + Cumin straw @ 1.00 t/ha	5.15	8.52	1.29	0.133	7.35	0.34	172.5	46.53	295
S.Em±	0.11	0.32	0.03	0.009	0.11	0.009	5.27	1.27	10.31
C. D.(P=0.05)	0.35	0.98	0.10	0.03	NS	0.03	15.98	3.86	31.28
C. V. (%)	3.98	7.01	4.15	9.87	2.71	5.21	5.33	4.89	6.30

(B) Bulk Density (Mg/m^3): An application of castor shell @ 1.00t/ha + mustard husk @ 1.00t/ha + cumin straw @ 1.00 t/ha (T8) registered significantly lowest value of bulk density in soil after harvest of wheat. but, it was remained at par with remaining all treatments except treatment T₁(control) and T₇(mustard husk @ 1.25 t/ha + cumin straw @ 1.25 t/ha). The bulk density of soil which is one of the important criteria of physical fertility of soil was affected by addition of organic matter like crop residue. The lowest value (1.29 Mg/m^3) under the treatment T₈ (castor shell @ 1.00t/ha + mustard husk @ 1.00 t/ha + cumin straw @ 1.00t/ha). This might be due to crop residue incorporation positively contributed. This was most probably due to complete decomposition and mineralization of added crop residues in soil with 100% RDF nutrients in addition to improvement in soil physical condition by ameliorating toxic effects of soils. Moreover, soil aeration and pore space capacity might have also been improved due to added crop residues that retained comparatively excess moisture and nutrient availability for a longer time. The findings are in agreement with those reported by Sharma *et al.* (2004) [14] and Lal and Mathur (1989) [9].

Effect of crop residues on soil chemical properties

(A) Electrical Conductivity

An application of castor shell @ 1.00 t/ha + mustard husk @ 1.00 t/ha + cumin straw @ 1.00 t/ha (T₈) registered significantly lowest value of electrical conductivity in soil after harvest of wheat but, remained at par with remaining all treatments except treatment T₁(control) and T₃(mustard husk @ 2.50 t/ha). This might be due to an application of crop residues in soil application improve soil chemical properties as well as crop residues add organic matter in soil which

reduced electrical conductivity of soil. The similar results reported by Beye *et al.* (1978) [2], Yodkeaw and De Datta (1989) and Hope and Burns (1987) [7] in wheat crop.

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(B) Soil reaction (pH)

The data presenting to soil pH as influenced by different treatment was found to be non-significant.

(C) Organic carbon (%)

An application of castor shell @ 2.50 t/ha (T₂) registered significantly highest value of organic carbon content in soil after harvest of wheat. The improvement of organic carbon under this treatment as observed in present study could be due to fact that addition of crop residue increase organic matter to the soil which in turn increases organic carbon content in soil. The results are in agreement with those Sainju *et al.* (2000) [12], Dhinan *et al.* (2000), Karanja *et al.* (2006) [8] and Ogbodo (2009) [10] in wheat crop.

(D) Available N, P₂O₅ and K₂O status in soil

The nitrogen, phosphorus and potash status of soil was significantly influenced due to the effect of various treatments applied in the experiment. The availability of N, P₂O₅ and K₂O was considerably increased (189.2, 48.82 and 300 kg/ha) with the application of castor shell @ 2.50 t/ha (T₂) over rest of the treatments. But, it remained at par with treatment T₃ (mustard husk @ 2.50 t/ha) for nitrogen, treatment T₃(mustard husk @ 2.50 t/ha) and T₈(castor shell @ 1.00t/ha + mustard husk @ 1.00t/ha + cumin straw @ 1.00t/ha) for phosphorus and treatment T₃(mustard husk @ 2.50 t/ha), T₄(cumin straw @ 2.50 t/ha), T₅(castor shell @ 1.25 t/ha + mustard husk @ 1.25t/ha), T₆(castor shell @ 1.25 t/ha + cumin straw @ 1.25 t/ha) and T₈(castor shell @ 1.00 t/ha + mustard husk @ 1.00t/ha + cumin straw @ 1.00t/ha), at par with potassium. Significantly the lowest available N, P₂O₅ and K₂O (157.2, 41.33 and 247kg/ha) was recorded by the treatment T₁ (control).

This might be due to integrated application of 100% RDF along with crop residues (castor shell @ 2.50 t/ha) which accumulated in soil resulting in build-up of nutrients in the soil. Increase in available N, P₂O₅ and K₂O might be due to the direct addition of nutrients through crop residues and greater multiplication of soil microbes, which could convert organically bound nutrients to inorganic form. These findings are in agreement with those reported by Shafi *et al.* (2007)^[13], Ghosh *et al.* (2007)^[5], Bahera *et al.* (2007) and Rezig *et al.* (2012)^[11] in wheat crop.

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