



RESEARCH ARTICLE

ASSESSMENT OF BIOCHEMICAL PARAMETERS IN PADDY SEEDLINGS

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ARTICLE INFO

Article History:

Received 02<sup>nd</sup> March, 2015  
Received in revised form  
15<sup>th</sup> April, 2015  
Accepted 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2015  
Published online 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2015

Key words:

Biochemical parameters,  
Carbohydrate,  
Chlorophyll,  
Protein,  
Paddy.

ABSTRACT

An assessment was done to investigate the effect of farmyard manure, DAP, neem cake and leaf extract on biochemical (viz., chlorophyll, protein and carbohydrate) parameters of paddy seedlings. The biochemical parameters were measured on 30<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> day. The values indicated that the chlorophyll 'a', chlorophyll 'b' and total chlorophyll contents were higher in T<sub>4</sub> on 30<sup>th</sup> day and 45<sup>th</sup> day. Similarly, the protein content was higher on 30<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> day in 0.5 ml extract of T<sub>4</sub> plants. In 1 ml of sample, on 30<sup>th</sup> day, the protein content was higher in T<sub>1</sub> and on 45<sup>th</sup> day, it was higher in T<sub>4</sub>. The carbohydrate content of plants also increased in plants supplied with leaf extracts.

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Citation: Gayathri, V. and Anusuya, S., 2015. "Assessment of biochemical parameters in paddy seedlings", *International Journal of Current Research*, 7, (6), 17260-17263.

INTRODUCTION

Non – leguminous plants like rice, maize and wheat belonging to the poaceae family form staple food for approximately 6.5 billion people around the world. An exponential rise in the world population indicates the need for increased crop production. This rise in production has been a result of the indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers (NPK) in combination with advanced technology. Nitrogen fertilization of non-leguminous crops is one of the most expensive inputs in agriculture (Bhattacharjee *et al.*, 2008). The high-yielding rice variety has resulted in an increase in rice production but requires large amounts of chemical fertilizers, leading to health hazards and environmental pollution. Recently, there is a growing interest in plant growth – promoting rhizobacteria (PGPR) due to their efficacy as biological control and growth promoting agents in many crops (Thakuria *et al.*, 2004; Joseph *et al.*, 2007). The macro and micronutrients in the soil is considered to be most essential for the growth and yield of plant. The plants cannot complete their life cycle without the mineral nutrients that are responsible for the metabolic

functions of the plants (Choudhary and Panda, 2005). The major determinant of the success or failure of a crop production depends on the availability of plant nutrients either naturally/artificially in soil.

The main source to replenish the plant nutrients in agricultural soils include organic, inorganic and bio-fertilizers (Masarirambi *et al.*, 2012). For a sustainable crop production, no single source of plant nutrients can meet the total nutrient requirement. The use of chemical fertilizer in agriculture is increasing and this reduces the fertility of soil by reducing the soil health. Soil health is needed for sustainable crop productivity (Korsaeth *et al.*, 2002).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A study was conducted to assess the effect of different fertilizer and leaf extract on the biochemical parameters of *Oryza sativa* L. var. IR 20.

Collection of various materials

Red soil and clay soil were collected from sundatty village, Kotagiri.

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### Collection of seeds

The paddy seeds (*Oryza sativa* L. var. IR 20) were procured from Department of Grains, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore.

### Farm yard manure

Farm yard manure (FYM) is prepared basically using cow dung. It is highly useful and it improves the fertility of the soil.

### Chemical fertilizer

#### Di- Ammonium Phosphate

Di- Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) is used as a chemical fertilizer. When applied to plant, it temporarily increases the soil pH resulting in increased growth of the plant.

### Organic fertilizer

#### Neem Cake

Neem cake is an organic fertilizer for farms, gardens and lawns. Neem cake is the main product of neem seed kernel and contains natural nutrients. It is a rich source of NPK and other micronutrients. It also acts as a pesticide.

### Collection of *Ocimum basilicum*

*Ocimum basilicum* leaves were collected from sundatty village, Kotagiri.

### Herbal extract

#### *Ocimum basilicum*

The plant belongs to the family Lamiaceae. Basil is a low growing (30-100cm) annual plant. Leaves are taken (fresh or dried) in case of fever, abdominal cramps, gastro-enteritis, nausea and poor digestion. Leaf extracts were taken afresh by grinding the leaves in a mixie and filtering with the help of a muslin cloth.

### Methods

The soil was cleaned by removing stones and other unwanted materials. The red soil and clay soil were mixed in the ratio of 1:1 and filled in pots having 5 kg capacity. A study was conducted to assess the effect of farm yard manure, chemical fertilizer (di-ammonium phosphate), organic fertilizer (neem cake) and leaf extract (*Ocimum basilicum*) on the biochemical parameters of paddy seedlings. The treatments were given at every 2 weeks interval i.e., on 15<sup>th</sup> day, 30<sup>th</sup> day, and 45<sup>th</sup> day after sowing the seeds.

### Treatments

T <sub>0</sub>	-	Control
T <sub>1</sub>	-	FYM
T <sub>2</sub>	-	DAP
T <sub>3</sub>	-	Neem Cake
T <sub>4</sub>	-	Leaf extract ( <i>Ocimum basilicum</i> )

### Biochemical Parameters

1. Chlorophyll - estimated on 30<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> day of seedling
2. Protein - estimated on 30<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> day of seedling
3. Total carbohydrate - estimated on 30<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> day of seedling

The above parameters were estimated by collecting leaf samples at that particular stage of growth. Chlorophyll 'a', 'b' and total chlorophyll were analysed following the method of Arnon (1949). The protein content of the seedlings was estimated using Lowry *et al.* (1951). Carbohydrate content was estimated using Anthrone method of Hedge and Hofreiter (1962)

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the experiment conducted in *Oryza sativa* L. var. IR 20 with farm yard manure, chemical fertilizer (di-ammonium phosphate), organic manure (neem cake) and leaf extract (*Ocimum basilicum*) on the biochemical parameters are given below. The biochemical parameters such as chlorophyll a, chlorophyll b, total chlorophyll, protein and carbohydrate content of the paddy seedlings were analyzed on 30<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> day and the results are tabulated.

#### Chlorophyll content

The maximum chlorophyll 'a' was observed in T<sub>4</sub> on 30<sup>th</sup> day (Table 1) and the value was found to be 8.74 ± 0.01 mg/g. On 45<sup>th</sup> day, the chlorophyll content increased in T<sub>4</sub> and the value was 11.33 ± 0.04 mg/g. The chlorophyll 'b' content was more in T<sub>4</sub> on 30<sup>th</sup> day (4.81 ± 0.03 mg/g). On 45<sup>th</sup> day, the maximum chlorophyll 'b' was found in T<sub>4</sub> and the value was 9.18 ± 0.02 mg/g (Table 1). The highest total chlorophyll content was obtained in T<sub>4</sub> on 30<sup>th</sup> day (Table 1) and the value was 4.40 ± 0.05 mg/g. On 45<sup>th</sup> day again, the maximum total chlorophyll content was found in T<sub>4</sub> and it was 8.22 ± 0.03 mg/g.

Least chlorophyll content was observed in control plants (T<sub>0</sub>) on both 30<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> day. The amount of chlorophyll 'a' was found to be 1.87 ± 0.02 and 4.63 ± 0.02 mg/g. The least chlorophyll 'b' content on 30<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> day was found to be 2.50 ± 0.05 and 4.78 ± 0.04 mg/g. The lowest total chlorophyll content of 2.28 ± 0.01 and 4.24 ± 0.01 mg/g were obtained on 30<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> day respectively in control plants. The observations of the present work agree with the previous findings obtained in other vegetable crops (Arisha and Beadisi, 1999 and Al-Tarawneh, 2005). Abbasniayzare *et al.* (2012) have shown that the use of biofertilizers (NK and Barvai) increases the chlorophyll content in plants.

#### Protein content

The protein content of rice seedlings were measured on 30<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> day (Table 2). The readings were taken by using 0.5ml and 1ml of sample. The highest protein content in 0.5 ml of sample on 30<sup>th</sup> day was observed in T<sub>4</sub> plant and the reading was 8.41 ± 0.04 mg/g, and in 1 ml sample, it was higher in T<sub>1</sub> on 30<sup>th</sup> day and the reading was 9.46 ± 0.06 mg/g.

Table 1. Chlorophyll "a", chlorophyll "b" and "total" chlorophyll content of rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) seedlings (mg/g)

Treatment	Chlorophyll 'a' (mg/g)		Chlorophyll 'b' (mg/g)		Total Chlorophyll (mg/g)	
	30 <sup>th</sup> day	45 <sup>th</sup> day	30 <sup>th</sup> day	45 <sup>th</sup> day	30 <sup>th</sup> day	45 <sup>th</sup> day
T <sub>0</sub>	1.87 ± 0.02	4.63 ± 0.02	2.50 ± 0.05	4.78 ± 0.04	2.28 ± 0.01	4.24 ± 0.01
T <sub>1</sub>	8.27 ± 0.04	7.93 ± 0.01	4.27 ± 0.02	8.60 ± 0.050	3.90 ± 0.03	7.64 ± 0.02
T <sub>2</sub>	6.05 ± 0.02	8.71 ± 0.05	3.12 ± 0.01	8.90 ± 0.03	2.85 ± 0.03	7.94 ± 0.03
T <sub>3</sub>	5.54 ± 0.05	8.36 ± 0.03	3.06 ± 0.03	8.97 ± 0.01	2.82 ± 0.04	7.95 ± 0.05
T <sub>4</sub>	8.74 ± 0.01	11.33 ± 0.04	4.81 ± 0.03	9.18 ± 0.02	4.40 ± 0.05	8.22 ± 0.03
SEd		0.02625		0.02620		0.02625
CD (p<0.05)		0.05475		0.05466		0.05475
CD (p<0.01)		0.07468		0.07456		0.07468

Values are mean ± SD of triplicates

Table 2. Protein content of rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) seedlings (mg/g)

Treatment	30 <sup>th</sup> day		45 <sup>th</sup> day	
	0.5 ml	1 ml	0.5 ml	1 ml
T <sub>0</sub>	1.05 ± 0.07	5.04 ± 0.04	1.36 ± 0.01	1.06 ± 0.02
T <sub>1</sub>	3.25 ± 0.05	9.46 ± 0.06	7.59 ± 0.01	6.20 ± 0.04
T <sub>2</sub>	1.20 ± 0.05	7.61 ± 0.03	1.06 ± 0.03	7.20 ± 0.02
T <sub>3</sub>	6.02 ± 0.08	4.60 ± 0.02	2.31 ± 0.01	4.80 ± 0.01
T <sub>4</sub>	8.41 ± 0.04	7.04 ± 0.04	8.80 ± 0.05	7.40 ± 0.05
SEd			0.03350	
CD (p<0.05)			0.06771	
CD (p<0.01)			0.09060	

Values are mean ± SD of triplicates

Table 3. Carbohydrate content of rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) seedlings (mg/g)

Treatment	30 <sup>th</sup> day		45 <sup>th</sup> day	
	0.5 ml	1 ml	0.5 ml	1 ml
T <sub>0</sub>	8.00 ± 1.00	11.33 ± 1.53	16.33 ± 1.53	42.67 ± 2.08
T <sub>1</sub>	34.33 ± 1.53	60.00 ± 1.00	46.33 ± 1.53	80.67 ± 2.08
T <sub>2</sub>	12.33 ± 2.52	26.67 ± 5.86	35.00 ± 3.61	44.00 ± 2.00
T <sub>3</sub>	38.00 ± 1.00	68.33 ± 1.53	54.33 ± 2.52	72.67 ± 3.06
T <sub>4</sub>	48.33 ± 1.53	94.00 ± 2.00	86.67 ± 3.06	104.33 ± 3.51
SEd			2.03852	
CD (p<0.05)			4.12009	
CD (p<0.01)			5.51311	

Values are mean ± SD of triplicates

On 45<sup>th</sup> day, the protein content increased in T<sub>4</sub> in both (0.5ml and 1ml) sample and the values were found to be 8.80 ± 0.05 and 7.40 ± 0.05 mg/g respectively. The lower protein content was observed in control plant on 30<sup>th</sup> day in 0.5ml of sample and the reading was 1.05 ± 0.07 mg/g. In 1ml sample, minimum protein content was found in T<sub>3</sub> on 30<sup>th</sup> day and the reading was 4.60 ± 0.02 mg/g. On 45<sup>th</sup> day, the protein content decreased in T<sub>2</sub> in 0.5ml and it was 1.06 ± 0.03 mg/g. The minimum protein content of 1.06 ± 0.02 mg/g was obtained in control plants on 45<sup>th</sup> day in 1ml sample. Experiment in chick pea by Mohammadi *et al.* (2010) reveals that application of green manure increases the protein content of the seed. In *Amaranthus dubius*, Manoharan *et al.* (2011) showed an increase in the amount of carbohydrate and protein content in plant treated with cyanospray compared to other treatments.

### Carbohydrate content

The carbohydrate content on 30<sup>th</sup> as well as 45<sup>th</sup> day was higher in T<sub>4</sub> plants in both 0.5ml and 1ml sample (Table 3) and the (30<sup>th</sup> day) values were found to be 48.33 ± 1.53 and 94.00 ± 2.00 on 30<sup>th</sup> day and 86.67 ± 3.06 and

104.33 ± 3.51mg/g on 45<sup>th</sup> day respectively. Minimum carbohydrate content was shown by control plants on 30<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> day. The readings were observed to be 8.00 ± 1.00 and 11.33 ± 1.53 mg/g on 30<sup>th</sup> day and 16.33 ± 1.53 and 42.67 ± 2.08 mg/g on 45<sup>th</sup> day. Rajula and Padmadevi (2000) has recorded an increase in biochemical parameters like chlorophyll, protein and carbohydrate in *Helianthus annuus* L. by the use of cyanopith and cyanospray. To reduce carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, farmers should be encouraged to discard organic waste instead of burning and also they should be trained to use organic fertilizers instead of chemical fertilizers. The application of organic fertilizer in agriculture, particularly, in paddy field farming, would prevent pollution and conserve the environment. The use of nitrogen, the main nutrient element in crop growth, tends to be inefficient. A great deal of applied nitrogen is lost by leaching, volatilization and other natural processes. This is not only wasteful, but burdens the natural environment with excessive nitrogen. The problem is particularly marked in paddy fields, since nitrogen losses are high under flooded conditions. The nutrient retaining capacity of the soil is less when the soil lacks organic matter.

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