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## Response of integrated nutrient management on soil health and yield of mustard (*Brassica juncea* L.) var. Varuna

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### Abstract

An experiment titled "Response of integrated nutrient management on soil health and yield of mustard (*Brassica juncea* L.) var. varuna" was carried out, research farm of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, NAI, SHUATS, Prayagraj. The experiment was conducted with nine treatments (T<sub>1</sub>: RDF NPK 100% + PM @ 2t ha<sup>-1</sup> + Sulphur @ 15 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>, T<sub>2</sub>: RDF NPK 100% + PM @ 2t ha<sup>-1</sup> + Sulphur @ 30 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>, T<sub>3</sub>: RDF NPK 100% + PM @ 2t ha<sup>-1</sup> + Sulphur @ 45 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>, T<sub>4</sub>: RDF NPK 100% + PM @ 5t ha<sup>-1</sup> + Sulphur @ 15 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>, T<sub>5</sub>: RDF NPK 100% + PM @ 5t ha<sup>-1</sup> + Sulphur @ 30 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>, T<sub>6</sub>: RDF NPK 100% + PM @ 5t ha<sup>-1</sup> + Sulphur @ 45 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>, T<sub>7</sub>: RDF NPK 100% + PM @ 7.5t ha<sup>-1</sup> + Sulphur @ 15 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>, T<sub>8</sub>: RDF NPK 100% + PM @ 7.5t ha<sup>-1</sup> + Sulphur @ 30 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>, T<sub>9</sub>: RDF NPK 100% + PM @ 7.5t ha<sup>-1</sup> + Sulphur @ 45 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) in a randomized block design with three replication of each treatment. Before harvesting, measurements of growth parameters (plant height, number of leaves per plant) were made at intervals of 30, 60, and 120 days after sowing (DAS). The number of siliqua per plant, the length of the siliqua (cm), the number of grains per siliqua, the 1000 seed weight (gm), the grain yield (q/ha), the stover yield (q/ha), and the harvest index (%) were all recorded after the harvest. According to the findings, there was an improvement in yield and yield characteristics when RDF NPK 100% + PM @ 7.5t ha<sup>-1</sup> + Sulphur @ 45 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> (T<sub>9</sub>) combinations were applied.

**Keywords:** Mustard, integrated nutrient management, poultry manure, NPK, soil health, growth and yield of mustard etc.

### Introduction

Soil health has been defined as the "the continued capacity of soil to function as a vital living system, within ecosystem and land-use boundaries, to sustain biological productivity, promote the quality of air and water environments, and maintain plant, animal, and human health".

Soil health is the capacity of soil to function as a living system, with ecosystem and land use boundaries, to sustain plant and animal productivity, maintain or enhance water and air quality, and promote plant and animal health. Healthy soils maintain a diverse community of soil organisms that help to control plant disease, insect and weed pests, form beneficial symbiotic associations with plant roots; recycle essential plant nutrients; improve soil structure with positive repercussions for soil water and nutrient holding capacity, and ultimately improve crop production" (FAO 2008) [7]. To this definition one might want to add an ecosystem perspective: A healthy soil does not pollute its environment and does contribute to mitigating climate change by maintaining or increasing its carbon content.

### Soil physical component

There are biological, chemical, and physical components to soil. The well-researched physical components of soil are made up of minerals and rocks that have crumbled into tiny sand, silt, and clay particles over time. These substances are routinely measured in order to categorize the soil's texture. The coarsest material in a soil sample, sand has gritty particles that are plainly visible or felt. It ranges in size from 50 µm (microns) to 2 mm. The size of silt particles ranges from 2 to 50 µm, whereas clay particles are much smaller, measuring less than 2 µm.

The US Soil Texture Triangle illustrates the relative amounts of sand, silt, and clay that define the soil textural classification. The arrangement of textures of soil is dictated by the processes involved in soil formation, which are controlled by variables such as temperature, time, topography, living things, and the parent material-such as the underlying rock. Limestone is a common parent material in southeast Kansas. Erosion is the source of some soils. Alluvial (water-borne) and loess (wind-blown) soils are created when dirt is carried by wind and water and deposits it in new locations. There are 20-50% sand, 75-90% silt, and 0-30% clay in a silt loam soil. As opposed to this, a silty clay loam has 60-70% sand and 0-20% clay, and 25-40% silt.

### Soil Chemical Component

In addition to the mineral elements of the soil, other components of the soil, particularly the biological components, significantly influence the chemical and physical composition of the soil. A significant portion of the soil is made up of plant roots, soil microorganisms (fungi and bacteria), and decomposing plants, which all contribute to the soil's structure. A well-structured soil will provide stable aggregates that make it simple for rainwater to penetrate. Water will be held in the soil aggregates and then released to increase plant availability. Although till- ageing initially expands the pore space in the soil, it breaks apart soil aggregates, interferes with the networks of fungal hyphae and plant roots, and decreases the amount of available soil space. organic materials.

This loss of soil structure leads to increased compaction of tilled soils over time. On the other hand, no-till farming produces soils with stable aggregates, boosts the amount of organic matter in the soil, and protects the fungal and plant networks. Water is easily absorbed by organic matter, which includes soil organisms and plant debris, and is stored until plant roots require it.

More soil organic matter increases the ability of the soil to absorb rain water rather than having it run off. As the organic matter in the soil increases, the plant-available water also increases. It has been estimated that for every 1% increase in soil organic matter, the plant-available water in the soil increases by more than 20,000 gallons per acre (NRCS, 2013; Bryant, 2015) [12, 3].

### Soil Biological Component

The biological component of soil is the last element that is essential to its whole productive potential to support a "vital living ecosystem." The elements influencing soil biology and their significance for soil health are becoming increasingly clear to us. The soil's flora, fauna, insects, nematodes, arthropods, bacteria, fungus, and protozoa are all considered to be a part of the biological component. One crucial aspect of soil health is the biological community. Much of the biological community in the soil may be viewed, including earthworms, even if much of it is too small to be seen without magnification. The majority of the nutrient and water recycling and transport that takes place in this microscopic community, known as the microbiome, Measuring biological activity in soil is more difficult than measuring physical or chemical properties. According to Hsiao *et al.*, (2018) [8], microbial activity varies depending on the type of production system. For example, soils from cultivated fields have a nearly tenfold lower microbial

biomass than soils from hay meadows. An increase in enzyme activity within the clay layer (>12 inches depth in the soil profile) indicated that the grasses were also more active at lower soil profiles. Grass builds intricate networks in the soil by Ecosystems can more effectively utilize a larger portion of the soil profile, drawing in more water and nutrients for plant growth (K-STATE).

### INM

Most of the rapeseed mustard varieties grown in India contain high glucosinolates (4.0-13.0%) which adversely affect palatability due to its pungent smell. The usual effect of nitrogen fertilizer on the glucosinolate content of rapeseed is to depress it (Zhao *et al.*, 1993 and Wetter *et al.*, 1970) [21, 18]. In summary, integrated use of 100% recommended fertilizer dose with organic sources of nutrient gives higher number of branches/plants, number of siliquae/branches, seeds/siliqua and seed yield of mustard, beside higher content of Palmitic acid, Oleic acid, Linoleic acid, Linolenic acid, Eicosenoic acid and Erucic acid and lower content of Glucosinolate than the application of chemical fertilizers alone.

The oil content was decreased with increase in fertilizer levels while further increase was recorded with addition of organic sources of nutrient supply in addition to fertilizers. These results are in close conformity with the findings of Prasad (2000) [15] and Kandpal (2001) [10]. Wither (1992) [20] and Tomar *et al.*, (1992) [17] observed increase in protein content and decrease in oil content with successive increase in NPK fertilization. This may be due to the fact that the availability of nitrogen increases the proportion of protein substances in the seed leaving a potential deficiency of carbohydrates to be degraded to acetyl Co-A for the synthesis of fatty acids.

### Production status

The estimated area, production and yield of rapeseed-mustard in the world was 36.59 million hectares (mha), 72.37 million tonnes (mt) and 1980 kg / ha, respectively, during 2018-19. Globally, India account for 19.8% and 9.8% of the total acreage and production (USDA). During the last eight years, there has been a considerable increase in productivity from 1840 kg/ha in 2010-11 to 1980 kg/ha in 2018-19 and production has also increased from 61.64 m t in 2010-11 to 72.42 m t in 2018-19.

Rapeseed-mustard crops in India are grown in diverse agro climatic conditions ranging from north-eastern / north western hills to down south under irrigated/rainfed, timely/late sown, saline soils and mixed cropping. Indian mustard accounts for about 75-80% of the 6.23 m ha under these crops in the country during 2018-19 crop season.

### Poultry manure

Poultry manure is rich in N and the nutrient value of the manure is reduced by loss of N through ammonia volatilization and denitrification. Good quality poultry manure can be obtained by mixing the poultry waste with selective carbonaceous material such as coirpith and inoculation with suitable microorganism. It can be used as an eco-friendly technique for the conversion of poultry waste into valuable compost.

It has nitrogen (4.55 to 5.46%), phosphorus (2.46 to 2.82%), potassium (2.02 to 2.32%), calcium (4.52 to 8.15%), magnesium (0.52 to 0.73%) and appreciable quantities of

micronutrients like Cu, Zn, Fe, Mn etc. In addition to this cellulose (2.26 to 3.62%), hemicelluloses (1.89 to 2.77%) and lignin (1.07 to 2.16%) are also present in poultry waste. These components upon microbial action can be converted to value added compost with high nutrient status. In poultry droppings, nearly 60% of nitrogen which is present as uric acid and urea is lost through ammonia volatilization by hydrolysis. This loss of nitrogen reduces the agronomic value of the product, besides causing atmospheric pollution. Composting with amendment seems promising in conservation of nitrogen in poultry droppings.

### Methodology

The detailed treatment combination was shown in Table 1 and field experiment has been conducted during the rabi season 2024 central research farm of department of soil science and agricultural chemistry, Naini Agricultural Institute, Prayagraj (Allahabad) 211 007, (U.P.), located at 25°24'30" North latitude 81°51'10" East longitude and 98m above mean sea level. Representing the Agro-ecological sub region [North Alluvium plain zone (0-1% slop)] and Agro-climatic zone (Upper gangetic plain region). "Argo climatically, Prayagraj district represents the subtropical belt of the South East of (U.P.), and is endowed with extremely hot summer and fairly cold winter. The maximum temperature of the location ranges between 46°C and seldom falls below 4°C-5°C. The relative humidity ranges between 20-94%. The average rainfall of this area is

around 1100mm annually". The soil samples will be randomly collected from one site in the experiment plot prior to tillage operation from a depth of 0-15 cm. The volume of the soil sample will be reduced by conning and quartering the composites soil sample will be air dried and passed through a 2 mm sieve by way of preparing the sample for physical and chemical analyses. Soil physical analysis is done after post-harvest operation. After 60 days crop harvest soil sample was collected from field. Physical properties textural class, soil colour, bulk density  $Mg\ m^{-3}$ , particle density  $Mg\ m^{-3}$ , pore space%, water holding capacity% were analysed. Soil chemical analysis is done after post-harvest operation were following, pH, EC  $dS\ m^{-1}$ , organic carbon%, available N  $kg\ ha^{-1}$ , P  $kg\ ha^{-1}$ , K  $kg\ ha^{-1}$  the trial was laid out in a randomized block design with three replications; plot size was 2 x 1 m for crop seed rate is 4-6  $kg\ ha^{-1}$

**Table 1:** Particular of the treatment combination for mustard

S. No.	Treatments	Dosage	Symbol
1.	Level of N.P.K.	N, P, K, @ 100%	L <sub>1</sub>
2.	Level of Poultry manure	PM @ 2.5 t ha <sup>-1</sup>	P <sub>1</sub>
		PM @ 5 t ha <sup>-1</sup>	P <sub>2</sub>
		PM @ 7.5 t ha <sup>-1</sup>	P <sub>3</sub>
3.	Level of Sulphur	S @ 15 kg ha <sup>-1</sup>	S <sub>1</sub>
		S @ 30kg ha <sup>-1</sup>	S <sub>2</sub>
		S @ 45 kg ha <sup>-1</sup>	S <sub>3</sub>

**Table 2:** Treatment Combination for Mustard

S. No.	Treatment combination	Symbol
T <sub>1</sub>	RDF NPK @100%+ PM @ 2 t ha <sup>-1</sup> + Sulphur @15 kg ha <sup>-1</sup>	L <sub>1</sub> P <sub>1</sub> S <sub>1</sub>
T <sub>2</sub>	RDF NPK @100%+ PM @ 2 t ha <sup>-1</sup> + Sulphur @30 kg ha <sup>-1</sup>	L <sub>1</sub> P <sub>1</sub> S <sub>2</sub>
T <sub>3</sub>	RDF NPK @100%+ PM @ 2 t ha <sup>-1</sup> + Sulphur @45 kg ha <sup>-1</sup>	L <sub>1</sub> P <sub>1</sub> S <sub>3</sub>
T <sub>4</sub>	RDF NPK @100%+ PM @ 5 t ha <sup>-1</sup> + Sulphur @15 kg ha <sup>-1</sup>	L <sub>1</sub> P <sub>2</sub> S <sub>1</sub>
T <sub>5</sub>	RDF NPK @100%+ PM @ 5 t ha <sup>-1</sup> + Sulphur @30 kg ha <sup>-1</sup>	L <sub>1</sub> P <sub>2</sub> S <sub>2</sub>
T <sub>6</sub>	RDF NPK @100%+ PM @ 5 t ha <sup>-1</sup> + Sulphur @45 kg ha <sup>-1</sup>	L <sub>1</sub> P <sub>2</sub> S <sub>3</sub>
T <sub>7</sub>	RDF NPK @100%+ PM @ 7.5t ha <sup>-1</sup> + Sulphur @15 kg ha <sup>-1</sup>	L <sub>1</sub> P <sub>3</sub> S <sub>1</sub>
T <sub>8</sub>	RDF NPK @100%+ PM @ 7.5 t ha <sup>-1</sup> + Sulphur @30 kg ha <sup>-1</sup>	L <sub>1</sub> P <sub>3</sub> S <sub>2</sub>
T <sub>9</sub>	RDF NPK @100%+ PM @ 7.5 t ha <sup>-1</sup> + Sulphur @45 kg ha <sup>-1</sup>	L <sub>1</sub> P <sub>3</sub> S <sub>3</sub>

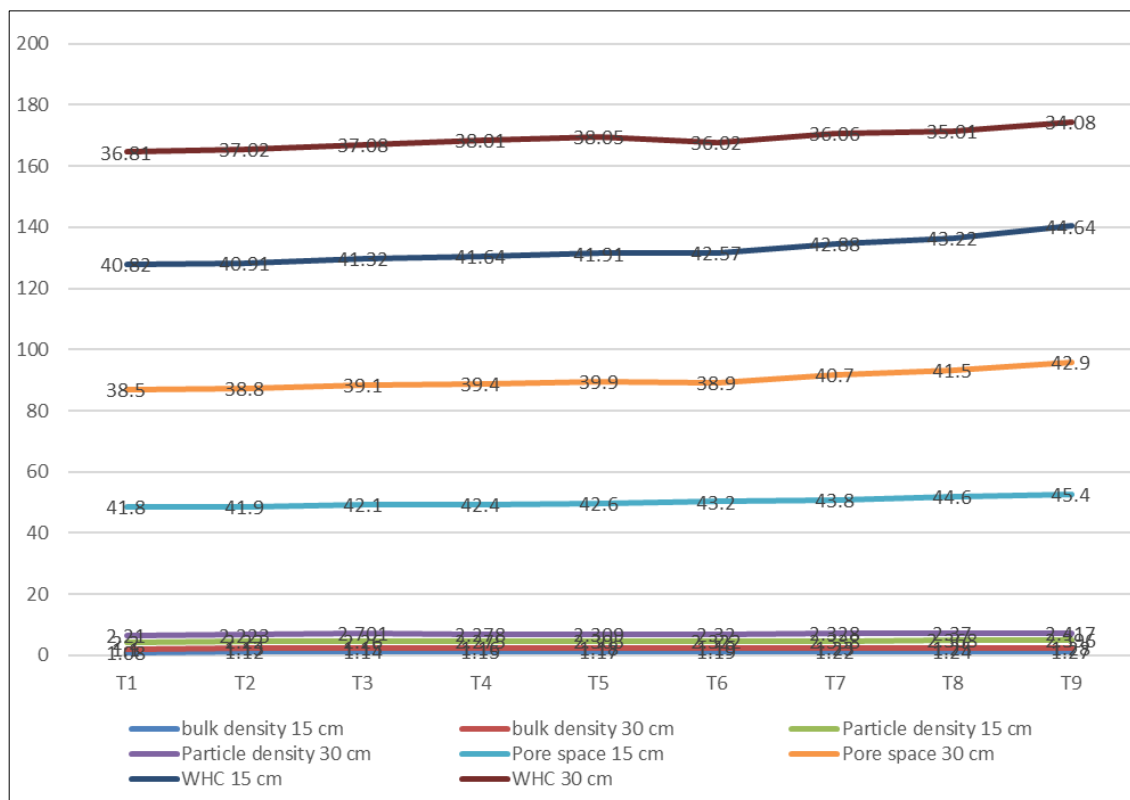
### Results and Discussion

As reported in table 3 composition of N, P, K, S, and Poultry manure have significant increase on the soil parameters. The increase of pore space%, water holding capacity%, organic carbon, available nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, with the improvement of soil parameters, table 2 Revealed that application of different levels of Poultry manure and N, P, K have following effect on soil. In treatment T<sub>1</sub> lowest data observed particle density 2.20 and 2.21  $Mg\ m^{-3}$ , pore space 41.8 and 38.5%, water holding capacity 40.82 and 36.81% and T<sub>9</sub> shows the highest particle density 2.396 and 2.417  $Mg\ m^{-3}$ , pore space 45.4% and 42.9%, water holding capacity 44.64% and 34.08% at 0-15cm and 15-30cm depth of soil respectively. Also, in table 3. Shown bulk density with highest in T<sub>9</sub> is

1.08 and 1.10 with lowest in T<sub>1</sub> 1.08 and 1.10 respectively in 0-15cm and 15-30 cm depth of soil. Table 4. shown that in Treatment T<sub>1</sub> have highest pH 7.5 and 7.3 and T<sub>9</sub> have lowest pH 6.7 and 6.2, T<sub>9</sub> have highest EC 0.80 and 0.78  $dS\ m^{-1}$ , T<sub>9</sub> have highest organic carbon 0.46 and 0.39%, nitrogen 240.23 and 225.2  $kg\ ha^{-1}$ , phosphorus 34.58 and 22.73  $kg\ ha^{-1}$ , Potassium 259.9 and 258.12  $kg\ ha^{-1}$  and Sulphur 37.4  $kg\ ha^{-1}$  36.4  $kg\ ha^{-1}$  T<sub>9</sub> have highest amount of fertilizer and parameters result The T<sub>9</sub> treatment is found to be best, followed by T<sub>8</sub> and T<sub>7</sub>, as depicted by their respective physical and chemical properties. The application of N, P, K, S, and poultry manure eventually proves to have a positive impact on the soil, helping to maintain its fertility. T<sub>1</sub> demonstrates the least effect on soil parameters among the treatments.

**Table 2:** Effect of different level of N, P, K, S and poultry manure on Bd Pd Pore space and Water Holding Capacity post-harvest soil

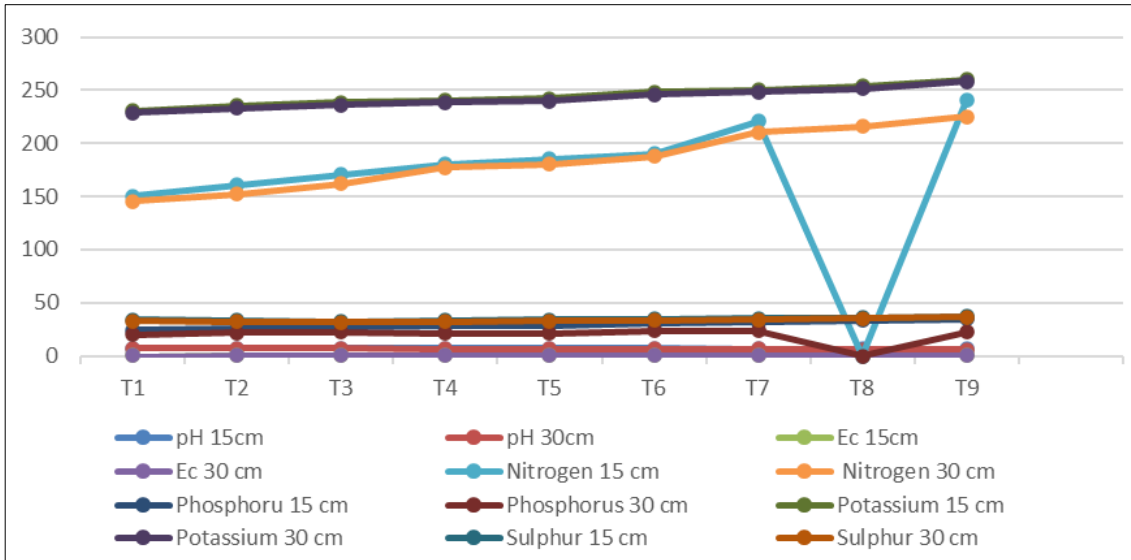
Treatments	Bulk density (Mg m <sup>-3</sup> )		Particle density (Mg m <sup>-3</sup> )		Pore space (%)		Water holding capacity (%)	
	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	0-15 cm	15-30 cm	0-15 cm	15-30 cm
T <sub>1</sub>	1.08	1.10	2.20	2.21	41.8	38.5	40.82	36.81
T <sub>2</sub>	1.12	1.13	2.220	2.223	41.9	38.8	40.91	37.02
T <sub>3</sub>	1.14	1.15	2.260	2.701	42.1	39.1	41.32	37.08
T <sub>4</sub>	1.15	1.16	2.275	2.278	42.4	39.4	41.64	38.01
T <sub>5</sub>	1.17	1.18	2.305	2.309	42.6	39.9	41.91	38.05
T <sub>6</sub>	1.19	1.19	2.322	2.320	43.2	38.9	42.57	36.02
T <sub>7</sub>	1.22	1.23	2.338	2.328	43.8	40.7	42.88	36.06
T <sub>8</sub>	1.24	1.25	2.368	2.370	44.6	41.5	43.22	35.01
T <sub>9</sub>	1.27	1.28	2.396	2.417	45.4	42.9	44.64	34.08
F-test	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
S. Em. (±)	0.13	0.01	0.01	0.07	0.11	0.11	0.36	0.18
C.D.@%	0.28	0.01	0.01	0.15	0.24	0.8	0.77	0.39



**Fig 1:** Effect of N, P, K, and poultry manure bulk density, particle density, pore space, water holding capacity on post-harvest soil

**Table 3:** Effect of different level of N, P, K, S and poultry manure on chemical Nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and Sulphur on post-harvest soil

Treatment	pH		EC dS m <sup>-1</sup>		Nitrogen kg ha <sup>-1</sup>		Phosphorus kg ha <sup>-1</sup>		Potassium kg ha <sup>-1</sup>		Sulphur kg ha <sup>-1</sup>	
	15cm	30cm	15cm	30cm	15cm	30cm	15cm	30cm	15cm	30cm	15cm	30cm
T <sub>1</sub>	7.5	7.3	0.56	0.55	150.20	145.3	24.60	20.14	230.3	228.5	34	33.2
T <sub>2</sub>	7.4	7.2	0.60	0.58	160.53	152.4	25.70	21.95	235.4	233.3	33.6	32.1
T <sub>3</sub>	7.4	7.1	0.61	0.59	170.55	162.1	26.85	22.26	238.6	236.2	32.5	31.4
T <sub>4</sub>	7.3	6.8	0.62	0.60	180.31	177.2	27.95	21.21	240.2	238.7	33.4	32.4
T <sub>5</sub>	7.2	6.6	0.65	0.63	185.32	180.2	28.85	21.48	242.3	239.6	33.9	32.8
T <sub>6</sub>	7.1	6.5	0.69	0.68	190.10	187.7	30.52	23.69	248.6	246.15	34.5	33.8
T <sub>7</sub>	6.9	6.4	0.70	0.69	220.65	210.5	31.98	23.96	250.1	248.36	35.6	34.2
T <sub>8</sub>	6.8	6.3	0.74	0.72	229.9	215.6	33.78	22.60	253.6	251.28	36.1	35.1
T <sub>9</sub>	6.7	6.2	0.80	0.78	240.23	225.2	34.58	22.73	259.9	258.12	37.4	36.4
F-test	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
S. Em. (±)	0.05	0.06	0.01	0.01	41.13	0.68	0.62	0.56	0.54	0.57	0.43	0.52
C.D.@5%	0.12	0.12	0.02	0.02	87.18	1.44	1.31	1.19	1.15	1.20	0.91	1.10



**Fig 2:** Effect of N, P, K, and poultry manure pH, EC, Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium, Sulphur on chemical properties on post-harvest soil.

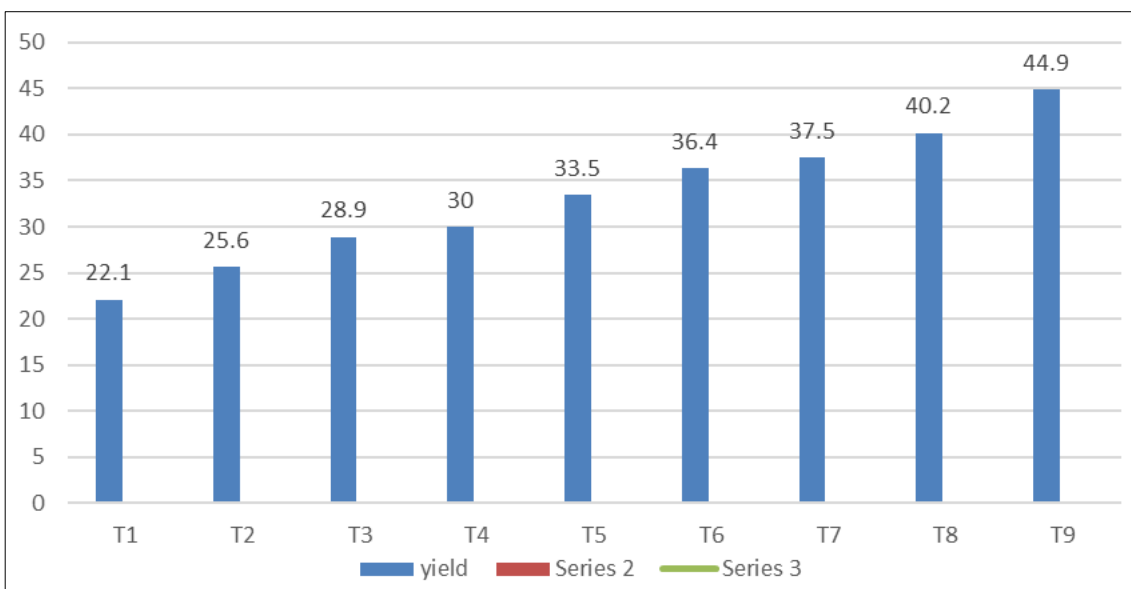
**Economics of Cultivation (mustard)**

The maximum gross return (Rs 224500 ha<sup>-1</sup>) and net profit (RS 162685) was recorded with the treatment of T<sub>9</sub> (@R100%RDF NPK+ @ 7.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup> PM + S @45 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>)

followed by T<sub>8</sub> (@100% RDF NPK+ @7.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup> PM + S 30 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) with a gross return of (Rs. 201000 ha<sup>-1</sup>). However, the highest benefit cost ratio (3.63) was recorded with the treatment T<sub>9</sub>.

**Table 4:** Effect of different treatment combination on cost benefit ratio (C: B) of mustard

Treatment	Seed Yield (q ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Market price (₹ ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Gross Return (₹ ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Total Cost (₹ ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Net profit (₹ ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Benefit Cost ratio (B:C)
T <sub>1</sub>	22.1	50000	110500	36014.1	74485.9	3.06
T <sub>2</sub>	25.6	50000	128000	40664.1	87335.9	3.14
T <sub>3</sub>	28.9	50000	144500	45314.1	99185.9	3.18
T <sub>4</sub>	30.00	50000	150000	45014.1	104985.9	3.33
T <sub>5</sub>	33.5	50000	167500	49664.1	117835.9	3.37
T <sub>6</sub>	36.4	50000	182000	52514.1	129485.9	3.44
T <sub>7</sub>	37.5	50000	187000	54314.1	132685.9	3.46
T <sub>8</sub>	40.2	50000	201000	57164.1	143835.9	3.51
T <sub>9</sub>	44.9	50000	224500	61814.1	162685.9	3.63



**Fig 3:** Graphical representation of Treatment Combination VS Yield of mustard

**Conclusion**

It revealed from trial that the various level of N, P, K, S, and Poultry manure used in the experiment, the treatment combination T<sub>9</sub> [100%RDF N, P, K, + 7.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup> poultry manure + Sulphur 45 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>] was found to be the best

treatment with highest gross return of ₹ 224500 which gave benefit of ₹162685.9 with highest cost benefit ratio 1:3.63 for mustard. Therefore, T<sub>9</sub> can be recommended for profitable production of mustard *var.* Varuna and it is also found that treatment T<sub>9</sub> has shown significance results over

soil physical and chemical properties. Therefore, Combination of N, P, K, poultry manure and Sulphur is found to be better among all treatments for both soil health and mustard production.

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