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PERFORMANCE OF WHEAT (BARI GOM 25)**

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EFFECT OF BORON AND POULTRY MANURE ON SOIL FERTILITY AND YIELD PERFORMANCE OF WHEAT (BARI GOM 25)

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ABSTRACT

An experiment was carried out in Randomized Complete Block Design to investigate the effects of different levels of boron (B) and poultry manure (PM) on the yield and yield components of wheat (BARI gom 25). Four levels of boron (0, 4, 8, and 12 kg ha⁻¹) and three levels of poultry manure (0, 5 and 10 t ha⁻¹) were used as experimental treatments. Plant height, tillers plant⁻¹, spike length, grains spike⁻¹, 500-seed weight, grain yield and biological yield were significantly increased by application of B and PM. The tallest plant (99.50 cm), maximum tillers plant⁻¹ (5.67), most prolonged spike (13.17 cm) maximum grains spike⁻¹ (49.00), maximum 500-seed weight (36.37 g), highest grain yield (4.72 t ha⁻¹) and highest biological yield (9.76 t ha⁻¹) were observed in T₇ treatment. The T₇ treatment also improved the soil fertility by improving organic matter content, N, P, K, S and B content of the soil. The performance of treatment T₇ (8 kg B ha⁻¹ + 10 t PM ha⁻¹) was the best among the other treatments in respects to all parameters studied and it can be more economical and eco-friendly for sustainable wheat production.

INTRODUCTION

Wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) is the staple food of the people of Bangladesh, next to rice grown over an area of 0.45 million hectares with an annual production about 1.35 million metric tons and the average yield 3.03 t ha⁻¹ (BBS, 2016). The yield of wheat in Bangladesh is very low than the other developing countries. The low yield of wheat in Bangladesh is attributable to several reasons, viz., the traditional cultural practices and improper fertilizer management. Bangladesh is a small country with a large population, and its population is increasing day by day. So, the production of cereal crop like wheat should be increased to meet the demand of the escalating population (Islam *et al.*, 2016). In the year of 2018, winter wheat crop, harvested in April, is estimated at 1.30 million metric tons, slightly below the five-year average due to a contraction in plantings as farmers preferred to shift to more remunerative crops as paddy (FAO, 2018). Annual food grain deficit could be minimized either by bringing more area under cultivation or by increasing the yield per unit area.

Soil fertility deterioration has become a major constraint to higher crop production in Bangladesh.

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The increasing land use intensity without fair and balanced use of chemical fertilizers and with little or no use of organic manures have caused severe fertility deterioration of our soils resulting in stagnating or even declining of crop productivity (Farid *et al.*, 2011). Sustainable production of crops cannot be maintained by using only chemical fertilizers, and similarly, it is not possible to obtain higher crop yield by using organic manure alone (Bair, 1990). Losses of soil organic matter can only be replenished in the short term by application of organic matter such as manure (Glaser *et al.*, 2001). Judicious application of manures and fertilizers can increase the crop yield per unit area and minimize the nutrient imbalance in soil. In this context, a suitable combination of inorganic (Boron) and organic (Poultry manure) source of nutrients may pave the way for sustainable production of wheat in Bangladesh.

Boron is an essential micronutrient for a crop like wheat. It plays a vital role in the physiological process of the wheat plants such as cell elongation, cell maturation, sugar translocation, meristematic tissues development, protein synthesis and ribosome formation (Kakar *et al.*, 2000). Boron deficiency in plants results in terminal bud growth stoppage and death among the young leaves. Sugar transport, seed germination, pollen formation, and development of plant are also affected due to its absence. Seed and grain yield are also decreased with low boron supply (Sillanpae, 1982). Boron scarcity also constrains root elongation, cell division in the developing zone of root tips and leaf growth and decrease in photosynthesis (Dell *et al.*, 1997).

Poultry manure is excellent organic manure, as it contains high nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and other essential nutrients (Veeramani *et al.*, 2012). In contrast to mineral fertilizer, it adds organic matter to soil which improves soil structures, nutrient retention, aeration, soil moisture holding capacity and water infiltration (Deksissa *et al.*, 2008). Economic premiums for certified organic grains have been driving many transition decisions related to the organic farming (Delate and Camber, 2004). Its application registered over 53% increases of N level from 0.09% to 0.14 % in the soil and exchangeable cations increase with manure application (Boateng *et al.*, 2006). In agriculture, the main reasons for applying poultry manure include the organic amendment of the soil and the provision of nutrients to crops (Warren *et al.*, 2006). Moreover, it is a good source of organic nutrients, containing both macro and micronutrients, and its application can improve soil carbon content (Fronning *et al.*, 2008). It is also an organic fertilizer that can apply in any type of soil and is eco-friendly and has no toxicity. Keeping the above facts in mind, the investigation was undertaken to find the effect of Boron and Poultry Manure on yield and yield components of wheat cultivar, BARI gom 25.

2. Materials and methods

2.1 Location, duration, experimental design and treatments

The experiment was carried out in the Soil Science research field of Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University, Dinajpur, Bangladesh during November 2016 to February 2017. The field is located at 25.13°N latitude and 88.23°E longitude at a height of 37.5 m above the main sea level. The land was medium-high belonging to the Old Himalayan Piedmont Plain (AEZ-1), which falls into Non-Calcareous Brown Floodplain soils (UNDP and FAO, 1988). The experiment was laid out in Randomized Complete Block Design with three replications. The individual plot size was 4 m × 2.5 m. There were twelve treatments comprising two factors. The factors were- Factor A: Four levels (0, 4, 8, and 12 kg ha⁻¹) of boron (B) and Factor B: Three levels (0, 5 and 10 t ha⁻¹) of poultry manure (PM). The treatment combinations were: T₁ = B₀PM₀, T₂ = B₄PM₀, T₃ = B₈PM₀, T₄ =

B₁₂PM₀, T₅ = B₀PM₅, T₆ = B₄PM₅, T₇ = B₈PM₅, T₈ = B₁₂PM₅, T₉ = B₀PM₁₀, T₁₀ = B₄PM₁₀, T₁₁ = B₈PM₁₀ and T₁₂ = B₁₂PM₁₀. BARI gom 25 was used as test crop and the seeds were collected from the Wheat and Maize Research Institute, Noshipur, Dinajpur.

2.2 Fertilizer application and seeds sowing

Boron-containing fertilizer boric acid (H₃BO₃) and poultry manure were applied as per design and treatments and all other fertilizers were applied according to soil test basis. The full amount of phosphorus, potassium and sulphur and one-third of the nitrogen were applied during final land preparation in the form of triple superphosphate, muriate of potash, gypsum and urea, respectively. Another one-third of nitrogen was applied during first irrigation and the last one-third was applied during second irrigation. Seeds were sown at the rate of 120 kg ha⁻¹ continuously in lines maintaining 20 cm spacing between lines. Recommended production technology of wheat was followed and intercultural operations were done when necessary to ensure normal growth of the crop.

2.3 Yield and yield components

Different traits viz. plant height, number of tillers plant⁻¹, spike length, number of grains spike⁻¹, 500-seed weight, grain yield and biological yield of wheat were recorded properly after harvesting. Grain yield was adjusted to 12% moisture content.

2.4 Soil sample analysis for different parameters

The post-harvest soil samples were used for the analysis of pH, organic matter, nitrogen (N), phosphorous (P), potassium (K), sulfur (S) and boron (B) content. Determination of soil pH was done by Potentiometric method and organic matter content of the soil was determined according to Walkley and Black (1934). N content, available P content and exchangeable K content of the soil was determined according to Bremner and Mulvaney (1982), Olsen *et al.* (1954) and Page *et al.* (1982), respectively. Available sulfur was determined by extracting the soil sample with 0.01M Ca (H₂PO₄)₂. The S content was estimated turbidimetrically and the intensity of turbidity was measured by spectrophotometer at 420 nm wavelength. Boron was determined by the hot water extraction method using a dilute calcium chloride solution (Berger and Truog, 1939).

2.5 Statistical analysis

Data were analysed following the ANOVA technique using MSTAT-C program and the means were compared by Duncan's Multiple Range Test.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Yield components

Various yield components of wheat such as plant height, number of tillers plant⁻¹, spike length, number of grains spike⁻¹ and 500-seed weight were significantly influenced by the treatment combination of boron (B) and poultry manure (PM) (Table 1 and 2). Application of boron and poultry manure positively increased the various yield components of BARI gom 25 compared to that found in control. The tallest plant (99.50 cm) was produced in the treatment T₇ which was closely followed by the treatment T₁₂, whereas the shortest plant (73.50 cm) was recorded in control (T₁). Boron is transported through the xylem vessel and increases sugar and hydrocarbons which helps in the higher growth of the plant.

The maximum tiller plant⁻¹ (5.67) was found in the treatment T₇ which was statistically similar to those found in the treatments T₆ and T₁₂. The minimum tiller number (3.00) was observed in the control treatment (T₁). Agbede *et al.* (2008) recorded a similar result. They stated that the poultry

manure is an excellent fertilizer material because of its high nutrients contents, especially for nitrogen which increases the number of tiller plant⁻¹. The spike length of wheat varied from 9.17 to 13.17 cm. The longest and statistically superior spike (13.17 cm) was recorded in the treatment combination of B₈PM₅, whereas the shortest spike (9.17 cm) was recorded in control treatment.

The maximum number of grains spike⁻¹ (49.00) was observed in T₇ treatment which was statistically identical with the treatments T₁₀, T₁₁ and T₁₂, whereas the minimum number of grains spike⁻¹ (46.00) was found in T₁ treatment which was statistically similar to the treatments T₂.

The highest 500-grain weight (36.37 g) was recorded from the treatment T₇ which was superior to the other treatments, and the lowest 500-grain weight (23.63 g) was recorded in control.

Some other researchers also reported that combined application of manures and fertilizers increased the plant height and tillers plant⁻¹ (Khan *et al.*, 2007), spike length (Singh *et al.*, 2001) and grains spike⁻¹ (Satyannarayana *et al.*, 2002). Liza *et al.* (2014) also support the findings of the present study that organic and inorganic fertilizers influence grain weight and yield of wheat.

Table 1. Effect of boron and poultry manure on yield contributing characters of wheat

Treatments	Plant height (cm)	Number of tillers plant ⁻¹	Spike length (cm)	Number of grains spike ⁻¹
T ₁	73.50 cd	3.00 d	9.17 f	46.00 d
T ₂	78.67 d	3.67 cd	10.33 e	46.12 d
T ₃	86.50 abcd	3.67 cd	10.73 de	46.67 cd
T ₄	82.80 bcd	4.33 bc	10.83 de	47.33 bcd
T ₅	87.80 abcd	4.00 bc	10.37 e	48.00 abc
T ₆	94.83 ab	5.00 ab	10.77 de	47.33 bcd
T ₇	99.50 a	5.67 a	13.17a	49.00 a
T ₈	91.4 abc	4.33 bc	11.33 cd	48.33 ab
T ₉	82.53 bcd	4.33 bc	11.90 bc	47.67 abc
T ₁₀	94.70 ab	4.00 bc	10.53 e	48.34 ab
T ₁₁	94.13 abc	4.67 bc	11.67 bc	48.29 ab
T ₁₂	98.20 ab	5.00 ab	12.13 b	48.67 ab
Level of significance	*	*	**	**
CV %	10.59	16.16	5.47	8.06

In a column, means having a similar letter(s) did not differ significantly at 5% level of significance. * Significant at 5% probability level. ** Significant at 1% probability level. T₁ = B₀PM₀, T₂ = B₄PM₀, T₃ = B₈PM₀, T₄ = B₁₂PM₀, T₅ = B₀PM₅, T₆ = B₄PM₅, T₇ = B₈PM₅, T₈ = B₁₂PM₅, T₉ = B₀PM₁₀, T₁₀ = B₄PM₁₀, T₁₁ = B₈PM₁₀ and T₁₂ = B₁₂PM₁₀.

3.2 Grain yield and biological yield

The grain yield and biological yield of BARI gom 25 were significantly influenced by the different treatment combinations of boron and poultry manure. (Table 2). The maximum grain yield (4.72 t ha⁻¹) was recorded in the treatment T₇ which was closely followed by T₁₂ treatment (4.21 t ha⁻¹), whereas the minimum grain yield (3.15 t ha⁻¹) was recorded in the control treatment. A similar result was also reported by Nadim *et al.* (2011) who showed that boron application improved the grains yield of wheat. The biological yield of wheat varied from 8.13 to 9.76 t ha⁻¹. The maximum biological yield (9.76 t ha⁻¹) was recorded in the treatment combination of B₈PM₅ (T₇). On the other hand, the minimum biological yield (8.13 t ha⁻¹) was obtained in the control treatment (T₁). These findings are well corroborated with that of Islam *et al.* (2014), Malika *et al.* (2015) and Akter *et al.* (2012) who reported that integrated use of manures and fertilizers increased the grain and straw yield of rice and wheat.

Table 2. Effect of boron and poultry manure on 500-seed weight, grain and biological yield of wheat

Treatments	500-seed weight (g)	Grain yield (t ha ⁻¹)	Biological yield (t ha ⁻¹)
T ₁	23.63 g	3.15 g	8.13 de
T ₂	24.10 g	3.19 fg	8.19 de
T ₃	27.87 f	3.27 efg	8.22 de
T ₄	30.20 de	3.25 efg	8.46 cde
T ₅	30.33 de	3.55 cde	8.32 cde
T ₆	32.57 b	3.82 cd	8.48 bcde
T ₇	36.37 a	4.72 a	9.76 a
T ₈	33.10 b	3.95 bc	9.35 ab
T ₉	32.88 b	3.25 efg	9.18 abc
T ₁₀	31.50 bc	3.42 def	8.89 bcd
T ₁₁	33.57 b	3.53 cde	8.75 cde
T ₁₂	36.33 a	4.21 b	8.79 bcde
Level of significance	*	*	**
CV %	5.15	6.07	15.15

In the column, means having a similar letter(s) did not differ significantly at 5% level of significance. * Significant at 5% probability level. ** Significant at 1% probability level. T₁ = B₀PM₀, T₂ = B₄PM₀, T₃ = B₈PM₀, T₄ = B₁₂PM₀, T₅ = B₀PM₅, T₆ = B₄PM₅, T₇ = B₈PM₅, T₈ = B₁₂PM₅, T₉ = B₀PM₁₀, T₁₀ = B₄PM₁₀, T₁₁ = B₈PM₁₀ and T₁₂ = B₁₂PM₁₀.

3.3 Chemical properties of the soil collected after harvesting

The combined effect of B and PM was significant on organic matter, nitrogen (N), phosphorous (P), potassium (K), sulfur (S) and boron (B) content but was insignificant on pH of post-harvest soil. (Table 3 and 4). Soil analysis revealed that the post-harvest soil was slightly acidic (5.89 to 6.85). The control treatment showed slight increases in soil pH compared to other treatment combinations. Organic matter content of the post-harvest soil was higher in T₇ treatment which was statistically at par with treatment T₆ and T₁₂. Lower organic matter was found in the control treatment. B and PM increased the total nitrogen of soil in different treatments. Soil nitrogen of the post-harvest soil was slightly higher than the initial soil. The total nitrogen percent of post-harvest soils was more or less similar. The highest soil nitrogen was found in both T₆ and T₇ treatments and the lowest soil nitrogen was found in the T₁ treatment. The maximum phosphorus content (58.25 ppm) was found in the treatment T₁₂ which was followed by treatment T₆ (82.48 ppm), whereas the minimum phosphorus content (42.48 ppm) was observed in the control treatment (T₁). Boron and poultry manure application increased the exchangeable potassium content of the post-harvest soil than the initial soil. The values of the exchangeable potassium were travelling around from 0.14 to 0.30 meq 100 g⁻¹ soil. However, the maximum value of exchangeable potassium content of the post-harvest soil was observed in treatment T₁₂ followed by T₈ treatment. The available sulphur content in the studied soil ranged from 15.48 to 26.15 ppm. However, the highest sulphur content (26.15 ppm) was found in the treatment T₅ which was statistically similar to those in T₂ and T₄ treatments, on the contrary, the lowest sulphur (15.48 ppm) was observed in the treatment T₁. The available boron content in the studied soil ranged from 0.25 to 0.46 µg g⁻¹ soil. However, the maximum boron content (0.46 µg g⁻¹ soil) was observed in T₁₂ treatment which was closely followed by those in T₁₁ and T₆ treatments, whereas the minimum boron content (0.25 µg g⁻¹ soil) was observed in the treatment T₁.

Table 3. Effect of boron and poultry manure on the soil pH, organic matter, total N and available P content of the post-harvest soil

Treatments	Soil pH	Organic matter content (%)	Total N (%)	Available P (ppm)
T1	6.80	1.28 fg	0.12 ab	42.48 g
T2	5.90	1.63 de	0.14 ab	68.25 de
T3	5.89	1.79 d	0.13 ab	69.79 cd
T4	6.78	2.10 c	0.15 ab	71.20 bcd
T5	6.85	2.14 c	0.16 ab	48.54 fg
T6	6.64	2.82 a	0.17 a	82.48 ab
T7	6.81	3.01 a	0.17 a	58.25 ef
T8	6.70	1.29 fg	0.15 ab	49.69 fg
T9	6.54	1.49 ef	0.13 ab	75.29 bcd
T10	6.70	2.50 b	0.15 ab	71.30 bcd
T11	6.71	2.13 c	0.14 ab	72.98 bcd
T12	6.68	2.98 a	0.13 ab	89.85 a
Level of significance	NS	*	*	**
CV %	12.40	8.63	15.22	9.00

In the column, means having a similar letter(s) did not differ significantly at 5% level of significance. Not significant at 5% probability level. * Significant at 5% probability level. ** Significant at 1% probability level. T₁ = B₀PM₀, T₂ = B₄PM₀, T₃ = B₈PM₀, T₄ = B₁₂PM₀, T₅ = B₀PM₅, T₆ = B₄PM₅, T₇ = B₈PM₅, T₈ = B₁₂PM₅, T₉ = B₀PM₁₀, T₁₀ = B₄PM₁₀, T₁₁ = B₈PM₁₀ and T₁₂ = B₁₂PM₁₀.

Table 4. Effect of Boron and poultry manure on the exchangeable K, available S and B content of the post-harvest soil

Treatments	Exchangeable K (meq 100 g ⁻¹ soil)	Available sulfur (ppm)	Available B (µg g ⁻¹ soil)
T ₁	0.14 f	15.48 c	0.25 ef
T ₂	0.20 cde	23.46 a	0.26 ef
T ₃	0.19 def	22.12 ab	0.37 bcd
T ₄	0.16 ef	25.29 a	0.35 bcd
T ₅	0.20 cde	26.15 a	0.29 def
T ₆	0.21 cde	18.75 e	0.42 ab
T ₇	0.25 abcd	19.26 e	0.36 bcd
T ₈	0.29 ab	18.75 de	0.31 cde
T ₉	0.24 bcd	16.18 cd	0.29 def
T ₁₀	0.21 cde	15.89 c	0.39 abc
T ₁₁	0.22 cde	17.18 bc	0.42 ab
T ₁₂	0.30 a	21.27 ab	0.46 a
Level of significance	*	**	*
CV %	14.56	16.62	14.70

In the column, figures having a similar letter(s) do not differ significantly at 5% level of probability. * Significant at 5% probability level. ** Significant at 1% probability level. T₁ = B₀PM₀, T₂ = B₄PM₀, T₃ = B₈PM₀, T₄ = B₁₂PM₀, T₅ = B₀PM₅, T₆ = B₄PM₅, T₇ = B₈PM₅, T₈ = B₁₂PM₅, T₉ = B₀PM₁₀, T₁₀ = B₄PM₁₀, T₁₁ = B₈PM₁₀ and T₁₂ = B₁₂PM₁₀.

4. Conclusions

Integrated use of inorganic fertilizer (Boron) and organic manure (Poultry manure) improve the soil health and nutrient status that in turns improve crop yields. The overall results indicate that the yield of wheat varied considerably among the different treatments of boron and poultry manure. Chemical fertilizer, boron in combination with poultry manure (8 kg B ha⁻¹ + 10 t PM ha⁻¹) produced the maximum grain and biological yield of wheat and it took a superior position in all other parameters studied including yield components of wheat and fertility status of the soil. Therefore, it can be concluded that poultry manure (10 t ha⁻¹) in combination with chemical fertilizer, boron (8 kg ha⁻¹) can be used successfully in an integrated way for sustainable and eco-friendly wheat cultivation.

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