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RESEARCH PAPER

Growth, seed cotton yield and yield attributes of American cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum* L.) hybrids under different spacing and nitrogen levels

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Abstract : Field studies were conducted at Punjab Agricultural University, Regional Station, Faridkot during *Kharif* 2013 to evaluate the performance of two hirsutum hybrids (FHH200 and LHH144) in main, two spacing levels (67.5×75 cm and 67.5×90 cm) in sub and three nitrogen levels (*i.e.* 112,150 and 187 kg N/ha) in sub plots of Split Plot Design replicated thrice. FHH200 recorded significantly highest seed cotton yield (SCY) of 2953.1 kg/ha followed by LHH144 (2495.2 kg/ha), while among spacing levels differences were non-significant. Among tested N levels, 150 kg N resulted in highest SCY (2868.1 kg/ha) followed by 187kg N (2738.1 kg/ha) while statistically least SCY was recorded with 112 kg N (2566.3 kg/ha). Though cost of cultivation increased with each increase of nutrient levels, but gross as well as net returns improved significantly only up to 100 per cent RD and declined thereafter. B:C ratio was significantly higher under 150kg N/ha (2.34) as compared to 187 kgN/ha (2.15). Farmers should opt for FHH200 and a spacing level of 67.5×75cm for hirsutum hybrids and must apply N @150kg/ha to realize higher SCY and consequently remunerative returns.

Key Words : Fertilizer use efficiency (FUE), Nitrogen levels, Seed cotton yield (SCY), Water productivity (WP)

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