



RESEARCH PAPER

Effect of different levels of phosphorus on the yield and yield components of maize under agro-climatic zone- II of Bihar

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Abstract : An explorative experimental trial was conducted to study the effect of different levels of phosphorus on the yield and yield components of maize in North-East Alluvial plains of Bihar, was conducted at Regional Research Station, Agwanpur, Saharsa (India). The experiment was laid out in Randomized Complete Block Design with three replications having a plot size of 5.40 m x 6.7 m with row to row distance of 0.75 m and plant to plant distance of 0.25 m. The levels of phosphorus were 0 (control), 50, 100, 150 and 200 kg ha⁻¹. Results indicated that the different levels of phosphorus significantly affected maize plant height, number of cobs plant⁻¹, number of grains cob⁻¹ and grain yield, however, the effect was non-significant on number of plants m⁻², thousand grain weight and biological yield of maize. Application of phosphorus at the rate of 100 kg ha⁻¹ resulted in maximum plant height (161 cm), number of cobs plant⁻¹ (1.25), number of grain cob⁻¹ (343), thousand grain weight (253 g), grain yield (2535 kg ha⁻¹) and biological yield (8398 kg ha⁻¹) as compared to the minimum values in control plots *i.e.* 148cm, 0.88, 290, 197 g, 1370 kg ha⁻¹ and 6041 kg ha⁻¹, respectively. It is concluded that phosphorus should be applied at the rate of 100 kg ha⁻¹ for best grain yield in the agro-climatic conditions of Bihar.

Key Words : Phosphorus, *Zea mays* L., Plant height, Grain yield

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