

## **Integrated nitrogen management on the growth and yield of maize (*Zea mays* L.) under conditions of Uttar Pradesh**

RAIES AHMAD BHAT, ALTAF WANI, MUSHTAQ AH. BEIGH AND JOY DAWSON

Accepted : July, 2008

### **ABSTRACT**

Investigations on effect of integrated nitrogen management on growth and yield of maize conducted during *kharif* 2003 using two levels of nitrogen 120kg and 150kg/ha applied through Urea, Poultry manure and Azotobacter in seven different treatments, with Phosphorous and Potash applied at 60kg/ha and 40kg/ha, respectively. Maximum Plant height (271.00cm), stem girth (2.73cm), leaves/plant (13.10), dry weight/plant (145.6g) and yield/ha(54.56q/ha ) was recorded from treatment with nitrogen at 150kg/ha(through urea and Azotobacter) in combination with  $P_2O_5$  (60kg/ha) and  $K_2O$ (40kg/ha). Highest grain yield(54.56q/ha) can be attributed due to higher number of grain rows, grains per row, grains per cob and test weight. The use of organic and bio fertilizers helped in improving the soil health and at the same time reduced the cost of production.

See end of the article for authors' affiliations

Correspondence to:

**MUSHTAQ. AH. BEIGH**

Department of Food  
Science and Technology,  
C.C.S. University,  
MEERUT (U.P.) INDIA

**Key words :** Maize, Integrated nitrogen management, Growth, Yield.

**E**ven with the availability of high yielding crop cultivars lack of suitable crop management aggravates the problem of low productivity in maize, hence it has become the need of the hour to enhance the production of maize by adopting the feasible sustainable nutrient management practices. Integrated nitrogen management has to form a part of crop research agenda for realizing the additional yield. Integrated chemical fertilizers along with organic and biofertilizers has been found to be quite promising not only in maintaining higher productivity but also providing greater stability in crop production.

### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Investigation was conducted on Maize cv. Ganga Safed-2 in sandy loam soil of crop research farm, Allahabad Agriculture Institute-deemed University, Allahabad, U.P during *kharif* 2003 on sandy loam soil having 217kg, 22.50kg and 212 kg/ha available N, P, K, respectively with pH. 7.9. The experiment was laid out in a randomized block design with treatments replicated thrice. The treatments consisting of nitrogen at 120kg/ha and 150kg/ha, were applied through inorganic (Urea), organic (Poultry manure) and biofertilizer (Azotobacter). Azotobacter was applied at 0.5kg/ha. Poultry manure 1ton/ha was applied one week before sowing of the crop. Half dose of nitrogen in the form of urea and full dose of  $P_2O_5$  at 60kg/ha as SSP and full dose of  $K_2O$  at 40kg/ha as MOP were applied at sowing and remaining dose of N was top dressed in two splits, one at knee height and second at tasseling stage. The crop was sown on 29<sup>th</sup> of July, 2003 and harvested on 1<sup>st</sup>

November, 2003. All other operations were performed as per the package of practices for the crop.

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Application of Nitrogen at 150 kg/ha through urea and Azotobacter (120 Kg N/ha + Azotobacter) improved the growth and yield of maize. At 60 DAS the maximum values for plant height (271 cm), stem girth (2.73 cm) cobs per plant (1.46 cm) and dry Weight (145.06g/plant) was recorded from treatments with Nitrogen at 150 kg/ha applied through urea and Azotobacter (Table 1). Also treatments with Nitrogen at the same rate *i.e.* 150 kg/ha but through urea in combination with poultry manure and Azotobacter found to be statistically at par with treatments having nitrogen at 150 kg/ha through urea and Azotobacter. This increase might be due to surplus nitrogen supply by Azotobacter through free atmospheric nitrogen fixation. Similar findings have been reported by Millick and Saric (1988).

At harvest, maximum value for cobs per plant (1.46), grain rows per cob (16.13), grains per row (44.60), grains per cob (718.01), test weight (205g) and grain yield (54.56q/ha) was observed from the treatment with nitrogen at 150 kg/ha through urea and Azotobacter followed by treatments with nitrogen at the same rate but through urea and poultry manure. While minimum value for all the traits were recorded from treatment with nitrogen at 120 kg/ha through urea only. Amongst all the treatments T6 (120 kg N/ha + Azotobacter) gave the best results because of higher nutrients supplied by the treatment. (Table 2). These results were in close conformity with