Int.J.Curr.Microbiol.App.Sci (2018) Special Issue-6: 2459-2463

International Journal of Current Microbiology and Applied Sciences
ISSN: 2319-7692 **Special Issue-6 pp. 2459-2463**
Journal homepage: http://www.ijcmas.com

Original Research Article

Effect of Sulphur Solubilizers on Sulphur Fractions at Various Growth Stages of Groundnut under Vertisol

V. M. Dalavi*, G. R. Hanwate and G. B. Deshmukh

Department of Soil Science and Agriculture Chemistry, College of Agriculture, Parbhani-431402, Maharashtra, India
**Corresponding author*

A B S T R A C T

The experiment was conducted with eight treatments which include 100 % RDF, 75 % RDF, elemental sulphur @10 and 20Kg ha^{-1} FYM @5 and 10 Mg ha^{-1} and sulphur solubilizing bacteria. The experiment was laid out in complete randomized design and replicated thrice. *Thiobacillus thiooxidants* used as sulphur oxidizing bioinculates. Sulphur oxidizing bioinculates also applied at the same time and soil samples were collected at 40, 80 DAS and at harvest stage of crop. Collected soil sample were dried, well ground and sieved through 2 mm sieves and stored in polyethylene bags. Soil samples were analyzed for sulphur fraction i.e. water soluble sulphur, heat soluble sulphur, sulphate sulphur, and organic sulphur fraction. Plant samples were collected during 40, 80 DAS and at harvest stages of crop and analyzed for total S uptake. The results emerged out in this experiment indicated that the was significant increase in available sulphur, in treatment T_7 (100% RDF + FYM @10 Mg ha^{-1} +10 kg E.S. ha^{-1}+S.S.B). Significant highest values were recorded in treatment T_7 with liquid inoculants and found to be at par with T_6 and T_8 treatments. Further, content and uptake of secondary (S) nutrient improved with sulphur oxidizing bacteria showing better results in inoculation with 100% RDF+FYM@10 Mg ha^{-1} +10Kg ha^{-1} elemental sulphur.

Keywords

Sulphur Solubilizers on Sulphur Fractions, Groundnut

Introduction

Sulphur is one of the most important nutrients for all plants and animals. It is considered as the fourth major essential nutrient after nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium for agricultural crop production. Sulphur is a structural constituent of organic compounds, some of which are uniquely synthesized by plants, providing human and animals with essential amino acids (methionine and cysteine). It is involved in chlorophyll formation, activation of enzymes and is a part of vitamins biotin and thiamine (B_1) (Hedge *et al.*, 2007). There are many other sulphur containing compounds in plants which are not essential, but may be involved in defense mechanisms against herbivores, pest and pathogens or contribute to the special taste and odour of food plants. Sulphur improves oil and protein content, flour quality for milling and baking, marketability of quality of tobacco and nutritive value of forages etc. Sulphur is extremely important to plant growth and soil health. Most of agricultural soils contain some micro-organisms that are able to oxidize sulphur. The most important organism in this respect is a group of bacteria belonging to the genus *Thiobacillus*.

Most of these bacteria determine the degree to which sulphur is converted to SO_{4-} in soil. *Thiobacillus* are involved in oxidation of elemental sulphur to convert fixed and unavailable form of soil sulphur to available form of sulphur for plant. Availability of sulphur is influenced by various soil biological factors and hence the status of different forms of sulphur in soil varied widely with soil type. Distribution of sulphur forms and their interrelationship with some important soil characteristics decide the sulphur supplying power of the soil by influencing its rebase and dynamics in soil.

Materials and Methods

A pot culture experiment was conducted in *Kharif* season of 2014. This pot culture experiment was laid out by using completely randomized design (CRD) with three replications with eight treatments. The Groundnut was sown by dibbling method with two or five seed per pots. Organic manures i.e. FYM was applied at the rate of FYM @ 10 Mg ha^{-1}. N, P, K @ 25:50:0 kg ha^{-1}.were applied through urea (46%), di-ammonium phosphate (18 %) and murate of potash (60%) as per treatment. Soil samples were collected from each pot at the time of sowing after 40 day of at pod formation stage on at the time of harvesting. The collected soil samples were thoroughly mixed and brought to the laboratory, air dried, ground with wooden mortar and pestle and sieved through 2 mm sieve, for analyzing sulphur fractions (Total sulphur, Water soluble sulphur, Heat soluble sulphur, Sulphate sulphur and Organic sulphur).

Results and Discussion

Effect of sulphur solubilizers on sulphur fractions at various growth stages of groundnut under Vertisol.

Total sulphur (ppm) in Soil

The data presented in Table 1 showed that the total sulphur content of soil ranged from 160.55-165.74,151.68-158.80 and 149.94-155.84 kg ha^{-1} at 40,80 DAS and at harvest stage of groundnut crop respectively which indicated that sulphur solubilizing bacteria and sulphur application with and without FYM had significant influence on total sulphur content of soil.

Total sulphur content of soil at 40,80 DAS and at harvest of groundnut crop was noticed significantly highest i.e. 165.74,158.80 and 155.84 ppm in treatment T_7 (100% RDF + FYM @10 Mg ha^{-1} +10 kg E.S. ha^{-1}+S.S.B) which was found at par with treatment T_8 (100% RDF + FYM@5 Mg ha^{-1} +10 kg E.S. ha^{-1} +S.S.B.) and T_6 (100% RDF + FYM@5 Mg ha^{-1} +S.S.B.) respectively, while lowest values were noticed in absolute control treatment T_1 (100% RDF). Total sulphur may be due to high clay content and lower values of total sulphur.

Water soluble sulphur fraction (ppm) in soil

The data presented in Table 1 revealed that the water soluble sulphur content of soil ranged from 10.45 to 22.16, 10.20 to 18.63 and 10.35 to 16.23 ppm at 40,80 DAS and at harvest stage respectively in groundnut.

The values indicated that sulphur solubilizing bacteria and elemental sulphur with and without FYM had significant influence on water soluble sulphur content of soil.

Water soluble sulphur content of soil at 40, 80 DAS and at harvest stage of groundnut crop was noticed significantly highest i.e. 22.16, 18.63 and 16.23 ppm respectively.

Table.1 Effect on sulphur solubilizers on Sulphur fraction at various growth stages of groundnut under Vertisol

Tr. No.	Treatments	Total Sulphur (ppm)			Water Soluble Sulphur (ppm)			Heat Soluble Sulphur (ppm)			Sulphate Sulphur (ppm)			Organic Sulphur (ppm)		
		Sampling period (DAS)			Sampling period (DAS)			Sampling period (DAS)			Sampling period (DAS)			Sampling period (DAS)		
		40	80	At Harvest	40	80	At Harvest	40	80	At Harvest	40	80	At Harvest	40	80	At Harvest
T_1	100% RDF	160.5	151.6	149.9	10	10	10	30	28	28	10	10	10	40	31	30
T_2	100% RDF + S.S.B.	161	152.1	150	10	11	11	31	29	29	12	11	10	40	41	31
T_3	100 % RDF + 20 kg E.S.ha^{-1}+ S.S.B.	161.8	152.6	150.2	11	11	11	31	29	29	11	11	10	52	43	32
T_4	100 % RDF + 10 kg E.S.ha^{-1}+S.S.B.	162.1	153	151	13	11	12	32	30	30	12	12	11	54	45	32
T_5	75 % RDF + FYM @10 Mg ha^{-1} +S.S.B.	162.7	153.2	152.1	16	11	12	32	31	31	15	12	12	56	46	35
T_6	100 %RDF + FYM @10 Mg ha^{-1} +S.S.B	163.4	155.4	153.6	20	15	12	33	32	31	19	13	13	56	46	36
T_7	100% RDF + FYM @10 Mg ha^{-1} +10 kg E.S. ha^{-1}+S.S.B.	165.7	158.8	155.8	22	18	16	35	33	32	20	15	14	58	48	38
T_8	100% RDF + FYM@5 Mg ha^{-1} +10 kg E.S. ha^{-1} +S.S.B.	164.6	157.4	154.5	21	16	15	34	33	32	18	14	13	57	47	37
	SE(m)	0.77	1.18	1.16	0.57	0.45	0.37	0.83	0.54	0.45	1.12	0.6	0.54	0.46	0.7	0.63
	CD @ 1%	2.33	3.45	3.46	1.7	1.25	1.1	2.5	1.6	1.3	3.3	1.8	1.6	1.4	2.1	1.9

Note: RDF-Recommended dose of fertilizer SSB: Sulphur Solubilizers Bacteria ES: Elemental Sulphur FYM: Farm Yard Manure
DAS: Day after Sowing PPM: Parts per Million.

In treatment T_7 (100% RDF + FYM@10 Mg ha^{-1}+10 kg E.S. ha^{-1}+S.S.B) while at par with treatment T_8 (100% RDF + FYM@5 Mg ha^{-1} +10 kg E.S. ha^{-1} +S.S.B.) and T_6 (100% RDF + FYM@5 Mg ha^{-1} +S.S.B.) respectively. Whereas lowest content was noticed in absolute control treatment T_1 (100% RDF). This is attributed to higher organic matter in calcium chloride with interference to barium sulphate.

Heat soluble sulphur fraction (ppm) in soil

The data presented in Table 1 indicated that the elemental sulphur, sulphur solubilizing bacteria with and without FYM had significant influence on heat soluble sulphur content of soil.

The value ranged from 30.56-35.90, 28.27-33.87 and 28.09-32.83 ppm at 40, 80 DAS and at harvest stage of groundnut crop. Heat soluble sulphur content of soil at 40,80 DAS and harvest stage of groundnut crop was noticed significantly highest in treatment T_7 (100% RDF + FYM @10 Mg ha^{-1} +10 kg E.S. ha^{-1}+S.S.B) and recorded as 35.90,33.87 and 32.83 ppm respectively, was found at par with treatment T_8 (100% RDF + FYM@ 5 Mg ha^{-1} +10 kg E.S. ha^{-1} +S.S.B.) and T_6 (100% RDF + FYM@ 5 Mg ha^{-1} +S.S.B.), whereas values lowest were noticed in absolute control treatment T_1 (100% RDF). Higher amount of heat soluble sulphur is attributed to release of additional amount of sulphur from, organic pool on wet and dry heating of soil during extraction. The increased solubility by heating may be attributed to the liberation of SO_4^{2-} to sulphur covalently by organic matter.

Sulphate sulphur fraction (ppm) in soil

The data Table 1 showed that the sulphate sulphur fraction of soil was affected with administration of various treatments of elemental sulphur and sulphur solubilizers with and without FYM.

The values of sulphate sulphur content varied from 10.56-20.90, 10.27-15.10 and 10.09-14.83 ppm at 40, 80 DAS and at harvest stage of groundnut crop. Sulphate sulphur content of soil at 40,80 DAS and harvest of groundnut crop was noticed significantly highest and that values were 20.90,15.10 and 14.83 ppm respectively in treatment T_7 (100% RDF + FYM @10 Mg ha^{-1} +10 kg E.S. ha^{-1}+S.S.B) was found at par with treatment T_8 (100% RDF + FYM@5 Mg ha^{-1} +10 kg E.S. ha^{-1} +S.S.B.) and T_6 (100% RDF + FYM@5 Mg ha^{-1} +S.S.B.) respectively. Whereas lowest value was noticed in absolute control treatment T_1 (100% RDF). No regular trend, soil may be of leaching upon rainfall/irrigation and 10 ppm critical limit in soil.

Organic sulphur (ppm) fraction in soil

The data presented in Table 1 revealed that elemental sulphur, sulphur solubilizing bacteria with and without FYM significantly influenced organic sulphur content in soil.

The value was ranged from 40.17-58.92, 31.42-48.61 and 30.08-38.59 ppm at 40, 80 DAS at harvest stage respectively.

Organic sulphur content of soil at 40,80 DAS and harvest stage of groundnut crop was noticed significantly highest in treatment T_7 (100% RDF + FYM @10 Mg ha^{-1} +10 kg E.S. ha^{-1}+S.S.B) was found at par with treatment T_8 (100% RDF + FYM@ 5 Mg ha^{-1} +10 kg E.S. ha^{-1} +S.S.B.) and T_6 (100% RDF + FYM@ 10 Mg ha^{-1} +S.S.B.) respectively, while lowest content was noticed in absolute control treatment T_1 (100% RDF). Decreasing trend with depth due to reduction in organic matter content.

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