

Productivity and economics of cotton-wheat cropping system as affected by complex fertilizer of ammonium phosphate containing sulphur and zinc

Abstract

An experiment was conducted during 2012 - 14 at Ludhiana, Punjab in order to find out the productivity and economics of cotton-wheat cropping system as affected by complex fertilizer of ammonium phosphate containing sulphur and zinc. The cotton and wheat crops were cultivated as per agronomic practices recommended under irrigated condition. The experiment comprised of 9 treatments/nutrient sources arranged in an RCBD and replicated thrice. The investigation study clearly demonstrated that cotton yield and stalk yield of cotton was higher in T₉ (15.3 q/ha and 50.5 q/ha respectively in 2012 and 22.2 q/ha and 55.6 respectively in 2013) was significantly at par T₆ (15.0 q/ha and 50.4 q/ha respectively in 2012 and 22.1 q/ha and 55.4 q/ha in 2013) and similar trend was found in wheat crop where T₉ shows significantly higher grain yield and straw yield (39.0 q/ha and 63.0 q/ha respectively in 2012 and 45.6 q/ha and 73.6 respectively in 2013) was significantly at par T₆ (38.5 q/ha and 62.8 q/ha respectively in 2012 and 44.4 q/ha and 72.4 q/ha in 2013) as compare to other treatments. Net return and B:C ratio was higher in T₈ and T₉ for cotton and wheat respectively as compared with other nutrients sources. in cotton crop but in wheat crop net return and B:C ratio was maximum in T₉ as compare with other treatments.

Key words: Phosphorus, Sulphur, Zinc, Net return, B: C ratio, Cotton and Wheat

Introduction:

Phosphorous (P), Sulphur (S) and Zinc (Zn) has been recognized as prime important essential plant nutrients next to N and K required for optimum plant growth [1]. Improper supply of these nutrients leads to considerable reduction in crop productivity. Majority of the Punjab's soils are medium to high in P, S and Zn [2]. The efficiency of applied P rarely exceeds 30 per cent and that of micronutrient more than 10 per cent [3]. Therefore, repeated application of phosphorus over the years, lead to its build up and interactions in soil and/or plants affecting agricultural production. Sulphur is removed by crops in large quantities owing to its indispensable role in plant nutrition. It plays great role in sustaining growth, yield and quality of crops, particularly pulses and oilseeds. Moreover, continuous use of DAP as P source instead of single super phosphate has led to growing sulphur nutrition problems in the Indian soils and crops [4].

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Continuous removal of S by crops, low use of S as mostly S free fertilizers are used and low S status of most of the Indian soils are major constraints in S nutrition management. Moreover, deficiency of one nutrient will certainly reduce the efficiency of the other nutrient applied. Hence, it may be worthwhile to apply S and P together, which may boost up the use efficiency of the both due to positive and synergistic interaction between the two elements.

Zinc is removed by crops in large quantities owing to its indispensable role in plant nutrition. It plays important role in sustaining yield and quality of crops. The need for applying micronutrient fertilizers to soils of Punjab was first felt with the appearance of Zn deficiency in rice and wheat. The adoption of intensive agriculture in irrigated areas involving cultivation of high yielding crop varieties, use of high analysis micronutrient fertilizers, decreased use of organic manures and crop residues, resulted in depletion of finite micronutrients reserves due to bumper harvests. The deficiency of Zn is mainly associated with soil having coarse texture, high pH, low organic carbon and high calcium carbonate (Takkar *et al.* 1999). Zinc plays an important role in plant metabolism like development of cell wall, respiration, photosynthesis, chlorophyll formation, enzyme activity and other biochemical functions. Amongst all the micronutrients Zn deficiency continues to be one of the key factors in determining the crop production. Crops utilize only a small quantity of the applied Zn for their normal growth. The considerable amount of Zn remains in soil, which can be utilized by the subsequent crops. For sustaining high productivity and increasing the efficiency of applied Zn fertilizers, it is essential to determine the frequency of its application under different cropping systems. Hence, it may be worthwhile to apply P, S and Zn together, which may boost up the use efficiency of these elements.

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MATERIALS AND METHODS

Experimental site

The experiments was conducted at Research Farm, Department of Soil Science, Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana, Punjab, India-. The site is located at (coordinates here), with the elevation of (???) metres above sea level. This region belongs to C₄ climate zone characterized by hot air conditions. The soils at PAU Farm were classified as Samana, coarse loamy, non-calcareous, typical ustochrepts.

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Planting materials

Ankur 3028 cotton variety and PBW 621 wheat variety were used in the experiment. The variety were sourced..... (you can add the the traits of the variety used)

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Experimental set up

The soil samples of ~~selected the experimental~~ field were sampled at a depth of and analyzed for available P (Olsen *et al* 1954), available S (0.15% CaCl₂ extractable) and DTPA-Extractable Zn with the method described by Lindsay and Norvell (1978). The cotton and wheat crops were cultivated as per agronomic practices recommended under irrigated condition by Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana [6]. The full dose of P and K was applied at the time of sowing of cotton and wheat crops. In cotton ½ of the N was applied at the time of thinning and remaining ½ of N was broadcasted at the time of flowering. In wheat ½ of the N was applied at the time of sowing and remaining ½ of N was broadcasted at the time of 1st irrigation. The basic detail of experiments conducted is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Basic details of the experiments conducted during 2012-14

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Cotton</u>		<u>Wheat</u>	
<u>Growing season</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012-13</u>	<u>2013-14</u>
<u>Variety</u>	<u>Ankur 3028</u>	<u>Ankur 3028</u>	<u>PBW 621</u>	<u>PBW 621</u>
<u>Date of sowing</u>	<u>28 April</u>	<u>30 April</u>	<u>19 Dec.</u>	<u>14 Nov.</u>
<u>Date of harvesting/ picking</u>	<u>18 October,</u> <u>7 Nov.,</u> <u>23 Nov.</u>	<u>7 Sept.,</u> <u>8 October,</u> <u>5 Nov.</u>	<u>20 April</u>	<u>20 April</u>

~~To study the effect of ammonium phosphate containing sulphur and zinc complex fertilizer on productivity of cotton-wheat cropping system with nine-Nine treatments-nutrient source experiment was arranged~~ in a randomized block design and ~~each treatment was replicated thrice.~~—The performance of complex fertilizer was compared with equivalent amount of popular fertilizer sources of P (DAP), S (gypsum) and Zn (ZnSO₄). The details of experimental treatments are presented in ~~table-Table 24.~~ Nitrogen applied through APSZ (ammonium phosphate containing sulphur and zinc complex fertilizer N12:P40:K0:S10:Zn1) and DAP (Diamminium phosphate) was compensated. The source of N and K was urea and muriate of potash, respectively. Source of P was DAP and APSZ. Source of S was gypsum and APSZ. Source of Zn was zinc sulphate (ZnSO₄.7H₂O) or APSZ.

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Table 21. Details of experimental treatments

Treatment with Nutrient Source		Cotton			Wheat		
		P (P ₂ O ₅)	S	Zn	P (P ₂ O ₅)	S	Zn
kg ha ⁻¹							
T ₁	Control (N+ K)	0	0	0	0	0	0
T ₂	DAP(P30)	30	0	0	30	0	0
T ₃	DAP(P30)+S7.5	30	7.5	0	30	7.5	0
T ₄	DAP(P20)+S5+Zn0.5	20	5.0	0.50	20	5.0	0.50
T ₅	DAP(P30)+S7.5+Zn0.75	30	7.5	0.75	30	7.5	0.75
T ₆	DAP(P60)+S15+Zn1.5	60	15.0	1.50	60	15.0	1.50
T ₇	AP20+S5+Zn0.5	20	5.0	0.50	20	5.0	0.50
T ₈	AP30+S7.5+Zn0.75	30	7.5	0.75	30	7.5	0.75
T ₉	AP60+S15+Zn1.5	60	15.0	1.50	60	15.0	1.50

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Nitrogen applied through APSZ (ammonium phosphate containing sulphur and zinc complex fertilizer N12:P40:K0:S10:Zn1) and DAP (Diamminium phosphate) was compensated. The source of N and K was urea and muriate of potash, respectively. Source of P was DAP and APSZ. Source of S was gypsum and APSZ. Source of Zn was zinc sulphate (ZnSO₄·7H₂O) or APSZ.

The cotton and wheat crops were cultivated as per agronomic practices recommended under irrigated condition by Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana. The full dose of P and K was applied at the time of sowing of cotton and wheat crops. In cotton 1/2 of the N was applied at the time of thinning and remaining 1/2 of N was broadcasted at the time of flowering. In wheat 1/2 of the N was applied at the time of sowing and remaining 1/2 of N was broadcasted at the time of 1st irrigation. The basic detail of experiments conducted is presented in table 2.

Table 2. Basic details of the experiments conducted during 2012-14

Crop	Cotton		Wheat	
	2012	2013	2012-13	2013-14
Variety	Ankur 3028	Ankur 3028	PBW 621	PBW 621
Date of sowing	28 April	30 April	19 Dec.	14 Nov.
Date of harvesting/ pickling	18 October, 7 Nov., 23 Nov.	7 Sept., 8 October, 5 Nov.	20 April	20 April

The initial fertility status of experimental soils is represented in table 3. These soils were normal in soil reaction and salt concentration, low in available nitrogen and potassium, medium in available phosphorous, sufficient in available S and DTPA-Zn.

Table 3. Nutrient status and chemical parameters experimental soils

Site	pH	EC	OC	Avail. N	Avail. P	Avail. K	Avail. S	Avail. Zn
		dSm ⁻¹	(%)	(kg ha ⁻¹)			ppm	
Cotton-wheat (2012-13)	7.5	0.07	0.31	83.2	10.8	71.0	12	1.48
Cotton-wheat (2013-14)	7.5	0.14	0.33	86.3	13.4	85.0	9.2	1.55

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Data collection

Data was collected from the following parameters.....

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Statistical analysis

The data on such parameter..... were subjected analysis of variance (ANOVA).....

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RESULT AND DISCUSSION COTTON-WHEAT

Initial soil results reveled normal in soil reaction and salt concentration, low in available nitrogen and potassium, medium in available phosphorous, sufficient in available S and DTPA-Zn (Table 3).

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Table 3. Nutrient status and chemical parameters experimental soils

Site	pH	EC	OC	Avail. N	Avail. P	Avail. K	Avail. S	Avail. Zn
		dSm ⁻¹	(%)	(kg ha ⁻¹)			ppm	
Cotton-wheat (2012-13)	7.5	0.07	0.31	83.2	10.8	71.0	12	1.48
Cotton-wheat (2013-14)	7.5	0.14	0.33	86.3	13.4	85.0	9.2	1.55

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Cotton yield and stalk yield

The effect of different sources and combination of P, S and Zn fertilizer on cotton and stalk yield during 2012 and 2013 are represented in table 4. The cotton and stalk yield significantly improved with P application as compared to control irrespective of sources and level of their application (Table 4). The response to phosphorous in cotton was observed because the experiment was started from cotton and the P was not applied to the previous crop. The status of P of the experimental soil was medium. The cotton yield was significantly increased with the application of phosphorus either through DAP or APSZn (complex fertilizer) as compared to control irrespective to its level of application. There was significant increase in cotton yield of DAP (P30)+S7.5+Zn0.75 treatment T₅ and T₈ (P₂O₅ @ 30 kg ha⁻¹) as compared to T₄ and T₇ (P₂O₅ @ 20 kg ha⁻¹) irrespective of its source of application. However, the effect between P₂O₅ @ 30 (T₂, T₃, T₅ and T₈) and P₂O₅ @ 60 (T₆, T₈ and T₉) was non-significant. This indicates that the P applied through complex and DAP fertilizer has equal effect on cotton yield. There was non-significance improvement in cotton yield with the application of S (T₂ and T₃). The non-significant difference between DAP(P30)+S7.5T₃ and DAP(P30)+S7.5+Zn0.75 T₃ indicated no response to Zn application. The effect of S and Zn application was non-significant on grain and straw yield of cotton. This may be due to the reason that experimental soil contain sufficient amount of available sulphur (>10 ppm) and DTPA-Zn (>0.6 mg kg⁻¹). Similar trend was observed for straw yield of cotton. The cotton yield in 2013 was significantly increased with the application of phosphorus either through DAP or APSZn (complex fertilizer) as compared to control irrespective to its level of application.

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There was significant increase in cotton yield of treatment T₅ (21.7 q ha⁻¹) and T₈ (22.0 q ha⁻¹) as compared to T₄ (17.2 q ha⁻¹) and T₇ (17.4 q ha⁻¹), irrespective of its source of application. However, the higher amount of P (P₂O₅ at 60 kg ha⁻¹) had non-significant effects on yield when compared with (P₂O₅ at 30 kg ha⁻¹). This indicates that the P applied through complex and DAP fertilizer has equal effect on cotton yield. Cotton yield increases significantly with application of 7.5 kg S ha⁻¹ during 2013 because soil was deficient in Sulphur. However, the response of S application was not significant during 2012 due to medium status of soil. Application of Zn along with P and S had not result in increase of cotton yield during both the year because soil was not deficient in Zn. Similar trend was observed for stalk yield of cotton. Gobi and Vaiyapuri (2012) found similar results that with the application of 45 kg S + 10 kg Zn + 1kg B per ha increases the yield. Similarly (Ali et al. (2011) noted that- Zn and B @ 0.75+1.00 kg as foliar spray found to be best fertilizer for higher seed cotton yield.

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Table 4. Effect of different sources of P, S and Zn fertilizer on cotton productivity (q ha⁻¹)

Treatments	Nutrient source	Cotton yield		Stalk yield	
		2012	2013	2012	2013
T ₁	Control (N+ K)	10.9 a	15.9 a	43.0 a	45.5 a
T ₂	DAP(P30)	14.2 c	19.4 c	47.9 bc	48.4 ab
T ₃	DAP(P30)+S7.5	14.3 c	19.6 c	48.2 bc	49.1 b
T ₄	DAP(P20)+S5+Zn0.5	12.4 b	17.2 b	45.9 b	46.7 ab
T ₅	DAP(P30)+S7.5+Zn0.75	14.7 c	21.7 d	48.7 bc	54.3 c
T ₆	DAP(P60)+S15+Zn1.5	15.0 c	22.1 d	50.4 c	55.4 c
T ₇	AP20+S5+Zn0.5	12.3 b	17.4 b	45.9 b	47.5 ab
T ₈	AP30+S7.5+Zn0.75	14.8 c	22.0 d	48.4 bc	54.9 c
T ₉	AP60+S15+Zn1.5	15.3 c	22.2 d	50.5 c	55.6 c
LSD 5%					
F.prob.					
Grand mean					
CV%					

*Values within a column, followed by different letters are significantly different at $p < 0.05$ by Duncan's multiple range tests

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Wheat grain yield and straw yield

The data pertaining to effect of different sources and level of P, S and Zn fertilizer on wheat yield during 2012-13 and 2013-14 are presented in table 5. The minimum (29.0 q ha⁻¹) and maximum (39.0 q ha⁻¹) was recorded under T₁ and T₉ treatment. The significant response to P application was observed from the plots which received P₂O₅ at 20 kg ha⁻¹ (T₄ and T₇), P₂O₅ at 30 kg ha⁻¹ (T₃, T₅ and T₈) and P₂O₅ at 60 kg ha⁻¹ (T₆ and T₉) as improved grain yield of wheat irrespective of sources of their application. The effect of S and Zn application applied through different sources did not affect on wheat grain yield was not significant. The lowest and highest straw yield was recorded under T₁ (control) and T₉ treatment. The straw yield under complex fertilizer (T₇, T₈ and T₉) was at par with the straw yield of wheat under equivalent amount of other fertilizers (T₄, T₅ and T₆), indicating that the availability of nutrient with the source was same. The minimum (30.2 q ha⁻¹) and maximum (45.6 q ha⁻¹) grain wheat yield during 2013-14 was recorded under T₁ and T₉ treatment respectively. The

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application of P_2O_5 @ 30 kg ha⁻¹ in T₃ (37.3 q ha⁻¹), T₅ (37.8 q ha⁻¹) and T₈ (38.2 q ha⁻¹) and P_2O_5 @ 60 kg ha⁻¹ in T₆ (44.4 q ha⁻¹) and T₉ (45.6 q ha⁻¹) significantly improved the grain yield of wheat as compared to the plot received P_2O_5 @ 20 kg ha⁻¹ in T₂ (34.2 q ha⁻¹) and T₇ (35.9 q ha⁻¹) and T₁ (30.2 q ha⁻¹) irrespective of sources of their application. There was significant difference between the yield of plot received P_2O_5 @ 60 kg ha⁻¹ and P_2O_5 @ 30 kg ha⁻¹ and this effect was similar for both DAP and complex fertilizer. The effect of P, S and Zn applied through complex fertilizer on grain yield was not significant higher than the equivalent amount of P, S and Zn applied through DAP, gypsum and ZnSO₄ fertilizers, respectively. The lowest and highest straw yield was recorded under T₁ (control) and T₉ treatment. The straw yield under complex fertilizer (T₇, T₈ and T₉) was at par with the straw yield of wheat under equivalent amount of other fertilizers (T₄, T₅ and T₆), indicating that the availability of nutrient with different source was same. Gupta *et al.* (2004) reported that S application significantly enhanced wheat yield and yield components. Similarly Yilmaz *et al.* (1997) found that application of zinc irrespective of method of application increase grain yield as compared to control. Similar result were found by Shukla and Warsi (2000) that application of zinc, sulphur and manganese increased grain yield of wheat as compare to control.

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Table 5. Effect of different levels and sources of P, S and Zn fertilizers on grain and straw yield of wheat (q ha⁻¹)

Treatment	Nutrient source	Grain yield		Straw yield	
		2012-13	2013-14	2012-13	2013-14
T ₁	Control (N+ K)	29.0 a	30.2 a	42.0 a	42.3 a
T ₂	DAP(P30)	35.3 b	34.2 b	52.3 b	50.6 bc
T ₃	DAP(P30)+S7.5	35.5 b	37.3 c	52.8 b	55.5 cde
T ₄	DAP(P20)+S5+Zn0.5	30.7 a	34.8 bc	42.8 a	48.5 b
T ₅	DAP(P30)+S7.5+Zn0.75	35.5 b	37.8 c	53.0 b	56.4 de
T ₆	DAP(P60)+S15+Zn1.5	38.5 c	44.4 d	62.8 c	72.4 f
T ₇	AP20+S5+Zn0.5	30.8 a	35.9 b	43.8 a	51.0 bcd

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T ₈	AP30+S7.5+Zn0.75	35.8 b	38.2 c	53.3 b	56.9 e
T ₉	AP60+S15+Zn1.5	39.0 c	45.6 d	63.0. c	73.6 f
<u>LSD 5%</u>					
<u>F.prob.</u>					
<u>Grand mean</u>					
<u>CV%</u>					

*Values within a column, followed by different letters are significantly different at $p < 0.05$ by Duncan's multiple range tests

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Plant parameters of wheat as affected by levels of sources of P, S and Zn fertilizers

The data pertaining to effect of levels and sources of P, S and Zn fertilizers on ear length, tiller per square meter and plant height of wheat (PBW 373) during 2012-13 are presented in the [table Table 6](#). There was significant improvement in ear length of T₂, T₃, T₅, T₆, T₈ and T₉ with the application of P, S, and Zn through different fertilizers as compared to control. The minimum and maximum ear length was recorded under treatment T₁ (7.7 cm) and T₉ (9.4 cm) respectively. The improvement in ear length under T₆ and T₉ (P₂O₅ @ 60 kg ha⁻¹) was significant compare to the [treatments source of nutrients](#) received P₂O₅ @ 20 kg ha⁻¹. The application of P, S and Zn fertilizer significantly improved number of tiller per square meter except T₄ and T₇ [treatmentsource of nutrient](#). The results clearly indicate that the ear length and number of tillers in wheat increases with application of P from both the sources. However, the effect of S application along with P and Zn along with P and S was non-significant. There was improvement in plant height with the application of P, S and Zn fertilizer as compared to control, however, the effect was significant only for T₆ and T₉ [treatmentsource of nutrients](#). There was significant improvement in ear length under fertilized treatments with the application of P, S, and Zn through different fertilizers as compared to control during 2013-14. The minimum and maximum ear length was recorded under treatment T₁ (9.7 cm) and T₉ (10.9 cm). The ear length under T₁ was significantly lower than other [treatmentsource of nutrients](#). The application of P, S and Zn fertilizer significantly improved number of tiller per square meter as compared to control having maximum number of tillers under T₆ and T₉ [treatmentsource of nutrient](#). The results clearly indicate that the ear length and number of tillers in wheat increased with application of P from both the sources. There was improvement in plant height with the application of P, S and Zn fertilizer as compared to control. [Tillering, plant height, spike length, number of grain spike-1, 1000 grain](#)

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weight, straw and grain yield were statistically significant in ~~treatment 50~~ treatment 50 kg S ha⁻¹ as compare to 25 and 75 kg S ha⁻¹. (Ali *et al.*, 2012). ~~Finding of~~ Malle *et al.* (2012) ~~finding~~ also revealed that with application of sulphur ~~there is increases~~ in grain yield and yield attributes in wheat. ~~In another study, Shukla and Warsi (2000) reported that~~ application of zinc, sulphur and manganese increased the growth characters (LAI, LAR, NAR, RGR and dry matter accumulation) and grain yield of wheat as compare to control (Shukla and Warsi, 2000).

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T4	DAP(P20)+S5+Zn0.5	23,437.8	2,945.8	0.13	13,186.5	9,262.0	0.70	Formatted: Font: 12 pt
T5	DAP(P30)+S7.5+Zn0.75	23,952.8	8,209.2	0.34	13,481.5	11,965.5	0.89	Formatted: Font: 12 pt
T6	DAP(P60)+S15+Zn1.5	24,824.8	7,977.0	0.32	14,417.5	14,878.5	1.03	Formatted: Font color: Auto
T7	AP20+S5+Zn0.5	23,529.8	2,955.6	0.13	13,186.5	9,755.5	0.74	Formatted: Font color: Auto
T8	AP30+S7.5+Zn0.75	23,754.8	8,739.0	0.37	13,481.5	12,197.5	0.90	Formatted: Font color: Auto
T9	AP60+S15+Zn1.5	24,429.8	8,703.8	0.36	14,417.5	15,417.5	1.07	Formatted: Font: 12 pt

Summary

The result of present In study, investigate that in cotton-wheat cropping system the response for P application was observed both in cotton and wheat crops however -response of application of S and Zn was also observed. The effects of P on crop yields with the sources i.e. DAP and APSZn was at par. Economics of both crops was found significantly higher in source of APSZn in both the crops as compare to DAP.

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