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EFFECT OF INTEGRATED NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT (INM) IN GUAVA CV. ALLAHABAD SAFEDA

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ABSTRACT

The present investigation was conducted at Fruit Research Station Farm, Kuthuliya, Rewa (M.P.). Guava (*Psidium guajava* L.) is one of the important fruit crops, Guava is a highly valuable tropical/subtropical fruit due to its nutritional content and ability to thrive in unfavourable conditions. The experiments were laid out in Randomized Block Design with three replications and Twelve treatments. Results revealed that application of different levels of fertilizer and biofertilizers application, organic manures and spray of micronutrient, either alone or in combination significantly increased the yield of guava. Application of T₉ 50 percent dose of recommended fertilizers + 25 kg FYM + 5kg vermicompost was observed significantly value of higher length of the fruit (7.25cm), Width of the fruit (7.99 cm), the fewest seeds per fruit (205.22), average 100 Seed weight (1.37 gm), number of fruits (237.6), fruit weight (226.43g), yield per plant (48.26kg), yield per hectare (179.6q). The treatment T₉ was found to be the most profitable treatment in guava exhibiting highest net return Rs. 479220. The treatment T₉ were the most beneficial treatment which may be followed for commercial guava cultivation on large scale.

Key words: INM, NPK, Randomized Block Design

Introduction

Guava (*Psidium guajava* L.) is one of the important fruit crops originated in Tropical America extending from Mexico to Peru. Guava was introduced in India by Portuguese during 17th century (Menzel, 1986). Guava is a highly valuable tropical/subtropical fruit due to its nutritional content and ability to thrive in unfavourable conditions. In India, it ranks fifth in terms of area and production among major fruits, following mango, banana, and citrus. Although it is native to Tropical America, guava is cultivated worldwide in tropical and subtropical regions. Its popularity among fruit growers stems from its adaptability to various soils and climates, low cultivation costs, abundant fruit bearing, and high profitability due to its nutritional value.

Guava thrives well in humid and dry conditions. In India, guava is well adapted up to an altitude of 1000 m. The guava tree requires an annual rainfall of 1000-2000 mm. In deep tropic regions guava fetch more heavily

with non-continuous winter season but at the time of flowering if temperature downs 23°C and more than 27°C reduces fruit set in guava. Mature guava trees moderately tolerate drought and cold conditions. It can survive only a few degrees of frost. According to these facts and its low cultivation costs, this crop is economically important in different tropical and subtropical countries.

The term “integrated nutrient management” refers to the optimization of the benefits from all potential sources of organic, inorganic, and biological components in an integrated manner for maintaining the fertility of the soil and the supply of nutrients to plants at an optimum level for maintaining the desired productivity. Bio-fertilizers formulations of microorganisms are beneficial to plants and, when applied to seed, root, or soil, make nutrients available to the plants through their biological activity in particular, as well as help to build up the micro flora and ultimately improve soil health in general. According to research, the integrated use of organic +

inorganic + bio fertilizers may improve soil productivity and crop yield with higher quality.

On average, the composition of FYM is usually (0.5%) N, (0.25%) P and (0.5%) K. Vermicompost is a natural fertilizer made from biodegradable organic waste that is free of chemicals. Vermicompost is rich in beneficial microorganisms such as nitrogen-fixing bacteria, phosphorus-solubilizing microbes, microflora that decompose cellulose, and other helpful microorganisms. These components have positive effects on soil decomposition, structure, texture, aeration, water-holding capacity, and aid in preventing soil erosion. Vermicompost is known for its excellent qualities in terms of porosity, aeration, drainage, and water-holding capacity. Nature has endowed it liberally to tolerate the drought and flood condition and adoptability to a wide range of soil and climatic conditions. Its cultural requirement is also very limited. Besides other factors of crop production, nutrients play an important role. It gives good response to manuring and fertilization in increasing fruit production (Singh, *et al.*, 2007).

Biofertilizers, also known as microbial inoculants, are preparations containing live or dormant cells of efficient strains of microorganisms. These biofertilizers are a low-cost renewable energy source that plays an important role in reducing inorganic fertilizer application while also increasing flower quality and yield while maintaining soil fertility.

To improve guava production, fertilizer management is vital. The macronutrients like nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium play a crucial role in promoting the plant growth, vigour and productivity, whereas micronutrients like zinc, iron, copper, manganese and boron have specific functions in growth, development, quality produce and uptake of nutrients. It is reported that application of organics and chemical fertilizers not only increased the yield, but also improved the fruit quality in guava (Naik and Hari Babu, 2007).

Materials and Methods

The present research work entitled “Effect of Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) in Guava (*Psidium guajava* L.) cv. Allahabad Safeda” was conducted with twelve treatments involving various combinations of RDF, FYM, vermicompost, and biofertilizers (Azotobacter and PSB) were tested in a Randomized Block Design (RBD) with three replications. Observations were recorded on Yield parameters: Length of the fruit (cm), Width of the fruit (cm), 100 Seed weight (gm), Number of seeds per fruit, No. of fruits per tree, fruit weight (gm) Total fruit yield (kg/tree) Fruit yield (q/

ha).

The treatment combinations applied are given as under:

Tr. No.	Treatments
T ₁	Absolute control
T ₂	500g: 200g: 500g NPK /Tree
T ₃	T ₁ + Zn (0.5%) + B (0.2%) + Mn (1%) as foliar spray twice (August and October)
T ₄	T ₁ +Organic mulching @10 cm thick
T ₅	T ₂ + Organic mulching @10 cm thick
T ₆	50 percent dose of recommended fertilizers + 25 kg FYM + 250 g Trichoderma
T ₇	50 percent dose of recommended fertilizers + 50 kg FYM + 250 g Azospirillum
T ₈	50 percent dose of recommended fertilizers + 50 kg FYM + 250 g Azotobacter
T ₉	50 percent dose of recommended fertilizers + 25 kg FYM + 5kg vermicompost
T ₁₀	50 percent dose of recommended fertilizer + 25 kg FYM + 250 g Pseudomonas florescence
T ₁₁	50 percent dose of recommended fertilizer + 25 kg FYM + 250 g Trichoderma + 250 g Pseudomonas
T ₁₂	50 percent dose of recommended fertilizer + 25 kg FYM + 250 g Aspergillus Niger

Experimental site

The experiment was carried out at Fruit Research Station Farm, Kuthuliya, Rewa (M.P), by the Department of Horticulture in the year 2024. Rewa is situated in the north-eastern part of Madhya Pradesh at latitude 20°21' N, longitude 81°15' E and altitude of 365.7 m above the mean sea level. The minimum and maximum temperature occasionally reaches 7.13°C and 40.77°C respectively.

Results and Discussion

Length of the fruit (cm)

The data in the table clearly show that the treatments significantly affected the length of the fruit. The highest length of the fruit (7.25cm) was achieved with treatment T₉ (50% dose of recommended fertilizers + 25kg FYM + 5kg vermicompost). Significantly outperforming all other treatments except T₁₀ (50% dose of recommended fertilizer + 25kg FYM + 250g Pseudomonas florescence) which length of the fruit (7.06cm) and T₃ (T₁+Zn (0.5%) + B (0.2%) + Mn (1%) as foliar spray twice (August and October) (7.05cm). The minimum length of the fruit (3.25cm) was observed in T₁ (Absolute control). The results have been supported by Bashir *et al.*, (2009) in guava Chakraborty *et al.*, (2008) in guava.

Width of the fruit (cm)

Statistical analysis of the data in the table indicates a

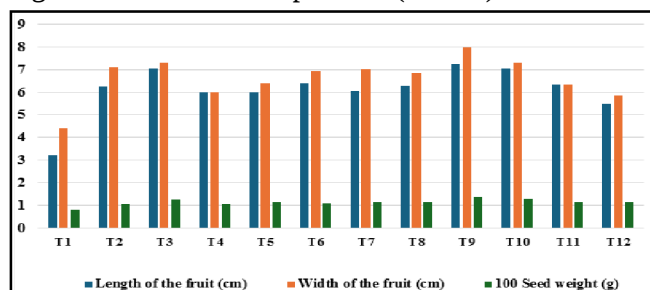
Table 1: Effect of Integrated Nutrient Management on Yield parameters of the fruit of guava.

Tr. No.	LTF	WTF	NSPF	100 SW
T ₁	3.25	4.39	230.33	0.8
T ₂	6.23	7.09	225.5	1.04
T ₃	7.05	7.28	223.9	1.26
T ₄	6.01	6.02	229.8	1.06
T ₅	5.99	6.39	228.6	1.13
T ₆	6.39	6.91	218.6	1.1
T ₇	6.05	7.02	225.11	1.13
T ₈	6.29	6.85	215.13	1.15
T ₉	7.25	7.99	205.22	1.37
T ₁₀	7.06	7.29	208.32	1.3
T ₁₁	6.34	6.32	212.02	1.14
T ₁₂	5.47	5.86	222.6	1.16
S.E m ±	0.28	0.30	4.72	0.06
CD at 5%	0.83	0.88	13.86	0.19
LTF: Length of the fruit (cm); WTF: Width of the fruit (cm); NSPF: Number of seeds per fruit; 100 SW: 100 Seedweight (gm)				

significant impact of the various treatments on the width of guava fruits. The highest width of the fruit (7.99 cm) was observed under treatment T₉ (50% dose of recommended fertilizers + 25kg FYM + 5kg vermicompost). which was significantly greater than all other treatments except T₁₀ (50% dose of recommended fertilizer + 25kg FYM + 250g *Pseudomonas fluorescens*) with an average of (7.29cm) and T₃ (T₁ + Zn (0.5%) + B (0.2%) + Mn (1%) as foliar spray twice (August and October)) (7.28cm). The minimum increase in width of the fruit was recorded to be (4.39cm) under T₁ (Absolute control). The results have been supported by Dwivedi V. (2013).

Number of seeds per fruit

The data in the table clearly indicate that the treatments significantly influenced the number of seeds per guava fruit. The fewest seeds per fruit (205.22) were found in treatment T₉ (50% dose of recommended fertilizers + 25kg FYM + 5kg vermicompost). Which was significantly lower than all other treatments. But was found to be at par with T₁₀ (208.32) and T₁₁ (212.02). The highest number of seeds per fruit (230.33) was observed

**Fig. 1:** Effect of Integrated Nutrient Management on Yield parameters of guava.**Table 2:** Effect of Integrated Nutrient Management on Yield parameters of the fruit of guava.

Tr. No.	NEFP	WPF	YPP	YPH
T ₁	190.3	169.33	21.67	95.6
T ₂	204.8	183.36	33.63	141.6
T ₃	227.3	223.49	39.25	166.6
T ₄	194.9	202.4	31.19	130.5
T ₅	207.8	204.06	35.87	144.4
T ₆	220.4	206.01	38.3	159.9
T ₇	210.6	203.64	34.08	142.8
T ₈	213.3	197.05	37.3	166.4
T ₉	237.6	226.43	48.26	179.6
T ₁₀	230.6	225.74	47.27	175.9
T ₁₁	210.8	195.16	32.65	142.3
T ₁₂	227.2	186.66	38.5	153.7
S.E m ±	3.57	2.62	0.77	3.97
CD at 5%	10.47	7.71	2.27	11.6
NEFP: Number of fruits per plant; WPF: Weight per fruit (g); YPP: Yield per plant(kg); YPH: Yield per hectare (q)				

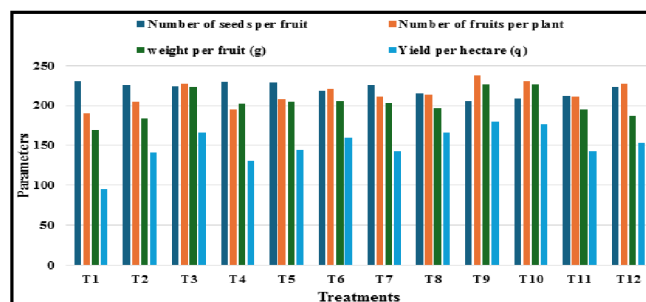
in the T₁ (Absolute control). The results have been supported by Katiyar *et al.*, (2008) in guava.

100 Seed weight (gm)

Treatments on the 100 Seed weight of guava fruits. The highest average 100 Seed weight (1.37gm) was observed under treatment T₉ (50% dose of recommended fertilizers + 25kg FYM + 5kg vermicompost). Which was significantly greater than all other treatments except T₁₀ (50% dose of recommended fertilizer + 25kg FYM + 250g *Pseudomonas fluorescens*) with an average of (1.30gm) and T₃ (T₁ + Zn (0.5%) + B (0.2%) + Mn (1%) as foliar spray twice (August and October) (1.26gm). The minimum increase in Seed weight was recorded to be (0.8gm) under T₁ (Absolute control). The results have been supported by Kaur G. (2017). Kumar *et al.*, (2007) in mango.

Number of fruits per plant

The data in the table clearly show that the treatments significantly affected the number of fruits per plant. Treatment T₉ (50% dose of recommended fertilizers + 25kg FYM + 5kg vermicompost) resulted in the highest number of fruits (237.6), significantly more than all other

**Fig. 2:** Effect of Integrated Nutrient Management on Yield parameters of guava.

treatments except T_{10} , T_{12} and T_3 with 230.6, 227.2 and 227.3. The minimum number of fruits per plant (190.3) was observed in T_1 (Absolute control). The results have been supported by Kundu *et al.*, (2007) in guava.

Fruit weight (gm)

Statistical analysis of the data in the table indicates a significant impact of the various treatments on the weight of guava fruits. The highest average fruit weight (226.43g) was observed under treatment T_9 (50% dose of recommended fertilizers + 25kg FYM + 5kg vermicompost). Which was significantly greater than all other treatments except T_{10} (50% dose of recommended fertilizer + 25kg FYM + 250g *Pseudomonas fluorescens*) with an average of (225.74g) and T_3 (T_1 + Zn (0.5%) + B (0.2%) + Mn (1%) as foliar spray twice (August and October) (223.49). The minimum increase in fruit weight was recorded to be (169.33g) under T_1 (Absolute control). The results have been supported by Mangal *et al.*, (2020) in guava. Rathod *et al.*, (2022) in mango.

Total fruit yield (kg/tree)

The data in the table clearly indicate that the treatments significantly impacted the yield per guava plant. The highest yield per plant (48.26kg) was achieved with treatment T_9 (50% dose of recommended fertilizers + 25kg FYM + 5kg vermicompost). Significantly outperforming all other treatments except T_{10} (50% dose of recommended fertilizer + 25kg FYM + 250g *Pseudomonas fluorescens*). Which yielded (47.27kg) per plant. The lowest yield per plant (21.67kg) was observed in the T_1 (Absolute control). The results have been supported by Reddy *et al.*, (2021) in strawberry, Sharma *et al.*, (2005) in litchi.

Fruit yield (q/ha)

The data in the table clearly show that the treatments significantly affected the yield of guava per hectare. The highest yield per hectare (179.6q) was achieved with treatment T_9 (50% dose of recommended fertilizers + 25kg FYM + 5kg vermicompost). Significantly outperforming all other treatments except T_{10} (50% dose of recommended fertilizer + 25kg FYM + 250g *Pseudomonas fluorescens*) which yielded (175.9q) per hectare. The minimum yield per hectare (95.6q) was observed in T_1 (Absolute control). The results have been supported by Singh *et al.*, (2007) in guava, Tyagi *et al.*, (2021) in guava.

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