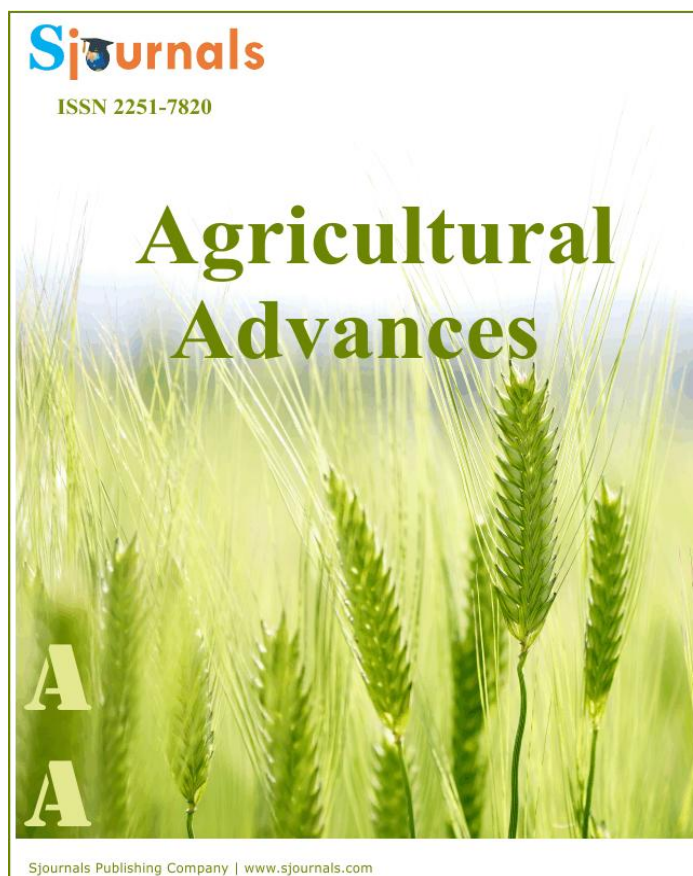


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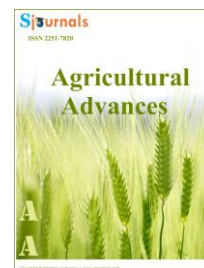
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Original article

Yield and yield contributing characters of mungbean as influenced by zinc and boron

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ABSTRACT

A field experiment was carried out during February to April 2014 at the Crop Museum plot, Department of Agronomy, Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University (HSTU), Dinajpur to investigate the effect of zinc and boron on growth and yield characteristics of mungbean (BARI mung-5). In this study mungbean plant was affected by three zinc levels (0, 1.5 and 3.0 kg ha⁻¹) and three boron levels (0, 1.0 and 2.0 kg ha⁻¹). It was conducted by RCBD with three replications. The yield and yield contributing characteristics of mungbean plant was significantly affected by the different levels of zinc and boron. The maximum plant height, number of branches plant⁻¹, number of pod plant⁻¹, pod length, number of grains pod⁻¹, 100-grains weight, grain yield, stover yield, biological yield and harvest index were recorded from in the treatment combination of Zn₁B₁ (1.5 kg Zn ha⁻¹ and 1.0 kg B ha⁻¹) among all the treatments. From the yield and yield traits, it is clear that 1.5 kg Zn ha⁻¹ + 1.0 kg B ha⁻¹ of was congenial for the cultivation of mungbean.

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1. Introduction

Among pulse crops, mungbean [*Vigna radiate* (L.)] is an important grain legume in Bangladesh. It holds the 4th in both acreage and production in Bangladesh (Sarkar et al., 2012). Its edible seed is characterized by higher digestibility, flavour, high protein content and absence of any flatulence effects (Ahmad et al., 2008). The total production of pulses in Bangladesh is only 0.65 million tons against the requirement 2.7 million tons (MoA, 2013). This means the shortage is almost 76% of the total requirement and this is mostly due to low yield (MoA, 2013). Mungbean seed contains 1-3% fat, 5.4% carbohydrates, 25.67% protein, 3.5-4.5% fibers and 4.5-5.5% ash, while calcium and phosphorus are 132 and 367 mg per 100 grams of seed, respectively (Frauque et al., 2000). Genetic potential of legume is not obtained at field due to poor soil nutrient status, mineral deficiency etc. (Maskey et al., 2004).

At present the population of Bangladesh is increasing and land is decreasing day by day, so it is essential to produce more food from our limited or confined land. Farmers are growing more cereal crops to meet up the basic demand of food. For this reason farmers do not want to use their fertile land in pulse cultivation. Mungbean can be cultivated almost throughout the year in the agro-climatic condition of Bangladesh. Due to its lower productivity of mungbean, our poor socio-economic condition and lack of proper knowledge, the farmers of our country generally produced mungbean by one ploughing and hardly use minimum fertilizers and irrigations. So, there is an ambient scope to increase the mungbean yield through proper fertilizers management practices. The farmers are normally used NPK containing fertilizers for cultivation of mungbean but micro-nutrients like zinc and boron play an important role in mungbean productivity. Zinc is involved in auxin formation, activation of dehydrogenase enzymes and stabilization of ribosomal fractions (Hafeez et al., 2013). The involvement of Zn in physiological processes during early seedling development, possibly in protein synthesis, cell elongation membrane function and resistance to abiotic stresses were reported by Cakmak (2000). Ozturk et al. (2006) found that newly developed radicles and coleoptiles in germinating seeds contained Zn as much higher as up to 200 mg kg⁻¹. Zinc deficiency in plants affect photosynthesis due to altered chloroplast pigments (Kosesakal and Unal, 2009).

Boron is very important in cell division, pod and seed formation (Goldberg and Su, 2007). Boron is also functionally associated with one or more of the processes of calcium utilization, cell division, flowering and fruiting, carbohydrate and nitrogen metabolism, disease resistance, water relations, and catalyst for certain reactions (Sprague, 1951). Common B deficiency symptoms in crop plants are interrupted in flowering and fruiting (Ho, 1999) and poor yields, with deformed or discolored fruit or grain (Shorrocks, 1997). To exploit the production potential of crops under cropping systems and mitigate the deficiencies of these nutrients, the application of Zn and B containing fertilizers are needed. Addition of Zn and B in balanced fertilization schedule increased N, P and K utilization efficiency which highlights the role of micronutrients in increasing macronutrient use efficiency (Shukla, 2011). Therefore, the study was undertaken to investigate the response of Zn and B on the yield and yield contributing characteristics of mungbean and to increase the mungbean yield by selecting the suitable dose of Zn and B fertilizer.

2. Materials and methods

The experiment was conducted during February to April 2014 at the Crop Museum plot, Department of Agronomy, Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University (HSTU), Dinajpur to investigate the effects of zinc and boron levels on yield and yield contributing characteristics of mungbean. The land was prepared with two ploughing cross ploughing followed by uniformly laddering. Soil of the land was acidic having very poor organic matter. The experiment was conducted in RCBD with three replications. The plot size was 4x2.5 m². The seeds of BARI mung-5 were sown @ 40 kg/ha with a spacing of 30 cm x 5 cm on 15 February 2014. Three levels of zinc (0, 1.5 and 3.0 kg/ha) and three levels of boron (0, 1.0 and 2.0 kg/ha) were used in this experiment. At final land preparation the blanket dose of fertilizers were applied. Zinc sulphate and boric acid were applied as per treatment for zinc and boron, respectively, during final land preparation. Weeding, irrigation and plant protection measures were properly managed for better growth and development of the mungbean. The crop was harvested at 80-90% pods ripening. The harvested crop of each plot was bundled separately, properly tagged and brought to threshing floor. From each plot 10 randomly selected plants were recorded for determining yield contributing characters. Yield (tha⁻¹) was recorded from the whole plot technique. The biological yield is the combined yield of grain and stover yield. It was calculated with the following formula:

Biological yield = Grain yield + Stover yield

Harvest index was calculated by using the following formula of Gardner et al. (1985) as shown below:

$$\text{Harvest index (\%)} = \frac{\text{Grain yield}}{\text{Biological yield}} \times 100$$

The collected data were statistically analyzed by using 'R' Command.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Effect of zinc

The plant height significantly varied due to different levels of zinc application. The tallest plant height (37.18cm) was recorded from 1.5 kg Zn ha⁻¹ which was statistically similar with the dose of 3.0 kg Zn ha⁻¹. The application of different Zn levels showed significant variation on the number of branches per plant. The maximum number of branches (3.13) was recorded from 1.5 kg Zn ha⁻¹ and the minimum (2.58) for control. The Zn level at 1.5 kg ha⁻¹ produced the highest number of pods (18.60) per plant while the minimum (15.14) was recorded at control condition. The tallest pod length (8.04cm) was observed from the Zn level of 1.5 kg ha⁻¹. The total number of grains per pod was maximum (8.04) for 1.5 kg Zn ha⁻¹ and the lowest (5.90) for control. In the application @ 1.5 kg Zn ha⁻¹ gave the highest (4.07g) 100-grains weight. The maximum yield (1.453tha⁻¹) of mungbean was found from 1.5 kg Zn ha⁻¹ while the minimum found from control (Table 1). These above results reconfirm the finding of Ahmed et al. (1986); Ryan and El-Moneim (2007); Quddus et al. (2011); Valenciano et al. (2011). Alam and Islam (2016) reported that the highest plant height, number of branches per plant, pod length, number of pods per plant, number of seeds per pod, 1000-seed weight and seed yield (1.418 tha⁻¹) was obtained from 2.0 kg Znha⁻¹. They also observed that the yield increased gradually with the increase of Zn level up to 2.0 kg ha⁻¹ but decreased with Zn level 4.00 kg ha⁻¹. The maximum stover yield (0.56 tha⁻¹) was obtained from 1.5 kg Zn ha⁻¹ while the minimum was obtained from control. The highest biological (2.02 tha⁻¹) and harvest index (71.80%) was recorded from 1.5 kg Zn ha⁻¹. The yield and yield components of mungbean were gradually increased up to 1.5 kg Zn ha⁻¹ but they decreased with 3.0 kg Zn ha⁻¹. However, the result observed in the present study is in contrast to those reported by Bharti et al. (2002) reported that the stover yield decreased with the increasing Zn rates. Wu et al. (1994) observed that harvesting index in soybean was positively correlated with Zn concentration.

3.2. Effect of boron

Boron application in mungbean exhibited significant variation in case of plant height, number of branches, total pods per plant and pod length. The highest plant height (36.45cm), number of branches plant⁻¹ (3.08), number of pods plant⁻¹ (18.22) and pod length (7.55cm) were obtained with 1.0 kg B ha⁻¹. On the other hand, the lowest plant height (31.00cm), number of branches plant⁻¹ (2.75), number of pods plant⁻¹ (15.74) and pod length (6.62cm) were observed in the 0 kg B ha⁻¹ boron i.e. at control condition (Table 2). There were statistically significant variation was observed in case of grains pod⁻¹, 100-grains weight and yield. Mungbean plant produced the maximum grains per pod (7.48), 100-grains weight (4.07g) and grain yield (1.29 tha⁻¹) when the crop is fertilized with 1.0 kg B ha⁻¹ among all the treatments. Application B might be reason in better Rhizobial growth, more N fixation and in better crop growth (Singh, 1993). Higher growth attributes were observed by Pal (2010) and Awomi et al. (2011), Singh et al. (2012). Singh et al. (2014) suggested that beneficial effect of boron was initiated during the early stage of growth and has been carried over at successive stage of plant growth. Boron @2.50 kg/ha significantly given good response in the dry weight of pod/plant, chlorophyll intensity and carotene oil content. Boron spray improved the sex ratio and early production of fruit and gave high fruit yields reported by El-Yazied et al. (2007). The proper management of boron fertilizer significantly influenced the stover yield, biological yield and harvest index. The highest amount of stover yield (0.56 tha⁻¹), biological yield (1.86 tha⁻¹) and harvest index (69.86%) was recorded from 1.0kg B ha⁻¹ among all of the treatments. Other researchers have also reported increased yield of mungbean with application of boron (Ashraf, 2007; Kaiser et al., 2010; Quddus et al., 2011; Ganie et al., 2014). Mahajan et al. (1994) found that soil application of B (0.5 kg ha⁻¹) increased and harvest index significantly of groundnut. Wu et al. (1994) observed that harvesting index in soybean was positively correlated with Zn concentration. However, the result observed in the present case is in contrast to those reported by Bharti et al. (2002) reported that the stover yield decreased with the increasing B rates.

3.3. Interaction effect of zinc and boron

The combined application of Zn and B significantly influenced the yield and yield components of mungbean. The combination of 1.5 kg Zn ha⁻¹ +1.0 kg B ha⁻¹ produced the maximum the plant height (42.37cm), number of branches plant⁻¹ (3.40), number of pods plant⁻¹ (20.40), pod length (8.57cm), grains per pod (8.60), 100-grains weight (4.30g), grain yield (1.51 tha⁻¹), stover yield (0.59 tha⁻¹), biological yield (2.10 tha⁻¹) and harvest index (71.87%) among all of the treatment combinations (Table 3). On the other hand, the minimum plant height (27.23cm), number of branches plant⁻¹ (2.30), number of pods plant⁻¹ (14.17), pod length (5.67cm), grains per pod (6.03), 100-grains weight (3.70g), grain yield (1.09tha⁻¹), biological yield (1.63tha⁻¹) and harvest index (67.18%) was found, when crop is nourished with 0 kg Zn ha⁻¹ +0 kg B ha⁻¹ or control.

Table 1

Effect of zinc on plant height (PH), branches per plant (NB), total pods per plant (TP), pod length (PL), grains per pod (GP), hundred grains weight (HGW), grain yield (GY), stover yield (SY), biological yield (BY) and harvest index (HI).

Sulfur	PH (cm)	NB	TP	PL (cm)	GP	HGW (g)	GY tha ⁻¹	SY tha ⁻¹	BY tha ⁻¹	HI (%)
Zn ₀	27.41b	2.588b	15.14c	5.90c	6.265b	3.78b	1.178b	0.50c	1.73b	68.04b
Zn ₁	37.18a	3.133a	18.60a	8.04a	7.76a	4.07a	1.453a	0.56a	2.02a	71.80a
Zn ₂	37.61a	2.977ab	17.36b	7.14b	6.544b	3.86b	1.126b	0.52b	1.62c	69.10b
LSD	0.880	0.420	1.062	0.50	0.435	0.088	0.093	0.016	0.101	1.37
CV (%)	2.586	14.52	6.23	7.19	6.35	2.275	7.43	2.98	5.65	1.96

Zn₀ = 0, Zn₁ = 1.5 and Zn₂ = 3.0 kgha⁻¹

Table 2

Effect of boron on plant height (PH), branches per plant (NB), total pods per plant (TP), pod length (PL), grains per pod (GP), hundred grains weight (HGW), grain yield (GY), stover yield (SY), biological yield (BY) and harvest index (HI).

Boron	PH (cm)	NB	TP	PL (cm)	GP	HGW (g)	GY tha ⁻¹	SY tha ⁻¹	BY tha ⁻¹	HI (%)
B ₀	31.00c	2.75a	15.74c	6.62b	6.48b	3.77c	1.20a	0.51c	1.72b	69.83a
B ₁	36.45a	3.08a	18.22a	7.555a	7.48a	4.07a	1.29a	0.56a	1.86a	69.36a
B ₂	34.75b	2.85a	17.14b	6.911b	6.60b	3.87b	1.25a	0.53b	1.78ab	69.74a
LSD	0.88	0.420	1.062	0.50	0.435	0.088	0.093	0.016	0.101	1.37
CV (%)	2.58	14.52	6.23	7.19	6.35	2.275	7.43	2.98	5.65	1.96

B₀ = 0, B₁ = 1.0 and B₂ = 2.0 kgha⁻¹

Table 3

Interaction effect of zinc and boron levels on plant height (PH), branches per plant (NB), total pods per plant (TP), pod length (PL), grains per pod (GP), hundred grains weight (HGW), grain yield (GY), stover yield (SY), biological yield (BY) and harvest index (HI).

Interactions	PH (cm)	NB	TP	PL (cm)	GP	HGW (g)	GY tha ⁻¹	SY tha ⁻¹	BY tha ⁻¹	HI (%)
Zn ₀ B ₀	27.23e	2.30c	14.17f	5.67f	6.03d	3.70d	1.09d	0.53b	1.63e	67.18c
Zn ₀ B ₁	29.00d	2.80abc	16.17cde	6.20def	6.71cd	3.90bc	1.27bc	0.59a	1.85cd	68.29c
Zn ₀ B ₂	26.00e	2.67bc	15.10ef	5.83ef	6.06d	3.76cd	1.18cd	0.54b	1.71de	68.65bc
Zn ₁ B ₀	30.00d	3.00abc	17.07bcd	7.50bc	7.00bc	3.90bc	1.36ab	0.54b	1.90bc	71.31a
Zn ₁ B ₁	42.37a	3.40a	20.40a	8.57a	8.60a	4.30a	1.51a	0.59a	2.10a	71.87a
Zn ₁ B ₂	39.20b	3.00abc	18.33b	8.07ab	7.69b	4.02b	1.50a	0.57a	2.06ab	72.22a
Zn ₂ B ₀	35.77c	2.97abc	16.00def	6.70cde	6.44cd	3.73d	1.18cd	0.48bc	1.66e	71.01ab
Zn ₂ B ₁	38.00b	3.07ab	18.10b	7.90ab	7.13bc	4.03b	1.12cd	0.53b	1.64e	67.92c
Zn ₂ B ₂	39.07b	2.90abc	18.00bc	6.83cd	6.06d	3.83	1.09d	0.50bc	1.59e	68.38c
LSD	1.52	0.728	1.83	0.874	0.754	0.144	0.154	0.024	0.173	2.373
CV (%)	2.77	14.50	6.79	7.17	6.38	2.13	7.138	2.61	5.577	1.969

Zn₀ = 0, Zn₁ = 1.5 and Zn₂ = 3.0 kgha⁻¹, B₀ = 0, B₁ = 1.0 and B₂ = 2.0 kgha⁻¹

Sakal et al. (1986) observed that the combined application of Zn and B showed significant effect on mungbean yield than the single application of Zn and B. Alam and Islam (2016) observed that yield of mungbean was nearly doubled with the application zinc and boron. Similar results were previously reported by Zaman et al. (1996), Howeler et al. (1978) and Biswas et al. (2010). Rahman (2015) reported that application of Zn and B significantly reduced the stover yield but increased the harvest index of mungbean. Single application of Zn produced the maximum biological yield as compare to the combination of Zn and B (Rahman, 2015). Bharti et al. (2002) reported that the stover yield decreased with the increasing Band Zn rate. The combined application of Zn and B showed significant effect on munbean yield than the single application of Zn and B (Quddus et al., 2011). Abdo (2001) reported the same in mungbean with foliar spray of Zn and B.

4. Conclusion

Application of zinc and boron significantly increased all the yield contributing characteristics and yield of mungbean. The results of the study revealed that the application of 1.5 kg Zn ha⁻¹ with 1.0 kg B ha⁻¹ was found most suitable for maximizing mungbean productivity.

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