

Effect of Rates of Single Superphosphate added to Poultry Manure on Popcorn (*Zea mays everta*) Production in Jos, Plateau State.

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Abstract— Field studies were conducted at the Teaching and Research Farm of Federal College of Land Resources Technology, Kuru-Jos in 2013 and 2014 cropping seasons. The effect of rates of single superphosphate fertilizer to be added to poultry manure for Popcorn *Zea mays everta* Production in Jos was investigated. The experiment was laid out in a Randomized Complete Block Design with four replicates. Five treatments were used: 20 t ha⁻¹ Poultry manure (PM) + 0 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ (control), 20 t ha⁻¹ PM + 20 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹, 20 t ha⁻¹ PM + 40 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹, 20 t ha⁻¹ PM + 60 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ and 20 t ha⁻¹ + 80 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹. The results revealed that the grain yield of Popcorn were significantly ($P < 0.05$) affected by the treatments in both seasons. The application of 20 t ha⁻¹ PM + 80 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ gave the highest grain yield in both seasons, also the soil properties at the end of the experiments improved in terms of organic matter, total nitrogen and exchangeable cations. Hence 20 t ha⁻¹ PM + 80 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ is recommended for Popcorn production in Kuru and its environs.

Keywords— Single Superphosphate, Poultry manure, Popcorn.

I. INTRODUCTION

Popcorn (*Zea mays everta*) just as the ordinary maize is an important crop that has world significance as it is a good source of food not only for humans but also for livestock (Akintola, 1997). In many regions, it is consumed as a vegetable although it is a grain crop. In Nigeria it is mainly consumed as a snack. The grains are rich in vitamins A, C and E, carbohydrates and essential minerals and contain 9 % protein. They also rich in dietary fibres which are food source of energy (IITA, 2007),

Popcorn being a cereal is a very high nutrient demanding crop, requiring adequate nutrient for maximum performance. Among the several other factors which cause a declined in corn yield is soil degradation from intensive alteration are

continuous application of high rates of fertilizers which may cause nutrient imbalance and limit the uptake of other essential nutrients, thus limiting the crop performance (Obi, 1991).

Phosphorus is an essential constituents of numerous substance involved in biochemical reactions including photosynthesis and respirations. It is a major component of adenosine diphosphate (ADP) and adenosine triphosphate (ATP). These are used to supply energy for many biochemical reactions in plants and animals. Phosphorus levels in soil can be used as a guide to indicate whether phosphorus fertilizer is required for plant growth (Moody and Balland, 1999).

The objective of this study is therefore to establish the correct rate of SSP to be added to poultry manure for popcorn production in Jos.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Field trials were conducted at the Teaching and Research Farm of Federal College of Land Resources Technology, Kuru in 2013 and 2014 cropping seasons. The site which falls between Longitude 8°5' - 9°5' E and Latitude 9°5' - 10° N, at an elevation of 1400 m above sea level. The effect of rates of single superphosphate (SSP) fertilizer to be added to poultry manure for Popcorn (*Zea mays everta*) production was investigated. The experiments were laid out in a Randomised Complete Block Design (RCDD), with four replications. Five treatments were used: 20 t ha⁻¹ Poultry manure (PM) + 0 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ (control), 20 t ha⁻¹ PM + 20 kg ha⁻¹ P₂O₅, 20 t ha⁻¹ PM + 40 kg ha⁻¹ P₂O₅, 20 t ha⁻¹ PM + 60 kg ha⁻¹ P₂O₅ and 20 t ha⁻¹ + 80 kg ha⁻¹ P₂O₅ were used with each plot size measuring 3 m x 3 m (9 m²). The yield parameters considered were number of cobs and grain weight, the data collected was subjected to Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) and means were separated using Fishers Least Significant Difference (FLSD).

Soil samples were collected from the plough layer (0 – 15 cm) at the beginning of the experiments and after harvest of the popcorn. The samples were analyzed for, pH, OM, total N, available P, exchangeable cations (Mg, Ca, K and Na) and cations exchange capacity (CEC).

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The chemical properties of the soil at the experimental site before application of treatments and after harvest of popcorn for the two cropping seasons are shown in Tables 1 and 2. The pH values in both seasons were below the slightly acidic range (5.5 – 6.5) considered option for normal growth of most crops (Kamprath, 1970; Bruce and Rayment, 1982). This low pH may likely be the cause of the generally low nutrient status of the experimental site in the both seasons (Brady, 1984; McKenzie *et al.*, 2004).

The soil analysis results also revealed that organic matter (OM), total N, available P seasons and CEC slightly improved in all the plots in both seasons at the end of the experiments. This could be as a result of the organic material introduced into the soil in form of poultry manure which also serves as a source of nutrients and accumulation humus.

The number of cobs and grain yield were significantly ($P < 0.05$) affected by the application of treatments in both seasons (Table 3). In 2013, the highest numbers of cobs (38 cobs) were obtained with 20 t ha⁻¹ PM + 60 kg ha⁻¹ P₂O₅ and 20 t ha⁻¹ PM + 60 kg ha⁻¹ P₂O₅ while the least was 20 t ha⁻¹ PM + 0 kg ha⁻¹ P₂O₅ (15 cobs). In terms of grain yield 20 t ha⁻¹ PM + 80 kg ha⁻¹ P₂O₅ gave the highest yield of 1.94 tons ha⁻¹ followed by 20 tons ha⁻¹ PM + 60 kg ha⁻¹ P₂O₅. In 2014, a similar trend was observed, with the highest number of cobs obtained with 20 t ha⁻¹ PM + 80 kg ha⁻¹ P₂O₅ (36 cobs) followed by 20 t ha⁻¹ PM + 60 kg ha⁻¹ P₂O₅ (35 cobs). Grain yield of 1.5 tons ha⁻¹ was obtained with 20 tons ha⁻¹ PM + 80 kg ha⁻¹ P₂O₅ followed by 20 tons ha⁻¹ PM + 60 kg ha⁻¹ P₂O₅ (1.41 tons ha⁻¹).

IV. CONCLUSION

The study revealed that popcorn responded well to different rates of single superphosphate (SSP) added to 20 tons ha⁻¹ poultry manure. The soil properties at the end of the experiments improved in terms of O.M, total N, available P and CEC. 20 tons ha⁻¹ PM + 80 kg ha⁻¹ P₂O₅ is recommended for optimum popcorn production in Kuru – Jos.

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Table.1: Chemical Properties of Soil Before and After Treatment in 2013

Properties	Before planting	*T ₁	T ₂	T ₃	T ₄	T ₅
pH H ₂ O	5.20	5.40	5.40	5.30	5.40	5.40
O.M (%)	0.80	0.87	0.87	0.90	0.88	0.90
Total N (%)	0.70	0.80	0.09	0.09	0.10	0.15
Available P (ppm)	15.00	15.00	15.20	16.20	16.20	18.00
Exch. Mg (cmol kg ⁻¹)	0.60	0.67	0.80	0.78	0.78	0.80
Exch. Ca (cmol kg ⁻¹)	2.84	2.90	3.0	3.01	3.01	3.00
Exch. Na (cmol kg ⁻¹)	0.22	0.26	0.23	0.24	0.24	0.24
Exch. K (cmol kg ⁻¹)	0.24	0.23	0.30	0.32	0.32	0.30
CEC (cmol kg ⁻¹)	10.20	12.20	12.80	14.20	14.20	15.20

*T₁ = 20 tons ha⁻¹ PM + 0 kg ha⁻¹ P₂O₅, T₂ = 20 tons ha⁻¹ PM + 20 kg ha⁻¹ P₂O₅, T₃ = 20 tons ha⁻¹ PM + 40 kg ha⁻¹ P₂O₅, T₄ = 20 tons ha⁻¹ PM + 60 kg ha⁻¹ P₂O₅, and T₅ = 20 tons ha⁻¹ PM + 80 kg ha⁻¹ P₂O₅.

Table.2: Chemical Properties of Soil Before and After Treatment in 2014

Properties	Before planting	*T ₁	T ₂	T ₃	T ₄	T ₅
pH H ₂ O	5.30	5.40	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
O.M (%)	0.83	0.90	0.92	0.90	0.91	0.99
Total N (%)	0.09	0.10	0.20	0.22	0.30	0.35
Available P (ppm)	15.20	15.00	15.60	16.00	17.20	17.00
Exch. Mg (cmol kg ⁻¹)	0.99	0.98	0.99	1.00	1.20	1.20
Exch. Ca (cmol kg ⁻¹)	3.00	2.90	3.00	3.00	3.50	4.00
Exch. Na (cmol kg ⁻¹)	0.23	0.20	0.20	0.22	0.21	0.22
Exch. K (cmol kg ⁻¹)	0.38	0.35	0.38	0.38	0.40	0.40
CEC (cmol kg ⁻¹)	15.00	15.20	15.00	16.00	15.80	16.00

*T₁ = 20 tons ha⁻¹ PM + 0 kg ha⁻¹ P₂O₅, T₂ = 20 tons ha⁻¹ PM + 20 kg ha⁻¹ P₂O₅, T₃ = 20 tons ha⁻¹ PM + 40 kg ha⁻¹ P₂O₅, T₄ = 20 tons ha⁻¹ PM + 60 kg ha⁻¹ P₂O₅, and T₅ = 20 tons ha⁻¹ PM + 80 kg ha⁻¹ P₂O₅.

Table.3: Effects of Treatment on the Number of Cobs and Grain Yield of Popcorn in 2013 and 2014 Cropping Season

Treatments	Number of cobs		Grain Yield (tons ha ⁻¹)	
	2013	2014	2013	2014
20 tons ha ⁻¹ PM + 0 kg ha ⁻¹ P ₂ O ₅	15	10	0.14	0.05
20 tons ha ⁻¹ PM + 20 kg ha ⁻¹ P ₂ O ₅	25	21	0.80	0.70
20 tons ha ⁻¹ PM + 40 kg ha ⁻¹ P ₂ O ₅	36	34	1.20	1.01
20 tons ha ⁻¹ PM + 60 kg ha ⁻¹ P ₂ O ₅	38	35	1.70	1.41
20 tons ha ⁻¹ PM + 80 kg ha ⁻¹ P ₂ O ₅	38	36	1.94	1.50
FLSD (p ≤ 0.05)	12	9.0	0.39	0.22