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# Nutrient uptake studies of mustard as influenced by seed rates and varieties in rice fallows

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#### Abstract

Field experiment was conducted on clay soils during *rabi*, 2017-2018 of Agricultural College Farm, Bapatla to study the influence of seed rates and varieties on nutrients (N, P and K) uptake of rice fallow mustard. The treatments consisted of four seed rates and three varieties and replicated thrice with factorial randomized block design. As regards, results revealed that significantly highest plant height (113.0cm), drymatter accumulation (2059 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>), seed yield (650 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) and N, P and K uptake were recorded in seed rate 12 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>at all the growth stages. Among varieties PM-28 significantly recorded highest plant height (110.1 cm), drymatter accumulation (1992 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>), seed yield (665 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) and N, P and K uptake at all the growth stages. The interaction between seed rates and varieties was found not significant for drymatter, seed yield, straw yield and NPK uptake of rice fallow mustard.

Keywords: Mustard, seed rates, varieties, seed yield and nutrient uptake

## Introduction

Globally, India is the third largest producer of mustard (Brassica juncea L.) after soybean and oil palm (Piri et al., 2011)<sup>[15]</sup> having 5.9 million hectares acreage with 6.4 million tonnes production but average yield is only 1145 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> (Economic survey, 2013) <sup>[3]</sup>. Among the seven edible oilseeds cultivated in India, rapeseed-mustard contributes 28.6% in the total production of oilseeds. However, in Andhra Pradesh, the area and production of mustard is 0.6 lakh hectares and 0.3 lakh tonnes respectively with productivity of 500 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> in 2014-15 (http://www.indiastat.com)<sup>[9]</sup>. Indian mustard is the major source of quality edible oil and for increasing the productivity of mustard crop the improved varieties which have potential for giving higher yields like hybrids need to be cultivated by farmers. The crop can be raised well both under irrigated and rainfed conditions, and also on residual fertility and residual soil moisture conditions, in rice fallows. Effective management of natural resources, integrated approach to plant water, nutrient and pest management and extension of mustard cultivation to newer areas under different cropping systems will play a key role in further increasing and stabilizing the productivity and production of mustard. Important physiological attributes such as planting dates, row to row spacing, plant density, sowing methods, seed rate, plant height, number of leaves per plant, number of filled siliqua per plant, number of seed per siliqua, 1000 seed weight and yield etc can address various constraints of a variety for increasing its productivity (Mondal et al., 1999)<sup>[10]</sup>. There is a vast scope for increasing the yield of mustard by cultivating improved varieties and following best bet practices. (Panda et al., 2004)<sup>[13]</sup> has also reported that the yield potential of different mustard varieties may differ under different agro-climatic conditions because of their inherent capacity. The mustard genotypes differ in their yielding ability, this call for a need to generate more information on the response of mustard genotypes for greater yields in rice-fallow conditions. Suitable seed rate and improved varieties are extreme important practices for mustard production in order to achieve higher yields. However, the information on nutrient uptake studies of mustard with respect to seed rate and varieties are still lacking in India. Therefore, the present study was undertaken to find out the effect of seed rates and varieties on nutrients (N, P and K) uptake of rice fallow mustard.

### **Materials and Methods**

A field experiment was carried out on clay soil of Agricultural College Farm, Bapatla during rabi, 2017-18. The soil was saline in reaction and low in organic carbon (0.02%), low in available nitrogen (226.77 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>), medium in available phosphorus (31.95 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) and high in available potassium (556.45 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>). The experiment was laid out in factorial randomized block design with three replications. The treatment comprised of four seed rates ( $S_1$ : 6 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>,  $S_2$ : 8 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>, S<sub>3</sub>: 10 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>, S<sub>4</sub>: 12 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) allotted to factor-A and three varieties (V1: NPJ-112, V2: PM-28, V3: Pusa bold) allotted to factor-B. Mustard was sown on 1st December 2017. Mustard was grown on residual soil fertility and broadcasted before four days of harvesting of rice. The experiment was sown on 01-12-2018 and harvested on 23-02-2018. During the crop growth season climate was nearer to normal. The weekly mean maximum temperatures ranged from 29.94 °C to 35.02 °C and the weekly mean minimum temperatures ranged from 16.01 °C to 19.31 °C with average maximum temperature of 30.89 °C and minimum temperature of 17.82 <sup>0</sup>C. The weekly mean relative humidity ranged from 60.80 to 74.65 per cent with an average of 71.33 per cent. No rainfall was received during the entire crop growth period. Overall, the climatic conditions were normal and suitable for the successful cultivation of mustard crop with little incidence of pests which were controlled by suitable insecticidal sprays and there was no disease incidence. The crop was grown on residual soil moisture and irrigation was not given to the crop.

## Results

Data pertaining to growth characters of rice fallow mustard (Table 1) reveals that plant height at 30 days after sowing (DAS) was not significantly influenced by seed rates, varieties and also by their interaction. At 60 DAS and harvest, 12 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> seed rate significantly influenced the plant height with tallest plants 110.3 and 113.0 cm respectively, and the lowest plant height was obtained with the seed rate 6 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>. Among varieties, PM-28 recorded significantly taller plants with 107.9 and 110.1 cm at 60 DAS and harvest respectively which was statistically comparable with NPJ-112. The lowest plant height was recorded with the variety Pusa bold. The seed rate 12 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> registered significantly highest drymatter accumulation 262, 1628 and 2059 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> at 30, 60 DAS and harvest respectively and closely followed by 10 kg seed rate ha<sup>-1</sup> and lowest in 6 kg seed rate ha<sup>-1</sup> this is mainly due to the availability of natural resources for proper growth and development. Pertaining to varieties, PM-28 variety recorded significantly the highest drymatter with 253, 1576 and 1992 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> at 30, 60 DAS and harvest respectively, and was statistically on par with the variety NPJ-112 and significantly superior over Pusa bold. The seed and stalk yields of rice fallow mustard (Table 1) varied significantly due to different seed rates. The highest seed (650 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) and stalk (1450 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) yields were recorded with 12 kg seed rate ha<sup>-1</sup> and lowest seed and stalk yields in 6 kg seed rate ha<sup>-1</sup>. Seed yield of rice fallow mustard was also significantly influenced by the varieties under test. The highest seed (665 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) and stalk yields (1652 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) were registered by PM-28 variety which was significantly superior to seed (511 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) and stalk yields (1179 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) of Pusa bold variety.

It is evident from Table 2 that nitrogen uptake at 12 kg seed rate  $ha^{-1}$  registered significantly highest nitrogen uptake at 30 DAS (1.43 kg  $ha^{-1}$ ), 60 DAS (14.28 kg  $ha^{-1}$ ), seed (27.13 kg  $ha^{-1}$ ) and stalk (23.63 kg  $ha^{-1}$ ) which was superior over 8 kg seed rate  $ha^{-1}$  and 6 kg seed rate  $ha^{-1}$ . At the same time,

variety PM-28 recorded significantly the highest nitrogen uptake at 30DAS (1.36 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>), 60 DAS (14.31 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>), seed (27.61 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) and stalk (26.56 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) and lowest with variety Pusa bold at all growth stages. Similarly, the highest phosphorus uptake at 30 DAS (1.25 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>), 60 DAS (8.10 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>), seed (14.86 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) and stalk (13.04 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) were observed in 12 kg seed rate ha-1. Among varieties PM-28 recorded significantly the highest phosphorus uptake at 30 DAS (1.21 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>), 60 DAS (7.81 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>), seed (14.80 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) <sup>1</sup>) and stalk (14.61kg ha<sup>-1</sup>). The lowest phosphorus uptake was registered with variety Pusa bold at all the phenophases. Data on potassium uptake indicates that the seed rate 12 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> registered significantly the highest potassium uptake at 30 DAS (2.87 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>), 60 DAS (18.76 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>), seed (22.92 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) and stalk (44.27 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) which was significantly superior over 8 kg seed rate ha<sup>-1</sup> and 6 kg seed rate ha<sup>-1</sup>. Amongst varieties, PM-28 recorded significantly the highest potassium uptake at 30 DAS (2.73 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>), 60 DAS (17.80 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>), seed (23.34 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) and stalk (47.72 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>). The lowest potassium uptake was registered with variety Pusa bold at all the stages of crop growth.

## Discussion

Plant height increased with increase in age of the crop. Rate of plant growth is low in young stage and increased with age. Taller plants in the plots with high population levels might be due to overcrowded plant densities and the inter plant competition that could result in more cell division, cell elongation in search of light and other natural resources. For the rapid division and elongation of this apical meristem, where light plays major role increased plant height in search of sunlight (Keivanrad and Zandi, 2014)<sup>[6]</sup>. At low plant densities, lower interplant competition and sufficiency of light availability might have not encouraged the plants to grow taller. Greater light interception, efficient utilization of soil moisture and nutrients under low degree of inter-plant competition at wider spacing might have resulted in dwarfer plants when compared to plants at high population levels. Similar findings were reported by Fathy and Ahmed (2009) <sup>[5]</sup>, Rashid et al., (2010) <sup>[16]</sup>, Naseri et al., (2012) <sup>[11]</sup> and Patel et al., (2017)<sup>[14]</sup>. At optimum seed rate better availability of nutrients and other resources promoted the maximum drymatter accumulation leading to higher grain yield due to balanced source and sink relationship. The tallest and thickest plants, and as well the highest area of photosynthetic leaves and in turn increased the capacity of drymatter accumulation in the different plant parts. The current findings are in conformity with the findings of Al-Doori (2012) <sup>[1]</sup>. Among varieties of mustard genotypic growth potential of different varieties might have caused the variation in drymatter accumulation and higher in variety PM-28 as reported by Shanker et al., (2011)<sup>[18]</sup> and Singh et al., (2017)<sup>[20]</sup>.

The higher seed yield with 12 kg seed rate ha<sup>-1</sup> probably due to higher dry matter partitioning, elevated yield attributes, higher nutrient uptake towards economic part and better light interception (Khajuria *et al.*, 2017) <sup>[7]</sup>. Higher plant population at higher seed rates, taller plants and more drymatter per unit area at higher plant populations might be the reason for the higher stalk yield at higher populations. Similar findings were also reported by Thakuria and Thakuria (2014) <sup>[22]</sup>. Production of higher yield by different varieties might be due to the contribution of cummulative favorable effects of the crop characteristics. Variety PM-28 resulted higher stalk yield may be due to the plant height, drymatter accumulation and number of branches per plant were higher in PM-28 variety, such varietal variation was also ascribed by other scientists such as Meena *et al.*, (2013)<sup>[8]</sup>.

Significantly higher uptake of nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium could be attributed due to higher plant density contributed higher plant dry matter and production which led to higher nutrient uptake by plants (Khajuria *et al.*, 2017)<sup>[7]</sup>. Nutrients uptake was significantly influenced due to the fact that the drymatter was multiplied with the nitrogen content. Similar results were also reported by earlier scientists Evaraarts and Beusichen (1998)<sup>[4]</sup> and Daulagupu and

Thakuria (2016) <sup>[2]</sup>. The current results are in conformity with the findings of Singh *et al.*, (2010) <sup>[21]</sup> and Saud and Singh (2011) <sup>[17]</sup>. With respect to varieties, PM-28 resulted higher nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium uptake might be due to the fact that the drymatter accumulation was multiplied with the nitrogen content and there was a significant difference in nutrient uptake as influenced by varieties. Higher drymatter accumulation per unit area might be the reason for higher nitrogen uptake. Pachauri *et al.*, (2012) <sup>[12]</sup> and Sharma (2013) <sup>[19]</sup> also confirm the current findings.

Table 1: Plant height, drymatter accumulation, seed yield and stalk yield of rice fallow mustard as influenced by seed rates and varieties

Treatment	Pla	nt heigh	t (cm)	Drymatte	r accumula	Seed yieldStalk yield					
	30 DAS	60 DAS	At harvest	30 DAS	60 DAS	At harvest	(kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )	(kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )			
Seed rates (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )											
S1-6	15.9	99.2	101.2	198	1232	1558	565	1300			
S 2 - 8	16.3	101.2	103.2	225	1400	1770	577	1346			
<b>S</b> 3 - 10	16.6	107.2	109.4	233	1451	1835	601	1395			
S 4 - 12	17.1	110.3	113.0	262	1628	2059	650	1450			
S.Em±	0.6	2.6	2.7	12.5	77.4	97.9	20.9	36.3			
CD (p = 0.05)	NS	7.5	7.8	36	227	287	59	106			
Varieties											
NPJ-112	16.1	105.7	108.2	224	1393	1761	618	1287			
PM-28	17.1	107.9	110.1	253	1576	1992	665	1652			
Pusa bold	16.3	99.8	101.9	211	1316	1663	511	1179			
S.Em±	0.5	2.2	2.3	10.8	67.1	84.8	17.5	31.4			
CD (p = 0.05)	NS	6.5	6.8	31	196	248	51	92			
Interaction (S X V)											
S.Em±	1.1	4.5	4.6	21.6	134.1	169.6	34.9	62.9			
CD (p = 0.05)	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS			
CV (%)	11.1	7.3	7.5	14.6	16.2	15.7	10.1	7.4			

NS: Non significant

Table 2: Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium uptake of rice fallow mustard at different growth stages as influenced by seed rates and varieties

	Nitrogen uptake (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )				Phosphorus uptake (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )				Potassium uptake (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )			
Treatment	30	60	At harvest		30	60	At harvest		30	60	At harvest	
	DAS	DAS	Seed	Stalk	DAS	DAS	Seed	Stalk	DAS	DAS	Seed	Stalk
Seed rates (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )												
S1 - 6	1.13	11.16	21.10	17.94	0.99	6.43	10.80	9.87	2.15	14.07	17.82	35.52
S 2 - 8	1.15	12.04	22.28	19.21	1.02	6.57	11.40	10.57	2.20	14.36	18.82	37.80
S 3 - 10	1.28	13.71	24.42	22.12	1.08	7.01	13.23	12.17	2.33	15.21	20.63	41.66
S 4 - 12	1.43	14.28	27.13	23.63	1.25	8.10	14.86	13.04	2.87	18.76	22.92	44.27
S.Em±	0.07	0.79	1.50	1.48	0.06	0.43	0.68	0.75	0.15	1.01	1.26	1.81
CD ( p = 0.05)	0.22	2.31	4.37	4.36	0.19	1.26	2.01	2.22	0.45	2.97	3.69	5.31
Varieties												
NPJ-112	1.26	12.58	24.43	17.85	1.06	6.84	13.19	9.82	2.42	15.77	20.64	35.30
PM-28	1.36	14.31	27.61	26.56	1.21	7.81	14.80	14.61	2.73	17.80	23.34	47.72
Pusa bold	1.10	11.52	19.15	17.76	1.00	6.44	9.73	9.80	2.03	13.25	16.18	33.92
S.Em±	0.06	0.68	1.30	1.28	0.05	0.37	0.59	0.65	0.13	0.88	1.09	1.57
CD ( p = 0.05)	0.19	2.00	3.78	3.77	0.17	1.09	1.74	1.92	0.39	2.58	3.20	4.60
Interaction (S X V)												
S.Em±	0.13	1.36	2.58	2.57	0.11	0.74	1.19	1.31	0.27	1.79	2.18	3.14
CD ( p = 0.05)	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
CV (%)	18.85	18.50	18.58	21.51	18.40	18.40	16.38	19.97	19.52	18.39	18.85	13.6

NS: Non significant

## Conclusion

The present study indicated that 12 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> seed rate registered higher plant height, drymatter, seed and stalk yields, NPK uptake and hence 12 kg seed rate ha<sup>-1</sup> was found to be optimum in rice-fallows compared to 10 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>, 8 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> and 6 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> seed rates. Among varieties PM-28 variety performed better than NPJ-112 and Pusa bold with higher plant height, drymatter accumulation, seed and stalk yields and NPK uptake.

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