



## **To Study the Effect of Potassium and Sulfur on Growth and Yield of Black Gram (*Vigna mungo* L.)**

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### **Authors' contributions**

*This work was carried out in collaboration between both authors. Both authors read and approved the final manuscript.*

### **Article Information**

DOI: 10.9734/IJPSS/2022/v34i1731032

### **Open Peer Review History:**

This journal follows the Advanced Open Peer Review policy. Identity of the Reviewers, Editor(s) and additional Reviewers, peer review comments, different versions of the manuscript, comments of the editors, etc are available here: <https://www.sdiarticle5.com/review-history/86379>

**Original Research Article**

**Received 15 February 2022**  
**Accepted 26 April 2022**  
**Published 28 April 2022**

### **ABSTRACT**

A field experiment was conducted during *Zaid* 2021, at Research Farm, Department of Agronomy. The experiment was laid out in Randomized Block Design with nine treatments which are replicated thrice. The treatments details viz., T<sub>1</sub>: 20 kg K ha<sup>-1</sup> + 15 kg S ha<sup>-1</sup>, T<sub>2</sub>: 30 kg K ha<sup>-1</sup> + 20 kg S ha<sup>-1</sup>, T<sub>3</sub>: 40 kg K ha<sup>-1</sup> + 25 kg S ha<sup>-1</sup>, T<sub>4</sub>: 20 kg K ha<sup>-1</sup> + 15 kg S ha<sup>-1</sup>, T<sub>5</sub>: 30 kg K ha<sup>-1</sup> + 20 kg S ha<sup>-1</sup>, T<sub>6</sub>: 40 kg K ha<sup>-1</sup> + 25 kg S ha<sup>-1</sup>, T<sub>7</sub>: 20 kg K ha<sup>-1</sup> + 15 kg S ha<sup>-1</sup>, T<sub>8</sub>: 30 kg K ha<sup>-1</sup> + 20 kg S ha<sup>-1</sup>, T<sub>9</sub>: 40 kg K ha<sup>-1</sup> + 25 kg S ha<sup>-1</sup> was used. The result showed that higher plant height (50.3 cm), maximum number of branches per plant (5.93), highest number of nodules per plant (15.73), maximum dry weight (8.63), CGR g/m<sup>2</sup>/day (7.90), maximum number of pods per plant (20.13), highest number of seeds per pod (6.20), test weight (33.60), seed yield (1456.67 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>), harvest index (32.06) and relative growth rate (0.013) were recorded significantly with the application of 40 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> Potassium pulse 25 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> Sulphur. Highest crop growth rate (7.90) was recorded with 40 Potassium kg ha<sup>-1</sup> + 25 Sulphur kg ha<sup>-1</sup>.

**Keywords:** *Black gram; potassium; sulphur; growth.*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Pulses, also known as food legumes, are members of the Fabaceae family and have the remarkable capacity to fix biological nitrogen and mobilise insoluble soil elements through their deep root system, earning them the nickname "beautiful gift of nature." [1]. Pulses have a higher protein content than grains, hence they are very important in Indian agriculture [2]. One of the most important kharif pulse crops is black gram (*Vigna mungo* L.). It is a member of the Leguminosae family and the papilionaceae subfamily, and has been farmed as a primary crop in Madhya Pradesh and throughout the country for centuries. India is the world's leading producer and user of black gram [3]. In India, black gram ranks fourth in terms of area, production, and productivity, with a total area of 4.48 million hectares, a production of 2.8 million tonnes per hectare, and a productivity of 632 kilogram per hectare. It is grown on a 5 m/ha scale in Andhra Pradesh, with a yield of 3.29 mt and a productivity of 658 kg/ha [4]. Black gram is a very significant pulse crop with a high price that is grown in practically every part of India. It contains a perfect balance of all nutrients, including carbs (60%), proteins (26%), fat (1.5%), calcium (154 mg), minerals (3.2%), phosphorous (385 mg), fibre (0.9%), iron (9.1 mg), and vitamin B-complex (9.1 mg) [5]. Because of its strong root system and foliage cover, it successfully reduces soil erosion and competes with weeds. It boosted soil fertility by fixing atmospheric nitrogen into the soil. Carbohydrate, protein, fat, and phosphoric acid are all abundant in it [6].

Black gram production is low in general due to inadequate management and insufficient soil fertility. The primary black gram-growing states in India include Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, and Gujarat [7]. An adequate supply of mineral nutrients to legumes enhances nitrogen fixation [8]. Insufficient organic matter concentration in light textured soils, along with low and uneven nutrient treatment to crops, reduces yield potential and is the primary obstacle to crop development [9]. To increase the output of black gram, proper fertilization is required. It can meet its nitrogen needs by symbiotically fixing nitrogen from the atmosphere. Potassium affects the nodulation of pulse crops, which enhances seed output by improving nitrogen fixation. It is one of the most important elements that the plant absorbs. Potassium is absorbed in greater quantities by plants than any other mineral except nitrogen. It

aids in the synthesis of proteins and chlorophyll (Anandamai *et al.*, 2021).

Potassium and sulfur are essential components of plant nutrition. These are, in fact, the nutrients that are lacking in the soils. As a result, potassium and sulfur fertilizer application is critical from both a quality and production standpoint. Potassium is a necessary macronutrient for plant growth and development [7]. Phosphorus and sulfur are the nutrients that require special care. In sulfur-deficient soils, black gram also reacts favorably to sulfur fertilizer. Sulfur is a component of cysteine, cystine, and methionine amino acids, and has a significant impact on protein synthesis by pulses [10]. In this study, sulfur sources such as gypsum, elemental sulfur, and ammonium sulphate were tested at varying amounts of 0, 20, and 40 kg S/ha. Gypsum, elemental sulfur, and ammonium sulfur are some of the most well-known sulfur fertilizers. Gypsum is a low-cost, mine-sourced sulfur source in India, with Rajasthan accounting for more than 90% of the total [11]. At ideal N:K nutritional ratios, higher yields and crop quality can be achieved.

## 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 2.1 Experimental Site

The trail was carried out at Central Research Farm, NAI, SHUATS' Prayagraj, which is located at 25° 24'30"N latitude, 81° 51'10" E longitude, and 98 metres above sea level (MSL) Prayagraj has a subtropical climate with summer and winter extremes.

### 2.2 Soil

The experimental field's soil is a component of the central gangetic alluvium. Pre-sowing soil samples were collected using an auger from a depth of 0-15 cm and tested in a randomized block design that was duplicated three times. Chemical and mechanical analyses were carried out with the composite samples. The soil was sandy loam in texture, low in Organic Carbon (0.23%) med. in potassium (187 kg /ha), and Sulfur (0.24).

### 2.3 Experimental Design and Treatments

A (RBD) was used for experiment by taking K and S with different levels. The plot size 2m x 2m. The recommended dose of fertilizers (RDF)

used in the experiment are 20 kg N, 40 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and 20 kg K<sub>2</sub>O /ha were supplied.

Treatment	Treatment combination
T <sub>1</sub>	20 kg K/ha + 15 kg S/ha
T <sub>2</sub>	30 kg K/ha + 20 kg S/ha
T <sub>3</sub>	40 kg K/ha + 25 kg S/ha
T <sub>4</sub>	20 kg K/ha + 15 kg S/ha
T <sub>5</sub>	30 kg K/ha + 20 kg S/ha
T <sub>6</sub>	40 kg K/ha + 25 kg S/ha
T <sub>7</sub>	20 kg K/ha + 15 kg S/ha
T <sub>8</sub>	30 kg K/ha + 20 kg S/ha
T <sub>9</sub>	40 kg K/ha + 25 kg S/ha

As nutrient sources, Urea, SSP, and MOP were employed. Sulfur are delivered to the plots as a basal whenever soil application is required, based on the treatment combinations. Irrigation was used at vital phases and at the correct sowing time. The growth parameters viz. plant height, Number of branches/plants, Number of nodules/plants, Plant dry weight (g) CGR (g/m<sup>2</sup>/day), RGR (g/g/day) was recorded at harvest. The yield parameters viz. number of pods plant<sup>-1</sup>, grain yield, were recorded with standard process of observation. Analysis of variance (Anova) as applied to Randomized Block Design was used to statistically examine the data.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The growth parameters like Plant height (cm), Number of branches/plants, Number of nodules/plants, Plant dry weight (g), CGR (g/m<sup>2</sup>/day), RGR (g/g/day) were significantly influenced by application levels of Potassium and Sulfur on Black gram application of 40 kg K /ha+ 25 kg S /ha resulted with max. Plant height (cm) Number of branches/plants, Number of nodules/plants, Plant dry weight (g), CGR (g/m<sup>2</sup>/day), RGR (g/g/day) at the time of harvest.

The treatments T<sub>1</sub> recorded the min. plant height of 38.9 cm and the treatment T<sub>9</sub> recorded the max. plant height of 50.3 cm. Potassium influences the synthesis of phytohormones, which is important for meristematic growth. Cytokinin is a plant hormone that plays a key function in plant growth Thakur et al. (2017). Sulfur application may have boosted cell elongation and cell expansion during the growth period, resulting in higher plant height.

Treatment T<sub>1</sub> had the min. number of branches plant<sup>-1</sup> (5.27), whereas treatment T<sub>9</sub> had the max.

number of branches plant<sup>-1</sup> (5.93). The results of this experiment were in accordance with these Karthikeyan et al. [7], who noted that when K was applied, the plants grew quickly and produced more branches plant<sup>-1</sup>. The increased number of nodules per plant could be related to better root biomass when these nutrients levels rise. Because phosphorus is found in nucleic acid and many forms of protein, it may have spurred cell division, resulting in enhanced plant growth.

The rise in plant dry weight may be attributed to the plant's increased height, number of branches, and nutrient buildup, all of which contributed to the plant's higher dry weight. Due to adequate food supply, additional growth factors such as CGR (g/m<sup>2</sup>/day) and RGR (g/g/day) rose. Enhanced cell division due to adequate Sulfur and Phosphorus availability could explain the increased growth parameter. New leaves, stems, and nodules are the main components of vegetative growth. Photosynthetic products delivered to these locations are mostly employed in protein synthesis. The results were in accordance with Parashar [6].

The yield parameters such as No. of pods/plant, No. of seeds/pod, Test weight (g), Seed yield (kg/ha), Straw yield (kg/ha), Harvest index (%) were significantly influenced by application levels of Potassium and Sulfur. Black gram application of 40 kg K /ha+ 25 kg S /ha resulted with max. black gram application of 40 kg K /ha+ 25 kg S /ha resulted with max. in yield parameters. The max. number of Pods/plant were recorded in treatment T<sub>9</sub> (20.13), while min. was recorded in treatment T<sub>1</sub> (16.37). While max. number of seeds/pod was observed in Treatment T<sub>9</sub> (6.20) and min. was observed in treatment T<sub>1</sub> (5.13). The max. Test was observed in treatment T<sub>9</sub> (33.60 g) while min. was observed in treatment T<sub>1</sub> (32.70 g). The max. seed yield was observed in Treatment T<sub>9</sub> (1456.67 kg/ha) while min. in treatment T<sub>1</sub> (903.3 kg/ha). The max. Harvest Index was observed in treatment T<sub>9</sub> (32.06%) while min. in treatment T<sub>1</sub> (30.5%). The cumulative effect of enhanced growth and yield parameters resulted in an increase in grain yield. This could be due to a superior supply of Sulphur, phosphorus, and potassium, which results in stronger branch and pod growth and, as a result, increased yield. Phosphorus is known to have an essential function in the production of new shoots and the number of branches/plant. It also controls photosynthesis and carbohydrate metabolism, which is one of

the key factors that limits growth, particularly during the reproductive phase. The improved height and leaf number of the plant may have aided in enhancing production characteristics and yield of black gram. Increased yield attributes have resulted from the stimulatory action of Sulphur, phosphorus, and potassium on growth and partitioning of photosynthates to sink development. The fact that these parameters

have lower values at lower doses backs up the previous conclusion. Plants produced more pods per plant with a greater quantity of seeds per pod as photosynthetic products increased and translocation became more efficient. Sulfur, phosphorus, and potassium appeared to have good effects on growth and yield qualities, resulting in significant increases in grain yields. Similar results were reported by Bhat et al. [12].

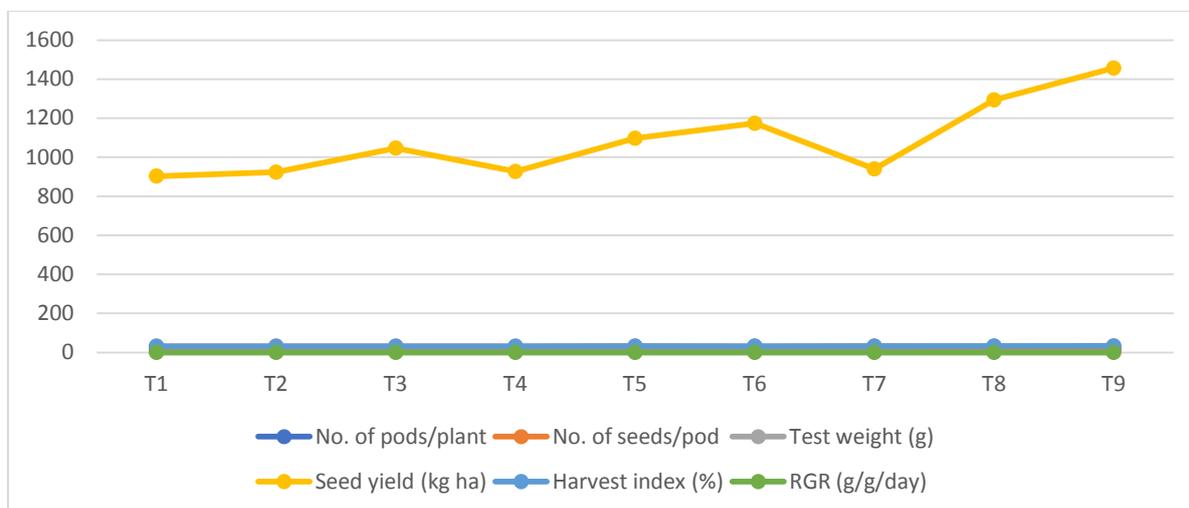
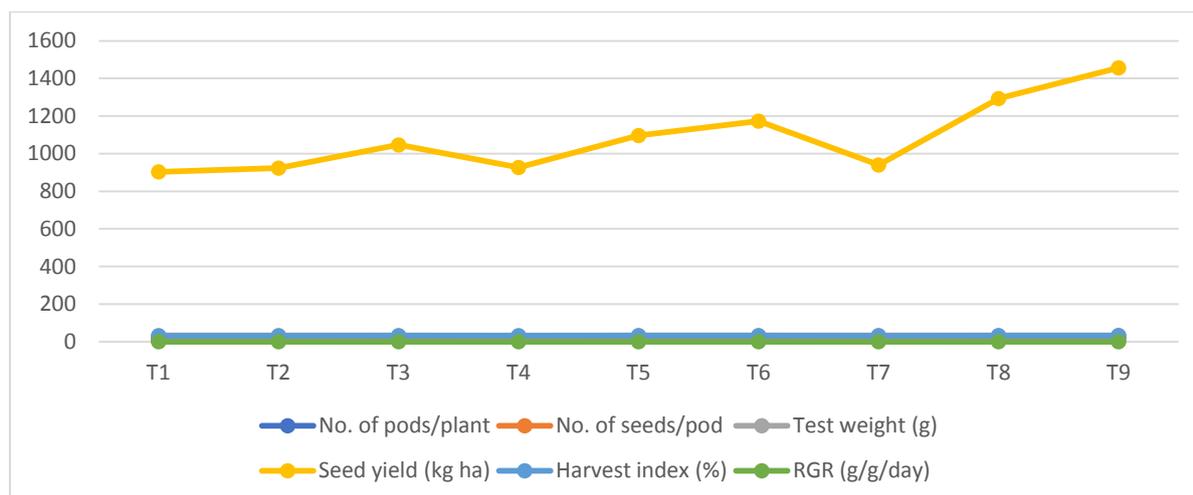


Fig. 1. Graph showing effect of Potassium and sulfur on growth parameters of Black Gram (*Vigna mungo* L.)

Table 1. Effect of Potassium and sulfur on growth parameters of Black Gram (*Vigna mungo* L.)

Treatment	Plant height (cm)	Number of branches/plants	Number of nodules/plants	Plant dry weight (g)	CGR (g/m <sup>2</sup> /day)	RGR (g/g/day)
T <sub>1</sub> 20 kg K/ha + 15 kg S/ha	38.9	5.27	12.60	7.24	5.79	0.010
T <sub>2</sub> 30 kg K/ha + 20 kg S/ha	42.1	5.29	13.10	7.35	5.79	0.010
T <sub>3</sub> 40 kg K/ha + 25 kg S/ha	43.2	5.60	13.97	7.81	6.83	0.011
T <sub>4</sub> 20 kg K/ha + 15 kg S/ha	41.8	5.47	13.37	7.54	6.28	0.011
T <sub>5</sub> 30 kg K/ha + 20 kg S/ha	44.2	5.60	14.50	8.09	7.53	0.012
T <sub>6</sub> 40 kg K/ha + 25 kg S/ha	45.6	5.73	14.97	8.17	6.97	0.012
T <sub>7</sub> 20 kg K/ha + 15 kg S/ha	45.2	5.67	13.63	7.58	6.38	0.011
T <sub>8</sub> 30 kg K/ha + 20 kg S/ha	46.8	5.80	15.30	8.40	7.88	0.012
T <sub>9</sub> 40 kg K/ha + 25 kg S/ha	50.3	5.93	15.73	8.63	7.90	0.013
F-Test	S	S	S	S	S	S
SEm±	0.43	0.09	0.17	0.06	0.34	0.0016
CD (P=0.05)	0.98	0.28	0.50	0.19	1.00	0.0013



**Fig. 2. Graph showing effect of Potassium and sulfur on yield parameters of Black Gram (*Vigna mungo* L.)**

**Table 2. Effect of potassium and sulfur on yield parameters of Black Gram (*Vigna mungo* L.)**

Treatment	No. of pods/plant	No. of seeds/pod	Test weight (g)	Seed yield (kg ha)	Harvest index (%)
T <sub>1</sub> 20 kg K/ha + 15 kg S/ha	16.37	5.13	32.70	903.33	30.51
T <sub>2</sub> 30 kg K/ha + 20 kg S/ha	16.80	5.20	32.90	923.33	30.57
T <sub>3</sub> 40 kg K/ha + 25 kg S/ha	17.87	5.37	32.83	1046.67	30.87
T <sub>4</sub> 20 kg K/ha + 15 kg S/ha	17.03	5.17	32.27	926.67	30.79
T <sub>5</sub> 30 kg K/ha + 20 kg S/ha	18.57	5.40	33.13	1096.67	31.17
T <sub>6</sub> 40 kg K/ha + 25 kg S/ha	18.77	5.60	33.10	1173.33	31.37
T <sub>7</sub> 20 kg K/ha + 15 kg S/ha	17.10	5.07	33.37	940.00	30.58
T <sub>8</sub> 30 kg K/ha + 20 kg S/ha	19.37	5.97	32.93	1293.33	31.67
T <sub>9</sub> 40 kg K/ha + 25 kg S/ha	20.13	6.20	33.60	1456.67	32.06
F-Test	S	S	NS	S	NS
SEm±	0.20	0.13	0.42	1.82	0.57
CD (P=0.05)	0.60	0.38	-	2.35	-

#### 4. CONCLUSION

From the above investigation it can be concluded that Treatment T<sub>9</sub> (40 kg K/ha + 25 kg S/ha) was observed to be the best treatment with respect to the growth and yield parameters and can be recommendable to the farmers for better results.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I express my gratitude to my advisor Dr. Rajesh Singh and all the faculty members of Department of Agronomy, SHUATS, Prayagraj, U.P. India for constant support and guidance to carry out the whole experiment research study.

#### COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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