



Performance of Mung Bean (*Vigna radiata* L. Wilczek) under Organic and Chemical Management Practices in Rainfed and Irrigated Conditions

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Abstract: The present study aimed to assess comparative productivity and profitability of mung bean grown under organic and/or chemical modules in rainfed and irrigated situations. The field trials were carried out in split plot design at Agriculture University, Jodhpur, Rajasthan during kharif 2019 and 2020. The pooled analysis of the two years data showed that the combination of organic and chemical management practices produced 56, 25 and 19% higher grain yield over control, organic farming practice and chemical farming practice, respectively leading to higher net return by 64, 23 and 27% over control, organic farming practice and chemical farming practice, respectively with a BC ratio of 6.4. The study suggests that this module should be followed for higher productivity and profitability of mung bean under western Rajasthan conditions.

Key words: Organic management practices, chemical management practices, mung bean, net returns, yield.

Pulses are a crucial crop group and the backbone of Indian agriculture because they improve the physical condition of the soil, replenish soil fertility and produce wholesome food and fodder (Banik and Sengupta, 2013). The most significant pulse crop cultivated in Rajasthan's arid and semi-arid regions is mung bean (*Vigna radiata* L. Wilczek) (Prajapat *et al.*, 2012). It is the third most important pulse crop in India, which is grown on 3.19 m ha and yields 3.0 m t of total production with an average productivity of 940 kg ha⁻¹ (Anonymous, 2024). The states of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and

Bihar are the major producers of mung bean in India. Rajasthan is a notable producer, with an average yield of 503 kg ha⁻¹, 1.175 mt production from 2.332 m ha area (Saini *et al.*, 2024).

Mung bean (*Vigna radiata* L.), commonly known as green gram or mung, is an important pulse crop belonging to the family Leguminosae (Kumawat *et al.*, 2022). Owing to its adaptability to diverse agro-climatic conditions, it is regarded as one of the most resilient pulse crops (Palsaniya *et al.*, 2016; Jat *et al.*, 2016). Nevertheless, sustainable crop production is increasingly constrained by the degradation of natural resources, including energy and water scarcity, labour shortages, yield instability, escalating production costs, low water productivity, poor nutrient-use efficiency, and the adverse impacts of climate change (Stori *et al.*, 2018). Under these challenging conditions, the adoption of appropriate crop management practices is essential for enhancing resource-use efficiency and maximizing mung bean productivity. Appropriate management techniques improve seed setting, decrease flower drop, promote synchronized bloom and eventually boost production. Maintaining soil health, improving nutrient supply systems that rely on organic materials rather than chemicals and embracing integrated crop management strategies are the main management techniques (Saini *et al.*, 2024; Raiger *et al.*, 2024). Yield, water productivity and soil health are all greatly impacted by agronomic techniques like fertilizers, organic sources (like compost, FYM, and biofertilizers), and integrated management practices (like integrated nutrient and plant protection methods and irrigation scheduling). Present study was carried out to assess performance of mung bean under organic, chemical and integrated management practices in rainfed and irrigated conditions of Rajasthan.

Materials and Methods

The experiment was conducted during kharif 2019 and 2020 at Dr. B. R. Choudhary Agricultural Research Station, Mandor (Agriculture University, Jodhpur), geographically situated between 26°15' N to 26°45' north latitude and 73°00' E to 73°29' east longitude an altitude of 231 m above mean sea-level in Western Dry Region Agro-climatic zone of India. The soil was loamy sand in texture with medium

bulk density (1.77 Mg m⁻³), slightly alkaline in reaction (pH 8.1), having low organic carbon (1.3 g kg⁻¹), low in available nitrogen (174.0 kg ha⁻¹), medium in available phosphorus (24.2 kg ha⁻¹) and high in availability potash (325.0 kg ha⁻¹), with low electrical conductivity (0.12 dS m⁻¹). The experiment consisted of two main plot treatments of rainfed and irrigated conditions and four sub plot treatments consisting of control (farmer's practice), organic farming production practice, chemical farming production practice and module of integrated management practices. The experiment was laid out in a split plot design with three replications. All the recommended package of practices of the zone were followed for growing the crop.

Net returns (Rs. ha⁻¹): To find out the most profitable treatment, economics of different treatments were worked out in terms of net monetary returns (Rs. ha⁻¹) by subtracting the cost of treatment and the cost of cultivation from gross income obtained. Cost of cultivation and net profit were calculated on the basis of prevailing prices of produce and inputs.

Benefit-cost ratio: This was calculated by dividing net returns with cost of cultivation for each treatment to see the economic viability of treatments.

Statistical analysis details: The data recorded for different parameters were analysed with the help of one factor analysis of variance (ANOVA) for randomized complete block design (Gomez and Gomez (1984). The treatment differences were compared at 5% level of significance. Comprehensive statistical analysis (treatment mean, standard error mean, critical difference and range of variation) and test of significance test (F-test) were carried out for each trait.

Results and Discussion

Effect of growing conditions

Growth and yield attributes of mung bean were higher under irrigated condition, however there was no significant difference recorded in year 2019 due to sufficient rainfall received during the growing season. Growing condition (rainfed *vs.* irrigated) made numerical difference in number of branches and pod numbers suggesting a limited benefit from irrigation scheduling under such conditions when sufficient rainfall occurs. The increase in number of pods under irrigated condition

Table 1. Management practices followed under different treatments

Treatment	Details of treatment
Growing conditions (main plots)	
Rainfed condition	Soil and field preparation by disking followed by harrowing and planking No irrigation
Irrigated condition	Soil and field preparation by disking followed by harrowing and planking Irrigations at flowering and pod formation stages (5.0 cm)
Management practices (sub plots)	
Control (farmers' practice)	Use of local seeds (SR 31) No seed treatment Use of only DAP as fertilizer (50 kg ha ⁻¹) N9, P2O3 23 One hoeing at 30 DAS for weed management No plant protection measures
Organic farming production practice	FYM 5 t ha ⁻¹ (soil application) Neem cake: 3.5 q ha ⁻¹ (soil application) Seed treatment with rhizobium culture 40 g kg ⁻¹ seed Hoeing at 15-25 and 30-40 DAS Jiwamrit (10%) spray at pre-flowering stage
Chemical farming production practice	RDF: 15 kg N ha ⁻¹ , 40 kg P ₂ O ₅ ha ⁻¹ Seed treatment with carbendazim 50 WP @ 2 g kg ⁻¹ seed for prevention of dry root rot Seed treatment with imidacloprid 600 FS @ 5 ml kg ⁻¹ seed for preventing sucking insects Herbicide (Sodium acifluorfen 16.5% + Clodinafop-propargyl 8% EC premixed @ 187.5 g ha ⁻¹) spray at 18-20 DAS for control of weeds NAA (20 ppm) spray at pre-flowering stage NPK 18:18:18 foliar spray (2%) at flowering stage
Module of integrated management practices	FYM 5 t ha ⁻¹ , RDF: 15 kg N ha ⁻¹ , 40 kg P ₂ O ₅ ha ⁻¹ Seed treatment with carbendazim 50 WP @ 2 g kg ⁻¹ seed for prevention of dry root rot Seed treatment with imidacloprid 600 FS @ 5 ml kg ⁻¹ seed for preventing sucking insects Seed treatment with rhizobium culture 40 g kg ⁻¹ seed Herbicide (Sodium acifluorfen 16.5% + Clodinafop-propargyl 8% EC premixed @ 187.5 g ha ⁻¹) spray at 18-20 DAS for control of weeds Hoeing at 35-40 DAS NAA (20 ppm) followed by Jiwamrit (10%) spray at pre-flowering stage NPK 18:18:18 foliar spray (2%) at flowering stage

over rainfed condition was 19.5%. The seed yield difference between irrigated and rainfed conditions (430 kg ha⁻¹) exceeded the critical difference indicating a statistically significant increase in yield under irrigated condition. Mung bean under irrigated condition recorded higher mean seed yield (187 kg ha⁻¹) due to better plant growth and more pods per plant, resulting in more value of yield attributes and ultimately higher seed yield (Meena *et al.*, 2017a and Meena *et al.*, 2020). This could be attributed to the adequate availability of nutrients and soil moisture which, in turn, favorably influenced number of physiological processes and buildup of food material (Stori *et al.*, 2018). Likewise, the net return (Rs. 110683 ha⁻¹) and BC ratio (6.0) were also higher under irrigated condition compared to their values under rainfed condition (Rs. 83640 ha⁻¹ and 5.5). This suggests that irrigation remains a reliable way to boost mung bean profitability, provided

water is available. Similar findings of benefits under irrigated conditions have been reported by Islam *et al.* (2011); Kumar *et al.* (2022) and Parasriya *et al.* (2024).

Effect of management practices: Final plant population across treatments ranged narrowly from 3.303 lakh ha⁻¹ under farmers' practice (control) to 3.314 lakh ha⁻¹ under the integrated practices module (Integrated management practices). These differences were statistically not significant (Table 2). The integrated management practices recorded maximum plant height (59.6 cm), number of branches plant⁻¹ (15.6) and number of pods plant⁻¹ (62.7) at harvest. Plant height increased significantly under integrated management practices, increasing from 49.4 cm (control) to 59.6 cm. This suggests that the integrated management practices promoted stronger vertical growth. Number of branches per plant were modestly

Table 2. Effect of management practices on growth and yield attributes of mung bean (pooled data of two years)

Treatments	Final plant population (lakhs ha ⁻¹)	Plant height (cm)	Number of branches per plant	Number of pods per plant
Growing conditions				
Rainfed condition	3.295	52.5	14.0	47.0
Irrigated condition	3.319	55.2	15.4	56.2
SEm±	0.002	2.00	0.45	1.6
CD (p = 0.05)	NS	NS	NS	9.6
CV (%)	0.194	11.1	9.3	9.2
Management practices				
Control (farmers' practice)	3.303	49.4	13.8	42.8
Organic farming production practice	3.306	50.4	14.1	47.9
Chemical farming production practice	3.308	56.2	15.2	53.0
Integrated management practices	3.314	59.6	15.6	62.7
SEm±	0.005	2.07	0.46	1.9
CD (p = 0.05)	NS	6.74	1.50	6.1
CV (%)	0.337	9.4	7.7	8.9

higher in integrated management practices (15.6 branches) than control (13.8), surpassing the critical difference (Table 2). Number of pods per plant saw a substantial jump under integrated management practices (62.7) compared to control (42.8), and even the chemical practice (53.0). These improvements in pods per plant, accompanied by enhanced grains per pod and 1000 seed weight, strongly led to higher seed yield under integrated management practices treatment. This might be attributed to the effective crop management under integrated management practices leading to improvement in these attributes (Shweta *et al.*, 2021). The

better management practices influenced these attributes positively, as they helped in better crop growth and development (Meena *et al.*, 2017b). The overall growth and development are reflected in yield-contributing characters, which positively correlate with the final crop yield. Yield is the synthesis and outcome of physiological and biochemical processes (Awasthi, 2020). These factors contributed to increased plant height, enhanced food synthesis and better partitioning of resources (Mehriya *et al.*, 2024).

The module of integrated management practices recorded maximum net return

Table 3. Effect of management practices on yield and economics of mung bean (pooled data of two years)

Treatments	Seed yield (q ha ⁻¹)	Gross returns (Rs. ha ⁻¹)	Cost of cultivation (Rs. ha ⁻¹)	Net returns (Rs. ha ⁻¹)	B: C ratio
Growing conditions					
Rainfed condition	14.4	102171	18531	83640	5.5
Irrigated condition	18.7	132916	22233	110683	6.0
SEm±	0.59	4232			
CD (p = 0.05)	3.6	25753			
CV (%)	10.8	10.8			
Management practices					
Control (Farmer's Practice)	12.9	91566	17800	73766	5.1
Organic farming production practice	16.1	120184	21745	98439	5.5
Chemical farming production practice	16.9	114927	19587	95340	5.9
Module of best management practices	20.1	143497	22397	121100	6.4
SEm±	0.69	4851			
CD (p = 0.05)	2.2	15819			
CV (%)	10.1	10.1			

(121100 ha⁻¹) and B:C ratio (6.4), which were statistically at par with the organic farming production practices in terms of net return (98439 ha⁻¹) and B:C ratio (5.9). As compared to the control, integrated management practices yielded 0.72 tons higher seed yield and Rs. 47,800 ha⁻¹ higher net profit, which were statistically significant differences (Table 3). The treatment integrated management practices gave net return of Rs. 1.21 lakh ha⁻¹, with a cost of cultivation of Rs. 22,397. The B:C ratio of 6.4 under S₄ indicates that for every Rs.1 spent, Rs. 6.40 were received in gross returns, it was well above the ratio of 5.1 recorded under the control. This finding confirms the earlier reports that a comprehensive module that combines balanced nutrition, timely irrigation, pest control, and optimum plant population often results in cumulative yield gains of 30-40% over standard farmers' practice (Amipara and Makwana, 2023; Kumar *et al.*, 2024).

Conclusions

Irrigation improved yield and profit over rainfed conditions. The module of integrated management practices out performed treatment of chemical practices in all parameters indicating the strength of the management practices. The integrated management practices module consistently exceeded critical difference thresholds for yield and economic returns. Exceptional profit levels (net returns of over Rs. 100 thousand ha⁻¹, B:C ratio of ~6.4) suggest that integrated management practices is not only agronomically effective but economically highly profitable, particularly when crop prices are good. Therefore, the study suggest that module of integrated management practices is the most effective and economically rewarding option among the four management practices for enhancing mung bean yield, returns and benefit-to-cost ratio.

Declarations

The authors have no competing interests.

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