RESPONSE OF RAINFED MAIZE (ZEAMAYS) AS INFLUENCED BY VARIOUSINTEGRATED NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

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Abstract: A field experiment was conducted at Research farm, Ambikapur during the *kharif* season of 2018-19 to study the various integrated nutrient management practices on production and profitability of maize. The experiment was conducted in randomized block designandreplicated thrice. The eleven nuitrient combinations 100% RDF (150:80:60 NPK kg ha⁻¹), 75% RDF, 50% RDF excluding and including FYM and used *Azotobacter* and legume intercropping in three treatments and compared with state practice. Amongst the various nutrient management practices, the higher grain yield was recorded with application of 100% RDF + FYM 5 t ha⁻¹ (7846.7 kg ha⁻¹) was significantly superior over all other treatments. However, it was on par with 100% RDF + Zn 5 kg ha⁻¹ (7313.3 kg ha⁻¹) and 100% RDF (6717.8 kg ha⁻¹). Stover yield, shelling percentage and harvest index was recorded significantly higher with 100% RDF + FYM 5 t ha⁻¹. Again 100% RDF + FYM 5 t ha⁻¹ was the best treatment with the highest net return (₹ 68814.9) and benefit cost ratio (1.58) found at par with 100% RDF + Zn 5 kg ha⁻¹ (₹ 64138.2 and 1.56, respectively) and 100% RDF (₹ 55957.4 and 1.38, respectively)

Keywords: Integrated nutrient management, Maize, Net return

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