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Effect of fish meal extract spray on the yield of Co-47 rice variety

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A field experiment was conducted with Co-47 rice variety at Annamalai University experimental farm from July to September 2018 with 12 treatments to evolve a suitable organic and inorganic preparations foliar spray along with the application of 75 and 100% recommended NPK + humic acid granules. The results revealed that the treatment T_{6} . 100% NPK + humic acid granules @12.5 kg/ha+*Panchagavya* + fish meal extract + Auxin Gold seaweed extract spray on 20, 35, and 50 DAT ranked first in terms of tiller number/m² (385), number of filled grains/panicle (105.42), panicle length (23.99), and grain yield (5660). Among the individual organic preparations foliar spray, fish meal extract spray was found to be better and improved the grain yield to the tune of 439 and 387 kg/ha over respective 100 and 75% NPK + humic acid granules @12.5 kg/ha application.

Keywords: Co-47 rice variety, Filled grains, Fish meal extract, Panchagavya, Seaweed, Yield.

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Introduction

Among the crops, rice is the staple food of the planet that is cultivated largely on the total available agricultural land in the world. Rice is the most important ancient crop cultivated in 117 countries and about 90% of total rice is grown and consumed in Asia¹ An increasing trend of rice production during recent time is attributed to the release of high yielding varieties and the use of higher doses of fertilizer. But the use of a higher dose of fertilizer (containing only nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), potash (K) and insufficient use of organics has created deficiencies of secondary and micronutrients. Apart from this, the farmers have to use more and more fertilizer to obtain the same yield level as in previous years. Excess and imbalanced use of chemical fertilizer has reduced the soil fertility status and rice yield by 38%^(ref 2). The dynamics of N in the soil-plant-atmosphere system includes various soil processes like mineralization, urea hydrolysis³, immobilization, nitrification, volatilization, and denitrification. Phosphorus after its application in the soil is either removed by crop or gets converted into various insoluble forms and gets fixed in soil-clays or organic matter. Without organics, usually, P use efficiency does not exceed

Correspondent author Email: meyysagronomy@yahoo.com 20%. A significant amount of P is lost from the soil through surface runoff⁴ and erosion resulting in eutrophication of water bodies. Potassium is the most abundant plant nutrient in the soil. It is more mobile than phosphate and is susceptible to loss by leaching, runoff, and erosion. Fertilizer K use efficiency is about 70%. Foliar application is one of the methods of fertilizer application in which fertilizers are applied in the form of a solution on the foliage of the plant. But foliar application alone may not be sufficient to obtain optimum yield. Foliar applied nutrients enter the plant through stomata. In this method, a small quantity of nutrient is applied at critical stages of crop growth and are absorbed quickly and effectively. The fermented organic formulations supply essential nutrients, vitamins, growth-promoting substances, beneficial microorganisms and result in good quality food⁵. The humic acid attracts positive ions and supplies macro and micronutrients. In transplanted rice, the addition of humic acid increases the nutrient content and enhances the uptake of primary, secondary and micronutrients⁶. Panchagavya is used through different means in agriculture, such as foliar spray, soil application along with irrigation water, seed or seedling treatments, etc. Panchagavya contains several vitamins, macronutrients, micronutrients, amino acid, growth regulators like auxin, gibberellin and useful microorganisms which are required for the

growth and development of crops⁷. Fish fertilizer is a Korean national farming method invented by Cho Han Kyu in the 1960s. USDA enlisted fish emulsion as part of organic farming. An amino acid is used as a biostimulants^{8,9}. The fish amino acid is a potential source of auxin that promotes vegetative growth by active cell division, cell enlargement, cell elongation, chlorophyll content¹⁰, photosynthetic pigments¹¹, particularly in brinjal (Egg plant)¹² and rice¹³. It helps in improving the number of effective tillers in rice, crop growth rate¹⁴ in lettuce¹⁵ and in Bhendi (Ladyfinger)¹⁶, Seaweeds are marine macroalgae. The uses of seaweeds are well known in many countries as food, fodder, and manures. To study the effect of foliar application of Panchagavya, fish amino acid, and seaweed extract individually as well as in combination with NPK + humic acid granules, the present study was carried out.

Materials and Methods

A field experiment was conducted at the Experimental Farm, Department of Agronomy, Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar which is situated at 11°24' N latitude and 79°44' E longitude and an altitude of +5.79 m above MSL during late Kuruvai season (July to September 2018) with rice variety Co-47 to study the effect of organic and inorganic preparations on rice along with 100 and 75 % recommended dose of nitrogen, phosphorus, potash (NPK) individually and as a combined spray. The experimental field is clayey loam in texture, low in available nitrogen, medium in available phosphorus, and high in available potassium. The experiment was laid out in a randomized block design with 12 treatments and replicated thrice. The twelve treatments were T₁ - 100 % NPK + humic acid granules @12.5 kg/ha, $T_2 - T_1 + Panchagavya$ spray @3 % on 20, 35, and 50 days after transplanting (DAT), $T_3 - T_1 + fish meal extract spray @3 % on 20,$ 35, and 50 DAT, $T_4 - T_1 + Auxin$ Gold seaweed extract spray (a) 0.35% on 20, 35, and 50 DAT, $T_{\rm 5}$ - T_1 + potassium nitrate spray @0.5% on 20, 35, and 50 DAT, $T_6 - T_1 + Panchagavya + fish meal extract +$ Auxin Gold seaweed extract spray on 20, 35, and 50 DAT, $T_7 - 75\%$ NPK + humic acid granules @12.5 kg/ha, $T_8 - T_7 + Panchagavya$ spray @3% on 20, 35, and 50 DAT, $T_9 - T_7$ + fish meal extract spray @3% on 20, 35, and 50 DAT, $T_{10} - T_7$ + Auxin Gold seaweed extract spray @0.35% on 20, 35, and 50 DAT, $T_{11} - T_7$ + potassium nitrate spray @0.5% on 20, 35, and 50 DAT, $T_{12} - T_7 + Panchagavya +$ fish meal extract + Auxin Gold seaweed extract spray on 20, 35, and 50 DAT. The recommended dose of 120:40:40 kg/ha was adopted for 100% and from that 75% NPK was calculated and were applied to the plots as per treatment schedule. The various treatment solutions were prepared as per the treatment schedule and were sprayed on 20, 35, and 50 DAT by using water @500 mL/ha with the help of knapsack sprayer. The interaction between the number of filled grains/panicle and the number of tillers/m² and grain yield was worked by the simple correlation coefficient.

Results and Discussion

Number of tillers/m²

Among the treatments tested, $T_6 - T_1 +$ Panchagavya + fish meal extract + seaweed extract spray on 20, 35, and 50 DAT ranked first compared to the rest of the treatments and resulted in the highest number of tillers/m² (Table 1) on 30 and 60 DAT (348.8, 385 respectively). This might be due to the combined effect of the recommended dose of NPK plus the foliar application of organic preparations. This combination contains macronutrients, micronutrients, vitamins, cytokinins, auxins and microorganisms which might have positively influenced the growth parameters due to enhanced protein synthesis, cell division and mobilization of nutrients. Earlier similar results were obtained¹⁷⁻²¹ The next in order was $T_3 - T_1 +$ fish meal extract spray (a)3% on 20, 35, and 50 DAT, T₂ - T₁ + Panchagavya spray @3% on 20, 35, and 50 DAT and T_4 - T_1 + Auxin Gold seaweed extract spray @0.35% on 20, 35, and 50 DAT (340.5, 336.1, 332.4 at 30 DAT and 372, 365, 359 at 60 DAT) and all were on par at all the stages of observation. Combined application of Panchagavya + fish meal extract + seaweed extract spray along with 100% NPK + humic acid granules (a)12.5 kg/ha increased the number of tillers/m² to the tune of 27.2 and 38 over T_1 - 100 % NPK + humic acid granules application @12.5 kg/ha at both stages of observation respectively. At 60 DAT, among the foliar spraying of organic substances with 75 or 100% NPK, spraying of fish meal extract was observed to be better and improved the number of tillers to the tune of 7, 13, 20 and 5, 10, 8 over-spraying of Panchagavya, seaweed extract, potassium nitrate along with 100 or 75% NPK + HA @12.5 kg/ha respectively. The better performance of fish meal

Table 1 — Effect of various treatments on growth, yield parameters and yield of rice							
Treatments	Number of tillers/m ²		Panicle length	Filled	Ill filled	Sterility	Grain yield
	30 DAT	60 DAT	(cm)	grains/panicle	grains/panicle	percentage	Kg/ha
T ₁ - 100% NPK +humic acid granules @12.5 kg/ha	321.6	347	23.30	88.89	19.56	18.03	5030
T_2 - T_1 + <i>Panchagavya</i> spray @3% on 20, 35, and 50DAT	336.1	365	23.61	93.35	17.83	16.03	5402
T_3 - T_1 + fish meal extract spray @3% on 20, 35, and 50 DAT	340.5	372	23.77	96.24	15.62	13.96	5469
$T_4 - T_1 +$ Auxin gold seaweed extract spray @0.35% on 20, 35, and 50 DAT	332.4	359	23.55	92.05	18.25	16.54	5357
T_5 - T_1 + potassium nitrate spray @0.5% on 20, 35, and 50 DAT	327.5	352	23.35	89.46	18.98	17.50	5296
T_6 - T_1 + <i>Panchagavya</i> , fish meal extract and seaweed extract spray on 20, 35, and 50 DAT (T_2 + T_3 + T_4)	348.8	385	23.99	105.42	13.58	11.41	5660
T ₇ - 75 % NPK + humic acid granules @12.5 kg/ha	298.6	322	20.20	74.65	26.15	25.94	4240
T_8 - T_7 + <i>Panchagavya</i> spray @3% on 20, 35, and 50 DAT	308.6	332	21.89	80.58	21.89	21.36	4627
T ₉ - T ₇ + fish meal extract spray $@3\%$ on 20, 35, and 50 DAT	311.3	337	22.03	82.34	21.38	20.61	4627
T_{10} - T_7 + Auxin gold seaweed extract spray @ 0.35% on 20, 35, and 50 DAT	305.8	327	21.51	79.47	22.18	21.81	4638
T_{11} - T_7 + potassium nitrate spray @0.5% on 20, 35, and 50 DAT	302.4	329	21.15	76.10	25.84	25.34	4326
$T_{12} - T_7 + Panchagavya$, fish meal extract and seaweed extract spray on 20, 35, and 50 DAT ($T_8+T_9+T_{10}$)	317.8	340	22.44	85.62	20.67	19.44	4931
S. Ed	7.65	10	0.40	1.57	0.42	0.41	90
CD (p = 0.05)	15.87	22	NS	3.27	0.87	0.86	186

extract spray might be due to the amino acid present in it which stimulated hormone metabolism, induced the growth and physiological characters of the plant. A similar result was reported earlier²². Foliar application of organic substances or inorganic substances individually + humic acid granules application @12.5 kg/ha with 75% NPK exerted comparable effect. Application of 75% NPK along with humic acid granules @12.5 kg/ha resulted in the reduced total number of tillers/m² up to 23 and 25 compared to 100% NPK + humic acid granules application @12.5 kg/ha at both the stages of observation respectively. The treatment T_7 - 75% NPK + humic acid granules @12.5 kg/ha recorded the least total number of tillers/m² (298.6, 322) at both stages of observation.

Total number of filled grains/panicle

Among the treatments tested, $T_6 - T_1 + Panchagavya$ + fish meal extract + seaweed extract spray on 20,35, and 50 DAT along with the application of humic acid granules 12.5 kg/ha surpassed all other treatments and produced the highest number of filled grains/panicle (105.42) which is 16.53 more filled grains compared to recommended NPK+ humic acid application. Humic acid influence plant growth both directly and indirectly. Indirectly, it improves the physical, chemical, and biological condition of the soils, while directly, it increases the chlorophyll content, accelerate plant respiration, hormonal growth response, and increases penetration in plant membrane. A similar result was obtained earlier²³ This was followed by $T_3 - T_1 + fish$ meal extract spray @3% on 20, 35, and 50 DAT and T_2 - T_1 + Panchagavya spray @3% on 20, 35, and 50 DAT and were on par. Application of T₂, T₃, T₄, T₅, or T₆ increased the number of filled grains/panicle to the tune of 4.45,7.35, 3.16, 0.57, and 16.53% over T₁ respectively. Among the foliar spraying of organic substances with 75 or 100% NPK, spraying of fish

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meal extract was observed to be better. Foliar application of organic substances or inorganic substances with 75% NPK resulted in a similar effect and it improved the number of filled grains up to 7.69 and 7.35% respectively. The treatment $T_7 - 75\%$ NPK + humic acid granules @12.5 kg/ha recorded the lowest total number of filled grains/panicle.

Number of ill filled grains/panicle

Within the treatments tested, $T_6 - T_1 +$ Panchagavya + fish meal extract + seaweed extract spray on 20, 35, and 50 DAT along with the application of humic acid granules @12.5 kg/ha resulted in the lowest number of ill filled grains/panicle (13.58). This was followed by T_3 - 100% NPK + humic acid granules application (a)12.5 kg/ha + fish meal extract spray on 20, 35, and 50 DAT. Combined application of Panchagavya + fish meal extract + seaweed extract along with 100% NPK + humic acid granules @12.5 kg/ha resulted in 5.98 lesser number of sterile grains/ panicle over T_1 - 100% NPK + humic acid granules @12.5 kg/ha. In addition to 100% NPK + humic acid granules@12.5 kg/ha, spraying of fish meal extract reduced the percentage of ill filled grains to the extent of 2.21, 2.63, and 3.36 over T_2 - T_1 + Panchagavya spray @3% on 20, 35, and 50 DAT, $T_4 - T_1 + Auxin$ Gold seaweed extract spray @0.35 % on 20, 35, and 50 DAT and T₅ - T₁ + potassium nitrate spray @0.5 % on 20, 35, and 50 DAT respectively. Among the foliar spraying of organic substances with 75 or 100% NPK, spraving of fish meal extract was found to be better.

Sterility percentage

Among the treatments tested, $T_6 - T_1 + Panchagavya +$ fish meal extract + seaweed extract spray on 20, 35, and 50 DAT along with the application of humic acid granules @12.5 kg/ha resulted in the lowest sterility percentage (11.41). This was followed by $T_3 - T_1 +$ fish meal extract spray @3% and $T_2 - T_1 + Panchagavya$ spray on 20, 35, and 50 DAT. Among the foliar spraying of organic substances with 75 or 100% NPK, spraying of fish meal extract was found to be better. The highest value was recorded in $T_7 - 75\%$ NPK +humic acid granules @12.5 kg/ha.

Panicle length

The data related to panicle length recorded at harvest did not exert any significant influence. However, among the treatments tested, $T_6 - T_1 +$

Panchagavya + fish meal extract + seaweed extract spray on 20, 35, and 50 DAT along with the application of humic acid granules @12.5 kg/ha recorded the highest panicle length with a value of 23.99 cm.

Grain yield

Among the treatments tried out, $T_6 - T_1 +$ Panchagavya + fish meal extract + seaweed extract spray on 20,35, and 50 DAT ranked first with a grain yield of 5660 kg/ha which is 12.52% higher than T_1 -100% NPK + humic acid granules @12.5 kg/ha. The increase in yield was due to the quick absorption and assimilation of more nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and micronutrients present in inorganic fertilizers and organic substances. This leads to physiological and morphological improvement and finally, it reflected in higher yield. Further, a synergistic effect of inorganic fertilizer and organic substance as well as the slow release of nutrients throughout the crop growth might have contributed to a better performance of this treatment. This combination helps to produce more photosynthates and translocation from source to sink. The immediate release of N and better soil physical properties due to the application of humic acid granules also contributed to improved yield. A higher yield obtained was earlier reported²⁴. The second best was $T_3 - T_1 +$ fish meal extract spray @3% on 20, 35, and 50 DAT which gives 5469 kg/ha. Foliar application of amino acids at critical stages of crop growth was absorbed through stomata. It is used as an ingredient in protein synthesis, influence the physiological processes directly or indirectly. Further, it helped to increase the chlorophyll content in the plants, leading to a higher rate of photosynthesis and yield. This result is in line with the findings of research work in Tomato²⁵, bean²⁶, greengram²⁷, Rice²⁸, cowpea²⁹ and *Amaranthus*³⁰. Foliar application of Panchagavya @3% or fish meal extract @3% or seaweed extract @0.35% increased the grain yield to the tune of 372, 439, and 327 kg/ha respectively over T₁- 100% NPK + humic acid granules @12.5 kg/ha. Panchagavya provided growth-promoting hormones like IAA, auxin and macronutrients which might have increased the chlorophyll content and finally yield. Seaweed extract is an organic fertilizer containing nutrients that improve the chlorophyll content, photosynthetic rate and yield. In addition to 100% NPK + humic acid @12.5 kg/ha, spraying of fish meal extract improved the grain yield to the tune of 67, 112, and 173 kg/ha over $T_2 - T_1 + Panchagavya$

spray @3 % on 20, 35, and 50 DAT, $T_4 - T_1 + Auxin$ Gold seaweed extract spray @0.35 % on 20, 35, and 50 DAT and T₅ - T₁ + potassium nitrate spray @0.5 % on 20, 35, and 50 DAT respectively. This might be due to the presence of nutrients, amino acids, and auxin in it. Application of 25% less NPK compared to 100% recommended NPK + humic acid granules @12.5 kg/ha reduced the grain yield to the extent of 18.6%. The combined application of Panchagavya + fish meal extract + seaweed extract along with 100 or 75% NPK increased the grain yield over individual application of Panchagavya @3% or fish meal extract (a)3% or seaweed extract (a)0.35% to the tune of 258, 191, 303 and 304, 304, 293 Kg/ha respectively. Foliar application of fish meal extracts either with 100 or 75% NPK + humic acid increased the grain yield to the tune of 439 and 387 Kg/ha respectively over 100 or 75% NPK + humic acid application. Application of 75% NPK along with humic acid @12.5 kg/ha resulted in the least grain yield (4240 kg/ha). The number of filled grains/panicle and the number of tillers/m² and grain yield were positively correlated with a value of 0.6 and 0.5 respectively.

Conclusion

The study highlighted that the foliar application of fish meal extract spray @0.3% on 20, 35, and 50 DAT to low land rice variety Co-47 along with 100 and 75% recommended NPK + humic acid granules @12.5 Kg/ha increased the grain yield up to 8.7 and 9.1% compared to 100 and 75% recommended NPK + humic acid granules @12.5 Kg/ha application alone, respectively. In future, higher doses of fish meal extract spray may be tried along with inorganic fertilizers @50 and 75% recommended dose with and without humic acid.

Conflict of interest

The authors declared that there is no conflict of interest.

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