

E-ISSN: 2788-9297

P-ISSN: 2788-9289

[www.agrijournal.org](http://www.agrijournal.org)

SAJAS 2022; 2(1): 01-03

Received: 01-11-2021

Accepted: 05-12-2021

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## Yield and economics of mustard as influenced by different levels of boron and zinc (*Brassica campestris* L.)

**Mhonthung R Yanthan and Rajesh Singh**

**Abstract**

An experimental field trial was conducted during the *Rabi* season, 2020 in Crop Research Farm (CRF), Agronomy Department, Naini Agriculture Institute, SHUATS, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, entitled “Effect of boron and zinc levels on growth and yield of yellow mustard (*Brassica campestris* L.)”. The trial was laid out in Randomized Block Design having nine treatments and three replications. Two factor i.e. boron and zinc having two levels, boron (1&2 kg/ha) and zinc (5&10 kg/ha) consisted along with RDF as NPK and S each at 80:40:40:40 kg/ha respectively. The results revealed that the maximum number of siliqua per plant (86.07), no. of seed per siliqua (40.27), test weight (3.85 g), seed yield (1.95 t/ha), stover yield (2.96) and harvest index (39.70%) was obtained in the treatment T<sub>2</sub> (RDF + 1 kg B/ha). The maximum total cost of cultivation (27931.00 Rs/ha) obtained in the treatment T<sub>9</sub> (RDF + 2 kg B/ha + 10 kg Z/ha). The maximum gross return (96560.00 Rs/ha) obtained in the treatment T<sub>2</sub> (RDF + 1kg B/ha). The maximum net return (69739.00 Rs/ha) and B: C ratio (2.6) obtained in the treatment T<sub>2</sub> (RDF + 1 kg B/ha) respectively.

**Keywords:** Boron and zinc levels, sulphur, yellow mustard

**Introduction**

India ranks the 4<sup>th</sup> in the world oilseed producing economy and contributes about 10 percent of the world oilseed production. Even though the area under oilseed crops in India is 20.8 percent of the world, its production is only about 10 percent of global production. This is the because of the low productivity of oilseed crops and the year to year changes of production in India. Rapeseed-mustard in India contributes to about 28 percent of the total oilseed production ranking second among the cultivated edible oilseeds and sharing about 27 percent in the India's oilseed economy. In India rapeseed-mustard has an area, production and yield of about 5 million hectare (Mha), 6 million tones (Mt) and 10 quintal per hectare respectively [3]. Rapeseed-mustard is grown on 6.58 lakh ha area in Uttar Pradesh with the production of 0.76 mt and productivity of 1155 kg/ha, [2].

Mustard is a crop which needs the major secondary and micro-nutrients in requisite amount for higher production. Mustard is very responsive to micro-nutrients boron and zinc, which are an important source for their growth and development. Number of factors including soil pH, soil texture, carbon content, organic matters, soil moisture, soil temperature, oxide content and clay mineralogy affects the availability of boron to plant [4]. Deficiency of boron is considered as the second most important micro-nutrient constrained in crops in the world after that of zinc [1]. Boron is an important micro-nutrient which helps in the development and separation of the sucrose in plants. Boron also helps in plant growth and the intake of nitrogen in soil and also balances the calcium deficiency to a greater extent. It also helps in the development of roots, flower and the pollen grain formation. In respect to protein content in mustard boron application produces the best quality seed [10]. The deficiency of boron in mustard may cause infertility leading to less pods formation and less seeds per pod and lower seed yield [13].

Zinc is an important constituent of several enzymes which regulates various metabolic processes in the plants and also influences the formation of several growth hormones like IAA in plants. Zinc helps in the formation of seeds, the settings of pods and the synthesis of oil in mustard seed. It also increases the biological yield of mustard [11]. Zinc controls the plant growth Harmon IAA promoting the starch formation, seed maturation, and production [9]. The greatest yields are obtained with the application of zinc as basal to the soil. Normally it is applied along with the sowing of seed.

Zinc deficiency could appear with low amount of Zn in the soil or due to the low temperature requiring at the crop growth. With high phosphorus contents of the crop in soils after seeding deficiency of zinc can also appear. Zinc sulphate also increases the spread of leaves, initiates silking to test weight, early maturation and improves the uptake of phosphate and also regulates the plant growth.

**Materials and methods**

The experiment trial was carried out at the Crop Research Farm, Agronomy Department, Naini Agriculture Institute, SHUATS, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, during the Rabi season 2020. It is located above the mean sea level (MSL) at 25°39'42"N latitude, 81°67'56"E longitude which is situated on the right side of the Yamuna river at 98 m altitude.

The soil in it is a sandy loam soil having pH 7.1, organic carbon 0.48 percent and available NPK (102.0, 20.5, and 285.0 kg/ha) respectively. The plot was designed in randomized block design having three replications and two factors which are boron (1&2 kg/ha) and zinc levels (5&10 kg/ha) respectively. Nitrogen was applied in two split does each @40 kg/ha and as of phosphorus, potassium and sulphur it was applied in full dose each @40 kg/ha basal while sowing. The plot consist nine treatment combinations in all. The net size of the subplot is 3 m \* 3m. Agronomic practices like thinning, eradication of weeds, hoeing and irrigation were done timely. Yellow mustard variety 'NRCYS-05-02' was sown at a spacing of 30\*10 cm.

**Results and Discussion**

**Yield**

The yield characters namely siliqua per plant, seeds per siliqua, test weight, seed yield, stover yield and harvest index of mustard under boron and zinc levels has been tabulated in table 1. The highest no of siliqua per plant 86.07 was recorded in the treatment T<sub>2</sub> (RDF +1 kg B/ha). Application of boron increases the siliqua formation of mustard plant [5]. Also the maximum number of seeds per siliqua (40.27) was obtained with T<sub>2</sub> (RDF + 1 kg B/ha). No of seeds per siliqua imparts the potential yield recovery in mustard crops. No significant effect was found in case of 1000-grain weight. With different levels of boron significant variations was found in Grain and Stover yield production. The maximum seed yield (1.95 t/ha) was obtained with T<sub>2</sub> (RDF + 1.0 kg B/ha). However, T<sub>3</sub> (RDF + 2 kg B/ha), T<sub>5</sub> (RDF + 10 kg Zn/ha), T<sub>8</sub> (RDF + 2 kg B/ha + 5 kg Zn/ha) and T<sub>9</sub> (RDF + 2 kg B/ha + 10 Kg Zn/ha) were statistically at par with T<sub>2</sub> (RDF + 1 kg B/ha). The maximum yield of mustard was found with the application of boron @1.0 to 1.5 kg/ha [8]. The maximum Stover yield was (2.96 t/ha) recorded in the treatment T<sub>2</sub> (RDF + 1 kg B/ha). However, T<sub>3</sub> (RDF + 2 kg B/ha), T<sub>5</sub> (RDF + 10 kg Zn/ha), T<sub>8</sub> (RDF + 2 kg B/ha + 5 kg Zn/ha) and T<sub>9</sub> (RDF + 2 kg B/ha + 10 Kg Zn/ha) are statistically at par with T<sub>2</sub> (RDF + 1 kg B/ha). The application of 1 kg B/ha resulted the highest Stover yield than the other boron controlled treatment producing the lowest Stover yield [6].

**Table 1:** Yield attributing traits of mustard with different levels of boron and zinc (*Brassica campestris* L.)

Treatments	Siliqua per plant (No.)	Seeds per siliqua (No.)	Test weight (g)	Seed yield (t/ha)	Stover yield (t/ha)	Harvest index (%)
T <sub>1</sub> : RDF	68.60	35.53	3.61	1.28	2.73	31.85
T <sub>2</sub> : RDF + 1 kg B/ha	86.07	40.27	3.85	1.95	2.96	39.70
T <sub>3</sub> : RDF + 2 kg B/ha	71.27	39.07	3.70	1.74	2.91	37.13
T <sub>4</sub> : RDF + 5 kg Zn/ha	72.07	35.40	3.74	1.38	2.74	33.46
T <sub>5</sub> : RDF + 10 kg Zn/ha	63.60	36.33	3.71	1.60	2.83	36.09
T <sub>6</sub> : RDF + 1 kg B/ha + 5 kg Zn/ha	76.93	32.53	3.75	1.46	2.77	34.34
T <sub>7</sub> : RDF + 1 kg B/ha + 10 kg Zn/ha	80.27	35.73	3.70	1.44	2.76	34.22
T <sub>8</sub> : RDF + 2 kg B/ha + 5 kg Zn/ha	74.87	35.87	3.82	1.84	2.93	38.49
T <sub>9</sub> : RDF + 2 kg B/ha + 10 kg Zn/ha	65.53	36.20	3.76	1.75	2.92	37.20
f test	-	-	-	S	S	-
SEm±	8.93	1.71	0.05	0.13	0.06	1.83
CD (P = 0.05)	-	-	-	0.40	0.17	-

**Table 2:** Economic of mustard as influenced by different levels of boron and zinc.

Treatments	Cost of cultivation (₹/ha)	Gross return(₹/ha)	Net return (₹/ha)	Benefit cost Ratio (B:C ratio)
T <sub>1</sub> : RDF	26711.00	64333.17	37622.17	1.41
T <sub>2</sub> : RDF + 1 kg B/ha	26821.00	96560.00	69739.00	2.6
T <sub>3</sub> : RDF + 2 kg B/ha	26931.00	86266.83	59335.83	2.2
T <sub>4</sub> : RDF + 5 kg Zn/ha	27211.00	68980.00	41769.00	1.53
T <sub>5</sub> : RDF + 10 kg Zn/ha	27711.00	79626.67	51915.67	1.87
T <sub>6</sub> : RDF + 1 kg B/ha + 5 kg Zn/ha	27321.00	72690.16	45369.16	1.66
T <sub>7</sub> : RDF + 1 kg B/ha + 10 kg Zn/ha	27821.00	71723.49	43902.49	1.58
T <sub>8</sub> : RDF + 2 kg B/ha + 5 kg Zn/ha	27431.00	91093.49	63662.49	2.32
T <sub>9</sub> : RDF + 2 kg B/ha + 10 kg Zn/ha	27931.00	86920.00	58989.00	2.11

**Economic**

Cost of cultivation, gross return, net return and the B: C ratio due to boron and zinc levels has been tabulated in table 2. The calculation was done keeping in view the market price of seeds which is @Rs4800 per quintal and Stover rate @Rs100 per quintal of mustard. Among the treatments T<sub>9</sub> (RDF + 2 kg B/ha + 10 kg Zn/ha) recorded maximum total cost of cultivation (27931 per ha), whereas gross return was

highest (96560 per ha) with treatment T<sub>2</sub> (RDF + 1 kg B/ha). Maximum net returns (69739 per ha) and highest B: C ratio (2.6) was also recorded with treatment T<sub>2</sub> (RDF + 1 kg B/ha). For net returns and B: C ratio, the application of boron was found superior to the control. The application of (RDF + 1.0 kg B/ha) significantly increased seed yield and economics over the control [12].

## Conclusion

It is concluded that application of RDF (NPKS) 80:40:40:40 and boron @ 1 kg/ha recorded the maximum yield and economics of mustard. The experiment may be repeated to confirm the findings as the data is based on the study concluded in one season.

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