

*Original Research*

# Integrated and Site-Specific Fertilizer Application Role in Rice-Wheat Cropping System

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## Abstract

Continuous use of mineral fertilizers can worsen soil quality, leading to declining productivity and soil pollution. An effective integrated fertilizer strategy is required to help the agriculture cropping system to apply nutrients according to the site-specific need. Thus, to explore the role of application of site-specific and integrated nutrient management (INM), treatments containing 02 fertilizer doses and 03 management techniques for the application of soil organic matter (SOM), P & K were studied in Punjab Pakistan's rice-wheat system. It is noted that the level of SOM can be improved by repeated application of the Municipal Solid Waste Compost (MSWC). INM treatments contributed a non-significant increase of 7% to 10% in the level of SOM relative to the initial level of 0.82%. The target soil P level of 19.0 ppm is achieved in this study by following a McLean model that is very close to the recommended P level of 21.0 ppm. There is also a decreasing trend in soil level K and negative balance K. Site-specific application of fertilizer envisages the superiority of 6.2% increase in soil P over conventional application in spite of the fact that the total site-recipe of P was 341.0 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> applied is very lower than conventionally applied P which was 600.0 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> in three years. Ranking of the best to the least favorable indices is documented as P>SOM>K.

**Keywords:** integrated use, mineral fertilizers, INM, rice-wheat, site-specific, SOM

## Introduction

Rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) - wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) is one of the world's largest agricultural production systems. Intensive farming techniques, unbalanced application of chemical fertilizers without proper

review of soil nutrient status, poor soil management and high-yielding crop varieties have resulted in a substantial decrease in soil organic matter (SOM) and crop productivity over the past decades. [1, 2]. A useful strategy to feed the rapidly growing population is to increase the unit area production by using existing agricultural area and resources [3]. This can be accomplished by growing improved crop varieties [4], site specific way of fertilizer application [5], integrated

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Table 1. Detail of MSWC application to soil.

Combination of Techniques and Doses	MSWC Applied (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )						Cumulative Amount
	Wheat-1	Rice-1	Wheat-2	Rice-2	Wheat-3	Rice-3	
	Soil test P at sowing = 8.2 mg kg <sup>-1</sup>	Soil test P at transplanting = 18.4 mg kg <sup>-1</sup>	Soil test P at sowing = 14.6 mg kg <sup>-1</sup>	Soil test P at transplanting = 17.8 mg kg <sup>-1</sup>	Soil test P at sowing = 16.7 mg kg <sup>-1</sup>	Soil test P at transplanting = 14.7 mg kg <sup>-1</sup>	
$T_{-I} \times D_{-I}$ and $T_{-I} \times D_{-II}$	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
$T_{-II} \times D_{-I}$ and $T_{-III} \times D_{-I}$	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	24000
$T_{-II} \times D_{-II}$ and $T_{-III} \times D_{-II}$	3200	1200	2800	1600	2000	2800	13600

Table 2. Mineral fertilizer application rates.

Crop detail	Soil P (ppm)	Mineral Fertilizer Application Rate (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )					
		$D_{-I}$ (Conventional)			$D_{-II}$ (Site Specific)		
		N	P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	K <sub>2</sub> O	N	P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	K <sub>2</sub> O
Wheat, 1 <sup>st</sup> Crop	8.7	135	100	40	135	80	40
Rice, 1 <sup>st</sup> Crop	18.4	115	100	40	115	30	40
Wheat, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Crop	14.6	135	100	40	135	73	40
Rice, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Crop	17.8	115	100	40	115	37	40
Wheat, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Crop	16.7	135	100	40	135	49	40
Rice, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Crop	14.7	115	100	40	115	72	40
Total		750	600	240	750	341	240

### Application Rates of MSWC

The MSWC was prepared aerobically by M/S Waste Busters Pvt Ltd. Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan. MSWC application was made on the basis of the P requirement of a crop in a treatment. A computed quantity of MSWC was integrated in respective fertilizer dose in 1:4 (MSWC: Mineral fertilizer) on the soil test P basis. [26] emphasized phosphorus based application rather than nitrogen based application of compost in order to avoid loading of contaminants particularly phosphorus. In Punjab, Pakistan, the P sufficiency soil level (Olsen sodium bicarbonate extractable) was recommended as 21 ppm [27]. The MSWC analysis depicted that it contained organic matter 40%, nitrogen & phosphorus 5.0 ppm and potassium 10.0 ppm, zinc 2.0 ppm, copper 0.5 ppm, Iron 20.0 ppm, manganese 1.0 ppm, lead 0.1 ppm, Nickel 0.05 ppm, cobalt 0.05 ppm, cadmium 0.05 ppm and chromium 0.05 ppm. The MSWC application to each treatment in every season is presented in Table 1. and Initial soil characteristics is given in Table 2. A McLean prediction model for site specific P application was followed by McLean, et al., 1982 [28].

### Mineral Fertilizer Application Rates

The detail of mineral fertilizers applied in permanent field during three years in six crop seasons are given in Table 2.

### Analysis of Soil Characteristics

The following methods were used for analysis of SOM, P and K.

Sr. No.	Parameter	Method Followed
1.	SOM	[29]
2.	Soil Phosphorus	[30]
3.	Soil Potassium	[31]
4.	Phosphorus and Potassium balance in kg ha <sup>-1</sup>	P or K balance = $\sum$ (Fertilizer P or K, municipal solid waste manure P or K, irrigation water P or K) – Plant P or K (P or K removal by grain and straw)









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