



A Study of Water Soluble Fertilizers and Micronutrients on maturity of fruits during growing periods of Banana (CV. Grand Nain)

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ABSTRACT

During the present studies Different water soluble treatments with and without micronutrients treatments were applied to the banana plants of cv. grand nain cultivar. The treatments were applied for two years. The fertilizer treatment applied by conventional methods was served control. During two trial years, pooled analysis and statistical analysis were worked out.

From the results it is evident that the period of maturity after flowering in banana cultivar grand nain under the treatments of water soluble fertilizers and micronutrients was found to be reduced during both the trial years. It was observed that the test cultivar under the treatment of M₂ (75 % RDF through WSF (12:61:00, 13:0:45 and Urea)) came earlier than the test cultivar under conventional method of application of fertilizers and micronutrients. The period of fruit maturity was reduced in the test cultivar under M₄ treatment (75% RDF through WSF (Urea, Orthophosphoric acid and White potash)). It was followed by M₁ (50 % RDF through WSF (12:61:00, 13:0:45 and Urea)) and M₃ treatments (100 % RDF through soil application (Urea, SSP and MOP)) as compared to the control. It was calculated from the results that the test cultivar under water soluble fertilizer treatments showed shorter period of fruit maturity than the test cultivar under conventional method of application of fertilizers.

Introduction:

The banana (*Musa paradisiaca* L.) an important fruit crop of the world. It is consumed by human beings since centuries long back. It is known to be man's first food and hence called it as Adams fruit. It is highly nutritious. It is cheap and hence nicknamed as **poor man's apple**. Apart from using banana as food, the fruit, leaves and other plant parts are used in several occasions and religious purposes. It is evident from the literature that there are about 250-300 cultivated banana varieties in India. About 90 per cent farmers in Nanded district used to grow grand nain cultivar. Grand Nain is suitable for Nanded region in terms of vigour, yield, quality and long shelf-life. The yield and quality of banana requires vegetative growth and good vegetative growth requires recommended dose of macro and micronutrients. The macronutrients (Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potassium) promote vegetative growth and production. The micronutrients in small dose promote enzymatic activities and synthesis resulting into high yield and quality (Kumar, 2002, Das, 2003)

Considering these facts the research topic entitled A Study of Water Soluble Fertilizers and Micronutrients on Phosphorous content of leaves during growing periods of Banana (CV. Grand Nain) was carried out.

Materials and Methods

During the present investigation fruit maturity in grand nain cultivar of banana was studied after flowering for two trial years for these observations on changes in colour of the fruit peel from green to pale green and changes in angular fruit shape to round. The fruits observed with pale green colour and blunt angles were considered as mature fruits. The period in days required for fruit maturity after flowering was also recorded during both the trial years. The days required for fruit maturity and harvesting were noted. The bunch of mature fruits was harvested manually by using sickle. A 20 cm stalk of the bunch was maintained for easy handling. The results with pooled and statistical analysis are presented in table – 1, 1a and figure – 1.

Treatment Details

The details of application of fertilizers scheduled during the research work is

Details of application schedule of fertilizers

Treatmetns	Treatment Details
I. Main Plot treatments	
M ₁	50 % RDF through WSF (12:61:00, 13:0:45 and Urea)
M ₂	75 % RDF through WSF (12:61:00, 13:0:45 and Urea)
M ₃	50% RDF through WSF (Urea, Orthophosphoric acid and White potash)
M ₄	75% RDF through WSF (Urea, Orthophosphoric acid and White potash)
M ₅	100 % RDF through soil application (Urea, SSP and MOP)
II. Sub-Plot treatments	
S ₀	Without micronutrients
S ₁	With micronutrients
Replications	4 (Four)
Design	Split plot Design (SPD)
Year (Seasons)	Two (2015-16 and 2016-17)
Location	A/P Pardi (Mukta) Tq. Ardhapur Nanded district of Maharashtra state
Crop and Cultivar	Banana Cv. Grand Nain
Spacing	Row to row 1.8 meters and plant to plant 1.5 meters
Number of plants/treatment	16
Total number of plants	640
Total number of treatments	10 (Main plot treatments 5 x Sub-plot treatments 2)

WSF = water soluble fertilizers through fertigation

RDF = Recommended Dose of Fertilizer (200:160:200 grams NPK per plant)

NPK=Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potasssium

SSP=Single Super Phosphate

MOP=Murate of potash

Results

From the results presented in table - 10 10a, and figure - it is evident that the period of maturity after flowering in banana cultivar grand nain under the treatments of water soluble fertilizers and micronutrients was found to be reduced during both the trial years. It was observed that the test cultivar under the treatment of M_2 came to maturity 38 days earlier than the test cultivar under conventional method of application of fertilizers and micronutrients. The period of fruit maturity was reduced by 31 days in the test cultivar under M_4 treatment. It was followed by M_1 and M_3 treatments as compared to the control. It was calculated from the results that the test cultivar under water soluble fertilizer treatments (M_1 , M_2 , M_3 and M_4) showed shorter period of fruit maturity than the test cultivar under conventional method of application of fertilizers.

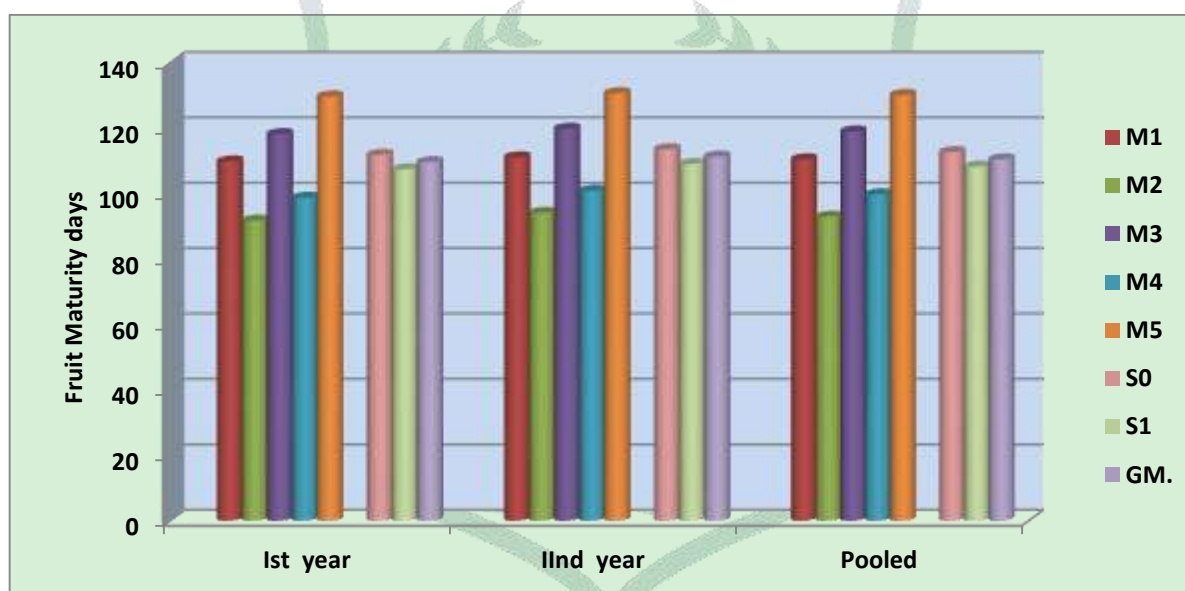
Table-1: Studies on application of water soluble fertilizers and micronutrients in relation to Maturity Period of fruit during growing period of Grand Nain cultivar of Banana.

Treatments	Fruit maturity after flowering (days)		
	I st year	II nd year	Pooled
Main Plot treatments: Water soluble fertilizer treatments (M)			
M_1	109.88	111.13	110.50
M_2	91.75	94.13	92.94
M_3	118.25	119.88	119.06
M_4	98.75	100.88	99.81
M_5	129.75	130.75	130.25
S.E.m. \pm	2.37	2.46	1.43
CD@5%	7.31	7.57	4.05
Sub Plot treatments: Micronutrient treatments (S)			
S_0	111.90	113.60	112.75
S_1	107.45	109.10	108.28
S.E.m. \pm	1.04	1.18	0.91
CD@5%	3.13	3.57	2.56
Interactions			
M\timesS			
S.E.m. \pm	2.32	2.65	2.02
CD@5%	NS	NS	NS
Y\timesM			
S.E.m. \pm			2.02
CD@5%			NS
Y\times S			
S.E.m. \pm			1.28
CD@5%			NS
Y\timesM\timesS			
S.E.m. \pm			2.86
CD@5%			NS
CV.	9.17	9.49	9.18
GM.	109.68	111.35	110.51

Table-1a: Significance and at par values of maturity period based on statistical analysis resulted by the treatments of water soluble fertilizers and micronutrients during growing periods of Banana cultivar Grand Nain

Period of fruit maturity after flowering								
Year/ Pooled	Main Plot					Sub Plot		Interactions
I Year	M ₂	M ₄	M ₁	M ₃	M ₅	S ₁	S ₀	NS
	91.75	98.75	109.88	118.25	129.75	107.45	111.90	
II Year	M ₂	M ₄	M ₁	M ₃	M ₅	S ₁	S ₀	NS
	94.13	100.88	111.13	119.88	130.75	109.10	113.60	
Pooled	M ₂	M ₄	M ₁	M ₃	M ₅	S ₁	S ₀	NS
	92.94	99.61	110.50	119.06	130.25	108.28	112.75	

Indicates values at a par with each other

**Figure-1:** Studies on application of water soluble fertilizers and micronutrients in relation to Maturity Period of Fruit during growing period of Grand Nain cultivar of Banana.

Discussion:

During the present studies the effect of water soluble fertilizers and micronutrients on fruit characters of grand nain cultivar of banana was observed during the period of two years. The fruit character in terms of period of maturity of fruits were found to be greatly influenced by the application of dose of water soluble fertilizers through drip fertigation. The test cultivar under the fertilizer treatments found to be showed early flowering as compared to the flowering as compared to the flowering in the test cultivar under conventional method of application of fertilizers. It was also observed that the finger length, diameter, fruit firmness and maturity of fruits in the test cultivar under fertilizer treatments with micronutrients was increased during both trial years as compared to control. The significant results may be due to timely supply of nutrients with appropriate amounts. The early flowering and maturity of the test cultivar, increase in finger length and diameter may be due to

increase cell division, enzyme action and reactions, etc. stimulated by the dose of water soluble fertilizer with micronutrients. Similar results were found to be observed by different workers in different plants under different conditions by the application of fertilizers and micronutrients.

Summary:

1. The test cultivar under the treatment of M₂ came to maturity 38 days earlier than the test cultivar under conventional method of application of fertilizers and micronutrients.
2. The period of fruit maturity was reduced by 31 days in the test cultivar under M₄ treatment.
3. It was calculated from the results that the test cultivar under water soluble fertilizer treatments (M₁, M₂, M₃ and M₄) showed shorter period of fruit maturity.

Conclusion:

The fertilizer treatment M₂ S₁ 75 % RDF through WSF (12:61:00, 13:0:45 and Urea) with micronutrients was found to be greatly influenced on maturity period of fruits.

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