EFFECT OF FRUIT PEELS AS A NATURAL FERTILIZER
ON GROWTH AND YIELD OF OKRA (Abelmoschus esculentus L.).

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ABSTRACT

Present study was carried out at the Crop Farm, Eastern University, Sri Lanka during the period of January 2019 to April 2019 to study the effect of different fruit peel powder application on growth and yield of okra (Abelmoschus esculentus (L.) Moench).

This experiment was carried out in a Completely Randomized Design (CRD) with six treatments having twenty replicates. Treatments were, recommended fertilizer application at basal and topdressing (T1, control), half dose of recommended fertilizer application at basal and topdressing times with 1g of banana peel powder (T2), 1g of pomegranate peel powder (T3), 1g of orange peel powder (T4), 0.5g each of banana and pomegranate peel powders (T5) and 0.5g each of orange and banana peel powders (T6) at both times.

The results reveals that application of fruit peel powder at basal and top dressing had significant differences (P<0.05) on plant height, number of leaves per plant, leaf area, leaf area index, chlorophyll content, days to 50% and 100% flowering, number of flowers per plant, fresh and dry weights of leaves, stem, root and fruit, fruit length and girth and sun dried weight of seed. Further significant difference (P<0.01) in cumulative yield as well as pick wise yield were noted. At 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th picking, the highest value was obtained in T6 and lowest value in T1. The highest value of cumulative yield was gained in T6 (6.15 ton/ha) followed by T2 (4.75 ton/ha) while lowest value was gained in T1 (2.02 ton/ha).

Application of fruit peel powder into the soil leads to improve growth and yield of okra in sandy regosol compared to recommended inorganic fertilizer and present study
suggested that, among the all tested treatments, half recommended fertilizer application at basal and topdressing times with 0.5g each of orange and banana peel powders at both times (T6) followed by half recommended fertilizer application at basal and topdressing times with 1g of banana peel powder at both times (T2) would be the most suitable fruit peel powders to get higher growth and yield of okra in sandy regosol.
TABLE OF CONTENT

ABSTRACT ............................................................................................................. I

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ....................................................................................... III

TABLE OF CONTENT ......................................................................................... IV

LIST OF TABLES ................................................................................................. IX

LIST OF FIGURES ............................................................................................. XI

CHAPTER 01 ........................................................................................................ 1

1.0. INTRODUCTION .......................................................................................... 1

1.1. Objectives .................................................................................................. 4

CHAPTER 02 ........................................................................................................ 5

2.0. REVIEW OF LITERATURE .......................................................................... 5

2.1. Okra (Abelmoschus esculentus L.) ............................................................. 5

2.1.1 Geographical Origin, History and Distribution ....................................... 6

2.1.2 Classification ......................................................................................... 7

2.1.3 Biological description .......................................................................... 7

2.1.4 Okra production in World .................................................................... 8

2.1.5 Okra production in Sri Lanka ............................................................... 9

2.1.6 Recommended varieties and its characteristics .................................... 9

2.1.7 Uses ..................................................................................................... 10

2.1.8 Nutritional Composition .................................................................... 11
2.2. Fertilizer

2.2.1. Inorganic Fertilizer
   2.2.1.1. Problems of using inorganic fertilizer

2.2.2. Organic Fertilizer
   2.2.2.1. Benefits of using organic fertilizer
   2.2.2.2. Effect of organic fertilizer on crop production

2.2.3. Combined Use of Chemical and Organic Fertilizers
   2.2.3.1. Effect of combined use of chemical and organic fertilizers on crop production

2.2.4. Nutrients
   2.2.4.1. Nutrients deficiency

2.2.5. Fruit wastes
   2.2.5.1. Effect of fruit waste on crop production

2.3. Banana (Musa sapientum)
   2.3.1. Uses and nutritional composition
   2.3.2. Chemical properties

2.4. Orange (Citrus sinensis)
   2.4.1. Uses and nutritional composition
   2.4.2. Chemical properties

2.5. Pomegranate (Punica granatum)
   2.5.1. Uses and nutritional composition
   2.5.2. Chemical properties
3.0. MATERIALS AND METHODS .............................................................. 28

3.1. Location ....................................................................................... 28

3.2. Climate and Soil............................................................................ 28

3.3. Variety used ................................................................................ 28

3.4. Experiment .................................................................................. 29

3.4.1. Experimental design .................................................................. 29

3.4.2. Treatments used in this experiment ........................................... 30

3.4.3. Preparation of peel powders for application ............................... 30

3.4.3.1. Collection of Banana, Pomegranate and Orange peel ............ 30

3.4.3.2. Preparation of Banana, Pomegranate and Orange peel powders .................................................................................. 31

3.5. Agronomic Practices ..................................................................... 32

3.5.1. Pot preparation ......................................................................... 32

3.5.2. Planting of okra ...................................................................... 33

3.6. Cultural Practices .......................................................................... 33

3.6.1. Fertilizer application .................................................................. 33

3.6.2. Irrigation ................................................................................. 33

3.6.3. Weeding .................................................................................... 34

3.7. Parameters .................................................................................... 34

3.7.1. Germination percentage .............................................................. 34

3.7.2. Growth parameters .................................................................. 34

3.7.3. Yield parameters ....................................................................... 34

3.8. Statistical analysis ........................................................................ 35
4.0. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. Plant height ...................................................... 36

4.2. Number of leaves per plant .................................. 37

4.3. Number of branches per plant ............................... 38

4.4. Leaf area ........................................................... 39

4.5. Leaf area index (LAI) .......................................... 40

4.6. Root length ........................................................ 41

4.7. Chlorophyll content ............................................. 42

4.8. Days for 50% and 100% flowering ......................... 44

4.9. Number of flowers per plant ................................ 45

4.10. Fresh weight of plant ......................................... 46

4.11. Fresh weight of leaves ....................................... 47

4.12. Fresh weight of stem .......................................... 48

4.13. Fresh weight of root .......................................... 49

4.14. Dry weight of leaves .......................................... 50

4.15. Dry weight of stem ........................................... 51

4.16. Dry weight of root ............................................ 53

4.17. Number of fruits per plant .................................. 54

4.18. Fruit length ...................................................... 55

4.19. Fruit girth ....................................................... 56

4.20. Fresh weight per fruit ........................................ 57

4.21. Dry weight per fruit ........................................... 58

4.22. Number of seeds per fruit ................................... 59

4.23. Sun dried seed weight ........................................ 60
4.24. Total yield at each picking (tons/ha) .......................................................... 61
4.25. Cumulative yield ......................................................................................... 62

CHAPTER 05 ........................................................................................................ 64

5.0. CONCLUSION ............................................................................................ 64

REFERENCES ...................................................................................................... 66