POTENTIAL OF BIOFILM BIOFERTILIZER FOR OKRA (Abelmoschus esculentus) AND AMARANTHUS (Amaranthus viridis) IN EASTERN REGION



BY

CHANUKA PRABUDDHA HETTIARACHCHI



*

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE EASTERN UNIVERSITY SRILANKA

2019

ABSTRACT

Biofilms are aggregates of multiple microbial communities, attached to each other or to a surface. In vitro developed beneficial biofilms can be used as biofertilizers, which are then called biofilm biofertilizer (BFBF). Therefore, this study was conducted to evaluate the effect of BFBF on growth, yield of okra and amaranthus in eastern region, in comparison with fertilizer recommendation of the Department of Agriculture and farmer practice at eastern region. Eight different treatments consisted of different levels of chemical fertilizers alone and their combination with BFBF and a control were replicated four times in Complete Randomize Design. Plant and soil parameters were recorded periodically and data were statistically analysed using SAS and difference between treatments means was compared using Duncan's Multiple Range Test (DMRT). Treatments with the application of BFBF showed increasing trend of soil organic matter content, pod formation in okra and plant biomass in amaranthus, Combination of 50% recommended chemical fertilizers with BBs can be recommended for Okra & Amarabthus cultivation in eastern region.

*

Key words: Biofilm, vegetable yield, microbial functions

TABLE OF CONTENT

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT i
ABSTRACT ii
TABLE OF CONTENT
LIST OF FIGURES vii
LIST OF PLATES ix
LIST OF TABLES
ABBRIVEATIONS xi
CHAPTER 01
1.0 INTRODUCTION
1.2 OBJECTIVES
General objective
Specific objectives
CHAPTER 2
2.0 LITERAURE REVIEW
2.1. Use of chemical (synthetic) fertilizer in high input agriculture
2.2. Alternatives for chemical fertilizers
2.3. What is a Biofertilizer
2.3.1. Role Of Biofertilizer inoculant Nutrient uptake and agriculture
2.3.2. Biofilmed biofertilizers
2.3.3 Benefits of BFBFs12

2.3.4. Microbial biofilms in the Soil	13
2.3.5. Important key functions of biofilm:	14
2.3.6. Potential of biofertilizer act in Agriculture	16
2.5. Plant growth promoting microorganisms	20
2.6. Use of Biofilms in Agriculture	21
2.7. Sandy soil and Production Constraints	22
2.8 OKRA	23
2.8.1Health Benefits of Okra	25
2.8.2 Biofertilizer for okra	26
2.9. Amaranthus	26
2.9.1 Health Benefits & Nutrient Content of Amaranth greens	27
CHAPTER 03	30
3.0 MATERIALS AND METHODS	30
3.1. Description Of the experimental Site	30
3.2. Collection of Biofilm Biofertilizer	30
3.2.1. Preparation of Biofertilizer	30
3.3. Properties of Soil Sample	31
3.4 Experiment	31
3.4.1. Experimenta! procedure	31
3.4.2. Treatments	32
3.4.3. Experimental Design	33
3.4.4. Pot Culture Experiment	34

3.4.5. Planting and Spacing
3.4.6. Agronomic Practices
3.4.7. Fertilization
3.4.8. Irrigation
3.5. Measurements
3.5.1. Growth parameters
3.5.2. Soil Sampling and Analysis
3.6. Rhizosphere soil analysis
3.6.1. Preparation of soil for analysis
3.6.2. Determination of soil pH
second of som primer and som primer and some some some some some some some some
3.6.3. Determination of Soil Moisture Content
3.6.3. Determination of Soil Moisture Content
3.6.3. Determination of Soil Moisture Content
3.6.3. Determination of Soil Moisture Content 37 3.6.4. Determination of Total Organic Carbon Content 37 3.7. Analysis of Results 38 CHAPTER 04 39
3.6.3. Determination of Soil Moisture Content 37 3.6.4. Determination of Total Organic Carbon Content 37 3.7. Analysis of Results 38
3.6.3. Determination of Soil Moisture Content 37 3.6.4. Determination of Total Organic Carbon Content 37 3.7. Analysis of Results 38 CHAPTER 04 39 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION 39 ; ;
3.6.3. Determination of Soil Moisture Content 37 3.6.4. Determination of Total Organic Carbon Content 37 3.7. Analysis of Results 38 CHAPTER 04 39 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION 39 4.1. Analysis of growth parameters 39
3.6.3. Determination of Soil Moisture Content 37 3.6.4. Determination of Total Organic Carbon Content 37 3.7. Analysis of Results 38 CHAPTER 04 39 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION 39 4.1. Analysis of growth parameters 39 4.1.1. Leaf length Of Okra 39
3.6.3. Determination of Soil Moisture Content 37 3.6.4. Determination of Total Organic Carbon Content 37 3.7. Analysis of Results 38 CHAPTER 04 39 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION 39 4.1. Analysis of growth parameters 39 4.1.1. Leaf length Of Okra 39 4.1.2. Leaf Width of Okra 41
3.6.3. Determination of Soil Moisture Content 37 3.6.4. Determination of Total Organic Carbon Content 37 3.7. Analysis of Results 38 CHAPTER 04 39 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION 39 4.1. Analysis of growth parameters 39 4.1.1. Leaf length Of Okra 39 4.1.2. Leaf Width of Okra 41 4.1.3. No of Flowers of Okra 42

F

4.1.7. Fresh Weight of Okra46
4.1.8. Fresh weight Of Amaranthus
4.1.9. No of leaves of Amranthus
4.1.10. Leaf Width of Amaranthus
4.1.11. Leaf Length of Amaranthus
4.1.12. Plant height of Amaranthus
4.2. Rhizosphere soil parameters
4.2.1. Soil pH53
4.2.2. Soil Moisture
4.2.3. Total Organic Carbon Content
CHAPTER 5
5.0. SALIENT FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS
5.1. SALIENT FINDINGS
CONCLUSION
SUGGESIONS OF FURTHER STUDIES
REFERENCES
APPENDIX 1 i
APPENDIX 2