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Assessment of weed management and nutrient management performance on wheat productivity under sub humid-climatic condition

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Abstract

A field experiment was conducted at research farm, Department of Agronomy, Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Mewar University Gangrar, Chittorgarh (Rajasthan) during Rabi season of 2024-25 to to evaluate the combined effects of Integrated Weed Management (IWM) and Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) on growth, yield attributes, and yield of wheat. The results revealed that the combined application of 100% Recommended Dose of Fertilizers (RDF) with Clodinafop + Metsulfuron (T₅) significantly improved plant population (51.68 plants/m row), plant height (93.45 cm at harvest), spike length (11.25 cm), grains per spike (36.45), grain yield (42.32 q/ha), and straw yield (56.60 q/ha), which were at par with T₄ (RDF + Sulfosulfuron + Metsulfuron) and T₆ (RDF + Sulfosulfuron + Carfentrazone). The lowest values for all growth and yield parameters were observed under the control. However, the treatments had a non-significant effect on the harvest index. These findings highlight that integrating nutrient and weed management practices can effectively enhance wheat productivity and resource use efficiency under field conditions.

Keywords: Integrated weed management, integrated nutrient management, plant population, plant height, yield

1. Introduction

Wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) is the second most important cereal crop in India after rice, contributing about 36.2% of the nation's total food grain supply and playing a vital role in national food security (Negi, 2015) ^[11]. As a major rabi crop grown mainly in the northern plains and north-western Himalayas, wheat provides essential carbohydrates, protein, and gluten, making it a staple for bread and other products (Swaminathan *et al.*, 1981) ^[15]. Efficient nutrient management is critical for sustaining high yields, but excessive reliance on inorganic fertilizers deteriorates soil health over time (Yadav *et al.*, 2000) ^[17]. Integrated nutrient management combining farmyard manure (FYM) and chemical fertilizers improves soil properties and crop productivity (Deen *et al.*, 2021) ^[4]. In addition to nutrient management, weed infestation is a major constraint that can reduce wheat yields by 20–32% due to severe competition for nutrients, moisture, light, and space (Jat *et al.*, 2003; Chhokar *et al.*, 2012) ^[6, 3]. *Phalaris minor*, *Avena ludoviciana*, and various broadleaf weeds are significant threats in wheat fields, with herbicides like Clodinafop-propargyl, Sulfosulfuron, and Metsulfuron-methyl showing promise for effective control. Therefore, integrated weed and nutrient management strategies are essential for sustainable wheat production. This study aims to evaluate nutrient sources and herbicide combinations to optimize wheat yield and resource use in challenging agro-environments, with an emphasis on sustainable practices and improved technology adoption.

2. Materials and Methods

A field experiment was conducted during Rabi season of 2024-25 at research farm, Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Mewar University Gangrar, Chittorgarh (Rajasthan). The experiment was laid out in randomized block design with three replications consisting of nine treatments *viz.* T₁-Control, T₂-100% RDF, T₃-75% RDF + 10 t/ha FYM, T₄100% RDF +

Sulfosulfuron + Metsulfuron, T₅-100% RDF + Clodinofof + Metsulfuron, T₆-100% RDF + Sulfosulfuron + Carfentrazone, T₇-75% RDF + 5 t/ha FYM + Sulfosulfuron + Metsulfuron, T₈-75% RDF + Clodinofof + Metsulfuron and T₉-Seed treatment with Nano-P75% RDF + Sulfosulfuron + Carfentrazone. The required quantities of fertilizers as per treatments were applied. Experimental data recorded in various observations were statistically analyzed in accordance with the “analysis of variance” technique as described by Panse and Sukhatme (1985).

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Growth attributes

The data was showed the the IWM and INM management give significant impact on plant population at harvest. The maximum plant population was observed with treatments T₅-100% RDF + Clodinofof + Metsulfuron (60 g a.i. ha⁻¹ + 4 g a.i. ha⁻¹) (51.68 per m row length), it was found at par with T₄-100% RDF + Sulfosulfuron + Metsulfuron (30 g a.i. ha⁻¹ + 2 g a.i. ha⁻¹) and T₆-100% RDF + Sulfosulfuron + Carfentrazone (25 g a.i. ha⁻¹ + 20 g a.i. ha⁻¹) (50.52 and 49.32 per m row length). The minimum plant population was observed with control treatments (37.52 per m row length). Similar result also reported by Singh *et al.* (2025) [13], Jat *et al.* (2024) [5] Tiwari *et al.* (2023) [16], Sunag *et al.* (2021) [14] and Baradhan and Kumar (2018) [1].

The IWM and INM management give significant impact on plant height at 30, 60, 90 DIAS and at harvest. The maximum plant height was observed with treatments T₅-100% RDF + Codinofof + Metsulfuron (60 g a.i. ha⁻¹ + 4 g a.i. ha⁻¹) (26.28, 53.63, 92.20 and 93.45 cm), it was found at par with T₄-100% RDF + Sulfosulfuron + Metsulfuron (30 g a.i. ha⁻¹ + 2 g a.i. ha⁻¹) (25.85, 53.88, 90.12 and 92.25 cm) and T₆-100% RDF + Sulfosulfuron + Carfentrazone (25 g a.i. ha⁻¹ + 20 g a.i. ha⁻¹) (24.65, 52.85, 89.84 and 91.65 cm). The minimum plant population was observed with control treatments (17.45, 37.63, 68.52 and 70.25 cm), respectively. Similar result also reported by Jat *et al.* (2024) [5], Baradhan and Kumar (2018) [1], Mohan *et al.* (2018) [9] and Meena *et al.* (2017) [8].

3.2 Yield attributes and Yield

The IWM and INM management give significant impact on spike length. The maximum spike length was observed with treatments T₅-100% RDF + Clodinofof + Metsulfuron (60 g a.i. ha⁻¹ + 4 g a.i. ha⁻¹) (11.25 cm), it was found at par with T₄-100% RDF + Sulfosulfuron + Metsulfuron (30 g a.i. ha⁻¹ + 2 g a.i. ha⁻¹) and T₆-100% RDF + Sulfosulfuron + Carfentrazone (25 g a.i. ha⁻¹ + 20 g a.i. ha⁻¹) (10.78 and 10.36 cm). The minimum spike length was observed with

control treatments (8.45 cm). The IWM and INM management give significant impact on number of grains per spike. The maximum number of grains per spike was observed with treatments T₅-100% RDF + Clodinofof + Metsulfuron (60 g a.i. ha⁻¹ + 4 g a.i. ha⁻¹) (36.45), it was found at par with T₄-100% RDF + Sulfosulfuron + Metsulfuron (30 g a.i. ha⁻¹ + 2 g a.i. ha⁻¹) and T₆-100% RDF + Sulfosulfuron + Carfentrazone (25 g a.i. ha⁻¹ + 20 g a.i. ha⁻¹) (35.85 and 34.25). The minimum number of grains per spike was observed with control treatments (24.23). Similar result also reported by Singh *et al.* (2025) [13], Sunag *et al.* (2021) [14], Baradhan and Kumar (2018) [1], Seyedlar *et al.* (2014) [12] and Basak *et al.* (2013) [2].

The IWM and INM management give significant impact on grain yield. The maximum grain yield was observed with treatments T₅-100% RDF + Clodinofof + Metsulfuron (60 g a.i. ha⁻¹ + 4 g a.i. ha⁻¹) (42.32 q/ha), it was found at par with T₄-100% RDF + Sulfosulfuron + Metsulfuron (30 g a.i. ha⁻¹ + 2 g a.i. ha⁻¹) and T₆-100% RDF + Sulfosulfuron + Carfentrazone (25 g a.i. ha⁻¹ + 20 g a.i. ha⁻¹) (41.28 and 40.44 q/ha). The minimum grain yield was observed with control treatments (25.85 q/ha). The IWM and INM management give significant impact on straw yield. The maximum straw yield was observed with treatments T₅-100% RDF + Clodinofof + Metsulfuron (60 g a.i. ha⁻¹ + 4 g a.i. ha⁻¹) (56.60 q/ha), it was found at par with T₄-100% RDF + Sulfosulfuron + Metsulfuron (30 g a.i. ha⁻¹ + 2 g a.i. ha⁻¹) and T₆-100% RDF + Sulfosulfuron + Carfentrazone (25 g a.i. ha⁻¹ + 20 g a.i. ha⁻¹) (55.56 and 54.72 q/ha). The minimum straw yield was observed with control treatments (38.13 q/ha). The combine application strategies of IWM and INM give non-significant impact on harvest index. Similar result also reported by Singh *et al.* (2025) [13], Seyedlar *et al.* (2014) [12], Basak *et al.* (2013) [2], Mubarak and Singh (2011) [10] and Laghari *et al.* (2010) [7].

4. Conclusion

The present study clearly demonstrated that the combined application of Integrated Weed Management (IWM) and Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) significantly improved wheat growth, yield attributes, and yield over the control. Among the treatments, the use of 100% RDF along with Clodinafof + Metsulfuron, Sulfosulfuron + Metsulfuron, and Sulfosulfuron + Carfentrazone recorded higher plant population, plant height, spike length, number of grains per spike, grain yield, and straw yield, with no significant effect on harvest index. These results confirm that integrating effective weed control measures with balanced nutrient management enhances wheat productivity sustainably.

Table 1: Effect of IWM and INM on plant population at 20 DAS and at harvest of wheat

Treatments	Plant population/m row length	
	20 DAS	At harvest
T ₁ -Control	40.80	37.52
T ₂ -100% RDF	49.60	46.32
T ₃ -75% RDF + 10 t/ha FYM	48.91	45.63
T ₄ -100% RDF + Sulfosulfuron + Metsulfuron (30 g a.i. ha ⁻¹ + 2 g a.i. ha ⁻¹)	53.80	50.52
T ₅ -100% RDF + Clodinofof + Metsulfuron (60 g a.i. ha ⁻¹ + 4 g a.i. ha ⁻¹)	54.96	51.68
T ₆ -100% RDF + Sulfosulfuron + Carfentrazone (25 g a.i. ha ⁻¹ + 20 g a.i. ha ⁻¹)	52.60	49.32
T ₇ -75% RDF + 5 t/ha FYM + Sulfosulfuron + Metsulfuron (30 g a.i. ha ⁻¹ + 2 g a.i. ha ⁻¹)	51.86	48.58
T ₈ -75% RDF + Clodinofof + Metsulfuron (60 g a.i. ha ⁻¹ + 4 g a.i. ha ⁻¹)	51.28	48.00
T ₉ -75% RDF + Sulfosulfuron + Carfentrazone (25 g a.i. ha ⁻¹ + 20 g a.i. ha ⁻¹)	50.53	47.25
S. Em. ±	1.17	0.82
CD%	NS	2.49
CV%	5.22	5.07

Table 2: Effect of IWM and INM on plant height at 30, 60, 90 DAS and at harvest of wheat

Treatments	Plant height (cm)			
	30 DAS	60 DAS	90 DAS	At harvest
T ₁ -Control	17.45	37.63	68.52	70.25
T ₂ -100% RDF	21.15	48.00	85.20	87.36
T ₃ -75% RDF + 10 t/ha FYM	20.45	46.96	83.65	85.12
T ₄ -100% RDF + Sulfosulfuron + Metsulfuron (30 g a.i. ha ⁻¹ + 2 g a.i. ha ⁻¹)	25.85	53.88	90.12	92.25
T ₅ -100% RDF + Clodinofof + Metsulfuron (60 g a.i. ha ⁻¹ + 4 g a.i. ha ⁻¹)	26.28	55.63	92.20	93.45
T ₆ -100% RDF + Sulfosulfuron+ Carfentrazone (25 g a.i. ha ⁻¹ + 20 g a.i. ha ⁻¹)	24.65	52.85	89.84	91.65
T ₇ -75% RDF + 5 t/ha FYM + Sulfosulfuron + Metsulfuron (30 g a.i. ha ⁻¹ + 2 g a.i. ha ⁻¹)	23.76	51.36	88.72	90.58
T ₈ -75% RDF + Clodinofof + Metsulfuron (60 g a.i. ha ⁻¹ + 4 g a.i. ha ⁻¹)	22.78	49.50	87.55	89.14
T ₉ -75% RDF + Sulfosulfuron+ Carfentrazone (25 g a.i. ha ⁻¹ + 20 g a.i. ha ⁻¹)	22.02	48.52	86.65	88.32
S. Em. ±	0.60	0.98	0.84	0.65
CD%	1.79	2.93	2.50	1.96
CV%	6.12	6.75	6.82	6.45

Table 3: Effect of IWM and INM on spike length and number of grains per spike of wheat

Treatments	Spike length (cm)	Number of grains per spike
T ₁ -Control	8.45	24.23
T ₂ -100% RDF	9.35	31.25
T ₃ -75% RDF + 10 t/ha FYM	9.15	29.45
T ₄ -100% RDF + Sulfosulfuron + Metsulfuron (30 g a.i. ha ⁻¹ + 2 g a.i. ha ⁻¹)	10.78	35.85
T ₅ -100% RDF + Clodinofof + Metsulfuron (60 g a.i. ha ⁻¹ + 4 g a.i. ha ⁻¹)	11.25	36.45
T ₆ -100% RDF + Sulfosulfuron+ Carfentrazone (25 g a.i. ha ⁻¹ + 20 g a.i. ha ⁻¹)	10.36	34.25
T ₇ -75% RDF + 5 t/ha FYM + Sulfosulfuron + Metsulfuron (30 g a.i. ha ⁻¹ + 2 g a.i. ha ⁻¹)	10.05	33.85
T ₈ -75% RDF + Clodinofof + Metsulfuron (60 g a.i. ha ⁻¹ + 4 g a.i. ha ⁻¹)	9.78	33.15
T ₉ -75% RDF + Sulfosulfuron+ Carfentrazone (25 g a.i. ha ⁻¹ + 20 g a.i. ha ⁻¹)	9.58	32.02
S. Em. ±	0.35	0.75
CD%	1.04	2.26
CV%	7.36	7.42

Table 4: Effect of IWM and INM on test weight and grain yield of wheat

Treatments	Test weight (g)	Grain yield (q/ha)
T ₁ -Control	38.85	25.85
T ₂ -100% RDF	39.12	36.45
T ₃ -75% RDF + 10 t/ha FYM	39.00	34.62
T ₄ -100% RDF + Sulfosulfuron + Metsulfuron (30 g a.i. ha ⁻¹ + 2 g a.i. ha ⁻¹)	39.85	41.28
T ₅ -100% RDF + Clodinofof + Metsulfuron (60 g a.i. ha ⁻¹ + 4 g a.i. ha ⁻¹)	40.05	42.32
T ₆ -100% RDF + Sulfosulfuron+ Carfentrazone (25 g a.i. ha ⁻¹ + 20 g a.i. ha ⁻¹)	39.78	40.44
T ₇ -75% RDF + 5 t/ha FYM + Sulfosulfuron + Metsulfuron (30 g a.i. ha ⁻¹ + 2 g a.i. ha ⁻¹)	39.68	39.36
T ₈ -75% RDF + Clodinofof + Metsulfuron (60 g a.i. ha ⁻¹ + 4 g a.i. ha ⁻¹)	39.42	38.25
T ₉ -75% RDF + Sulfosulfuron+ Carfentrazone (25 g a.i. ha ⁻¹ + 20 g a.i. ha ⁻¹)	39.20	37.45
S. Em. ±	0.22	0.71
CD%	NS	2.15
CV%	5.85	7.28

Table 5: Effect of IWM and INM on straw yield and harvest index of wheat

Treatments	Straw yield (q/ha)	Harvest index (%)
T ₁ -Control	38.13	39.18
T ₂ -100% RDF	50.73	41.81
T ₃ -75% RDF + 10 t/ha FYM	48.90	41.45
T ₄ -100% RDF + Sulfosulfuron + Metsulfuron (30 g a.i. ha ⁻¹ + 2 g a.i. ha ⁻¹)	55.56	42.63
T ₅ -100% RDF + Clodinofof + Metsulfuron (60 g a.i. ha ⁻¹ + 4 g a.i. ha ⁻¹)	56.60	42.78
T ₆ -100% RDF + Sulfosulfuron+ Carfentrazone (25 g a.i. ha ⁻¹ + 20 g a.i. ha ⁻¹)	54.72	42.50
T ₇ -75% RDF + 5 t/ha FYM + Sulfosulfuron + Metsulfuron (30 g a.i. ha ⁻¹ + 2 g a.i. ha ⁻¹)	53.64	42.32
T ₈ -75% RDF + Clodinofof + Metsulfuron (60 g a.i. ha ⁻¹ + 4 g a.i. ha ⁻¹)	52.53	42.13
T ₉ -75% RDF + Sulfosulfuron+ Carfentrazone (25 g a.i. ha ⁻¹ + 20 g a.i. ha ⁻¹)	51.73	41.99
S. Em. ±	0.66	0.23
CD%	1.99	NS
CV%	7.74	7.86

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