



Impact of Tillage Practices and Chickpea Varieties on Nutrient Uptake in a Mungbean-Chickpea Cropping System

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. Authors KDB and MDG designed the study, performed the statistical analysis, wrote the protocol, and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. Author DVSA managed the literature searches and helped in writing the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Article Information

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.9734/jeai/2024/v46i113074>

Open Peer Review History:

This journal follows the Advanced Open Peer Review policy. Identity of the Reviewers, Editor(s) and additional Reviewers, peer review comments, different versions of the manuscript, comments of the editors, etc are available here: <https://www.sdiarticle5.com/review-history/126545>

Original Research Article

Received: 12/09/2024

Accepted: 14/11/2024

Published: 22/11/2024

ABSTRACT

Aims: To study the effect of tillage management on nutrient concentration and uptake of different varieties in chickpea (*Cicer arietinum* L.) under mungbean-chickpea crop sequence

Study Design: strip plot design.

Place and Duration of Study: Pulses Research Unit, Washim Road, Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth (Dr. PDKV), Akola, Maharashtra, India during the *rabi* season of 2019-20.

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Cite as: Badole, K.D., M.D. Giri, and D. V. S. Akshay. 2024. "Impact of Tillage Practices and Chickpea Varieties on Nutrient Uptake in a Mungbean-Chickpea Cropping System". *Journal of Experimental Agriculture International* 46 (11):532-39. <https://doi.org/10.9734/jeai/2024/v46i113074>.

Methodology: There were four tillage practices and two varieties (eight treatments) replicated five times. Main plot treatments include tillage practices for chickpea crop and Sub plot treatments includes two varieties of chickpea, JAKI-9218 and PDKV-Kanak (AKG-1303).

Results: There were four tillage practices and two varieties (eight treatments) replicated five times. The findings showed that the effect of different tillage treatments and varieties on the nitrogen (% N), phosphorus (% P) and potassium (% K) content in seed and straw of chickpea crop was found non-significant. Nutrient uptake (kg/ha) in seed and straw and total uptake (kg/ha) of nutrient by crop was higher with treatment tractor drawn cultivator + harrowing + sowing + one hoeing + one hand weeding (T₁). The variety JAKI-9218 recorded significantly greater nutrient uptake than the PDKV-Kanak.

Conclusion: Nutrient concentration (%) and uptake (kg/ha) in seed and straw and total uptake (kg/ha) of nutrient by crop was higher with treatment tractor drawn cultivator + harrowing + sowing + one hoeing + one hand weeding and JAKI-9218.

Keywords: Chickpea; tillage practices; nutrient uptake; nutrient content.

1. INTRODUCTION

The growing demand for sustainable agricultural practices has led to increased interest in optimizing tillage management and crop variety selection, particularly in nutrient-intensive cropping systems. Among these, the mungbean-chickpea sequence offers a promising solution for enhancing soil fertility, improving nutrient cycling, and maximizing crop productivity. Chickpea (*Cicer arietinum* L.), an important legume in this rotation, relies heavily on effective tillage management and suitable variety selection to achieve optimal nutrient concentration and uptake.

“With an output of 1344 kg/ha, Madhya Pradesh had the highest chickpea production in 2018–19, reaching 4.61 million tonnes. With a productivity of 1103 kg/ha, 1.76 million million tonnes were produced in Rajasthan” Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare. (2019). In India, 10.32 million tonnes of chickpeas were produced Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare. (2018). “During *rabi* 2018-19, 1.69 million hectares of land in Maharashtra were cultivated for chickpea farming and 1.39 million tons were produced. In Maharashtra, the yield of chickpeas was 824.5 kg/ha” Government of Maharashtra. (2018). “Mungbean-chickpea cropping system is popular in the Vidarbha region of the Maharashtra state and followed on 0.1 million ha area” Government of Maharashtra. (2020).

“Tillage as a part of a cropping system is one of the basic agricultural operations because of its influence on soil properties, environment and crop growth. Tillage practices, including conventional and conservation tillage, play a crucial role in determining soil health, nutrient

dynamics, and crop performance. Conventional tillage, characterized by intensive soil disturbance, enhances nutrient availability by breaking down soil aggregates and improving nutrient release; however, it may lead to soil erosion and degradation over time. In contrast, conservation tillage practices, such as reduced or no-till methods, aim to minimize soil disturbance, improve moisture retention, and maintain soil organic matter” (Jat et al., 2011). While conservation tillage can foster a more resilient soil ecosystem, the trade-off in nutrient release and crop uptake requires careful evaluation.

A healthy chickpea crop can fix up to 141 kg of nitrogen per hectare, saving 56–58 kg of nitrogen per hectare for subsequent cereals (Ahlawat et al., 1981). “The ability of plants to form vast root systems is largely responsible for their power to absorb water and mineral nutrients from the soil. However, deep root growth is hindered by soil compaction, particularly in subsoil layers, which limits plant access to nutrients and water in the subsoil” (Ahlawat et al., 1981).

In this study, we explore the impact of different tillage practices and chickpea varieties on nutrient concentration and uptake within a mungbean-chickpea sequence. By evaluating both the nutritional profile and the crop’s response to tillage methods, this work aims to provide insights for agronomists and farmers on enhancing nutrient availability and maximizing yield potential in chickpea cultivation.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

An investigation on the effect of tillage management techniques and varieties on

Table 1. Details of treatment and symbol used for the experiment

A	Main plot (Tillage practices for chickpea crop)
T₁	Tractor drawn cultivator + rotovator + sowing + one hoeing + one hand weeding
T₂	Application of glyphosate immediately after the harvest of mungbean + sowing
T₃	Application of glyphosate immediately after the harvest of mungbean + sowing + pre-emergence application of pendimethalin @ 1.0 kg a.i./ha + one hoeing
T₄	Rotovator immediately after the harvest of mungbean + sowing + one hoeing
B	Sub plot (Varieties of chickpea)
V₁	JAKI-9218
V₂	PDKV-Kanak (AKG-1303)

Note: Conventional tillage (Summer ploughing + harrowing+ sowing+ one hoeing) followed for the mungbean crop

chickpea nutrient concentration and uptake under the mungbean-chickpea sequence was conducted during the 2019–20 rabi season at the Pulses Research Unit, Washim Road, Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola, Maharashtra, India. The experimental plot's soil had a clay loam texture and reacted slightly alkalinely (pH 8.20). The soil's chemical composition revealed that its available nitrogen content was low (173 kg/ha), its available phosphorus level was medium (20 kg/ha), and its potassium content was high (523 kg/ha). With an electrical conductivity of 0.18 dS/m, the total soluble salt level was normal. Using a strip plot design, the experiment was set up. Table 1. lists the particulars of the treatment and symbols employed. Overall, two cultivars and four tillage techniques (eight treatments) were duplicated five times. Plots of 40 units were used to lay out the experimental field. Plot dimensions were 10.0 m x 9.0 m for the gross plot and 9.80 m x 8.40 m for the net plot.

On October 18, 2019, seeds of the chickpea varieties PDKV-Kanak and JAKI-9218 were planted at a rate of 75 kg/ha, with a spacing of 10 cm between plants and 30 cm between rows. All treatments received the full recommended dosage of fertilizers (25 kg N, 50 kg P₂O₅, and 30 kg K₂O/ha) at the time of sowing (basal application). To safeguard the chickpea crop from pests and diseases, timely recommended plant protection measures were used. Harvesting the chickpea crop was done by hand. Periodically, various growth and yield components were documented. As recommended by Panse and Sukhatme (1995), the data on different parameters obtained from experimental plots were statistically examined using the "F" test at P=0.05. (Panse and Sukhatme 1995).

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Nutrient Content

Nitrogen (% N), phosphorus (% P) and potassium (% K) content: From the data it is revealed that, the effect of different tillage treatments and varieties on the nitrogen (% N), phosphorus (% P) and potassium (% K) content in seed and straw of chickpea crop was found non-significant in the present investigation (Table 2). Interaction effect of various tillage treatments and varieties on the nitrogen (% N), phosphorus (% P) and potassium (% K) content in seed and straw of chickpea crop during the course of present investigation. (Table 2).

3.2 Nitrogen Uptake, Phosphorus Uptake and Potassium Uptake (kg/ha)

Nitrogen uptake (kg/ha): The data presented in Table 3 showed that various tillage treatment significantly influenced on nitrogen (N) uptake by seed and straw by the crop. The treatment tractor drawn cultivator + harrowing + sowing + one hoeing + one hand weeding (T₁) recorded significantly higher nitrogen (N) uptake by grain (78 kg/ha) which was at par with the treatment rotovator immediately after the harvest of mungbean + sowing + one hoeing (T₄) (74 kg/ha). The lowest nitrogen (N) uptake by grain was observed in the treatment application of glyphosate immediately after the harvest of mungbean + sowing (T₂) (69 kg/ha). The treatment tractor drawn cultivator + harrowing + sowing + one hoeing + one hand weeding (T₁) recorded significantly higher nitrogen uptake by straw (24 kg/ha). To encourage N absorption and translocation, plough and rotary tillage may increase root activity. Hence in the present investigation the nitrogen (N) uptake was higher

Table 2. Effect of tillage practices and varieties on nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium content (%) in seed and straw of chickpea

Treatment	Nutrient content (%)					
	Nitrogen		Phosphorus		Potassium	
	Seed	Straw	Seed	Straw	Seed	Straw
Tillage practices for chickpea crop (T)						
T ₁ : Tractor drawn cultivator + harrowing + sowing + one hoeing + one hand weeding	3.45	0.77	0.54	0.32	1.72	1.79
T ₂ : Application of glyphosate immediately after the harvest of mungbean + sowing	3.43	0.74	0.51	0.31	1.70	1.76
T ₃ : Application of glyphosate immediately after the harvest of mungbean + sowing + pre-emergence application of pendimethalin @ 1.0 kg a.i./ha + one hoeing	3.43	0.74	0.51	0.31	1.70	1.77
T ₄ : Rotavator immediately after the harvest of mungbean + sowing + one hoeing	3.45	0.75	0.52	0.32	1.71	1.78
S.E. (m)	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
C.D. @5%	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
Varieties (V)						
V ₁ : JAKI-9218	3.43	0.75	0.52	0.31	1.71	1.78
V ₂ : PDKV-Kanak (AKG-1303)	3.44	0.74	0.52	0.32	1.71	1.77
S.E. (m)	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
C.D. @5%	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
T x V						
S.E. (m)	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
C.D. @5%	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
GM	3.44	0.75	0.52	0.32	1.71	1.77

Means followed by the same letter do not differ significantly at the 0.05 probability level

Table 3. Effect of tillage practices and varieties on nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium uptake (kg/ha) in seed and straw of chickpea

Treatment	Nitrogen (N) uptake (kg/ha)		Phosphorus (P) uptake (kg/ha)		Potassium (K) uptake (kg/ha)	
	Seed	Straw	Seed	Straw	Seed	Straw
Tillage practices for chickpea crop (T)						
T ₁ : Tractor drawn cultivator + harrowing + sowing + one hoeing + one hand weeding	78	24	12	10	39	55
T ₂ : Application of glyphosate immediately after the harvest of mungbean + sowing	69	19	10	8	34	45
T ₃ : Application of glyphosate immediately after the harvest of mungbean + sowing + pre-emergence application of pendimethalin @ 1.0 kg a.i./ha + one hoeing	70	20	10	8	35	47
T ₄ : Rotavator immediately after the harvest of mungbean + sowing + one hoeing	74	22	11	9	37	51
S.E. (m)	2.11	0.59	0.38	0.25	1.08	1.27
C.D. @5%	6.51	1.80	1.18	0.76	3.32	3.92
Varieties (V)						
V ₁ : JAKI-9218	77	22	13	9	38	52
V ₂ : PDKV-Kanak (AKG-1303)	69	20	10	9	34	47
S.E. (m)	1.54	0.55	0.25	0.25	0.80	1.32
C.D. @5%	6.04	NS	0.97	NS	NS	NS
T x V						
S.E. (m)	3.08	1.11	0.50	0.50	1.59	2.65
C.D. @5%	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
GM	73	21	11	9	36	49

Means followed by the same letter do not differ significantly at the 0.05 probability level

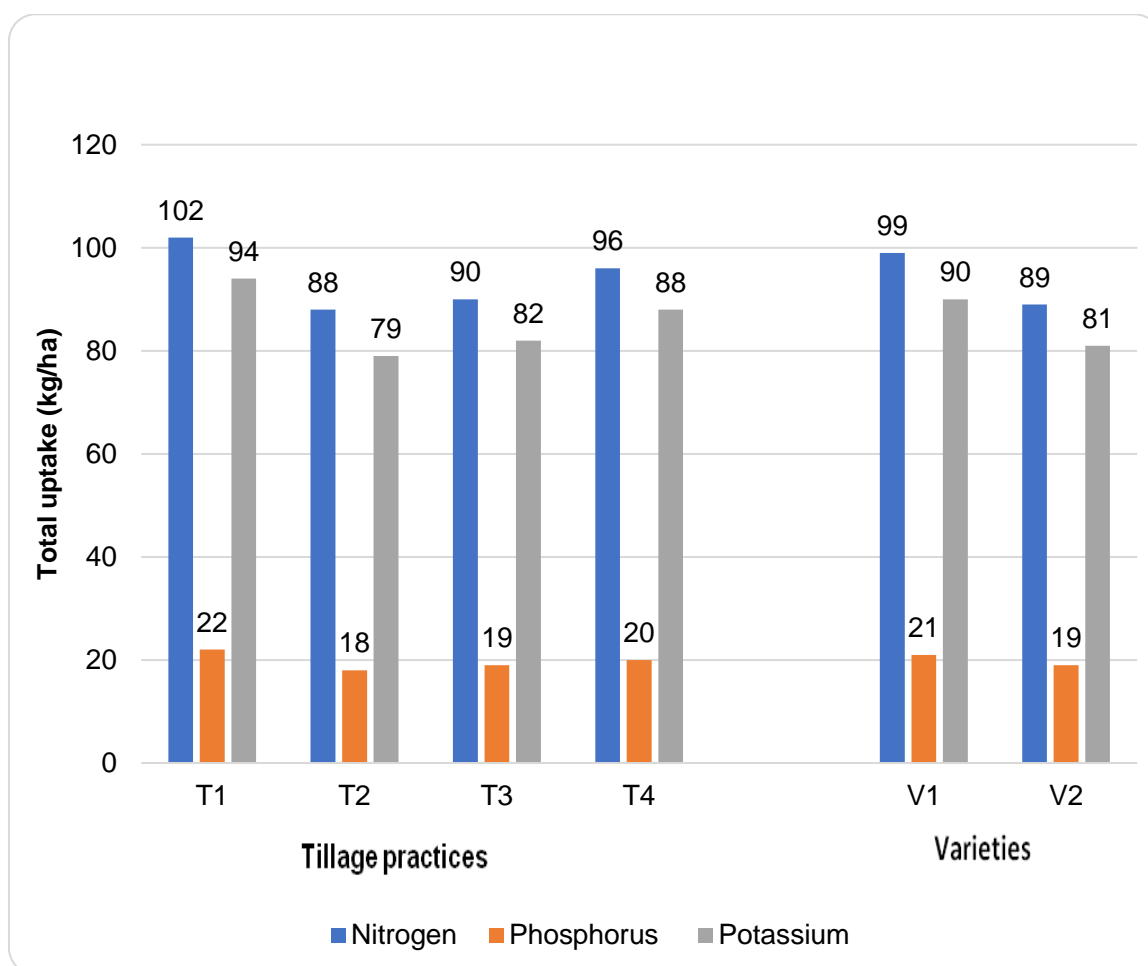


Fig. 1. Effect of tillage practices and varieties on total nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium uptake (kg/ha) in seed and straw of chickpea

in the treatment tractor drawn cultivator + harrowing + sowing + one hoeing + one hand weeding (T₁). Similar results were also reported earlier by Guana *et al.* (2014). Variety JAKI-9218 recorded significantly greater N uptake by grain (77 kg/ha) over the PDKV-Kanak (69 kg/ha). The effect of varieties on nitrogen uptake (N) by straw was found non-significant. Interaction effect of various tillage treatments and varieties on the N uptake by the seed and straw of chickpea crop was found non-significant during the course of present investigation.

Phosphorus uptake (kg/ha): The data presented in Table 3 showed that various tillage treatment significantly influenced on phosphorus (P) uptake by seed and straw by the chickpea crop. The treatment tractor drawn cultivator + harrowing + sowing + one hoeing + one hand weeding (T₁) recorded significantly higher phosphorus (P) uptake by grain (12 kg/ha) and it was found at par with the treatment rotavator

immediately after the harvest of mungbean + sowing + one hoeing (T₄) (11 kg/ha). The P uptake by straw was significantly higher with the treatment tractor drawn cultivator + harrowing + sowing + one hoeing + one hand weeding (T₁) (10 kg/ha) followed by treatment rotavator immediately after the harvest of mungbean + sowing + one hoeing (T₄) (9 kg/ha). Variety JAKI-9218 recorded higher P uptake by grain (13 kg/ha) over the PDKV-Kanak (10 kg/ha). Whereas, P uptake by straw was found non-significant. Interaction effect of various tillage treatments and varieties on the P uptake by the seed and straw of chickpea crop was found non-significant during the course of present investigation.

Potassium uptake (kg/ha): The data presented in Table 3 showed that various tillage treatment significantly influenced the potassium (K) uptake by seed and straw by the chickpea crop. The treatment tractor drawn cultivator + harrowing +

sowing + one hoeing + one hand weeding (T₁) recorded significantly higher K uptake by grain (39 kg/ha) which was at par with the treatment rotavator immediately after the harvest of mungbean + sowing + one hoeing (T₄) (37 kg/ha). The lowest K uptake by grain was observed with the treatment application of glyphosate immediately after the harvest of mungbean + sowing (T₂) (34 kg/ha). The treatment tractor drawn cultivator + harrowing + sowing + one hoeing + one hand weeding (T₁) recorded significantly higher K uptake by straw (55 kg/ha) which was statistically similar with the treatment rotavator immediately after the harvest of mungbean + sowing + one hoeing (T₄) (51 kg/ha). The lowest K uptake by straw was found in the treatment application of glyphosate immediately after the harvest of mungbean + sowing (T₂) (45 kg/ha). The effect of varieties on K uptake by the seed and straw of chickpea crop was found non-significant during the course of present investigation. Interaction effect of various tillage treatments and varieties on the K uptake by the seed and straw of chickpea crop was found non-significant during the course of present investigation.

Total nitrogen uptake, phosphorus uptake and potassium uptake (kg/ha) in seed and straw of chickpea: The data presented in Fig. 1 showed that various tillage treatment significantly influenced on total N, P and K uptake (kg/ha) by the chickpea. The treatment tractor drawn cultivator + harrowing + sowing + one hoeing + one hand weeding (T₁) recorded significantly higher total nitrogen (N) uptake by chickpea crop (102 kg/ha) which was at par with the treatment rotavator immediately after the harvest of mungbean + sowing + one hoeing (T₄) (96 kg/ha). The lowest total nitrogen (N) uptake by the chickpea crop was found in the treatment application of glyphosate immediately after the harvest of mungbean + sowing (T₂) (88 kg/ha).

The treatment tractor drawn cultivator + harrowing + sowing + one hoeing + one hand weeding (T₁) recorded significantly higher total phosphorus (P) uptake by crop (22 kg/ha) which was at par with the treatment rotavator immediately after the harvest of mungbean + sowing + one hoeing (T₄) (20 kg/ha). The lowest total P uptake by chickpea crop was found in treatment application of glyphosate immediately after the harvest of mungbean + sowing (T₂) (18 kg/ha). (Fig. 1).

The treatment tractor drawn cultivator + harrowing + sowing + one hoeing + one hand

weeding (T₁) recorded significantly higher total potassium (K) uptake by crop (94 kg/ha) which was at par with the treatment rotavator immediately after the harvest of mungbean + sowing + one hoeing (T₄) (88 kg/ha). The lowest total K uptake by chickpea crop was found in treatment application of glyphosate immediately after the harvest of mungbean + sowing (T₂) (79 kg/ha). (Fig. 1).

The higher values of uptake of nutrients were a result of higher grain yield. Beneficial effect of conventional tillage practice might be due to sustained availability of nutrients and their efficient translocation to the economic sink. Similar result reported by Arya *et al.* (2005), Nayak *et al.* (2018) and Seth *et al.* (2020). Variety JAKI-9218 recorded significantly highest total nitrogen uptake and potassium uptake (99 and 90 kg/ha nitrogen and potassium, respectively) than the variety PDKV-Kanak (89 and 81 kg/ha nitrogen and potassium, respectively). The effect of varieties on the total phosphorus uptake was found non-significant. Interaction effect of tillage practices and varieties in respect to total N, P and K uptake (kg/ha) by the chickpea crop were found to be non-significant during the course of investigation.

4. CONCLUSION

The effect of different tillage treatments and varieties on the nitrogen (% N), phosphorus (% P) and potassium (% K) content in seed and straw of chickpea crop was found non-significant. Nutrient uptake (kg/ha) in seed, straw and total uptake (kg/ha) of nutrient by crop was higher with treatment tractor drawn cultivator + harrowing + sowing + one hoeing + one hand weeding (T₁). The variety JAKI-9218 recorded significantly greater nutrient uptake than the PDKV-Kanak.

DISCLAIMER (ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE)

Author(s) hereby declare that NO generative AI technologies such as Large Language Models (ChatGPT, COPILOT, etc.) and text-to-image generators have been used during the writing or editing of this manuscript.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. M. D. Giri, Chairman of my advisory Committee and Assistant Professor (Agronomy), AICRP on MULLaRP, Pulses Research Unit, Dr. PDKV, Akola. I also sincerely thank Department of

Agronomy, Dr. PDKV, Akola for their kind cooperation throughout my research work.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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