

GROWTH AND MINERAL NUTRITION OF RICE (*Oryza sativa* L.) GROWN ON TANNERY EFFLUENT POLLUTED SOIL AMENDED WITH COWDUNG AND LIME

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Abstract

Pot experiments were carried out with rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) to evaluate the plant response of different amendments to ameliorate heavy metal toxicity. Cowdung and lime were applied at the rate of 10 ton/ha. Both cowdung and lime application led to an increase in growth of rice and significant reductions of Zn, Ni, Cu and Cr in plant. The length, fresh and dry weight and N, P, K, Na, Ca and Mg concentrations in rice plants were increased significantly. The concentrations of Cu, Zn, Ni, Pb and Cr in rice grown on contaminated soils were significantly higher as compared to the control. Cowdung and lime significantly reduced Cu, Zn, Ni, Pb and Cr concentrations in comparison to control. Chromium concentrations in lime treated plants were reduced by 57.89% in rice as compared to cowdung. Lime proved to be more efficient in reducing the concentration of metals in rice plants.

Key words: Cowdung, Chromium, Hazaribagh, Lime.

INTRODUCTION

Industrial effluents offer a wide scope of environmental problems and health hazards are becoming more complex and critical not only in developing countries like Bangladesh but also in developed countries. Soils are contaminated by a number of heavy metals that to a greater or lesser degree are toxic to humans and other animals or plants. Cadmium, chromium and mercury are extremely poisonous and lead, nickel, molybdenum and fluorine are moderate and boron, copper, manganese and zinc are relatively low in toxicity (Hellowell 1986).

Environmental pollution through industrialization is now a serious problem throughout the world. Soil is one of the major parts of the environment. People depend on soil for their basic needs. But soil and environment are under tremendous pressure due to industrial expansion and increased use of chemicals specially pesticides in agriculture during last few decades. Very few are aware of this globally important issue. The burning issue is how to feed an ever-growing population, which demands an urgent improvement of the gross national income through industrialization. Industrial pollutant refers to the presence of any elemental, ionic or molecular species in and around an industry or industrial areas at a concentration, which causes an adverse effect on life and environment. Soils are contaminated by a number of heavy metals that to a greater or lesser degree are toxic to humans and other animals or plants. Cadmium, chromium and mercury are extremely poisonous; lead, nickel, molybdenum and fluorine are moderate and boron, copper, manganese and zinc are relatively low in toxicity. The concentrations of individual metals in living tissue are ordinarily very low and must be maintained within narrow limits to permit the optimum biological performance of most organisms. Some heavy metals are essential in trace amounts, namely Cu, Fe, Mn, Mo and Zn for plants and in addition Cr, Ni and Sn for animals and Cd, Hg and Pb are not essential for either plants or animals (Greenland and Hayes 1981).

Heavy metals cause inhibition of plant growth by affecting different plant processes, i.e. photosynthesis (Becerill *et al.* 1988), respiration (Keek 1978), carbohydrate metabolism and water relations (Becerill *et al.* 1988). The uptake of heavy metals by plants from contaminated soils is of great interest because an excess of dietary intake of some of these heavy metals might be deleterious to the

health of the consumers. Food chain contamination is one of the important pathways for the entry of these toxic pollutants into the human body (Ma *et al.* 2006). Therefore, the present study was undertaken to prevent heavy metal accumulation in rice plant (Bridhan-58) grown in Hazaribagh tannery area soil.

METERIAL AND METHODS

Soil sample was collected from hazaribagh tannery area and Rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) (BR-58) was selected as test crop. The soil series around Hazaribagh belonging to Khaler Char remains seasonally flooded, up to 120-150 cm deep for more than 6 months and they are poorly to very poorly drained soils, developed in mainly medium textured Brahmaputra alluvium in permanently wet channels or depression on the old and young Brahmaputra, Meghna and Jamuna floodplains. The area inside the embankment is just organic wastes, on Jamuna alluvium, permanently wet by the effluents of the tannery factories.

The normal soil sample was collected from Shudkhira village in Jamirta union of Singair upazilla at Manikganj District. Soil samples (0-15 cm depth) were collected from both Hazaribagh (contaminated soil) and Singair (uncontaminated soil). The soil samples collected were air-dried, ground and screened to pass through 5 mm sieve for pot experiment and 2.0 mm and 0.5 mm sieve for physical and chemical analyses.

There were 4 treatments (T₁, T₂, T₃ and T₄) and three replications in the experiment is presented in Table 1. Plastic pots were filled with 4 kg soil and basal dose of fertilizers as urea, TSP and muriate of potash were added at medium rate for rice (BARC 2012). Three plants of two weeks old were allowed to grow in each pot. The pots were arranged in a completely randomized design. The plants were irrigated with distilled water whenever required. The crops were harvested after two months of transplantation.

Soil samples were digested with HCl plus HNO₃ (3:1) mixture (Blum 1996) under closed system. 0.5g of finely ground plant sample was weighed and digested with 10 ml conc. HNO₃ and 2 ml conc. HClO₄. Elements in the extracts (50 ml) were measured by atomic absorption spectrophotometer (AAS) (Varian, AA-240). The data were statistically analyzed by Duncan's Multiple Range Test (DMRT) in IBM SPSS statistics version 20 (Gomez and Gomez 1984).

Table 1: Description of the treatments.

Denotation	Treatments
T ₁ (Control)	Normal/uncontaminated soil
T ₂	Hazaribagh soil (Tannery polluted soil)
T ₃	Hazaribagh soil plus Cowdung
T ₄	Hazaribagh soil plus Lime

Pots: 4 kg soil/pot, 3 replications, Test Crop: Rice (Bridhan-58), 3 plans/pot, Cowdung/lime: 10 ton/ha

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Metal concentrations of Hazaribagh Tannery Industrial area soils

Physicochemical properties of the soils of Hazaribagh tannery area are presented in Table 2. The moisture content of the soil at sampling time was 36.64%. The mineralization of tannery wastes contributed to this high nitrogen concentration.

The soil from Hazaribagh tannery area shows high concentrations of heavy metal and an exception for cadmium, rest of the metals are present at a level higher than the MAC (Maximum allowable concentration) for soil (Kloke 1980). The concentration of chromium shows the maximum value among other metals (130630.8 mg kg⁻¹). Ullah *et al.* (1999) reported 25014 mg kg⁻¹ chromium concentration at Hazaribagh area. Similar findings were also reported by many authors. Elahi *et al.* (2010) reported 59333.33 mg kg⁻¹ of Cr concentration in soil. This high concentration of chromium may have

occurred due to the use of chromium sulphate ($[\text{Cr}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]_2(\text{SO}_4)_3$), regarded as one of the most efficient and effective tanning agent, during liming, pickling and curing stage. Along with this high amount of chromium phosphate is also used at liming process due to its efficiency in removing natural grease, fats, hairs, nails and other keratinous matters.

Table 2. Physicochemical properties of Hazaribagh soil.

Properties	Value	$\text{HNO}_3\text{-HCl}$ extractable metals in mg kg^{-1}	
Texture	Sandy loam		
pH	6.94	Cr	130630.8
Organic Matter (%)	3.11	Cu	143.13
		Pb	223.33
Total N (%)	3.62	Cd	BDL
Total P (%)	0.36	Zn	581.96
Total K (%)	0.09	Ni	216.66
Total Na (%)	0.13		
Total Ca (%)	0.05		
Total Mg (%)	0.01		

BDL= Below detection limit

The concentrations of copper, lead, zinc and nickel is 143.13, 223.33, 581.96 and 216.66 mg kg^{-1} respectively at sampling time which have crossed the MAC for soil (Kloke 1980). The cadmium concentrations, however, was below detection level. Such high concentrations of heavy metals were previously reported by many authors (Nuruzzaman *et al.* 1998, Ullah *et al.* 1999, Elahi *et al.* 2010).

Growth and yield of rice (*Oryza sativa* L.)

The length of shoot and root of rice (Bridhan-58) and its fresh and dry weight is affected by different treatments as shown in Table 3. The length of shoot and root ranged from 31.16 to 55.50 and 7.90 to 12.83 cm, respectively. The maximum and the minimum length of both shoot and root were obtained in Hazaribagh soil treated with lime (T_4) and Hazaribagh soil (T_2) respectively. In case of root the length increased by 5.28% in T_3 compared with the control (T_1) and by 21.03% in T_4 compared with T_1 . The length of root increased by 14.96% in T_4 compared to T_3 . The result indicated that the shoot and root length increased significantly due to application of cowdung and lime (Table 3).

Table 3. Effect of cowdung and lime on growth parameters of Rice (Bridhan-58).

Treatments	Length (cm)		Fresh weight (g/plant)		Dry weight (g/plant)	
	Shoot	Root	Shoot	Root	Shoot	Root
T_1 (Control)	42.00b	10.60b	2.64b	1.24b	2.28b	0.87b
T_2	31.16a	7.90a	1.69a	0.35a	1.33a	0.23a
T_3	51.00c	11.16b	3.31bc	1.38b	2.81bc	1.08b
T_4	55.50d	12.83b	3.48c	1.40b	3.17c	1.14b

Means followed by the same letter(s) in a column do not differ significantly from each other at 5% level by DMRT

The maximum fresh weight of shoot/plant and root/pot were 3.48g and 1.40g obtained in the lime treatment (T_4) (Table 3). The lowest value was 1.69g for shoot and 0.35g for root in the treatment T_2 (Hazaribagh soil). The decrease in the fresh weight of shoot and root followed the sequence of $T_4 > T_3 > T_1 > T_2$. Application of cowdung and lime significantly increased the fresh weight of shoot. The fresh weight of shoot increased by 25.4 and 31.8% in cowdung (T_3) and lime (T_4) treated pots compared to the control (T_1). Again the fresh weight of root increased by 11.3 and 12.9% in cowdung (T_3) and

lime (T₄) treated pots compared to the control (T₁). Fresh weigh of root increased by 1.45% in T₄ compared to T₃.

The maximum dry weight of shoot/plant and root/plant were 3.17g and 1.14g obtained in the treatment T₄ (Hazaribagh soil plus lime). The lowest value was 1.33g and 0.23g in the treatment T₂ (Hazaribagh soil) for shoot and root, respectively. The decrease in the fresh weight of shoot and root followed the sequence of T₄>T₃>T₁>T₂. Application of cowdung and lime significantly increased the dry weight of shoot and root. The changes in dry weight of root do not differ significantly among T₁, T₃ and T₄. The changes in the growth factors of rice were previously demonstrated by other authors as well as the beneficial impact of lime and organic amendments. Gerzabeck and Ullah (1990) observed that the reduction in shoot and root length by the toxic impacts of heavy metals. The positive influence of organic substances on plant growth is due to indirect effects of humic substances acting as suppliers and regulators of plant nutrients and due to direct effects of humic substances e.g. as respiratory catalysts (Schnitzer and Khan 1978, Vaughan and Malcolm 1985).

Mineral nutrition of rice

Application of treatments (lime and cowdung) significantly enhanced the macronutrient concentration in shoots and roots of rice (Bridhan-58) (Table 4). Nitrogen concentration ranged from 2.63 to 4.10% in shoot and 0.79 to 3.30% in root. The nitrogen concentration in shoot increased by 12.20% in T₃ compared to T₁ and by 8.75% in T₄ compared to T₃ (Table 4). The changes in nitrogen concentration in root are not significant between T₁ and T₂ as well as between T₃ and T₄. However T₁ and T₂ were significantly different from T₃ and T₄ respectively. The nitrogen concentration was decreased by 20.25% in T₂ compared to T₁ and increased by 6.79% in T₄ compared to T₃. From the results, it was evident that the higher the concentration of heavy metal the lower was the concentration of nitrogen in root and shoot of rice plant. Chamon *et al.* (2005) reported that application of cowdung and water hyacinth in the polluted soil enhanced the nitrogen concentration in rice. Strand *et al.* (1990) and Lee *et al.* (1991) reported an antagonistic effect on nitrogen uptake by rice plants due to application of heavy metals. In most cases, heavy metals block the entry of N in the root system (Sharma *et al.* 2006).

Phosphorus concentration ranged from 0.22 to 0.26% in shoot and 0.10 to 0.22% in root. The highest value of 0.26% in shoot and of 0.22% in root was found for T₄ (Hazaribagh soil plus lime) and the lowest value of 0.22% in shoot and 0.10% in root was found for T₁ (Control). The phosphorus concentration in shoot increased by 13.63% in T₂ compared to T₁ and by 4% in T₃ compared to T₂ and decreased by 3.84% in T₄ compared to T₃ (Table 3). These findings are in agreement with the results of Nurruzzaman (1995). Jasmin *et al.* (2020) stated that application of cowdung along with lead significantly increased phosphorus concentration in grain and straw of rice as compared to lead contaminated soil. Chamon *et al.* (2005) reported that application of cowdung and water hyacinth in the polluted soil enhanced the phosphorus contents in rice.

Potassium concentration ranged from 0.96 to 1.66 % in shoot and 0.58 to 1.15 % in root. The highest concentration of potassium was found in the shoot and root of rice at lime (T₄) and cowdung (T₃) treated pots, respectively. The lowest concentration was found in T₁ (Control) (Table 4).

Potassium concentration in shoot increased by 14.23% in hazaribagh soil (T₂) compared to the control (T₁) and by 8.21% in cowdung treated pots (T₃) compared to hazaribagh soil (T₂) and by 40.45% in lime treated pots (T₄) compared to cowdung treated pots (T₃). In root of rice it increased by 38.46% in cowdung treated pots (T₃) compared to hazaribagh soil (T₂) and decreased by 20.14% in lime treated pots (T₄) compared to cowdung treated pots (T₃). Calcium concentration ranged from 0.18 to 0.52 % in shoot and 0.34 to 0.48 % in root. Magnesium concentration ranged from 0.02 to 0.15 % in shoot and

0.03 to 0.12 % in root. The highest concentration for both calcium and magnesium is found at lime amended treatment (T_4) for both shoot and root and the lowest concentrations were found in the control (T_1) for both shoot and root. The accumulation of calcium was much higher in root than in shoot at the control (T_1) and the pots with hazaribagh soil (T_2). The reduced calcium concentration in hazaribagh soil (T_2) might be due to the antagonistic effect of heavy metals with calcium. The highest magnesium concentration was found at lime amended treatment (T_4) for both shoot and root and the lowest concentrations were found in the control (T_1) for both shoot and root. From the results it is evident that the magnesium concentration increased when lime and cowdung was added as treatments. Phosphorus, calcium, magnesium and potassium uptake by soybean plant was enhanced by lime and cowdung application (Martini and Mutters 1985).

Table 4. Effect of cowdung and lime on the concentration of N, P, K, Ca and Mg in shoots and roots of rice.

Treatments	% Nitrogen		%Phosphorus		%Potassium		%Calcium		%Magnesium	
	Shoot	Root	Shoot	Root	Shoot	Root	Shoot	Root	Shoot	Root
T_1 (Control)	3.36b	0.79a	0.22a	0.10a	0.96 b	0.58 a	0.18 a	0.34 a	0.02 a	0.03 a
T_2	2.63a	0.63a	0.25ab	0.14b	1.09 a	1.04 b	0.19 a	0.39 a	0.02 a	0.04 a
T_3	3.77bc	3.09b	0.26b	0.18c	1.18 a	1.44 b	0.49 b	0.37 a	0.11 b	0.08 b
T_4	4.10c	3.30b	0.25ab	0.22d	1.66 a	1.15 b	0.52 b	0.48 b	0.15 c	0.12 c

Means followed by the same letter(s) in a column do not differ significantly from each other at 5% level by DMRT

Heavy metal concentration in rice

Heavy metal concentration ameliorated by lime and cowdung of rice (Bridhan-58) is presented in Table 5. Chromium concentration ranged from 4.66 to 262.73 mg kg⁻¹ in shoot and 17.26 to 914.53 mg kg⁻¹ in root. The highest concentration of chromium was found in the shoot and root of rice at T_2 and T_4 , respectively. The lowest concentration was found in T_1 (control). In case of root there was no significant difference between T_2 and T_3 but these two treatments were significantly different from that of T_1 (control) and lime treatment (T_4).

Copper concentration ranged from 6.20 to 11.80 mg kg⁻¹ in shoot and 21.80 to 44.56 mg kg⁻¹ in root. The highest concentration of copper was found in the shoot and root of rice at T_2 (Hazaribagh soil). The lowest concentration was found in shoot at T_1 (control) and in root at T_4 (lime treatment). The zinc concentration ranged from 61.74 to 181 mg kg⁻¹ in shoot and 196.47 to 903.20 mg kg⁻¹ in root.

Table 5. Effects of cowdung and lime on micronutrient concentration (mg kg⁻¹) of rice.

Treatments	Copper		Chromium		Zinc		Nickel		Lead	
	Shoot	Root	Shoot	Root	Shoot	Root	Shoot	Root	Shoot	Root
T_1 (Control)	6.2a	32.8b	4.7a	17.3a	61.7a	196.5a	5.2a	32.7b	35.3a	53.1a
T_2	11.8c	44.6c	262.7b	508b	122.5b	279.1a	11.8b	27.9b	44.7a	102.3b
T_3	10.5c	24.6ab	56.8b	443.7b	181c	363.3a	6.5a	13.5a	40a	72a
T_4	8.3b	21.8a	23.9ab	914.5c	101.3ab	903.2a	6.3a	13.3a	43.7a	51a

Means followed by the same letter(s) in a column do not differ significantly from each other at 5% level by DMRT

The highest concentration of zinc was found in the shoot and root of rice at cowdung (T_3) and lime (T_4) amended soil, respectively. The lowest concentration was found in T_1 (control). The nickel concentration ranged from 5.20 to 11.80 mg kg⁻¹ in shoot and 13.33 to 32.77 mg kg⁻¹ in root. The highest concentration of nickel was found in the shoot and root of rice at T_2 (Hazaribagh soil). The lowest concentration was found in shoot at T_1 (control) and in root at T_4 (lime treatment). Lead concentration ranged from 35.33 to 44.67 mg kg⁻¹ in shoot and 51 to 102.33 mg kg⁻¹ in root. In case of shoot there was no significant difference among treatments. The highest concentration of lead was

found in the shoot and root of rice at T₂ (Hazaribagh soil). The lowest concentration was found at T₁ (control) for shoot and at T₄ (lime treated pots) for root (Table 5).

Application of cowdung and lime significantly affected the chromium concentration in rice. In case of shoot lime was more efficient in reducing chromium concentration in rice. Similar results were found by Chamon *et al.* (2005). Palazzo and Reynolds (1991) found that total and extractable copper, zinc, chromium, nickel, lead and cadmium in soil decreased significantly with time due to lime application. The plant tissue concentration of metals also decreased due to liming with time. Nuruzzaman *et al.* (1995) reported that chromium in the plant grown on same soil at Hazaribagh tannery area was much above the permissible limit (mg kg⁻¹) (Kloke 1980).

Application of lime and cowdung reduced the metal toxicity of soil. The lime and cowdung reduced the mobility of heavy metals thus reducing its uptake to rice plant (Chamon *et al.* 2005).

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