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## COMPARATIVE EFFECTS OF JATROPHA SEEDCAKE, CHICKEN AND KRAAL MANURES ON SELECTED SOIL PROPERTIES, GROWTH AND YIELD OF TOMATO (*Lycopersicon esculentum*)

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### Abstract

A field trial was conducted to evaluate the comparative effects of jatropha seedcake, chicken and kraal manures on selected soil properties, growth and yield of tomato in Zambia during the cropping season of 2012-13. A Randomized Complete Block Design (RCBD) with four replicates and six treatments, namely- jatropha seedcake (5.0 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), chicken manure (5.0 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), kraal manure (5.0 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), jatropha seedcake (2.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) + chicken manure (2.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), jatropha seedcake (2.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) + kraal manure (2.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) and control (0.0 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) was used. Soil total N, P, K, Ca, Mg, SOM, soil pH, bulk density, plant height, number of branches, number of fruits plant<sup>-1</sup>, and mean fruit weight effects were subsequently monitored. Organic manures significantly increased total N, available P, exchangeable K, Ca, Mg, SOM, soil pH, plant height, number of branches, number of fruits, mean fruit weight and yield of tomato compared to the control. Organic manures also significantly reduced soil bulk density compared to the control. Among the organic amendments treated alone, jatropha seedcake gave the highest yield of 28.62 t ha<sup>-1</sup> compared to chicken manure (28.20 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) and kraal manure (27.50 t ha<sup>-1</sup>). Maximum yield benefits came from a mixture of jatropha seedcake + chicken manure (29.60 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) and jatropha seedcake + kraal manure (29.00 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) which could have been due to balanced proportions of major nutrients required for tomato growth. Jatropha seedcake mostly performed favourably the same or better than chicken and kraal manures in many aspects.

**Keywords:** *Jatropha curcas*, Phorbol Ester, Bio-fuel, Bio-waste, Organic Manure

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## Introduction

Tomato, *Lycopersicon esculentum* is an important crop grown throughout the country and all year round for their fruits (Mingochi and Luchen, 2000). The low yields would be indicative of a tomato crop grown in unfavourable growing conditions that attract high level of management practices, frequent pest and disease control. Hence, the ability of a farmer to manipulate their production environment, such as application of both organic and inorganic fertilizers boosts crop productivity and avoids supply shocks (Mwiinga, 2009).

Intensive and widespread use of inorganic fertilizers and pesticides adversely affects the soil environment, leading to decreased crop productivity and production of potentially harmful food, unsafe for human consumption. These unintended harmful effects and the energy intensive processes involved in the production of inorganic fertilizers have resulted in several research initiatives for developing organic fertilizer alternatives (Chaturvedi and Kumar, 2012).

Processing of bio-fuel from jatropha in Zambia had significantly increased over the past two decades and this resulted in the production of large quantities of jatropha seedcake but this has since reduced in recent years. However, jatropha seedcake will possibly increase in the near future since the Zambian Government has embraced this programme and more NGOs and private companies are likely to come on board. Seed cake resulting from jatropha is not suitable for use as a livestock feed (Martínez-Herrera *et al.*, 2006; Li *et al.*, 2010) and not environmentally friendly because of the presence of toxic component, phorbol ester. This poses the challenge of safe disposal of the seedcake. In Zambia, manures used by farmers include kraal, chicken and green manures, and composted crop/plant residues, which tend to be of very low quality with limited contribution to crop yields. The variability in the nutrient content status of different organic manures would necessitate in certain instances to mix individual organic manures in order to improve their nutrient status and efficacy. These

manures are scarce and when available their volumes are insufficient to meet the demand. The large amount of de-oiled jatropha seedcake produced by oil-extraction process is valuable as organic manure due to its high nitrogen content (up to 6.48%) and can be used to maintain fertility of soil (Singh *et al.*, 1996; Chaturvedi *et al.*, 2008a; Chaturvedi *et al.*, 2010).

Several types of bio-waste like jatropha, neem, salvadora, maduca and pongamia have shown potential of being used as fertilizers and these not only improve the organic content of soil but also act as effective insecticides and fungicides (Chaturvedi *et al.*, 2008a; Chaturvedi *et al.*, 2008b). However, the extent to which jatropha seedcake could affect the soil properties, growth and yield of tomato has not received much research attention in Zambia. The little data available, however, indicate that the residue oil cake generated during oil extraction of bio-diesel production can be used as fertilizer (Cano-Asseleih *et al.*, 1989; Jayasingh, 2003), but does not provide information on its effects on the soil properties, growth and yield of tomato when used as organic manure. The objectives were to evaluate the effects of jatropha seedcake, chicken and kraal manures on selected soil properties, growth and yield of tomato.

## Materials and Methods

### Manures and plant materials

Jatropha seedcake was sourced from Southern Bio-power in Kalundu, Lusaka while chicken and kraal manures were obtained from the Field Station, School of Agricultural Sciences at the University of Zambia (UNZA) tomato 'Tengeru' seedlings were purchased from a private nursery at three weeks old, about 12 cm tall and with high vigour and had no signs of pests and diseases. Tengeru is indeterminate, with about 105 days to maturity and resistant to early and late blight, with a long shelf life of 2-3 weeks at room temperature.

### Experimental site location

Field experiment was conducted at the Zambia Agricultural Technology Development Centre, 15° 24' 52" S and 29° 05' 18" E in Chongwe district,

Zambia. The soils are Loamy sand and are classified as Lixisols (Ministry of Agriculture, 1991).

### Experimental design and treatments

The experiment was laid out in a Randomized Complete Block Design (RCBD) with four replicates and six treatments comprising jatropha seedcake (5.0 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), chicken manure (5.0 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), kraal manure (5.0 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), jatropha seedcake (2.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) + Chicken manure (2.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), jatropha seedcake (2.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) + kraal manure (2.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) and the untreated control.

### Determination of physical property (bulk density) from core method

The soil bulk density was determined prior to the application of treatments and at the end of the field experiment fourteen weeks after treatments application from oven-dried undistributed core samples collected to the depth of 0-10 cm by core method as described by Stolte *et al.* (1992).

### Soil sampling and chemical analysis

Twenty-four soil samples (0-20 cm depth) were randomly taken at the experimental site prior to the application of treatments and another set of twenty-four soil samples were taken in specified treated planting stations at the end of the experiment. Purposive sampling method was used (de Gruijter, 2002). Each set of samples was bulked, air-dried, sieved to pass through a 2 mm mesh and analysed for chemical properties. Total N was determined by the macro-kjeldahl method (Bremner and Mulvancy, 1982), available P was extracted by the Bray-1 method and determined colorimetrically (Bray and Kurtz, 1945). Exchangeable K, Ca, and Mg, were extracted with 1.0N NH<sub>4</sub>OAc using a soil: solution volume ratio of 1:10. The K in the extract was read using a flame emission photometer, while Ca and Mg were determined by Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer (AAS) (Perkin-Elmer, 1994). Organic carbon content was determined by Walkley-Black dichromate oxidation method (Walkley and Black, 1934) and the pH was determined by using a soil/organic manure water medium at a ratio of 1:2.5 using a digital electronic pH meter.

Table 1. Characterization of the soil used in the experiment in the top soil (0-20 cm depth) at the experimental site in 2012-13 cropping season.

| Soil property                       | Soil sample value |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| %TN                                 | 0.11              |
| mg P kg <sup>-1</sup>               | 9.40              |
| cmol K kg <sup>-1</sup>             | 0.50              |
| cmol Mg kg <sup>-1</sup>            | 0.88              |
| cmol Ca kg <sup>-1</sup>            | 5.93              |
| % C                                 | 1.37              |
| C/N ratio                           | 12.45             |
| pH                                  | 6.56              |
| Bulky density (g cm <sup>-3</sup> ) | 1.62              |

### Manure application

Manures were placed in specified planting stations of 15 cm x 15 cm x 35 cm dimensions. These were then covered with a thin layer of soil, with each receiving 150 g of organic manure equivalent to an application rate of 5.0 t ha<sup>-1</sup> one month before transplanting tomato seedlings. 0.5 litres of water was applied at an interval of every three days for one month to allow decomposition of the organic manures. Replication of 10 planting stations for each of jatropha seedcake, chicken manure and kraal manure samples for laboratory chemical analysis was also conducted. After a month, partially decomposed organic manures from 10 replicated planting stations were then subjected to chemical analysis.

### Planting

Each plot had a dimension of 1.2 m x 3.5 m with planting stations spaced at 60 cm x 50 cm, giving twenty-four plants per plot. Transplanting of seedlings was done on 30 November, 2012 in the afternoon at three (3) weeks old with plant height of approximately 12 cm. The crop was rain fed and therefore, irrigation was only done during times of partial droughts. Staking of plants was done at two weeks after transplanting.

### Plant protection

Routine sprays of carabyl against aphids (*Aulacorthum solani*), Tik tok (*dicofo*) against red spider mites (*Tetranychus* spp.) and Dithane M45 against fungal diseases such as early blight (*Alternaria solani*) and late blight (*Phytophthora infestans*) were carried out. Hand hoe weeding was carried out 3 times throughout the growing period.

### Harvesting

Harvesting of ripened tomatoes was done by hand picking, counted and weighed for each plant every three days between 12-14 weeks after transplanting.

### Data analysis

Twelve plant stands were selected as datum plants. The plant height above ground was measured using a measuring tape. The number of branches from the main vine and the number of fruits per plant were physically counted and recorded. Fruit weight was determined using a weighing balance. The fruit yield (t ha<sup>-1</sup>) was then determined. The collected data were subjected to standard statistical analysis of variance using GENSTAT statistical package (17<sup>th</sup> Edition) and then mean values were compared using the Least Significant Difference (LSD) at P = 0.05 (Little and Hills, 1978).

## Results and Discussion

### Soil chemical properties

The data indicated that the soils were slightly acidic, low in total N, soil organic matter (SOM), available P, exchangeable K, Ca and Mg. Table 2 shows characterization of organic manure used in the experiment. Table 3 shows the influence of organic amendments on some selected soil chemical properties. Plots treated with organic amendments had significantly (P= 0.05) higher total N, available P, exchangeable K, Ca and Mg, soil organic matter and pH compared to the untreated control.

Table 2. Characterization of jatropha seedcake, chicken manure and kraal manure used in the experiment.

| Property  | Jatropha seedcake | Chicken manure | Kraal manure |
|-----------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|
| N (%)     | 3.60              | 2.82           | 2.13         |
| P (%)     | 0.89              | 0.80           | 0.76         |
| K (%)     | 2.20              | 2.49           | 2.06         |
| Mg (%)    | 0.56              | 0.51           | 0.49         |
| Ca (%)    | 1.53              | 1.34           | 1.08         |
| OC (%)    | 21.06             | 1.54           | 1.74         |
| C/N ratio | 5.85              | 0.55           | 0.82         |
| pH        | 7.90              | 8.00           | 7.60         |

There was also significant difference between treatments on the effect of total N. Jatropha seedcake recorded higher increase in total N than chicken manure or kraal manure. However, a mixture of jatropha seedcake + chicken manure significantly increased the other treatments. This was attributed to the levels of nitrogen in jatropha seedcake and chicken manure. This agrees with Ahmad *et al.* (2007), who indicated

that the type of organic material and its quality influence the soil characteristics and nutrient supply to the crops variably. There was a significant increase in the available P with the application of organic amendments compared to the control. However, a mixture of jatropha seedcake with either chicken manure or kraal manure gave higher increase of P compared to jatropha seedcake applied alone.

Table 3. Effects of different organic amendments on selected soil properties 14 weeks after transplanting tomato.

| Treatment                             | % TN  | mg P<br>kg <sup>-1</sup> | cmol K<br>kg <sup>-1</sup> | cmol Ca<br>kg <sup>-1</sup> | Cmol Mg<br>kg <sup>-1</sup> | % SOM  | pH      | Bulk<br>density |
|---------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|---------|-----------------|
| Chicken manure                        | 1.84c | 24.89c                   | 0.56c                      | 17.95c                      | 6.78c                       | 8.30e  | 7.30a   | 1.43b           |
| Kraal manure                          | 1.59d | 23.95c                   | 0.57c                      | 19.80b                      | 6.60bc                      | 10.90c | 7.29ab  | 1.37c           |
| Jatropha seedcake                     | 1.95b | 26.97bc                  | 0.60b                      | 18.10c                      | 6.98bc                      | 13.70a | 7.25c   | 1.30d           |
| Jatropha seedcake +<br>chicken manure | 2.25a | 34.40a                   | 0.70a                      | 21.60a                      | 7.05ab                      | 10.30d | 7.27abc | 1.41b           |
| Jatropha seedcake +<br>Kraal manure   | 2.00b | 29.20b                   | 0.70a                      | 21.20a                      | 7.38a                       | 12.30b | 7.26bc  | 1.34c           |
| Control (untreated)                   | 0.95e | 6.75d                    | 0.20d                      | 6.39d                       | 0.72d                       | 1.50f  | 6.56d   | 1.60a           |
| Mean                                  | 1.76  | 24.36                    | 0.56                       | 17.51                       | 5.92                        | 9.5    | 7.16    | 1.41            |
| L.S.D.                                | 0.09  | 3.11                     | 0.02                       | 0.86                        | 0.35                        | 0.25   | 0.04    | 0.04            |

Means followed by the same letter(s) in the same column are not significantly different from each other at  $p = 0.05$  level.

This also implied that the application of P to the soil from a mixture of jatropha seedcake and resultant release of P increased the activity of soil microorganisms (Arancon *et al.*, 2006). Marinari *et al.* (2000) showed similar increases in soil P after application of organic amendments. The level of potassium (K) was significantly increased by the application of organic manures compared to the control. There was no significant difference in the level of potassium among jatropha seedcake, chicken manure and kraal manure treated plots. The potassium content in jatropha seedcake was found to be 2.2%, chicken manure was 2.49% while kraal manure was 2.06%. These percentages are relatively the same and this was the more reason no significant difference was recorded amongst jatropha seedcake, chicken manure and kraal manure. There was no significant difference between the mixture of jatropha seedcake + chicken manure and jatropha seedcake + kraal manure but the mixtures significantly influenced potassium content compared jatropha seedcake, chicken manure and kraal manure treated alone. This observation could have been that mixtures had additive effects on K resulting from the two organic manures in the composite manure. The increase of soil organic matter resulted in decrease K fixation and subsequent increase K availability (Olk and Cassman, 1993). Application of organic manure significantly increased both Ca and Mg compared to the control. The increase of soluble calcium content with the addition of jatropha seedcake and other treatments to soil was caused by high calcium content of the organic amendments. However plots treated with mixtures of jatropha seedcake + chicken manure or jatropha seedcake + kraal manure significantly increased calcium levels compared to jatropha seedcake, chicken manure and kraal manure applied alone. This shows that mixing jatropha seedcake with either chicken manure or kraal manure led to improvement in the nutrition status of the mixture. The high proportion of calcium levels in organically treated plots also tended to have high pH values since calcium has neutralizing properties and therefore to raise the pH of acid soils. Magnesium levels were significantly influenced with the application of organic manures compared to the control. However, no significant difference was recorded

amongst the treatments that were applied alone. This was so because the magnesium content amongst the individual organic manures was marginal e.g. jatropha seedcake had 0.56%, chicken manure had 0.51% and kraal manure had 0.49%. There was also no significant difference recorded between the two mixtures. A mixture of jatropha seedcake + kraal manure influenced the highest increase in Mg. This was because of the individual manures in the mixtures had almost the same proportion of magnesium. The application of organic amendments significantly increased organic matter compared to the control. Jatropha seedcake had significantly increased organic matter compared to the other individual organic amendments. A mixture of jatropha seedcake with either chicken manure or kraal manure treated plots recorded lower levels of organic matter compared to jatropha seedcake applied alone. This could have been due to the lower levels of organic matter content of the chicken manure (2.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) or kraal manure (2.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) added compared to the equivalent amount of jatropha seedcake (2.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) replaced and therefore reducing the overall organic matter content of the blend. Generally, organic manures have higher organic matter content and therefore are good sources of replenishment of organic matter in the soil for supplying microorganisms with N vital for decomposition activities. The organic matter influence on soil pH was depended on both the initial pH of the organic manure and the soil pH.

The increase in soil pH could be due to the higher pH value of the chicken manure, kraal manure and jatropha seedcake were pH of 8.8, 8.2 and 7.9, respectively in relation to the soil pH of 6.56. This increase is not considered dangerous to soil quality because the values remained close to neutrality. The sensitivity of soil pH to the organic amendments was partly due to the low buffering capacity (Nielsen *et al.*, 1998). The higher pH of organically amended plots compared to the control also might partially be due to the calcium supplied to the soil by organic manures, which has neutralizing effect. The highest increase in pH was recorded by chicken manure followed by kraal manure. These results are supported by the fact that the initial pH of the organic manure affects the extent to which they influence the final pH of the soil.

**Soil physical property (bulk density)**

Organic manure application significantly influenced soil bulk density compared to the control. Jatropha seedcake treated plots had the highest reduction effect on bulk density compared to other amendments and this could be attributed to the high proportion of organic matter content for jatropha seedcake (21.06%) in relation to chicken manure (1.54%) and kraal manure (1.74%). The decrease in soil bulk density could make considerable difference in the root growth and therefore, overall growth of the plant. These findings confirmed the earlier reports of Lombin *et al.* (1991); Mbah *et al.* (2004) that application of organic manures improves several soil physical properties such as soil bulk density.

**Effect of organic manure amendments on growth parameters and yield**

Application of organic manures significantly increased plant height, number of branches and fruits per plant, fruit weight and yield of tomato compared to the control as shown in Table 4. Different types of organic manures had varying effects on the vegetative growth and yield of tomato. The highest plant height of 107 cm was recorded by jatropha seedcake and chicken manure, which was significantly different from kraal manure but did not show any significant difference with jatropha seedcake+ chicken manure and jatropha seedcake+ kraal manure.

Table 4. Results showing the effect of different organic amendments on growth parameters and yield of tomato.

| Treatment                          | Plant height (cm) | Branches plant <sup>-1</sup> | Fruits plant <sup>-1</sup> | Fruit weight (g) | Yield (t ha <sup>-1</sup> ) |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Chicken manure                     | 107.0a            | 11.0a                        | 25.0c                      | 112.0a           | 28.20c                      |
| Kraal manure                       | 104.0b            | 10.0a                        | 27.0b                      | 103.6b           | 27.50d                      |
| Jatropha seedcake                  | 107.0a            | 11.0a                        | 25.0c                      | 113.6a           | 28.62bc                     |
| Jatropha seedcake + Chicken manure | 105.0ab           | 10.0a                        | 29.0a                      | 102.0b           | 29.60a                      |
| Jatropha seedcake + Kraal manure   | 105.0ab           | 10.0a                        | 29.0a                      | 100.1b           | 29.00ab                     |
| Control (untreated)                | 62.0c             | 7.0b                         | 20.0d                      | 65.0c            | 13.00e                      |
| Mean                               | 98.0              | 9.8                          | 26.00                      | 99.3             | 25.99                       |
| L.S.D.                             | 2.7               | 1.2                          | 1.5                        | 3.6              | 0.61                        |

Means followed by the same letter(s) in the same column are not significantly different from each other at  $p = 0.05$  level.

Application of organic manures significantly increased plant height, number of branches and fruits plant<sup>-1</sup>, fruit weight and yield of tomato compared to the control as shown in Table 4. Different types of organic manures had varying effects on the vegetative growth and yield of tomato. The highest plant height of 107 cm was recorded by jatropha seedcake and chicken manure, which was significantly different from kraal manure but did not show any significant difference with jatropha seedcake + chicken manure and jatropha seedcake + kraal manure. However, no significant influence was recorded in the number of branches amongst the five organic manures. This observation could be that all the organic manure treated plots had almost the proportion of the nutrients required to support growth of branches. A mixture of jatropha seedcake with its associations with either chicken or kraal manure recorded the same number of fruits of 29 plant<sup>-1</sup> while jatropha seedcake and chicken manure also recorded the same number of fruits of 25. The positive effect of organic amendments added to the soil also may be attributed to stimulating the activity of bacteria, which promote the release availability of N, P, K and the other nutrients in the soil, and enhances nutrients absorption by tomato roots (Bertand and Cleyetmarel, 2008). Magnesium is involved in chlorophyll synthesis, which in turn increases the rate of photosynthesis. Application of organic manures thus would have helped in the plant metabolic activity through the supply of such important macronutrient in the early vigorous growth (Anburani and Manivannan, 2002). While higher yield was obtained by jatropha seedcake among the treatments applied alone with 28.62 t

ha<sup>-1</sup>, a mixture of jatropha + chicken recorded the highest yield of 29.6 t ha<sup>-1</sup>, followed by jatropha + kraal manure with 29.00 t ha<sup>-1</sup>. The high yield recorded by the mixture of jatropha + chicken might be because of the presence of N, P and K that are essential macronutrients for plant growth. The untreated control had the least N, P, K, Ca, and Mg and soil organic matter. The lowest nutrients recorded by the control experiment might be the reason why the plant parameters observed such as plant height, number of branches, number of fruits plant<sup>-1</sup>, fruit weight and yields were very low compared to other treatments.

**Conclusion**

The use of jatropha seedcake or its mixture with either chicken manure or kraal manure in tomato production is considered desirable. The use of jatropha seedcake or its mixture with either chicken manure or kraal manure as organic manure will improve soil pH, soil organic matter status, nutrients availability, bulk density, growth and increase crop yield. However, further studies will be required to be undertaken to evaluate the effects of jatropha seedcake, chicken and kraal manures on the nutritive value content of tomato fruits at the same application rate.

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