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Nitrogen and Chicken Manure Effect on Corn Growth and Yield in Double Row Cropping Patterns

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ABSTRACT: Corn (*Zea mays* L.) is a common food and feed product in the community since it is commonly used as rice substitution as food staple. Fertilizer application is required to attain crop high yields. Plants can receive nutrients from synthetic nitrogen fertilizers (NF) during their growth cycle. However, excessive use of NF might harm the environment. Organic chicken manure (CM), on the other hand, can minimize the harmful impact of NF. Chicken manure benefits to improve the soil's physical, chemical, and biological properties. To boost maize plant growth and productivity, might employ CM and NF. The objective of this study was to determine the effect of NF and CM on corn growth and yield. This research was conducted in Kembang Seri, Central Bengkulu, Indonesia from November 2019 to February 2020 using Randomized Complete Block Design (RCBD) with two factors and three replications. The first factor was NF doses (100, 125, and 150 %), and the second-factor consisted of CM doses (0, 10, and 20 tons/ha). Data were analyzed using ANOVA F-5%. On shoot dry weight of corn cultivated in a double row cropping pattern, there was an interaction between the dose of N and chicken manure. At 0 tons/ha, the optimum N fertilizer dose for chicken manure is 141.22 %, or 423.65 kg urea/ha. In a double row cropping pattern, different nitrogen fertilizer doses had no effect on corn growth and yield. The optimal dose of chicken manure was 16.65 tons/ha for plant height, 17.35 tons/ha for stem diameter, 18.89 tons/ha for leaf greenness, 17.35 tons/ha for cob length, 15.01 tons/ha for cob weight, 18.87 tons/ha for dry seed weight/plant, and 19.74 tons/ha for dry seed weight/plot.

KEYWORDS: Chicken Manure, Corn, Double Row Cropping, Zea Mays.

INTRODUCTION

Corn (*Zea mays* L.) cultivation with a double row cropping pattern yields more than single row cropping. Plant spacing for optimal number of populations can increase land productivity. Planting with a single row planting system has frequently been used in corn cultivation; however, a double row planting method starts getting attention since it may generate larger yields on a less land area [1]. Close planting distances cause corn plants to receive insufficient sunshine, whereas too far apart necessitate more acreage for the same population [2]. Corn planted in a double row planting technique absorbs more water, receives more sunlight, and absorbs more nutrients [1]. A double row cropping technique can enhance plant population per unit area while also increase land productivity. The purpose of spacing is to maximize plant productivity by optimizing population and decreasing competition between plants [3].

Planting media, plant varieties, fertilizers, and climate influence plant growth and development. Plants cannot grow well, and production is low when plant growth requirements are unsuitable. In order to get a crop high yield, it is essential to consider the plant's environmental circumstances carefully. Likewise, fertilization is one way of increasing soil nutrient content to enhance corn plant growth and yield. Fertilizer is classified into two types: organic fertilizer and synthetic fertilizer. Organic fertilizers from microorganism decomposed organic substances release nutrients for plants without harming the soil or water. Organic matter is composed of partially weathered plants and animals [4]. Organic matter can help the soil enhance its physical, chemical, and biological qualities, providing nutrients to plants. The application of 15 tons/ha of organic manure is also required to improve soil chemical qualities such as increasing soil pH and Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC), as well as biologically by providing energy for macro-and microorganism activity, leading to the improvement of soil structure [5], improves soil physical properties, such as increasing the percentage of soil pores and soil permeability [6]. Organic matter is also required to improve soil chemical qualities

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such as increasing soil pH and Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC) and biologically by supplying energy for macro-and microorganism activity, thereby promoting the soil aggregation [5].

Ultisols is soil with a low pH, and base saturation at a depth of 180 cm from the soil surface is less than 35%. Ultisols fertility is very low because the content of nutrients such as N, P, K, Mg, and Zn are available in small quantities. Another disadvantage of Ultisols is their susceptibility to erosion [7]. Ultisols can improve their soil structure through the application of organic fertilizers. Organic fertilizers can be used to improve the soil structure of Ultisols.

Organic chicken manure (CM) is organic fertilizer, containing high P content, and provide macro and microelements. Furthermore, CM improves soil structure, thereby increasing water holding capacity, soil microbiological activity, CEC, and soil structure [8]. Organic chicken manure 10 tons/ha had a positive effect on plant height, stem diameter, number of leaves, and leaf area index of maize at three weeks after planting (WAP), 5 WAP, and 7 WAP [8]. Meanwhile, synthetic fertilizers used continuously without being balanced with organic matter might harm soil structure. The application of manure and synthetic fertilizers did not show any interaction between the two on the total N content of the soil, the efficiency of N uptake, and the weight of dry milled grain [9].

Nitrogen (N) is an essential nutrient required by corn plants for growth and development. Some soil orders, such as Ultisols, Entisols, and Inceptisols, contain low N and other nutrient levels but high acidity (pH 5.5) [1]. Application of proper amount of N fertilizer incease corn yield. Urea fertilizer at a rate of 250 kg/ha can boost corn plant growth and yield [10]. However, plants do not absorb released nutrients from fertilizer applied to the soil. Cultivated crops absorbed between 55 and 60 % of N fertilizers, roughly 20 % of P fertilizers, and 50 to 70 % of K fertilizers. The response of plants to applied fertilizer is determined by the type of fertilizer used and the soil fertilizer application (NPK) gives higher yields than without applying one of the nutrients N, P, or K. The balance of the combination of N, P, and K fertilizers affects the efficiency of nutrient use [12]. The study aimed to determine the best combination of NF and CM for the growth and yield of corn, the optimum dose of NF for growth and yield of corn in a double row cropping pattern, and the optimum dose of CM for growth and yield of corn in a double row cropping pattern.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The research was conducted from November 2019 to February 2020 in Kembang Sri Village, Central Bengkulu, Indonesia. The design used was Randomized Complete Block Design (RCBD), consisting of two factors and three replications. The first factor was the dose of nitrogen fertilizer consisting of $N_1 = 100\%$ (300 kg/ha); $N_2 = 125\%$; $N_3 = 150\%$, and the second factor was the dose of chicken manure i.e. $A_1 = 0$ tons/ha, $A_2 = 10$ tons/ha, and $A_3 = 20$ tons/ha. The experimental plot size was 2.95 m x 1.9 m (w x l). The number of plants was 40 per experimental plot and six plants for each plot as samples. As a comparison, there are three plots with a single row cropping pattern.

Analyses of Soils

Soil pH was measured using pH meter at ratio 1:2.5 of soil and distilled water, soil total nitrogen using Kjeldahl Method, exchangeable Al using titration method after extertaion of 1N KCl, organic-C using Walkly and Black Method, cation exchange capacity (CEC) using 1N ammonium acetate extraction, and soil bulk density using ring sample method.

Land Preparation

Land preparation started with removal of weed using manual method. The soil was hoed at the depth of 20 cm from the surface and at the same time, dolomite was applied based on exchangeable Al method. The soil tillage was repated to completely loosen the soil.

Planting

Corn seeds were planted at a depth of 2-3 cm and a spacing of 95 cm (between rows) x 25 cm (in rows) in a double row cropping pattern. Carbofuran at the dose of 0.2 mg/plant was applied at the same time as seed planting to suppress insects.

Fertilizer Application

Manure was applied just before planting according to each treatment. Urea fertilizer was applied gradually in a grid pattern between plant rows. One-third portion of urea fertilizer was applied seven days after planting (DAP), while another one-third portion was applied at 30 DAP, and the rest at 45 DAP (Syafruddin, 2016).

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Plant Maintenance

Irrigation was carried out to maintain soil moisture. Weed control was carried out twice, which are two weeks after planting (WAP) and 5 WAP. Pest control was carried out chemically with an insecticide with the active ingredient Deltamethrin at a dose of 2 ml/L. In addition, the disease control was carried out using a fungicide with the active ingredient Mankozeb at a recommended dose.

Observed variables

The variables observed were plant height (cm), stem diameter (mm), leaf greenness, number of leaves, shoot dry weight (g), cob length (cm), cob diameter (mm), cob weight (g), dry seed weight/plant (g), dry seed weight/plot (g), 100 seed weight (g). As supporting data, rainfall, soil moisture, and light intensity were recorded. Soil moisture was measured with a hygrometer, while light intensity was measured by a lux meter. The data were analyzed using Analysis of Variance with the F test at a 5% significance level. Significantly different variables in the F test were then examined further using orthogonal polynomials.

RESULTS AND DISSCUSSION

Table 1. ANOVA analysis of N fertilizer, Chicken Manure, and their interactions on corn growth and yield.

X7	F-calculated	Tedanication			
Variables	Nitrogen	Chicken manure	Interaction		
Plant height	0,71ns	4,84*	1,30ns		
Leaves number	0,72ns	36,45*	0,87ns		
Stem diameter	0,06ns	75,10*	2,04ns		
Leaves greeness	1,67ns	28,92*	1,40ns		
Shoot dry weight	3,35ns	65,08*	4,52*		
Cob length	0,5ns	26,34*	2,66ns		
Cob diameter	0,01ns	12,11*	2,35ns		
Cob weght	1,39ns	9,03*	1,64ns		
Seed dry weight/plant	0,05ns	22,92*	1,87ns		
Seed dry weight/plot	0,25ns	50,95*	1,85ns		
100 seed weight	0,57ns	6,51*	1,96ns		

Note: (ns) no significant different (P > 0.05); (*) significantly different (P < 0.05)

The application of N fertilizer had no significant effect on all variables observed in this study, while chicken manure had a significant effect on all observed variables. There is an interaction between the dose of N fertilizer and chicken manure on the shoot dry weight.

Interaction of N fertilizer and chicken manure dosage on shoot dry weight.

The relationship between the dose of nitrogen fertilizer (NF) and shoot dry weight was linearly positive at chicken manure (CM) rate of 10 tons/ha and formed a quadratic pattern at a CM rate of 0 tons/ha and 20 tons/ha. The equation for the CM dose curve 0 ton/ha Y(0) = -0.4019x2 + 109.29x - 6910.7 indicates that the optimum dose of N fertilizer has been obtained to produce the maximum shoot dry weight. The optimum NF dose was 135.96 %, or 407.8 kg/ha. The 10 ton/ha CM dosage curve's equation is Y(10) = 4.1933x - 160.06, and the coefficient of determination (R^2) is 0.98. The dose curve equation for CM 20 tons/ha is Y(20) = -0.2089x2 + 59,003x - 3600.8, showing that the optimal dose of N fertilizer is 141.22 %, or 423.65 kg urea/ha, generating a shoot dry weight of 565,49 g.



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Figure 1. The interaction of dose of N fertilizer and chicken manure on shoot dry weight

A quadratic curve is not expected for a dose of CM 0 tons/ha (control treatment) because the theoretical hypothesis predicts that the application of NF will increase the shoot dry weight linearly. N treatment is intended to meet the nitrogen needs of corn plants in less fertile soils. Corn shoot dry weight in a CM treatment of 20 tons/ha with a double row cropping pattern was 565.49 g, but only 168.38 g in a single row cropping pattern. The shoot dry weight is lower in the single row cropping pattern because the doses of NF and CM in the cropping pattern are lesser than in the double row cropping pattern. The higher the dose of N and CM fertilizer, the more nutrients are available to plants. The findings of another study by [13] confirmed that urea fertilizer had the most significant effect on plants since urea tended to enhance growth above the soil and produces green leaves, and in corn, it will enlarge the cobs and increase the protein content.

The combined application of NF and CM fertilizers provides sufficient and balanced nutrients for plant growth. Nutrients trigger the interaction between NF and CM in each fertilizer. The application of two fertilizers released nutrients N and P, which were essential for cob development and seed filling processes. Since N and P are highly mobile nutrients in plant tissue, their deficiency will affect plant vegetative growth.

Effect of N fertilizer on corn growth and yield

Application of NF at different doses had no significant effect on plant height, leaves number, leaves greenness, and stem diameter (Table 2). The low soil pH at the study site affects the effectiveness of nutrient absorption by plant roots. N fertilizer is readily available and readily taken up by plants, whereas CM is a slow-release fertilizer. As a result, the availability of nutrients from N fertilizer and CM to plants does not occur concurrently.

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N dose	Plant height	Leaves	number	Leaves	greeness	Stem diameter
(%)	(cm)	(helai)		(CCI)		(mm)
100	169,41	7,87		46,88		18,62
125	174,37	8,72		48,15		18,61
150	174,61	8,81		48,73		18,80

Table 2. Average growth of corn at various doses of N fertilizer

Note: CCI = *Chlorophyll Content Index*

The application of NF at a rate of 150 % tendend to have the highest plant height, leaves number, leaf greenness, and stem diameter (Table 2). This study's average plant height was lower than its potential, which reached 230 cm. N element is a crucial nutrient for corn plant growth. N deficiency inhibits the process of cell division, resulting in slower plant growth. On the other hand, excess N will also affect corn plant growth by lengthening the vegetative growth cycle and causing it more vulnerable to fall. Thus,

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it is essential to ascertain the soil's nitrogen content to ensure that the supplied fertilizer is targeted correctly and appropriately utilized by the plants. N fertilizer has the advantage of being highly soluble in water and readily absorbed by plants. However, if NF is applied to the soil surface, the amount of N lost to the atmosphere can approach 40% of the amount used [14].

The application of NF at a rate of 150 % tended to exhibit the highest plant height, leaves number, leaf greenness, and stem diameter. Lime application to the soil can help prevent nitrogen loss to the air. The liming process improves soil qualities, particularly the pH of acidic soils such as those identified in this research area. Increasing the pH of the soil can assist in providing the N element required by corn plants. At a normal pH, elemental N may be absorbed optimally, increasing the growth and yield of corn plants. The uptake of nitrogen by plants in lime-treated soil is more significant than in un-lime soil. This phenomenon demonstrates that liming can enhance the soil's pH and ammonium ion levels, hence increasing N uptake.

Similar to vegetative growth, the study also showed that applying NF at different doses also had no significant effect on all yield variables. Application of NF at different doses resulted in no further impact on cob length, cob diameter, cob weight, seed weight/plant, seed weight/plot, and 100 seeds weight (Table 3).

N dose (%)	Cob length (cm)	Cob (mm)	diameter	Cob weight (g)	Seed weight/ plant (g)	dry	Seed weight/plot (g)	dry	100 weigh (g)	seed It
100	16,56	36,98		160,52	131,37		5011,11		25,46	
125	16,03	33,62		154,66	113,04		5777,77		24,85	
150	14,96	37,04		148,93	104,56		5054,07		25,39	

Table 3. Average corn yield at various doses of N fertilizer

These findings suggest that the application of NF was not utilized optimally by plants. Plants can't grow optimal during the vegetative and generative phases if nutrients are not sufficient [15]. Plant development and output are influenced by various factors, including fertilizer dosage, application method, and growing environment [16].

Effect of chicken manure dose on the growth and yield of corn

As seen in Figure 2, increasing the CM dose increased plant height. The plant height will increase by 0.86 cm as CM increases by 1 ton/ha. Figure 3 shows, the quadratic relationship indicates that the optimum dose of CM was obtained for the number of leaves. The optimum CM dose was 16.65 tons/ha, and the double row cropping pattern generated 9.63 leaves, similar to the 9.66 leaves produced by a single row cropping pattern.



Figure 2. Relationship between dose of chicken manure and plant height Figure 3. Relationship between dose of chicken manure and leaves number

The application of CM had a significant effect on the greenness of the leaves (Table 1). The regression equation for the relationship between CM dose and leaf greenness is Y = -0.0211x2 + 0.7974x + 43.476 (Figure 4). The quadratic relationship between CM application and leaf greenness revealed that the optimum CM dose was 18.89 tons/ha, resulting in leaf greenness in the double row cropping pattern of 51 CCI and the single row planting pattern 53.46 CCI. Figure 5 shows, the regression equation

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Figure 4. Relationship between dose of chicken manure and leaves greeness



The CM application increased the length of the cob with the regression equation Y = 0.1296x + 14,558 and the coefficient of determination (R^2) = 0.3162 (Figure 6). Each increase of 1 ton/Ha CM increases the length of the cob by 17.15 cm. The application of CM resulted in a linear curve with the diameter of the cob, a regression equation of Y = 0.4967x + 30.919, and a coefficient of determination (R^2) of 0.4291 (Figure 7). By increasing 1 ton/Ha CM, the diameter of the cob will increase by 0.4967 mm.







The regression equation between CM dose and cob weight is $Y = -0.443x^2 + 13.307x + 95.472$ with the coefficient of determination (R^2) = 0.9243, indicating a 92.43 % relationship between the dose and cob weight (Figure 8). The quadratic relationship implies that the optimum CM dose has been attained to maximize cob body weight. The optimum CM dose was 15.01 tons/ha with a cob weight of 195.40 g in double row cropping. In comparison, the weight of cobs planted using a single row cropping design was somewhat greater, 215.72 g. The use of CM has a considerable impact on seed dry weight/plant (Table 2). The regression equation $Y = -0.1318x^2 + 4.9753x + 88.531$ with a coefficient of determination (R^2) = 0.595 denotes a 59.5 % association between CM dose and seed dry weight (Figure 9).



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Figure 8. Relationship between dose of chicken manure and cob weight

Figure 9. Relationship between dose of chicken manure and seed dry weight/plant

The relationship between CM dose and dry seed weight yielded an optimum value of 18.87 tons/ha with a dry seed weight of 135.48 g/plant in a double row cropping pattern and 177.34 g in a single row cropping scheme. The regression equation between the dose of CM and corn seed dry weight/plot is Y = -5.8074x2 + 240.59x + 4444.4 with the coefficient of determination (R^2) = 0.9279, indicating a 92.79 % association between the dose of CM and the dry weight (Figure 10).

The quadratic relationship suggests that the optimum dose of CM for increasing seed dry weight/plot has been found. Narrower spacing can boost productivity per unit area while lowering maize seed weight [17]. According to the findings of this study, the optimum dose of CM 20 tons/ha led to a seed dry weight of 6936.2 g in double row cropping pattern plots and 3822.2 g in single row planting pattern plots. With the regression equation, Y = 0.3582x + 21.654 and the coefficient of determination (R^2) = 0.4792, increasing the CM dose followed by increasing the weight of 100 seeds (Figure 11). Applying 1 ton/Ha of chicken manure increases the weight of 100 seeds by up to 0.3582 g.



Figure 10. Relationship between dose of chicken manure and cob weight/plot



Overall, the results demonstrated that the higher the dose of CM, the better the corn growth and yield. Plant height, number of leaves, leaves greenness, stem diameter, cob length, cob diameter, cob weight, and seed dry weight increased as CM dose increased (Figure 2-11). Therefore, CM boosts soil fertility. Organic matter treatment can enhance and provide both macro and micronutrients to plants. According to Mayadewi (2007), CM provides nutrients N, P, and K that corn needs for vegetative growth, such as leaf growth. The higher the leaf chlorophyll content, the greater the photosynthesis process and the higher the yield of corn plants.

Corn grown in a single row cropping system had somewhat greener leaves than corn in a double row cropping arrangement. Photosynthesis in plants will run properly, and plant growth enhanced with the fulfillment of nutrients and radiation [18]. Elemental N is found in various substances, including amino acids, required for vegetative growth in plants, such as stems, leaves, and roots. When N is available for corn plants, all cell activities normally work [19]. According to [20], the better the stem's growth, the better

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the roots' ability to absorb nutrients, and the more nutrients received by the plant. Roots serve various functions, including nutrient absorption and nutrient transfer from roots to stems, leaves, and fruit [21]. [22] stated that the higher the photosynthetic process, the more food stores are transferred to seeds, assuming that other parameters like light, water, temperature, and nutrients are optimal. According to [23], the role of manure is to improve soil structure, supply a source of nutrients, increase the soil's ability to hold water and increase the soil's capacity to keep nutrients.

CONCLUSIONS

- 1. There was an interaction between the dose of N and chicken manure on shoot dry weight of corn cultivated in a double row cropping pattern. The optimum dose of N fertilizer for chicken manure at 0 tons/ha is 135.96 %, equivalent to 407.86 kg urea/ha. The optimum dose of N fertilizer for chicken manure at a dose of 20 tons/ha is 141.22 %, equivalent to 423.65 kg urea/ha.
- 2. Various doses of nitrogen fertilizer had no apparent effect on corn growth and yield in a double row cropping pattern.
- 3. The optimal dose of chicken manure was 16.65 tons/ha for plant height, 17.35 tons/ha for stem diameter, 18.89 tons/ha for leaf greenness, 17.35 tons/ha for cob length, 15.01 tons/ha for cob weight, 18.87 tons/ha for dry seed weight/plant, and 19.74 tons/ha for dry seed weight/plot. Application of 15-20 ton/ha of chicken manure will eventually increase growth and yield of corn.

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