

Zinc as a Micronutrient It's Foliar and Soil Application Effect on Seed Yield and Quality of Jute Seed

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Received: 23.11.2020; Accepted: 09.12.2020; Published Online: 25.12.2020

ABSTRACT

Present study was undertaken to determine the optimum level of zinc fertilizer for yield and quality of jute seed. There were eleven fertilizer levels (T₁: 0 kg ha⁻¹ Zn, T₂: 04 kg ha⁻¹ Zn as basal, T₃: kg ha⁻¹ Zn as basal, T₄: kg ha⁻¹ Zn as basal, T₅: kg ha⁻¹ Zn as basal, T₆: 12 kg ha⁻¹ Zn as basal, T₇: kg ha⁻¹ Zn- half as basal and half as foliar in two split, T₈: 06 kg ha⁻¹ Zn- half as basal and half as foliar in two split, T₉: 08 kg ha⁻¹ Zn- half as basal and half as foliar in two split, T₁₀: 10 kg ha⁻¹ Zn- half as basal and half as foliar in two split, T₁₁: 12 kg ha⁻¹ Zn- half as basal and half as foliar in two split. Plant population/m² (26.83), branches plant⁻¹ (3.43) and 1,000 seed weight (2.67g) was maximum in T₆. Capsule plant⁻¹ (11.67), capsule length (67.89 mm), seed yield (0.84 ton ha⁻¹) and BCR (1.80) were maximum in T₉. Maximum germination (92.67) and field emergence percentage (86.33) were recorded in T₁₀ and seed vigour (36.41%) in T₃. Application of zinc as basal and foliar ensures better seed yield and quality.

Keywords: Jute seed, Zinc, Basal and Foliar application

INTRODUCTION

After cotton jute is the second most important fibre crops in terms of consumption. It is an important cash crop in Bangladesh and India, which together accounts for about 84% of world production of jute fibre (Hossain et al. 2002). In 2015-2016, 1,360,608.12 tons of jute fibre was produced from 677,678 hectares of land that covers about 4.46% of total land area of Bangladesh (BBS 2018). Jute is a completely biodegradable, recyclable and eco-friendly lingo-cellulose fiber (Mir et al. 2008). Jute and jute products not only retard ecological degradation but also conserve green environment and atmosphere as a whole (Ghosh et al. 2013, Mamun et al. 2017). Seed is a basic input for any crop production program, which leads inevitably for agricultural change of a country but Bangladesh has been facing an acute shortage of quality jute seed every year (Hossen et al. 2008). Annual requirement of jute seed in Bangladesh is about 5,500-6,000 tons, of which only 10-15% is produced and distributed by the BADC (Ali et al. 2003). As a result, every year a huge amount of jute seeds are introducing through official and unofficial trades from neighboring country. Unofficial imports of jute seed have no guarantee of its quality and are one of the major causes of low yield (Islam 2009).

For the production of jute seed, late jute seed production technology is well known. In this technology jute seed is sown directly in to the field for the production of seed during mid-August to mid-September and harvested within January of the following year (Alam et al. 2002). Seed yield depends on various yield contributing characters such as plant population, plant height, number of branches/plant, number of capsules/plant, capsule length, number of seeds/capsule and weight of 1,000 seed. The potential of jute seed yield can be improved through effective manipulations of those yield contributing characters, which have positive contribution towards seed yield. Full expression of genetic potentiality depends upon management practices such as fertilization, irrigation, weeding etc. Fertilization is one of the most important management practices because plant growth is directly related to plant nutrition i.e. fertilization. Crop nutrient uptake and crop yields are the principal factors that determine optimal fertilization practices (Ju and Christie 2011). Therefore, it is very important to apply fertilizers in an efficient way to minimize loss and to improve the nutrient use efficiency (Li et al. 2009). Cultivation of high yielding varieties, intensive cropping (Islam et al. 2017), loss of fertile top soil and losses of nutrient through leaching (Rahman et al. 2008, Singh et al. 2011, Somani 2008). At global scale, about one-third of arable soils are deficient in micronutrients, particularly in zinc (Cakmak et al. 2017). As well documented by plant physiologists, zinc exerts a great influence on basic plant life processes, such as (i) nitrogen metabolism – uptake of nitrogen and protein quality; (ii) photosynthesis – chlorophyll

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synthesis, carbon anhydrase activity; (iii) resistance to abiotic and biotic stresses – protection against oxidative damage (Alloway 2008, Cakmak, 2008, Yadavi et al. 2014). Zinc is known to have an important role either as a metal component of enzymes or as a functional, structural or regulatory cofactor of a large number of enzymes (Grotz and Guerinot 2006). Zinc also plays an important role in the production of biomass (Kaya and Higgs 2002, Cakmak 2008). Kenbaev and Sade (2002) and Hosseini (2006) reported improvement in yield components for application of zinc. Zinc is involved in biosynthesis of plant hormone, indole acetic acid (IAA), auxin metabolism and is component of variety of enzymes like, carbonic anhydrase, alcohol dehydrogenase, glutamic dehydrogenase *etc.* and plays an important role in enhancing the seed germination and vigor (Boonchuay et al. 2013). Furthermore, zinc may be required for chlorophyll synthesis, pollen function and fertilization (Kaya and Higgs 2002, Pandey et al. 2006, Jenik and Barton 2005, Pandey and Gautam 2009, Reid et al. 2011, Vasconcelos et al. 2011).

Foliar application of Zn reduces the micronutrient deficiencies and it is an efficient method because nutrients are easily absorbed through leaves and is best option to compensate micronutrient deficiencies in shorter period of time under rainfed regions (Nasiri et al. 2010). It was recently documented that zinc foliar application is a simple way for making quick correction of plant nutritional status, as reported for wheat (Erenoglu et al, 2002) and maize (Grzebisz et al. 2008). It is concluded that foliar application of zinc improves lentil productivity (Singh and Bhatt 2013). Therefore, efforts have been made to find the effect on different yield contributing characters and their effectiveness towards seed yield and quality through zinc fertilization. Since there is no sufficient information on interactive effect of soil and foliar applications of zinc on late jute seed production for that reason this experiment has undertaken.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Experimental site and soil

The experiment was conducted at the research field in Jute Agriculture Experimental Station, Manikganj, during the month of August to December, 2019 in order to study the effect of zinc on morpho-physiology and yield attributes of BJRI Tossa Pat-8.

Table 1. Physio-chemical properties of experimental soil.

Properties	Average content
Soil texture	Silt loam
Soil pH	6.5
Organic matter	1.6%
Total Nitrogen (%)	0.08%
available P	7.65 ppm
K (100g-1)	0.23meq
available S	12.87 ppm

Weather Condition

The weather conditions during the crop growing season, monthly mean minimum, maximum and average temperatures of the field site are presented in fig. 1a. Monthly rainfall of the experiment site is presented in Figure 1b.

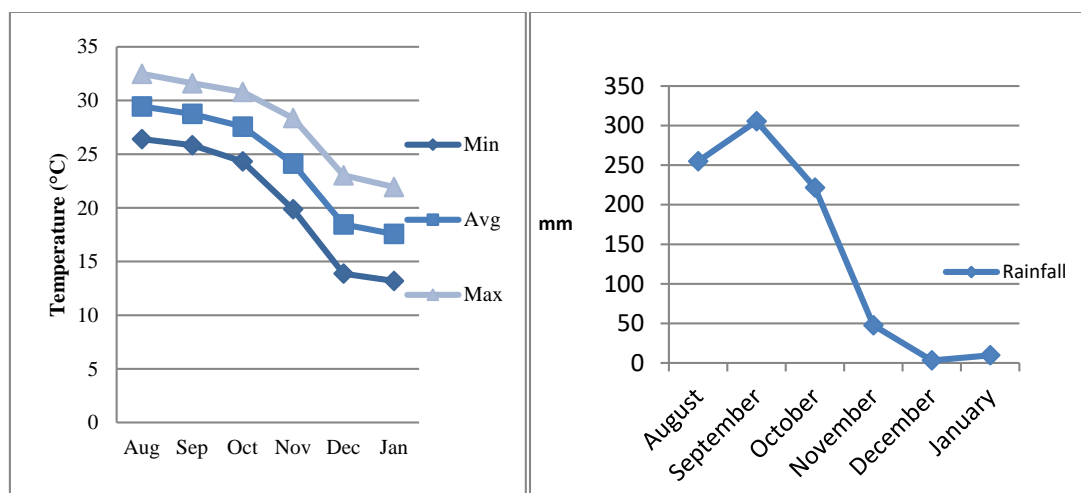


Figure 1. Weather conditions (1a. monthly mean of minimum, maximum and average temperatures and 1b. rainfall) at the field sites in Manikganj, Bangladesh.

Experimental treatments and design

The experiment was conducted with one variety viz., BJRI Tossa Pat-8 and there were eleven different doses of zinc viz., T₁: 0 kg ha⁻¹ Zn as control, T₂: 04 kg ha⁻¹ Zn as basal, T₃: 06 kg ha⁻¹ Zn as basal, T₄: 08 kg ha⁻¹ Zn as basal, T₅: 10 kg ha⁻¹ Zn as basal, T₆: 12 kg ha⁻¹ Zn as basal, T₇: 04 kg ha⁻¹ Zn - half as basal and half as foliar in two split, T₈: 06 kg ha⁻¹ Zn - half as basal and half as foliar in two split, T₉: 08 kg ha⁻¹ Zn - half as basal and half as foliar in two split, T₁₀: 10 Kg ha⁻¹ Zn - half as basal and half as foliar in two split, T₁₁: 12 kg ha⁻¹ Zn - half as basal and half as foliar in two split. In case of foliar application @ 2% w/v was maintained. The experimental field was prepared with three ploughing and cross ploughing followed by laddering. A randomized complete block design (RCBD) was used for this experiment with three replications. The unit plot size was 3m X 4m. The crop was sown on 11th August, 2019.

The crop was fertilized with urea, triple super phosphate, muriate of potash and boron (100, 200, 100 and 10 kg ha⁻¹, respectively) at final land preparation. Rest of urea (100 kg ha⁻¹) was applied at 45 days after sowing. Zinc fertilizer was applied as per treatment and foliar application of zinc was done in full sunny day. All intercultural operation operations were done as per requirement.

Harvesting and Plant sampling

When the matured seed (about 80% seed matures) of jute turned into blackish in color the plant sample were collected from each plot in treatment wise with proper tagged. Ten randomly selected plants were taken from each plot for getting accurate data. After threshing of capsule, seeds were cleaned and sun dried.

Morpho-physiological characters yield & yield attributes

Morpho-physiological characters namely plant height (m) was measured with the help of scale meter. Morpho-physiological characters were analyzed by standard method. On the other hand yield and yield attributes viz. capsule length (mm), capsule plant⁻¹, seeds capsule⁻¹, 1,000 seed weight and seed yield (ton ha⁻¹) were determined by the standard method. Any height, length, number and yield were measured by using the manual count and scale meter.

Seed quality

After threshing, sun dried seed were taken for quality testing with 9% moisture. For germination seeds were surface-sterilized first by a fungicide treatment (1 g L⁻¹ Benlate) for 30 min, immersed in 6% calcium hypochlorite solution for 5 min, and then rinsed in 70% ethanol for 5 min and thoroughly washed with sterilized distilled water. Seeds were plated onto glass petri dishes (9 cm in diameter) containing sterile perlite and placed in a growth chamber where the temperature and humidity were 25 °C and 80%, respectively, with a photoperiod

of 16 h day⁻¹. Lighting was provided by OSRAM L36W/77 type lamps (FLUORA, white fluorescent tubes) providing an intensity of 1500 $\mu\text{mol h}^{-1} \text{ photon}^{-1}$. Each petri dish contained 100 seeds. The parameters of the germination capacity (GC), seed vigour and field emergence were determined by following formulas.

1. Germination capacity (GC): $\text{GC} (\%) = n/N * 100$

Here, n is the total number of germinated seeds and N is the total number of tested seeds.

2. Field Emergence (%): $\text{FE}(\%) = n/N * 100$

Here, n is the total number of germinated seeds in field condition and N is the total number of tested seeds

3. Vigour test:

The test was conducted in laboratory with the same procedure as laboratory standard germination test. Vigour (Vigour value) was calculated following $V = a/1 + b/2 + c/3 + \dots$ where V = Vigour value and a, b and c are the number of seed germinated after 1, 2 and 3 days. The final count was made at the end of 6th days.

Statistical analysis

The recorded data on different parameters were statistically analyzed and partitioning the variance with the help of "Statistix 10" software.

Economic analysis

For economic analysis, Jute seed production cost (cost required for land preparation, purchasing of seed, seed sowing, fertilizers application, weeding cost, crop protection measures, irrigation, and harvesting) were added for the evaluation of jute seed production cost with different zinc application method and quantity. Existing average market price (2.38 US\$/kg) of jute seed and by product (35.72 US\$ t⁻¹) was used to assess gross income (1 USD=84 BDT). Net income was attained by excluding all expenses from gross income; and by dividing gross income with production cost, benefit-cost ratio (BCR) was investigated (Shah et al. 2013).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Plant Population

Maximum plant population (26.83) was recorded in treatments T₆ (12 kg ha⁻¹ as basal dose) which was statistically similar to all treatments except T₉ and T₈ (Table 2).

Plant height

The effect of zinc on plant height was insignificant (Table 2). However numerically the maximum plant height (182.87) was recorded in T₉ and minimum (169.78) was in T₂. Munirah et al. (2015) also found that zinc has no effect on plant height. This experiment was conducted at field condition that plant might accumulate somewhat concentration of soil-Zn, therefore the external application of Zn might not affect plant height.

Branch plant⁻¹

Branch plant⁻¹ of late jute plant showed significant difference due to application of zinc fertilizer (table 2). Highest branch/plant was (3.43) was found in T₆ treatment which was statistically alike to T₉ and T₁₁ treatment and lowest was found in control plot. Use of zinc fertilizer stimulates plant growth and better development of plants, leads to the increase in morphological characters such as branch number this result supported by Shah et al. (2016).

Capsule plant⁻¹

A significant difference was recorded in number of capsule per plant due to application of zinc (table 2). Highest number of capsule per plant (11.67) was recorded in T₉ and lowest (9.03) was found in T₁ and T₃. Capsule number per plant showed maximum response in case of basal and foliar application of zinc. Zinc plays positive role to pollen function and fertilization that ultimately create positive impact on the number of capsule. Salehin and Rahman (2012) showed that zinc spray had a significant effect in 1% probability level on number of capsules per plant of *Phaseolus vulgaris* L. Liu et al. (2016) also stated the same thing.

Capsule length

Capsule length of late jute seed plant was significant due to the application of zinc (Table 2). Numerically maximum capsule length (67.89 mm) was found in T₉ and lowest (62.57 mm) for T₄. Length of capsule was increased with the application of zinc by improving cell size or cell number.

Table 2. Comparison among different zinc treatments on growth and yield contributing characters of late jute seed.

Treatment	Plant population/m ²	Plant height (cm)	Branch plant ⁻¹	Capsule Plant ⁻¹	Capsule Length (mm)
T ₁	23.89 ab	176.2 a	2.67 c	9.03 c	64.75 abc
T ₂	24.97 ab	169.78 a	2.68 bc	9.2 bc	66.35 abc
T ₃	24.33 ab	182.77 a	2.72 bc	9.03 c	66.34 abc
T ₄	24.83 ab	170.67 a	2.77 bc	9.17 bc	62.57 c
T ₅	25.25 ab	178.20 a	2.77 bc	9.7 bc	64.28 abc
T ₆	26.83 ab	178.87 a	3.43 a	10.70 ab	64.90 abc
T ₇	25.09 ab	175.07 a	2.83 bc	9.90 bc	66.53 abc
T ₈	23.37 b	180.77 a	2.90 bc	9.67 bc	67.64 ab
T ₉	23.56 b	182.87 a	3.03 ab	11.67 a	67.89 a
T ₁₀	23.89 ab	181.67 a	2.99 bc	10.47 abc	65.06 abc
T ₁₁	25.61 ab	181.53 a	3.10 ab	10.33 abc	62.78 bc
CV%	7.08	5.16	8.57	9.58	4.28

T₁: 0 kg ha⁻¹ Zn, T₂: 04 kg ha⁻¹ Zn as basal, T₃: kg ha⁻¹ Zn as basal, T₄: kg ha⁻¹ Zn as basal, T₅: kg ha⁻¹ Zn as basal, T₆: 12 kg ha⁻¹ Zn as basal, T₇: kg ha⁻¹ Zn- half as basal and half as foliar in two split, T₈: 06 kg ha⁻¹ Zn- half as basal and half as foliar in two split, T₉: 08 kg ha⁻¹ Zn- half as basal and half as foliar in two split, T₁₀: 10 kg ha⁻¹ Zn- half as basal and half as foliar in two split, T₁₁: 12 kg ha⁻¹ Zn- half as basal and half as foliar in two split

Table 3. Comparison among different zinc treatments on seed/capsule, 1000 seed weight and seed yield (t/ha) of late jute seed.

Treatment	Seed Capsule ⁻¹	1000 seed weight (g)	Seed yield(ton ha ⁻¹)
T ₁	174.27 a	2.20 c	0.68 c
T ₂	170.40 a	2.20 c	0.65 c
T ₃	178.30 a	2.23 c	0.68 c
T ₄	169.40 a	2.45 abc	0.67 c
T ₅	175.10 a	2.15 c	0.68 c
T ₆	179.97 a	2.67 a	0.79 ab
T ₇	180.40 a	2.29 c	0.66 c
T ₈	171.90 a	2.63 ab	0.69 c
T ₉	184.55 a	2.30 bc	0.84 a
T ₁₀	172.33 a	2.29 c	0.73 bc
T ₁₁	174.33 a	2.44 abc	0.70 c
CV%	7.14	8.13	7.42

T₁: 0 kg ha⁻¹ Zn, T₂: 04 kg ha⁻¹ Zn as basal, T₃: kg ha⁻¹ Zn as basal, T₄: kg ha⁻¹ Zn as basal, T₅: kg ha⁻¹ Zn as basal, T₆: 12 kg ha⁻¹ Zn as basal, T₇: kg ha⁻¹ Zn- half as basal and half as foliar in two split, T₈: 06 kg ha⁻¹ Zn- half as basal and half as foliar in two split, T₉: 08 kg ha⁻¹ Zn- half as basal and half as foliar in two split, T₁₀: 10 kg ha⁻¹ Zn- half as basal and half as foliar in two split, T₁₁: 12 kg ha⁻¹ Zn- half as basal and half as foliar in two split

Seed capsule⁻¹

Zinc had no significant effect on number of seed capsule⁻¹ (Table 3). However maximum number (184.55) of seed per capsule was recorded in T₉.

Thousand seed weight

1,000 seed weight of jute was significantly different by the application of zinc fertilizer (table 3). Maximum 1,000 seed weight (2.67g) was recorded in T₆ treatment and lowest 1,000 seed weight (2.20) was found in T₁ and T₂.

Seed yield (ton ha⁻¹)

Seed yield of late jute seed was significantly influenced by application of zinc (table 3). Highest seed yield (0.84 ton ha⁻¹) was observed in T₉ that is statistically analogous to T₆ treatment. Lowest seed yield (0.65 ton ha⁻¹) was found in T₂. Kaya and Higgs (2002) and Cakmak (2008) reported that zn plays as an activator of several enzymes in plants, and it is directly involved in the biosynthesis of growth substances such as auxin which produces more plant cells and more dry matter that in turn will be stored in seeds as a sink. In T₉ treatment half of the total used zinc (8 kg ha⁻¹) fertilizer used as foliar application. Dunsim et al. (2019) also found similar result. Foliar application of zinc fertilizer increases the efficiency of zinc that is also supported by Umer et al. (1999).

Table 4. Comparison among different zinc treatments on seed quality attributes of late jute seed.

Treatment	Germination (%)	Field emergence (%)	Seed vigour (%)
T ₁	81.33 ab	75.33 ab	29.63 bc
T ₂	87.00 ab	80.67 ab	30.64 b
T ₃	81.33 ab	78.33 ab	27.97 bc
T ₄	88.67 ab	82.00 ab	28.93 bc
T ₅	84.33 ab	78.00 ab	28.89 bc
T ₆	87.00 ab	81.00 ab	30.63 b
T ₇	76.67 b	70.33 b	25.40 c
T ₈	92.33 a	86.00 a	36.41 a
T ₉	90.00 a	84.00 a	32.79 ab
T ₁₀	92.67 a	86.33 a	36.36 a
T ₁₁	85.67 ab	79.67 ab	32.71 ab
CV (%)	8.94	9.66	7.46

T₁: 0 kg ha⁻¹ Zn, T₂: 04 kg ha⁻¹ Zn as basal, T₃: kg ha⁻¹ Zn as basal, T₄: kg ha⁻¹ Zn as basal, T₅: kg ha⁻¹ Zn as basal, T₆: 12 kg ha⁻¹ Zn as basal, T₇: kg ha⁻¹ Zn- half as basal and half as foliar in two split, T₈: 06 kg ha⁻¹ Zn- half as basal and half as foliar in two split, T₉: 08 kg ha⁻¹ Zn- half as basal and half as foliar in two split, T₁₀: 10 kg ha⁻¹ Zn- half as basal and half as foliar in two split, T₁₁: 12 kg ha⁻¹ Zn- half as basal and half as foliar in two split

Seed quality

Basal and foliar application of zinc associated with higher germination percentage, field emergence and seed vigour (table 4). Numerically maximum germination percentage was found in T₁₀ treatment. Minimum seed germination percentage was found in T₇ treatments. Basal and foliar application of zinc fertilizer were more effective compare to the only basal application that means foliar application ensure better utilization of nutrients similar result also found by previous study on cotton (sawan et al. 2011). Highest field emergence of jute seed was recorded in T₁₀ treatment and lowest in T₇ treatment. Maximum seed vigour was found in T₈ treatment and lowest in T₇. Application of zinc ensures better seed germination and seed vigour (Boonchuay et al. 2013).

Economic performance

The economic performance of different treatments is presented in table 5. The highest gross return, net return and BCR (2,157.5 US\$ ha⁻¹, 954.80 US\$ ha⁻¹ and 1.80, respectively) was recorded in T₉ treatment. The lowest gross return, net return and BCR (1,695.83 US\$ ha⁻¹, 548.83 US\$ ha⁻¹ and 1.48, respectively) was found in T₂ treatment.

Table 5. Cost and return analysis of Jute seed due to application of zinc as basal and foliar.

Treatment	Seed yield (ton ha ⁻¹)	By product yield (ton ha ⁻¹)	Gross return (US\$ ha ⁻¹)	Cost of cultivation (US\$ ha ⁻¹)	Net return (US\$ ha ⁻¹)	BCR
T ₁	0.68	4.10	1767.26	1135.5	631.76	1.56
T ₂	0.65	4.15	1695.83	1147	548.83	1.48
T ₃	0.68	4.21	1769.40	1152	617.40	1.54
T ₄	0.67	4.25	1747.02	1158.81	588.21	1.51
T ₅	0.68	4.35	1774.40	1164.76	609.64	1.52
T ₆	0.79	4.41	2027.38	1170.71	856.67	1.73
T ₇	0.66	4.31	1725.36	1188.33	537.03	1.45
T ₈	0.69	4.36	1798.57	1196.67	601.90	1.50
T ₉	0.84	4.41	2157.5	1202.62	954.80	1.79
T ₁₀	0.73	4.45	1897.02	1208.57	788.45	1.57
T ₁₁	0.70	4.45	1825.60	1214.52	611.08	1.50

T₁: 0 kg ha⁻¹ Zn, T₂: 04 kg ha⁻¹ Zn as basal, T₃: kg ha⁻¹ Zn as basal, T₄: kg ha⁻¹ Zn as basal, T₅: kg ha⁻¹ Zn as basal, T₆: 12 kg ha⁻¹ Zn as basal, T₇: kg ha⁻¹ Zn- half as basal and half as foliar in two split, T₈: 06 kg ha⁻¹ Zn- half as basal and half as foliar in two split, T₉: 08 kg ha⁻¹ Zn- half as basal and half as foliar in two split, T₁₀: 10 kg ha⁻¹ Zn- half as basal and half as foliar in two split, T₁₁: 12 kg ha⁻¹ Zn- half as basal and half as foliar in two split

CONCLUSIONS

The results of this study suggest that the application of zinc have some positive impact on maximum yield contributing characters that ultimately improve the seed yield. Application of zinc as basal and foliar was more effective compare to only basal application of zinc. Plant received 8 kg ha⁻¹ zinc (Half as basal and half as foliar in two split) produced maximum seed yield and BCR for jute seed production. More research is needed to evaluate the potentiality of only foliar zinc fertilizer application, as well as fertilizer nutrient blends, in addition to evaluating application timing. Considering the present soil status, there is greater potential for application of zinc. The challenge is balancing crop Zn demand and timely application of Zn to maximize both uptake and efficiency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This study was funded by the Bangladesh Jute Research Institute. We are grateful to the authority of Bangladesh Jute Research Station for their financial and other support. We are also grateful to field staff of Jute Agricultural Research Station Manikganj for their cordial help during field work.

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