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Title: EFFECT OF ORGANIC SOURCES OF NUTRIENTS ON GROWTH, YIELD AND QUALITY OF STRAWBERRY (*Fragaria ananassa* Duch) cv. DOUGLAS

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Abstract: Strawberry is an important soft, attractive, Juicy, tasty and nutritious fruit. The taste of fruit mainly depends on three factors viz. sugar, acid and aromatic compounds. The fresh strawberry fruit is a rich source of vitamins A, B, and C. It also contains proteins and minerals like Iron, calcium, phosphorus, potassium and magnesium etc. Strawberry has medicinal properties like anti-carcinogenic, anti-septic, and anti-oxidant. Botanically, strawberry is an aggregate fruit called etaerio of achenes. The fruit of strawberry is complete fruit with 98% edible portion. The edible portion is succulent and thalamus of flower (Receptacle with numerous achenes). Strawberry is mainly a crop of temperate climate but it is also grown in subtropical region also. Potentiality of strawberry cultivation under Ranchi condition is high but there is lack of information regarding its cultivation, nutrient requirement among the common people and farmers. Hence, an experiment was carried out to study the effect of organic sources of nutrients on growth, yield and quality of strawberry. Out of thirteen treatments in the experiment conducted during the course of investigation T10- FYM (7.5 t/ha) + Vermicompost (3.18 t/ha) + PSB (5 kg/ha) + Azotobacter (5 kg/ha) showed the remarkable results in majority of the parameters i.e. growth, flowering characters, yield and yield attributing characters. This treatment also helped in enhancing the qualitative parameters of this crop i.e. Maximum plant height (21.22cm), Plant spread E-W (33.60cm), Plant spread N-S (31.03cm), Number of leaves per plant (28.25), Leaf area(16.03 cm²), Number of runners per plant (13.66), Number of flowers (27.45), Length of flower stalk (13.95 cm), Number of fruits per plant (19.66), Yield per plant (0.166kg), Yield per plot (6.00kg), Yield per hectare (66.66q), Fruit breadth (2.66cm), Fruit length (3.89cm), Juice percentage(85.23), Volume of fruit (8.16cc), TSS (12.41°Brix), Ascorbic acid (90.94mg/100), Reducing sugar (6.5%), non-reducing sugar (0.62%), Total sugar (7.57%) and shelf life of fruits at ambient condition (2.83days) were recorded when application of FYM, Vermicompost, PSB and Azotobacter was done in mentioned rate. So far as the economics of the strawberry crop is concerned, the application of FYM (7.5 t/ha) + Vermicompost (3.18 t/ha) + PSB (5 kg/ha) + Azotobacter (5 kg/ha) recorded maximum net return (Rs. 9,99,900 per ha) and B: C ratio (2.17). Based on these observations, it can be concluded that the combination of FYM, Vermicompost, PSB and Azotobacter gives best results regarding growth parameters, flowering characters, physical parameters, physico-chemical characteristics, yield attributes and economics of strawberry cultivation under Ranchi conditions.

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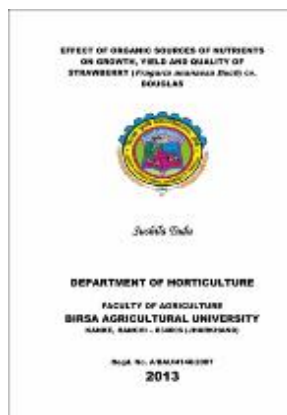
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