

## INTEGRATED NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT FOR SUNFLOWER IN COASTAL CHAR LAND OF BANGLADESH

I.S.M. Farhad<sup>1\*</sup>, E. Jahan<sup>2</sup>, M.F.A. Anik<sup>3</sup>, M.M.U. Chowdhury<sup>4</sup> and S. Akhter<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1, 3&5</sup>Soil Science Division, BARI, Gazipur, Bangladesh

<sup>2</sup>Department of Agricultural Chemistry, SAU, Dhaka, Bangladesh

<sup>4</sup>On-Farm Research Division, BARI, Noakhali, Bangladesh

\*Corresponding E-mail: farhadsau@gmail.com

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### Abstract

An experiment was conducted at coastal charland of OFRD, BARI, Noakhali; MLT site, Amtoli, Barguna and ARS, Benarpota, Satkhira during *Rabi* season of 2018-19 to evaluate the effect of integrated nutrient management on growth, yield and economic performance of sunflower. Six treatment combinations viz. T<sub>1</sub>= Soil test based fertilizer dose for HYG, T<sub>2</sub>= IPNS with 5 t ha<sup>-1</sup> cowdung, T<sub>3</sub>= IPNS with 5 t ha<sup>-1</sup> compost, T<sub>4</sub>= IPNS with 1.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup> vermicompost, T<sub>5</sub>= Farmers' practice and T<sub>6</sub>= Absolute control were tested. The experiment was laid out in a randomized complete block design with 3 replications and BARI Sunflower-2 was used as test crop. The IPNS treatment combinations are significantly different from rest of the treatments in terms of yield and economic return. Application of treatment IPNS with 1.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup> vermicompost significantly increased all of the parameters such as the plant height, head diameter, number of seed per head, 1000 seed weight, seed yield and stover yield. The significantly highest seed yield (2.19, 2.23 and 2.06 t ha<sup>-1</sup> at Noakhali, Barguna and Satkhira, respectively) was recorded in IPNS with 1.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup> vermicompost treated plot (T<sub>4</sub>) while the lowest seed yield (1.05, 1.10 and 1.02 t ha<sup>-1</sup> at Noakhali, Barguna and Satkhira, respectively) was observed in absolute control treatment (T<sub>6</sub>). Salinity level increased at slower rate in T<sub>2</sub>, T<sub>3</sub> and T<sub>4</sub> treatments where IPNS based nutrient management packages were imposed. During the crop growing period soil salinity ranged from 0.62 to 9.72 dS m<sup>-1</sup>, 0.58 to 9.23 dS m<sup>-1</sup>, 0.73 to 9.86 dS m<sup>-1</sup> at Noakhali, Barguna and Satkhira, respectively from emergence to maturity stages of the crop. The highest net return (50790 Tk. ha<sup>-1</sup>, 52765 Tk. ha<sup>-1</sup> and 43940 Tk. ha<sup>-1</sup> at Noakhali, Barguna and Satkhira, respectively) as well as BCR (1.75, 1.78 and 1.67 at Noakhali, Barguna and Satkhira, respectively) were obtained from T<sub>4</sub> treatment (IPNS with 1.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup> vermicompost) whereas the lowest net return (14900 Tk. ha<sup>-1</sup>, 15175 Tk. ha<sup>-1</sup> and 11570 Tk. ha<sup>-1</sup> at Noakhali, Barguna and Satkhira, respectively) and BCR (1.40, 1.33 and 1.26 at Noakhali, Barguna and Satkhira, respectively) were obtained from control (T<sub>6</sub>) treatment. The overall results indicated that IPNS with 1.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup> vermicompost is more effective than other fertilizer management packages in respect of yield as well as economic return for sunflower cultivation in the coastal charland of Bangladesh.

### Introduction

Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus* L.) is an important oilseed crop of the world and it ranks second in production next to soybean (FAO, 2003). It is a thermo neutral crop growing both in *Rabi* and *Kharif* seasons in anywhere in Bangladesh. Sunflower has potential to reduce the existing gap between production and consumption of edible oil because it contains almost 40-50% oil and rich in protein which is about 23% (Rosa and Rosemar, 2009). Cultivation of sunflower is suitable in the coastal region of Bangladesh because of its extensive adaptability and it is a good substitute when it is difficult to cultivate other crops due to climate change, increasing soil salinity in the coastal areas, scarcity of irrigation facility etc. Sunflower can be grown in any district of Bangladesh and the average production is about 1.2 t ha<sup>-1</sup>, which is relatively encouraging but not satisfactory (BBS, 2016). The lower

productivity of sunflower is mainly due to lack of high yielding varieties, its cultivation on marginal lands with inadequate nutrients and also continuous and imbalance use of inorganic fertilizer deteriorates soil health. Experimental evidences revealed that the crop was highly responsive to different fertilizers and the yield could be increased remarkably through judicious fertilization (Mohamed, 1984; Roy and Singh, 2005; Kaziet al., 2002).

Integrated nutrient management practices applied for sunflower can contribute to sustainable growth, yield and quality, influences plant health and reduces environmental risks. Use of organic manures with optimum rate of fertilizers under intensive farming system increases the turnover of nutrients in the soil plant system. The organic manures help in reducing the dose of inorganic fertilizer, which in turn reduces the cost of cultivation and help in improving the soil health.

Although sunflower cultivation in Bangladesh is rather limited, there is an ample scope of increasing its cultivation and productivity through integrated nutrient management. Therefore, the present piece of research work was undertaken to know the effect of integration of nutrients for cultivation of sunflower in coastal charlands and to find out the optimum and economic fertilizer dose for sunflower.

## Materials and Methods

A field experiment was conducted at coastal charland of OFRD, BARI, Noakhali (AEZ-18); MLT site, Amtoli, Barguna (AEZ-13) and ARS, Benarpota, Satkhira (AEZ-13) during *Rabi* season of 2018-19 to evaluate the effect of integrated nutrient management for better yield of sunflower. Before conducting the experiment, initial composite soil samples (0-15 cm) were collected from the experimental plots and collected samples were analyzed in the laboratory following standard methods (Table 1). Moreover, nutrient status of vermicompost, compost and cowdung used in the experimental field were also analyzed (Table 2). The experiment was laid out in a RCB design with three (03) replicates. The unit plot size was 4m×3m and BARI Sunflower-2 was used as the test crop. Treatments were randomly distributed within the blocks as follows: T<sub>1</sub>= Soil test based fertilizer dose for HYG, T<sub>2</sub>= IPNS with 5 t ha<sup>-1</sup> cowdung, T<sub>3</sub>= IPNS with 5 t ha<sup>-1</sup> compost, T<sub>4</sub>= IPNS with 1.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup> vermicompost, T<sub>5</sub>= Farmers' practice and T<sub>6</sub>= Absolute control (Table 3a, 3b & 3c). The seeds were sown @ 10 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> in line with the spacing of 50 cm x 25 cm on 18 December, 20 December and 17 December, 2018 at Noakhali, Barguna and Satkhira, respectively. Different intercultural operations and plant protection measures were taken as and when necessary to raise healthy crops.

Table 1. Chemical properties of initial soil of experimental field during 2018-19

Location	pH	EC dSm <sup>-1</sup>	OM (%)	Ca meq	Mg 100g <sup>-1</sup>	K (%)	Total N (%)	P	S	B	Cu µg g <sup>-1</sup>	Fe	Mn	Zn
Noakhali	6.9	1.05	1.28	5.0	2.3	0.11	0.08	9.3	28.2	0.61	1.01	18	6.74	1.95
Barguna	6.5	0.91	1.19	3.7	1.9	0.22	0.09	2.6	22.6	0.50	1.13	21	5.12	1.60
Satkhira	7.6	1.13	1.44	1.69	1.1	0.20	0.11	12.1	26.7	0.47	1.18	13	7.68	0.65
Critical Level	-	-	-	2.0	0.5	0.12	0.12	7/10	10	0.20	0.2	4	1	0.6

EC= Electrical Conductivity & OM= Organic Matter

Table 2. Nutrient status of compost, cowdung and vermicompost used in the experimental field

Name of the manure	pH	OC	Ca	Mg	K	Total N %	P	S	B	Zn	Pb	Cd	As
													(ppm)
Compost	7.1	16.3	1.50	2.10	1.17	1.23	0.79	0.50	0.013	0.14	2.89	2.11	1.72
Cow dung	7.5	15.4	2.23	0.44	0.69	1.15	0.57	0.36	0.011	0.15	3.10	2.84	1.26
Vermicompost	7.2	17.9	2.10	2.60	1.94	1.68	1.26	0.89	0.015	0.16	2.61	2.19	1.14

OC = Organic Carbon

Moisture content of Compost = 12.15 %, Cowdung = 12.46 % and Vermicompost = 11.96 %

Table 3a. Treatment combinations for sunflower at Noakhali

Treatments	Treatment combination								
	Chemical fertilizer (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )						Organic manure (t ha <sup>-1</sup> )		
	N	P	K	S	Zn	B	Cowdung	Compost	Vermicompost
T <sub>1</sub> = Soil test based fertilizer dose for HYG (FRG,2012)	134	29	56	1.3	-	-	0	0	0
T <sub>2</sub> = IPNS with 5 tha <sup>-1</sup> cowdung	111	17.6	42.2	0	-	-	5	0	0
T <sub>3</sub> = IPNS with 5 tha <sup>-1</sup> compost	109.4	11.2	32.6	0	-	-	0	5	0
T <sub>4</sub> = IPNS with 1.5 tha <sup>-1</sup> vermicompost	124	21.4	44.3	0	-	-	0	0	1.5
T <sub>5</sub> = Farmers' practice	138	18	25	0	-	-	-	-	-
T <sub>6</sub> = Absolute control			Native fertility				-	-	-

Table 3b. Treatment combinations for sunflower at Barguna

Treatments	Treatment combination								
	Chemical fertilizer (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )						Organic manure (t ha <sup>-1</sup> )		
	N	P	K	S	Zn	B	Cowdung	Compost	Vermicompost
T <sub>1</sub> = Soil test based fertilizer dose for HYG (FRG,2012)	125	42	31.3	6.9	-	-	0	0	0
T <sub>2</sub> = IPNS with 5 tha <sup>-1</sup> cowdung	102	30.6	17.5	0	-	-	5	0	0
T <sub>3</sub> = IPNS with 5 tha <sup>-1</sup> compost	100	26.2	7.9	0	-	-	0	5	0
T <sub>4</sub> = IPNS with 1.5 tha <sup>-1</sup> vermicompost	114	34	19.6	1.6	-	-	0	0	1.5
T <sub>5</sub> = Farmers' practice	100	20	30	5	-	-	-	-	-
T <sub>6</sub> = Absolute control			Native fertility				-	-	-

The crop was harvested on 28 March, 31 March and 25 March, 2019 at Noakhali, Barguna and Satkhira, respectively. Soil salinity level was measured by using Electrical Conductivity meter Adwa (AD 310) at different growth stages of the crop. Data were collected on an individual plant basis from ten (10) randomly selected plants of each plot in such a way that the border effect was avoided for high precision. Data on yield and yield contributing parameters were recorded and statistically analyzed with the help of statistical package statistix 10 (Analytical Software, Tallahassee, Fla, USA) and mean separation was tested by Duncan's Multiple Range Test (DMRT) (Steel and Torrie, 1960).

Table 3c. Treatment combinations for sunflower at Satkhira

Treatments	Treatment combination								
	Chemical fertilizer (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )						Organic manure (t ha <sup>-1</sup> )		
	N	P	K	S	Zn	B	Cowdung	Compost	Vermicompost
T <sub>1</sub> = Soil test based fertilizer dose for HYG (FRG,2012)	100	23	36	3.1	1.5	-	0	0	0
T <sub>2</sub> = IPNS with 5 tha <sup>-1</sup> cowdung	77	11.6	22.2	0	-	-	5	0	0
T <sub>3</sub> = IPNS with 5 tha <sup>-1</sup> compost	75.4	7.2	12.6	0	-	-	0	5	0
T <sub>4</sub> = IPNS with 1.5 tha <sup>-1</sup> vermicompost	89	15.9	24.3	0	0.5	-	0	0	1.5
T <sub>5</sub> = Farmers' practice	115	20	25	2	-	-	-	-	-
T <sub>6</sub> = Absolute control	Native fertility						-	-	-

### Methods of chemical analysis

Soil pH was measured by a combined glass calomel electrode (Jackson, 1958). Organic carbon was determined by wet oxidation method (Walkley and Black, 1934). Total N was determined by modified Kjeldahl method. Ca and Mg were determined by NH<sub>4</sub>OAc extraction method. K, Cu, Fe, Mn and Zn were determined by DTPA extraction followed by AAS reading. Boron was determined by CaCl<sub>2</sub> extraction method. Phosphorus was determined by Bray and Kurtz method (Acid soils) and Modified Olsen method (Neutral + Calcareous soils). S was determined by CaH<sub>4</sub>(PO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>.H<sub>2</sub>O extraction followed by turbidimetric method with BaCl<sub>2</sub>.

## Results and Discussion

### Yield and yield components

The effect of integrated nutrient management on the yield and yield parameters of sunflower are summarized in the Table 4, 5&6. Seed yield, stover yield and yield attributes like plant height, head diameter, number of seeds head<sup>-1</sup> and thousand seed weight of sunflower were significantly influenced by different nutrient management packages in this study.

Table 4. Effect of integrated nutrient management on yield and yield contributing characters of sunflower var. BARI Sunflower-2 at Noakhali during *Rabi* season of 2018-19

Treatments	Plant height (cm)	Head diameter(cm)	Number of seeds head <sup>-1</sup>	1000 Seed weight (g)	Seed yield (t ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Stover yield (t ha <sup>-1</sup> )
T <sub>1</sub>	127.6c	14.5bc	547d	57.7abc	1.59c	3.38c
T <sub>2</sub>	131.4b	15.1ab	599c	59.6ab	1.87b	3.80b
T <sub>3</sub>	134.7ab	15.8ab	632b	60.3ab	2.08ab	4.05a
T <sub>4</sub>	136.3a	16.3a	648a	62.2a	2.19a	4.20a
T <sub>5</sub>	123.2cd	13.7c	528d	57.1bc	1.48c	2.97d
T <sub>6</sub>	114.8d	12.2d	463e	54.3c	1.05d	2.35e
CV (%)	5.42	4.12	4.60	2.13	6.81	5.14

Means followed by same letter (s) do not differ significantly at 5% level of significance

T<sub>1</sub>= Soil test based fertilizer dose for HYG (FRG,2018), T<sub>2</sub>= IPNS with 5 tha<sup>-1</sup>cowdung, T<sub>3</sub>= IPNS with 5 tha<sup>-1</sup>compost, T<sub>4</sub>= IPNS with 1.5 tha<sup>-1</sup>vermicompost, T<sub>5</sub>= Farmers' practice and T<sub>6</sub> = Absolute control

Significantly the highest plant height (136.3 cm, 137.4 cm and 129.5 cm at Noakhali, Barguna and Satkhira, respectively) was observed in T<sub>4</sub> treatment (IPNS with 1.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup> vermicompost) which was statistically identical with T<sub>3</sub> treatment. The lowest plant height (114.8 cm, 115.5 cm and 112.1 cm at Noakhali, Barguna and Satkhira, respectively) was obtained from absolute control treatment (T<sub>6</sub>). The result related to plant height was similar to the findings of Vedpathak and Chavan (2016) who observed that application of vermicompost along with chemical fertilizers increased plant height significantly in sunflower. Significantly the maximum head diameter (16.3 cm, 16.5 cm and 15.8 cm at Noakhali, Barguna and Satkhira, respectively) was recorded in IPNS with 1.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup> vermicompost treated plot (T<sub>4</sub>) whereas the minimum head diameter (12.2 cm, 12.6 cm and 11.9 cm at Noakhali, Barguna and Satkhira, respectively) was observed in absolute control treatment (T<sub>6</sub>).

Table 5. Effect of integrated nutrient management on yield and yield contributing characters of sunflower

var. BARI Sunflower-2 at Bargunaduring *Rabi* season of 2018-19

Treatments	Plant height (cm)	Head diameter (cm)	Number of seeds head <sup>-1</sup>	1000 Seed weight (g)	Seed yield (t ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Stover yield (t ha <sup>-1</sup> )
T <sub>1</sub>	127.1c	14.6d	556d	58.7c	1.66cd	3.54d
T <sub>2</sub>	132.6b	15.7c	602c	59.3bc	1.89bc	3.83c
T <sub>3</sub>	135.3ab	16.1b	625b	61.5ab	2.12ab	4.16b
T <sub>4</sub>	137.4a	16.5a	656a	62.4a	2.23a	4.35a
T <sub>5</sub>	125.2c	13.5e	534e	57.6c	1.56d	3.06e
T <sub>6</sub>	115.5d	12.6f	469f	55.8d	1.10e	2.47f
CV (%)	5.61	4.23	5.87	2.94	7.24	6.12

Means followed by same letter (s) do not differ significantly at 5% level of significance

T<sub>1</sub>= Soil test based fertilizer dose for HYG (FRG, 2018), T<sub>2</sub>= IPNS with 5 tha<sup>-1</sup>cowdung, T<sub>3</sub>= IPNS with 5 tha<sup>-1</sup>compost, T<sub>4</sub>= IPNS with 1.5 tha<sup>-1</sup>vermicompost, T<sub>5</sub>= Farmers'practice and T<sub>6</sub> = Absolute control

Table 6. Effect of integrated nutrient management on yield and yield contributing characters of sunflower

var. BARI Sunflower-2 at Satkhira during *Rabi* season of 2018-19

Treatments	Plant height (cm)	Head diameter (cm)	Number of seeds head <sup>-1</sup>	1000 Seed weight (g)	Seed yield (t ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Stover yield (t ha <sup>-1</sup> )
T <sub>1</sub>	120.8c	14.1ab	546d	54.1bc	1.52c	3.01c
T <sub>2</sub>	124.4b	14.7ab	589c	56.6ab	1.80b	3.34b
T <sub>3</sub>	127.3a	15.2ab	617b	58.3a	1.97ab	3.65a
T <sub>4</sub>	129.5a	15.8a	639a	59.2a	2.06a	3.73a
T <sub>5</sub>	117.6d	13.3bc	501e	53.5bc	1.37d	2.76d
T <sub>6</sub>	112.1e	11.9c	443f	51.1c	1.02e	2.11e
CV (%)	4.87	4.14	3.85	3.40	7.35	7.72

Means followed by same letter (s) do not differ significantly at 5% level of significance

T<sub>1</sub>= Soil test based fertilizer dose for HYG (FRG, 2018), T<sub>2</sub>= IPNS with 5 tha<sup>-1</sup>cowdung, T<sub>3</sub>= IPNS with 5 tha<sup>-1</sup>compost, T<sub>4</sub>= IPNS with 1.5 tha<sup>-1</sup>vermicompost, T<sub>5</sub>= Farmers'practice and T<sub>6</sub> = Absolute control

Significantly the highest number of seeds head<sup>-1</sup> (648, 656 and 639 at Noakhali, Barguna and Satkhira, respectively) was observed in T<sub>4</sub> treatment which was followed by T<sub>3</sub>, T<sub>2</sub>, T<sub>1</sub> and T<sub>5</sub> treatment whereas the lowest number of seeds head<sup>-1</sup> (463, 469 and 443 at Noakhali, Barguna and Satkhira, respectively) was obtained from absolute control treatment (T<sub>6</sub>). Significantly the maximum 1000 seed weight (62.2 g, 62.4 g and 59.2 g at Noakhali, Barguna and Satkhira, respectively) was recorded in T<sub>4</sub> treatment

which was statistically at par with T<sub>3</sub> and T<sub>2</sub> treatments whereas the minimum 1000 seed weight (54.3 g, 55.8 g and 51.1 g at Noakhali, Barguna and Satkhira, respectively) was recorded in control treatment (T<sub>6</sub>). Significantly the highest seed yield (2.19 t ha<sup>-1</sup>, 2.23 t ha<sup>-1</sup> and 2.06 t ha<sup>-1</sup> at Noakhali, Barguna and Satkhira, respectively) was recorded in IPNS with 1.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup> vermicompost treated plot (T<sub>4</sub>) which was statistically at par with T<sub>3</sub> (IPNS with 5 t ha<sup>-1</sup> compost) treatment. The lowest seed yield (1.05 t ha<sup>-1</sup>, 1.10 t ha<sup>-1</sup> and 1.02 t ha<sup>-1</sup> at Noakhali, Barguna and Satkhira, respectively) was observed from absolute control treatment (T<sub>6</sub>). The result was similar to the findings of Kalaiyarsan and Vaiapuri (2008) who observed that integrated use of chemical fertilizers along with vermicompost gave maximum seed yield in sunflower. The highest stover yield (4.20 t ha<sup>-1</sup>, 4.35 t ha<sup>-1</sup> and 3.73 t ha<sup>-1</sup> at Noakhali, Barguna and Satkhira, respectively) was recorded in IPNS with 1.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup> vermicompost treated plot (T<sub>4</sub>) whereas the lowest stover yield (2.35 t ha<sup>-1</sup>, 2.47 t ha<sup>-1</sup> and 2.11 t ha<sup>-1</sup> at Noakhali, Barguna and Satkhira, respectively) was observed from absolute control treatment (T<sub>6</sub>).

### Soil salinity

Soil salinity level gradually increased from emergence to maturity stages of the crop (Table 7). Initial salinity level was more or less same among the treatments. Salinity level increased at slower rate in T<sub>2</sub>, T<sub>3</sub> and T<sub>4</sub> treatments where IPNS based nutrient management packages were imposed. It may be due to the fact that any kind of organic matter will release organic acids upon decaying. So acid will result into lowering of pH. The decrease in pH can lead to charging of clay minerals and electrostatic adsorption of the organic compounds. So all kinds of organic materials shall be definitely reducing soil salinity. Moreover, the use of organic matter improves the soil structure and permeability.

Table 7. Changes in soil salinity of sunflower field as influenced by various treatment combinations at different growth stages at Noakhali, Barguna and Satkhira during *Rabi* season of 2018-19

Treatment	Emergence stage	Vegetative stage	Flowering stage	Seed formation stage	Maturity stage
Salinity range (dS m <sup>-1</sup> )					
<b>At Noakhali</b>					
T <sub>1</sub>	0.76-1.97	1.75-3.61	2.47-5.27	4.50-7.00	6.75-9.41
T <sub>2</sub>	0.62-1.75	1.64-2.90	2.38-4.10	3.72-5.54	5.11-7.90
T <sub>3</sub>	0.69-1.85	1.59-2.97	1.98-3.91	3.27-5.12	4.68-7.35
T <sub>4</sub>	0.71-1.79	1.60-2.81	2.23-3.98	3.57-5.33	4.76-7.41
T <sub>5</sub>	0.65-1.89	1.68-3.50	2.49-5.17	4.80-6.96	6.94-9.67
T <sub>6</sub>	0.71-2.10	2.11-3.92	2.82-5.89	4.92-7.71	7.15-9.72
<b>At Barguna</b>					
T <sub>1</sub>	0.69-1.85	1.52-2.90	2.41-4.89	4.66-6.26	5.94-8.85
T <sub>2</sub>	0.58-1.71	1.40-2.41	2.32-3.84	3.61-5.10	4.30-7.10
T <sub>3</sub>	0.63-1.80	1.32-2.10	1.87-3.78	2.49-5.79	4.12-6.35
T <sub>4</sub>	0.59-1.82	1.30-2.32	2.20-3.82	2.85-5.81	4.39-6.24
T <sub>5</sub>	0.72-1.91	1.63-3.22	2.50-5.19	4.71-7.10	5.98-9.10
T <sub>6</sub>	0.66-1.86	1.70-3.43	2.63-5.32	4.78-7.12	6.13-9.23
<b>At Satkhira</b>					
T <sub>1</sub>	0.86-2.14	1.70-3.61	3.25-5.75	4.92-7.20	6.70-9.34
T <sub>2</sub>	0.95-2.10	1.67-3.10	2.36-4.10	3.87-6.79	5.17-8.30
T <sub>3</sub>	0.82-1.76	1.62-2.98	2.82-4.70	3.40-6.52	5.10-7.95
T <sub>4</sub>	0.73-1.98	1.56-2.87	2.19-3.92	3.72-6.80	4.92-7.62
T <sub>5</sub>	0.81-2.23	1.81-3.70	2.95-5.48	4.62-8.20	7.11-9.74
T <sub>6</sub>	0.80-2.29	2.15-4.10	3.67-6.89	5.14-9.17	7.20-9.86

T<sub>1</sub>= Soil test based fertilizer dose for HYG (FRG,2012),T<sub>2</sub>= IPNS with 5 tha<sup>-1</sup>cowdung,T<sub>3</sub>= IPNS with 5 tha<sup>-1</sup>compost,T<sub>4</sub>= IPNS with 1.5 tha<sup>-1</sup>vermicompost,T<sub>5</sub>= Farmers' practice and T<sub>6</sub> = Absolute control

This enhances leaching of salt, reduces surface evaporation, and inhibits salt accumulation in the surface layers. In addition, organic matter also increases water infiltration, water-holding capacity, and aggregate stability and reduces electrical conductivity (Qadiret *al.*, 2001). On the other hand, salinity level increased at higher rate in T<sub>6</sub> treatment followed by T<sub>5</sub> and T<sub>1</sub>. During the crop growing period soil salinity ranged from 0.62 to 9.72 dS m<sup>-1</sup>, 0.58 to 9.23 dS m<sup>-1</sup>, 0.73 to 9.86 dS m<sup>-1</sup> at Noakhali, Barguna and Satkhira, respectively from emergence to maturity stages of the crop.

### Cost and return analysis

Cost and return of sunflower as influenced by different nutrient management packages have been shown in the Table 8, 9&10. Among the treatments, the highest gross return (117900 Tk. ha<sup>-1</sup>, 120200 Tk. ha<sup>-1</sup> and 110460 Tk. ha<sup>-1</sup> at Noakhali, Barguna and Satkhira, respectively), net return (50790 Tk. ha<sup>-1</sup>, 52765 Tk. ha<sup>-1</sup> and 43940 Tk. ha<sup>-1</sup> at Noakhali, Barguna and Satkhira, respectively) as well as BCR (1.75, 1.78 and 1.67 at Noakhali, Barguna and Satkhira, respectively) were obtained from T<sub>4</sub> treatment (IPNS with 1.5 tha<sup>-1</sup> vermicompost) whereas the lowest gross return (57200 Tk. ha<sup>-1</sup>, 59940 Tk. ha<sup>-1</sup> and 55220 Tk. ha<sup>-1</sup> at Noakhali, Barguna and Satkhira, respectively), net return (14900 Tk. ha<sup>-1</sup>, 15175 Tk. ha<sup>-1</sup> and 11570 Tk. ha<sup>-1</sup> at Noakhali, Barguna and Satkhira, respectively) and BCR (1.40, 1.33 and 1.26 at Noakhali, Barguna and Satkhira, respectively) were obtained from control (T<sub>6</sub>) treatment.

Table 8. Cost and return analysis of BARI Sunflower-2 as influenced by integrated nutrient management at Noakhali during 2018-19

Treatments	Yield (t ha <sup>-1</sup> )		Gross Return (Tk. ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Total Cost (Tk. ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Net Return (Tk. ha <sup>-1</sup> )	BCR
	Seed	Stover				
T <sub>1</sub>	1.59	3.38	86340	57200	29140	1.50
T <sub>2</sub>	1.87	3.80	101100	64109	36991	1.57
T <sub>3</sub>	2.08	4.05	112100	70970	41130	1.58
T <sub>4</sub>	2.19	4.20	117900	67110	50790	1.75
T <sub>5</sub>	1.48	2.97	79940	50550	29390	1.43
T <sub>6</sub>	1.05	2.35	57200	42300	14900	1.40

T<sub>1</sub>= Soil test based fertilizer dose for HYG (FRG,2012),T<sub>2</sub>= IPNS with 5 tha<sup>-1</sup>cowdung,T<sub>3</sub>= IPNS with 5 tha<sup>-1</sup>compost, T<sub>4</sub>= IPNS with 1.5 tha<sup>-1</sup>vermicompost,T<sub>5</sub>= Farmers' practice and T<sub>6</sub> = Absolute control

Input and output price per Kg: Sunflower seed = Tk. 70, Urea = Tk. 16, TSP = Tk. 22, MoP = Tk. 15, Gypsum = Tk. 12, Vermicompost = Tk. 12, Compost = Tk. 5, Cowdung= Tk.3, Sunflower = Tk. 50 and Stover = Tk. 2

Table 9. Cost and return analysis of BARI Sunflower-2 as influenced by integrated nutrient management at Barguna during 2018-19

Treatments	Yield (t ha <sup>-1</sup> )		Gross Return (Tk. ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Total Cost (Tk. ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Net Return (Tk. ha <sup>-1</sup> )	BCR
	Seed	Stover				
T <sub>1</sub>	1.66	3.54	90100	57177	32923	1.57
T <sub>2</sub>	1.89	3.83	102160	62213	39947	1.64
T <sub>3</sub>	2.12	4.16	114320	69370	44950	1.65
T <sub>4</sub>	2.23	4.35	120200	67435	52765	1.78
T <sub>5</sub>	1.56	3.06	84120	54842	29278	1.53
T <sub>6</sub>	1.10	2.47	59940	44765	15175	1.33

T<sub>1</sub>= Soil test based fertilizer dose for HYG (FRG,2012),T<sub>2</sub>= IPNS with 5 tha<sup>-1</sup>cowdung,T<sub>3</sub>= IPNS with 5 tha<sup>-1</sup>compost,T<sub>4</sub>= IPNS with 1.5 tha<sup>-1</sup>vermicompost,T<sub>5</sub>= Farmers' practice and T<sub>6</sub> = Absolute control

Input and output price per Kg: Sunflower seed = Tk. 70, Urea = Tk. 16, TSP = Tk. 22, MoP = Tk. 15, Gypsum = Tk. 12, Vermicompost = Tk. 12, Compost = Tk. 5, Cowdung= Tk.3, Sunflower = Tk. 50 and Stover= Tk. 2

Table 10. Cost and return analysis of BARI Sunflower-2 as influenced by integrated nutrient management at Satkhira during 2018-19

Treatment	Yield (t ha <sup>-1</sup> )		Gross Return (Tk. ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Total Cost (Tk. ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Net Return (Tk. ha <sup>-1</sup> )	BCR
	Seed	Stover				
T <sub>1</sub>	1.52	3.01	82020	55177	26843	1.48
T <sub>2</sub>	1.80	3.34	96680	60120	36560	1.60
T <sub>3</sub>	1.97	3.65	105800	67424	38376	1.56
T <sub>4</sub>	2.06	3.73	110460	66520	43940	1.67
T <sub>5</sub>	1.37	2.76	74020	52842	21178	1.40
T <sub>6</sub>	1.02	2.11	55220	43650	11570	1.26

T<sub>1</sub>= Soil test based fertilizer dose for HYG (FRG, 2012), T<sub>2</sub>= IPNS with 5 t ha<sup>-1</sup> cowdung, T<sub>3</sub>= IPNS with 5 t ha<sup>-1</sup> compost, T<sub>4</sub>= IPNS with 1.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup> vermicompost, T<sub>5</sub>= Farmers' practice and T<sub>6</sub> = Absolute control

Input and output price per Kg: Sunflower seed = Tk.70, Urea = Tk. 16, TSP = Tk. 22, MoP = Tk. 15, Gypsum = Tk. 12, Zinc sulphate =Tk. 150, Boric acid = Tk.220, Vermicompost = Tk. 12, Compost = Tk. 5, Cowdung= Tk. 3, Sunflower = Tk. 50 and Stover = Tk. 2

## Conclusion

Based on the results, it may be concluded that IPNS with 1.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup> vermicompost is superior to the other fertilizer management packages in respect of yield as well as economic return for sunflower cultivation in the coastal char land of Bangladesh.

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