Influence of sowing dates and application of zinc on the performance of mustard in South-West semi arid zone of Uttar Pradesh

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ABSTRACT
A field experiment was carried out on typic ustochrepts at Madhurikund Farm, Mathura on mustard (var. VARUNA) in RBD with three dates of sowing (September 25, October 10 and October25) in combination with three levels of Zinc (0,15 and 30kg/ha). The experiment was replicated thrice. All growth parameters yield attributes along with biological, stover and seed yields were found significantly higher under September 25 sowing compared with October10 and October 25. Application of zinc though significantly increased the plant height, number of green leaves, branches and siliquae per plant but failed to show any significant effect on crop maturity and yield attributes like siliquae length, seeds per siliquae and seed yield. However, zinc application recorded higher thousand seed weight and straw yield. Delayed sowing of mustard after September 25 reduced production of oil, oilcake and fuel by 1,4 and 13kg / day /hectare respectively up to October 10 and reduced drastically beyond 10 October at the rate of 8,13 and 42kg /hectare / day oil, oilcake and fuel respectively. Protein content in seed was remained unaffected due to different dates of sowing. However, seed protein content and total sulphur uptakes were significantly increased with the application of zinc. Application of zinc did not influence the seed oil content. September 25 showing recorded maximum (Rs. 12259) and October 25 the least (Rs. 5377) net profit / hectare.

Key words: Mustard, Siliquae, Yield, and Growth parameters, Uptake, zinc.

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