

Influence of integrated nutrient management and sowing dates on growth, yield and quality of broad bean (*Vicia faba* L.)

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Abstract

The present field investigation was carried out at Vegetable Experimental Farm, Division of Vegetable Science and Floriculture, SKUAST-J, Chatha during Rabi season 2018-2019. The experiment comprised of three levels of inorganic fertilizers i.e. 50%, 75%, 100% of recommended dose (50:60:50 kg/ha NPK) combined with two organic sources of plant nutrients (FYM and Vermicompost) under two dates of sowing (2nd fortnight of October and 1st fortnight of November). The experiment comprised of 12 treatments laid out in a Randomized Block Design with three replications. The result revealed that vegetative growth and yield parameters were significantly influenced by the application of different sources of nutrients under different dates of sowing. Application of 75% N through inorganic fertilizers in combination with 25% through vermicompost sown at 2nd fortnight of October yielded maximum number of pods/plant (78.33), pod weight/plant (95.07 g), plant height (156.27 cm), pod length (5.69 cm), pod width (0.88 cm), number of branches/plant (10.27), number of nodes/stem (19.00) and pod yield (149.47 q/ha) whereas, days to 50% flowering, days to 50% pod setting, 100 seed weight (g) and number of seeds/pod were found non-significant. Total soluble solids (10.27°B) and protein content (30.79%) were significantly highest in treatment combination of 75% N through inorganic fertilizers + 25% through vermicompost. Economically, this treatment recorded maximum cost benefit ratio (3.96) as compared to other treatment combinations, thus, replacement of 25% of chemical fertilizers with vermicompost in October sown broad beans.

Keywords: *Vicia faba*, integrated nutrient management, sowing dates, growth, yield

Introduction

Broad bean (*Vicia faba* L.) belongs to family Fabaceae and is popularly known as *Kala matar* and *Bakla* in various parts of India. It has been reported to be originated in Egypt, however, the evidences given by Cubero (1974) suggests that the most acceptable centre of origin is either West or Central Asia. It is an excellent source of protein which ranges from 27-34% (Haciseferogullari et al. 2003). Faba bean has been cultivated as a green manure crop, human food and stock feed for several thousands of years; and it is currently being used as a high protein food for humans and as a stock feed mostly in Europe, China, the Middle East and northern Africa (Singh et al. 2012). In Europe and Mediterranean region, the traditional use of *Vicia faba* is as horse feed (small and medium size). Large seeded varieties are often used for human consumption as a green vegetable. Faba bean has received relatively little attention in the past but recently it has been gaining in popularity, possibly due to its high protein content, tolerance to various biotic and abiotic stresses and high yields leading to availability at reasonable prices (Pala et al. 2000). Being a legume vegetable crop, it plays a critical role in enhanced level of biological nitrogen fixation in agricultural systems by symbiosis with *Rhizobium* in the root system. This substantially reduces the need for nitrogen fertilizers and reduction in pollution. The crop plays a beneficial role in the crop rotation, due to its fixation ability of atmospheric nitrogen. It has multipurpose uses as seed vegetables (green or dried), fresh or canned. There is a worldwide consensus that sole dependence on chemical input based agriculture is not suitable in long run and only integrated plant nutrient systems (IPNS) involving a combination of fertilizer, organic manure and bio-fertilizers are essential to sustain crop nutrients in integrated nutrient management has been proved superior to the use of each component separately. Excessive use of inorganic fertilizers not only

increased the cost of production but also decreased over all soil fertility causing environmental pollution (Ramana et al. 2010). The combined uses of organic and chemical fertilizers not only increase the yield of crop but improve the physical, chemical and biological properties of soil. Use of organic manure with optimum rate of fertilizer under intensive farming system increased the turnover of nutrients in the soil plant system (Metkari and Dhok 2011).

It has been clearly established that time of planting, is a major factor affecting faba bean yield and its components. A judicious combination strategy of using organic and inorganic fertilizer coupled with sowing dates could be helpful in increasing broad bean population. These conditions thus make it necessary to investigate the effect of organic and inorganic fertilizers with particular date of sowing for getting yield and better quality with improved soil health under agro-climatic conditions of Jammu region.

Materials and Methods

The field experiment was carried out during Rabi season of the year 2018-19 in the Vegetable Research Farm, Department of Vegetable Science and Floriculture, Main Campus Chatha, SKUAST-Jammu (J&K) India. The trial was conducted in Randomized Block Design replicated thrice with following twelve treatment combinations such as D_1T_1 - Recommended NPK through inorganic fertilizers + 20 tonnes FYM/ha (Control); D_1T_2 -100% NPK through inorganic fertilizers(50: 60: 50 kg/ha); D_1T_3 - 75% N through inorganic fertilizers + 25% through FYM; D_1T_4 - 50% N through inorganic fertilizer + 50% through FYM; D_1T_5 - 75% N through inorganic fertilizers + 25% through Vermicompost; D_1T_6 - 50% N through inorganic fertilizer + 50% through Vermicompost; D_2T_1 - Recommended NPK through inorganic fertilizers + 20 tonnes FYM/ha; D_2T_2 - 100% NPK through inorganic fertilizers(50: 60: 50 kg/ha); D_2T_3 - 75% N through inorganic fertilizers + 25% through FYM; D_2T_4 - 50% N through inorganic fertilizer + 50% through FYM; D_2T_5 - 75% N through inorganic fertilizers + 25% through Vermicompost; and D_2T_6 - 50% N through inorganic fertilizer + 50 % through Vermicompost.

The broad bean variety 'RK-01' released by SKUAST-Jammu was used in the experiment. Seed sowing was done at a spacing of 40 x 10 cm in each plot sized at 2.0x1.8 m. Decomposed compost, well sieved vermicompost were applied on time as per the treatments. FYM and vermicompost were applied before sowing of seeds. The recommended dose of fertilizer is 50:60:50 kg NPK/ha was applied through Urea, DAP

(Di-ammonium phosphate), and MOP (Muriate of Potash). The total amount of phosphorous and half of nitrogen as well as half of potash were applied as basal dressing before sowing the seeds in the rows. Thirty days after sowing, half of nitrogen and half of potash were applied as top dressing during hoeing, as per the treatment schedule. All other recommended package of practices was followed throughout the experiment. From each treatment, ten number plants selected randomly were tagged for recording various observations. The mean of the ten plants per treatment combination was considered for further analysis. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) was carried out on mean values separately for each character adopting standard analysis of variance technique for RBD design. The analysis of variance for each of the character was carried out with the mean value of data collected from sample plants from each plot and the mean average data was used for the total variance into components due to replications, treatments and error.

Results and Discussion

Plant height: Maximum plant height (156.27cm) was recorded in D_1T_5 treatment containing (75% N through inorganic fertilizers + 25% through vermicompost) in early sowing of second fortnight of October as compared to other treatment combinations, whereas, minimum plant height (147.73 cm) was recorded in D_2T_4 (50% N through inorganic fertilizer along with 50% through FYM) when the crop was sown during 1st fortnight of November (Table 1). Bardan and Ahmed (2010) also reported an increase in plant height of broad bean due to the photoperiod and light intensity that prevailed during growth period of early planting which might resulted in an increase in both number and length of plant internodes. Increase in plant height due to proper combination of RDF + organic sources of plant nutrients were also reported by Metkari and Dhok (2011) in French bean and Jat et al. (2013) in cowpea.

Number of branches per plant: Significant differences were observed amongst different treatment combinations under different sowing dates (Table 1). Maximum number of branches/plant (10.27) was recorded in D_1T_5 (75% N through inorganic fertilizers + 25% through vermicompost) sown during 2nd fortnight of October whereas, minimum number of branches/plant (4.73) were recorded in treatment D_2T_4 containing 50% N through inorganic fertilizers in combination with 50 % through FYM which was sown during 1st fortnight of November. Increase in number of branches due to vermicompost application was reported by Sharma et al. (2015) and Das et al. (2011) in cowpea with 75%

Table 1: Effect of integrated nutrient management under different sowing dates on growth parameters in broad bean

Treatment combinations	Plant height (cm)	No. of branches plant ⁻¹	No. of nodes stem ⁻¹	Days to 50 % flowering	Days to 50% pod setting
D ₁ T ₁ - Recommended NPK through inorganic fertilizers + 20 tonnes FYM/ha (Control)	155.1	8.3	16.5	71.7	130.7
D ₁ T ₂ -100% NPK through inorganic fertilizers(50: 60: 50 kg/ha)	153.5	6.5	14.5	72.6	130.9
D ₁ T ₃ - 75% N through inorganic fertilizers + 25% through FYM	154.0	7.9	15.0	72.0	130.7
D ₁ T ₄ - 50% N through inorganic fertilizer + 50% through FYM	150.9	5.7	12.8	73.8	131.0
D ₁ T ₅ - 75% N through inorganic fertilizers + 25% through Vermicompost	156.3	10.3	19.0	70.0	129.5
D ₁ T ₆ - 50% N through inorganic fertilizer + 50% through Vermicompost	156.0	9.4	18.0	70.7	129.7
D ₂ T ₁ - Recommended NPK through inorganic fertilizers + 20 tonnes FYM/ha	152.0	6.3	14.3	68.5	126.8
D ₂ T ₂ - 100% NPK through inorganic fertilizers(50: 60: 50 kg/ha)	150.1	5.1	12.9	69.4	128.3
D ₂ T ₃ - 75% N through inorganic fertilizers + 25% through FYM	150.5	5.9	13.3	69.3	126.8
D ₂ T ₄ - 50% N through inorganic fertilizer + 50% through FYM	147.7	4.7	11.8	69.6	127.2
D ₂ T ₅ - 75% N through inorganic fertilizers + 25% through Vermicompost	153.5	8.0	17.3	67.0	126.2
D ₂ T ₆ - 50% N through inorganic fertilizer + 50 % through Vermicompost	153.0	7.1	15.1	67.9	126.4
SEm (±)	1.4	0.6	0.9	1.8	2.2
CD _(0.05)	4.3	1.7	2.7	N.S	N.S

RDF (Recommended dose of fertilizer) with other organic manure combination. Vermicompost treatments compensated the reduced level of recommended dose of inorganic fertilizers and even excelled 100 percent RDF. Similar results were reported by Ali and El- Shaikh (2008) and Bardan and Ahmed (2010) in broad bean.

Number of nodes/ stem: Maximum number of nodes /stem (19.00) was observed in early sowing of broadbean (Second fortnight of October) with treatment D₁T₅ (75% N through inorganic fertilizers + 25% through vermicompost) and the lowest numbers of nodes/ stem (11.80) were recorded in D₂T₄ (50% N through inorganic fertilizer + 50% through FYM) which was sown during 1st fortnight of November (Table 1). This increase in pods per plant is because of increase in nodes that provided more fruit bearing space on the plant (Getachew et al. 2014).

Days to 50 % flowering and pod setting: Non significant differences were recorded in various treatment combinations comprising of different nutrient management practices and dates of sowing in respect of days to 50 % flowering and pod setting (Table 1). However, minimum number of days to 50% flowering and pod setting (67.00 days, 126.20 days) were recorded in D₂T₅ (75% N through inorganic fertilizers +25% through vermicompost) sown in 1st fortnight of November whereas, maximum number of days to 50 % flowering and pod setting (73.83 days, 131.00 days) were recorded in D₁T₄ (50% N through inorganic fertilizers + 50 % through FYM) sown during 2nd

fortnight of October. Similar results were obtained by Tiwari and Singh (2000) in cowpea crop.

Number of pods/plant: Highest number of pods /plant (78.33) was achieved on early sowing of broadbean (Second fortnight of October) with treatment D₁T₅ containing 75% N through inorganic fertilizers + 25% N through vermicompost, whereas, the lowest number of pods/ plant (37.13) were recorded in D₂T₄ i.e. 50% N through inorganic fertilizer alongwith 50% through FYM when crop was sown during 1st fortnight of November (Table 2). The variation in pod number might be due to variation in climatic factors owing to different sowing times. These results are in conformity with the findings of Vishwanath et al. (2004) in French bean and Prasad et al. (2012) in cowpea.

Pod length: The pod length was significantly influenced by application of organic and chemical fertilizer under different dates of sowing (Table 2). The highest value (5.69 cm) was recorded in D₁T₅ (75% N through inorganic fertilizers + 25% through vermicompost) in early sowing of second fortnight of October whereas, the minimum pod length (5.17 cm) was recorded in D₂T₄ (50% N through inorganic fertilizer +50% through FYM) when the crop was sown during 1st fortnight of November. This might be due to the fact that higher vegetative growth had helped in the synthesis of greater amount of food material which was later translocated into developing pods resulting in increasing pod length and diameter (Kamble et al. 2016). Similar results were also observed by Rafaat et al. (2016) in broad bean.

Pod width: Maximum pod width (0.88 cm) was observed in treatment D₁T₅ (75% N through inorganic fertilizers + 25% through vermicompost) in early sowing of broad bean (Second fortnight of October) and the minimum pod length (0.81 cm) was recorded in 1st fortnight of November with treatment D₂T₄ (50 % N through inorganic fertilizers + 50 % through FYM) (Table 2). The pod width was found more in early sowing as compared to late sowing. The reason might be the effect of low temperatures which retarded the plant growth as well as pod growth. Similar results have been reported by Kumar et al. (2014) in French bean.

Pod weight/plant: Maximum pod weight/ plant (95.07 g) was observed in 2nd fortnight of October with treatment containing D₁T₅ (75% N through inorganic fertilizers + 25% N through vermicompost) and the minimum pod weight/plant (37.87 g) was recorded in 1st fortnight of November with treatment D₂T₄ (50% N through inorganic fertilizers + 50 % through FYM) (Table 2). Due to better assimilation of photosynthates and better partitioning into developing pod might have taken place and improved yield attributing characters like pods weight and ultimately increased pod yield (Reddy et al. 2014).

Number of seeds/pod: Data presented in Table 2 revealed non-significant effects on number of seeds per pod across all treatment combinations. However,

maximum number of seeds / pod (3.76) were observed in treatment D₁T₃ (75% N through inorganic fertilizers + 25% through FYM) sown during 2nd fortnight of October whereas, minimum number of seeds/pod (3.38) were recorded in 1st fortnight of November with treatment D₂T₂ (100% through inorganic fertilizers (50: 60: 50 kg/ha NPK). Kubure et al. (2015) stated that the higher number of seeds pod⁻¹ treatment could be due to production of more number of pods/ plant and better adaptation to the environment. Our findings are in close association with the findings of Gemechu et al. (2006), and Bardan and Ahmed (2010) in broad bean.

100 Seed weight: Non significant differences were recorded in various treatment combinations comprising of different nutrient management practices and dates of sowing in respect of 100 seed weight (Table 2). However, maximum 100 seed weight (19.07 g) was recorded in 2nd fortnight of October with treatment containing D₁T₆ (50% N through inorganic fertilizer in combination with 50% through vermicompost) whereas, the minimum 100 seed weight (17.20 g) was recorded in 1st fortnight of November with treatment D₂T₃ (75% N through inorganic fertilizer in combination with 25% through FYM). Mohanty et al. (2017) also reported that 100 seed weight of French bean were not much influenced by different treatments and was mostly a varietal character somewhat less influenced by different

Table 2: Effect of integrated nutrient management under different sowing dates on yield, economics and quality parameters in broad bean

Treatment combinations	No. of pod plant ⁻¹	Pod length (cm)	Pod width (cm)	Pod weight plant ⁻¹	No. of seeds pod ⁻¹	100 seed weight	Pod yield (q/ha)	B : C Ratio	Protein (%)	TSS (°B)
D ₁ T ₁ - Recommended NPK through inorganic fertilizers + 20 tonnes FYM/ha (Control)	61.8	5.5	0.9	78.4	3.6	18.9	115.4	2.41	26.6	9.5
D ₁ T ₂ -100% NPK through inorganic fertilizers(50: 60: 50 kg/ha)	52.1	5.4	0.8	72.1	3.7	18.4	112.4	3.11	28.6	9.7
D ₁ T ₃ - 75% N through inorganic fertilizers + 25% through FYM	57.5	5.5	0.9	76.4	3.8	18.7	114.4	3.06	29.3	10.0
D ₁ T ₄ - 50% N through inorganic fertilizer + 50% through FYM	41.5	5.3	0.8	63.1	3.7	17.7	93.1	2.22	28.33	9.8
D ₁ T ₅ - 75% N through inorganic fertilizers + 25% through Vermicompost	78.3	5.7	0.9	95.1	3.6	18.9	149.5	3.96	30.8	10.3
D ₁ T ₆ - 50% N through inorganic fertilizer + 50% through Vermicompost	69.7	5.6	0.9	84.7	3.7	19.1	131.3	3.00	29.1	10.1
D ₂ T ₁ - Recommended NPK through inorganic fertilizers + 20 tonnes FYM/ha	50.3	5.3	0.8	50.4	3.4	17.5	110.8	2.27	27.7	9.7
D ₂ T ₂ - 100% NPK through inorganic fertilizers(50: 60: 50 kg/ha)	40.5	5.2	0.8	44.2	3.4	18.1	103.7	2.78	28.4	10.3
D ₂ T ₃ - 75% N through inorganic fertilizers + 25% through FYM	45.5	5.2	0.8	45.2	3.7	17.2	105.0	2.74	26.2	9.6
D ₂ T ₄ - 50% N through inorganic fertilizer + 50% through FYM	37.1	5.2	0.8	37.9	3.6	17.7	87.0	2.01	27.7	9.5
D ₂ T ₅ - 75% N through inorganic fertilizers + 25% through Vermicompost	68.6	5.6	0.9	68.7	3.7	18.5	132.5	3.39	30.0	10.2
D ₂ T ₆ - 50% N through inorganic fertilizer + 50 % through Vermicompost	57.0	5.3	0.9	57.1	3.6	18.4	125.0	2.75	27.9	10.0
SEm (±)	6.9	0.1	0.02	7.5	0.1	0.5	6.9	-	1.2	0.3
CD _(0.05)	20.5	0.3	0.05	22.3	N.S.	N.S	20.3	-	N.S	N.S.

combination of treatments. Similar findings were also observed in French bean (Ramana et al. 2011); mung bean (Haque et al. 2014) and faba bean (El Hag 2017).

Pod yield: Maximum pod yield (149.47 q/ ha) was recorded in treatment combination D_1T_5 containing 75% N through inorganic fertilizers along with 25% through vermicompost sown during 2nd fortnight of October and minimum pod yield (87.03 q/ ha) was recorded in D_2T_4 containing 50% N through inorganic fertilizers along with 50 % through FYM sown during 1st fortnight of November. Sowing during second fortnight of October resulted in maximum green pod yield as compared to first fortnight of November. Higher green pod yield per hectare was obtained with early sowings, whereas, lower green pod yield per hectare was obtained with late sowings in broad bean. These results are in conformity with the finding of Pandey et al. (2012) in French bean and Ananth and Kumar (2018) in dolichos bean.

Protein: Non significant differences were recorded in various treatment combinations comprising of different nutrient management practices and dates of sowing in respect of protein content (Table 2). Maximum protein (30.79 %) was recorded in treatment combination D_1T_5 containing 75% N through inorganic fertilizers along with 25% through vermicompost sown during 2nd fortnight of October whereas, the minimum protein (26.18 %) was recorded in D_2T_3 75% N through inorganic fertilizers along with 25% through FYM sown during 1st fortnight of November. Sugiyama et al. (1984) stated that the soluble proteins were increased with better N supply and favorable growth condition. Greef (1994) also reported that high values of the reduced N fraction (protein fraction) were found in photo synthetic active leaf tissue. The results are also in agreement with the finding of Chavan et al. (2015) in faba bean and Fouda et al. (2017) in French bean.

Total Soluble Solid (TSS): Non significant differences were observed in respect of TSS content across all the treatment combinations (Table 2). However, maximum TSS (10.27 °Brix) was recorded in D_1T_5 treatment (75% N through inorganic fertilizers + 25% through vermicompost) sown during 2nd fortnight of October whereas, the minimum TSS (9.47°Brix) was recorded in treatment combination D_2T_4 containing 50% N through inorganic fertilizer + 50% through FYM when crop was sown during 1st fortnight of November. Koshalendra et al. (1992) reported that total polysaccharides and sugars in crops increased due to application of organic manures, which resulted due to the higher availability of phosphorus which is a constituent of ADP, ATP and other high energy

compounds. This increase in TSS with the application of organics may be attributed to increase in sugar phosphates polysaccharides as phosphorus is one of the important constituent. Our findings are in close association with the findings of Sepehya et al. (2015) in garden pea.

Economics: Data depicted in Table 2 revealed the detailed economics of different treatment combination used in the present study. The economic analysis revealed among all the treatment combinations significantly highest gross return (Rs 447000/ ha) and net return (Rs 309936.46 /ha) was recorded in treatment combination D_1T_5 (75% N through inorganic fertilizers in combination with 25% through Vermicompost) in early sowing of second fortnight of October as compared to other treatments combination. The optimal and sub optimal dose of chemical fertilizer alongwith vermicompost and farm yard manure resulted higher pod yield, thus highest gross return and net return were obtained. Similar results have been reported in broad bean by Kubure et al. (2015).

Conclusion

From the present study it can be concluded that treatment combination (D_1T_5) comprising of 75% N through inorganic fertilizers + 25% through Vermicompost sown during 2nd fortnight of October results in high yield as well as quality parameters in broad bean under subtropical plains of Jammu region thereby reducing the appreciable amount of inorganic fertilizers in soil without compromising yield and quality in broad bean.

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वर्तमान परीक्षण वर्ष 2018-19 (रबी मौसम) के दौरान सब्जी विज्ञान और पुष्प कृषि विभाग, शोरे-ई-कश्मीर कृषि एवं प्रौद्योगिकी विश्वविद्यालय, जम्मू (कश्मीर) में सब्जी शोध प्रकेंद्र में की गयी। प्रयोग में अकार्बनिक उर्वरकों के तीन स्तर अर्थात् 50 प्रतिशत, 75 प्रतिशत अनुशंसित पोषण का 100 प्रतिशत (50:60:50 किग्रा. प्रति हेक्टेयर एन.पी.के.) सम्मिलित किया गया जो बुवाई की विभिन्न तिथियों के तहत पौधों के पोषक (एफ.वाई.एम. और वर्मीकम्पोस्ट) के दो जैविक स्रोतों के साथ संयुक्त रूप से (अक्टूबर का दूसरा पखवाड़ा और नवम्बर का पहला पखवाड़ा) तीन बार प्रतिकृति कर यादृच्छिक प्रखण्ड विन्यास में निर्धारित 12 उपचारों समाहित किया गया।

परिणाम से पता चला कि वानस्पतिक वृद्धि और उपज घटकों, बुवाई की विभिन्न तिथियों के तहत पोषक तत्वों के विभिन्न स्रोतों के उपयोग से सार्थक रूप से प्रभावित थे। अक्टूबर के दूसरे पखवाड़े (डी.1 डी.) में बोये गये वर्मीकम्पोस्ट के माध्यम से 25 प्रतिशत के साथ अकार्बनिक उर्वरकों के माध्यम से 75 प्रतिशत नत्रजन के प्रयोग से अधिकतम फली प्रति पौध (78.33), फल भार प्रति पौध (95.07 ग्राम), पौधे की ऊँचाई (156.25 सेमी.), फल लम्बाई (5.69 सेमी.), फली चौड़ाई (0.88 सेमी.), शाखा प्रति पौध संख्या (10.27), गांठ प्रति तना संख्या (19.00) एवं फल उपज (149.47 कुन्तल प्रति हेक्टेयर) पाया गया जबकि 50 प्रतिशत पुष्पन के दिन से 50 प्रतिशत फली धारण करने, 100 बीज वजन (ग्राम) एवं बीजों की संख्या प्रति फली अलग-अलग बुवाई की तारीखों में विभिन्न उपचार संयोजन गैर-महत्वपूर्ण पाये गये। कुल घुलनशील ठोस (10.27 डिग्री ब्रिक्स) और प्रोटीन की मात्रा (30.79 प्रतिशत) अकार्बनिक उर्वरकों के माध्यम से 75 प्रतिशत नत्रजन + वर्मीकम्पोस्ट के माध्यम से 25 प्रतिशत उपचार संयोजन आर्थिक रूप से अधिकतम पाये गये। अन्य उपचारों की तुलना में अकार्बनिक उर्वरकों के माध्यम से 75 प्रतिशत एन.+ अक्टूबर के दूसरे पखवाड़े के दौरान बोये गये वर्मीकम्पोस्ट के माध्यम से आर्थिक रूप से अधिकतम लागत:लाभ अनुपात (3.96) दर्ज किया गया था। इस प्रकार, 25 प्रतिशत रासायनिक उर्वरकों के स्थान पर वर्मीकम्पोस्ट लगाने से अक्टूबर में बुवाई कर अधिक फलियाँ प्राप्त करने के लिए संस्तुत की जाती है।

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