



## Research Article

# EFFECT OF INTEGRATED NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT ON GROWTH, LEAF YIELD AND ECONOMICS OF SPINACH (*BETA VULGARIS* L.) VAR. PUSA JYOTI

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**Abstract:** The present investigation entitled "Effect of integrated nutrient management on growth, leaf yield and economics of spinach (*Beta vulgaris* L.) var. Pusa Jyoti" was carried out during *kharif* 2016-17 (first year), 2017-18 (second year) and pooled at the Experimental field, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, RVSKVV, Datia (M.P.) with 16 treatment combinations of three levels of inorganic fertilizers i.e. 50% RDF (75:40:50 kg NPK ha<sup>-1</sup>), 75% RDF (112.5:60:75 kg NPK ha<sup>-1</sup>) and 100% RDF control (150:80:100 kg NPK ha<sup>-1</sup>), three organic manure i.e. 20 t FYM ha<sup>-1</sup>, 10 t vermicompost (VC) ha<sup>-1</sup> and 7.5 t poultry manure (PM) ha<sup>-1</sup> and two bio-fertilizers viz. 5 kg Azotobacter (Azo) ha<sup>-1</sup> and 5 kg PSB ha<sup>-1</sup>. Experiments were laid out in Randomized Complete Block Design with three replications. Results revealed that the application of 75% RDF + 10 t Vermicompost ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg PSB ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg Azotobacter ha<sup>-1</sup> (T<sub>8</sub>) was recorded significantly maximum plant height, number of leaves plant<sup>-1</sup>, fresh and dry weight of leaves plant<sup>-1</sup> and leaves yield hectare<sup>-1</sup> at first year, second year and pooled as compared to control. The net return of Rs 1,79,592 ha<sup>-1</sup> and cost benefit ratio 1: 3.88 was found maximum with the application of 75% RDF + 7.5 t Poultry Manure ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg PSB ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg Azotobacter ha<sup>-1</sup> (T<sub>12</sub>) it also gave the leaf yield 241.93 q ha<sup>-1</sup> (Rank third and at par with T<sub>8</sub>) but the significantly maximum leaf yield of 253.57 q ha<sup>-1</sup> was obtained in the treatment T<sub>8</sub> (75% RDF + 10 t Vermicompost ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg PSB ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg Azotobacter ha<sup>-1</sup>) it gave net return of Rs 1,50,232 ha<sup>-1</sup> and cost benefit ratio 1: 2.45 as compared to treatment T<sub>14</sub> (50% RDF + 10 t VC ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg Azo. ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg PSB ha<sup>-1</sup>). Due to high price of vermicompost, the net returns and cost: benefit ratio of the treatments with vermicompost were relatively low in spite of high green yield and gross return when compared with that of Poultry Manure. Application of 75% RDF + 7.5 t Poultry Manure ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg PSB ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg Azotobacter ha<sup>-1</sup> was economically viable treatment.

**Keywords:** Spinach, Bio-fertilizers, INM and Economics

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## Introduction

Spinach beet (*Beta vulgaris* var. *bengalensis*; 2n=2x=18), commonly known as „Indian spinach“ in English and „Palak“ in Hindi, originated from Indo-Chinese region (Nath, 1976) belongs to the genus *Beta*, specie *vulgaris* and family *Chenopodiaceae*. Spinach Beet or Palak (*Beta vulgaris* var. *bengalensis*) also known as Indian Spinach, Spinach beet, Garden Beet, Palongpalang, Sag, Teegabatchali, Busabyeley, Dumpsbucchale and Pasalai can be grown in tropical and sub tropical regions. Leafy vegetables play important role in the diets of an individual by providing essential nutrients necessary for proper upkeep is well recognized. It is very rich in minerals and vitamins „A“ and „C“ and also contains appreciable amounts of protein, calcium, iron and roughages. Its high productivity of large green leaves with succulent stem almost throughout the year make it highly remunerative to the vegetable growers. The increasing population and limited land forced out farmers to maximize crop yields per unit area through intensive cultivation. Excessive use of inorganic fertilizers creates environment related problems and situation can be improved through the use of biofertilizer (Saadatnia and Riahi, 2009). Bio-fertilizers being essential components of organic farming play a vital role in maintaining long term soil fertility and sustainability by fixing atmospheric nitrogen, mobilizing fixed macro and micro nutrients or convert insoluble phosphorus in the soil into forms available to plants, by increasing their efficiency and availability. Biofertilizers are less expensive, eco-friendly and sustainable likely to assume greater significance as a complement or supplement to inorganic fertilizers. Azotobacter is an aerobic, free-living gram negative bacterium which fixes nitrogen from the atmosphere. The phosphate solubilising bacteria increases the availability of phosphorus in the soil through

secretion of phosphatase enzyme which leads to transfer organic phosphorus to available form. Consequently, it increases phosphorus absorption and accumulation in plant. Excessive reliance on the chemical fertilizers may not be a viable strategy in the long run because of the cost, both in domestic resources and its foreign exchange, involved in setting up of fertilizer plants and sustaining the production and impact on environment. In this context, use of organic manures would be the viable option for farmers to increase productivity per unit area. The organic manures such as FYM, vermicompost and poultry manure can improve the properties of soil exposed to drought by increasing the limited moisture holding capacity. Organic matter changes the physical properties like soil structure and it also changes the chemical properties of the soil through increasing the soil pH, C/N ratio, cation exchange capacity and ion uptake. Organic manures improve the soil tilth, aeration, water holding capacity of the soil and stimulates the activity of micro-organisms in the soil that make the elements readily available to the crops. However, the information on individual and combine use of these biofertilizers is very limited. It is also essential to take up such study at various places for site specific nutrient management and to assess the efficacy of biofertilizer. The use of organic manures and bio-fertilizers can reduce the application of chemical fertilizers to a great extent. It is possible when to reduce the use of the chemical fertilizers which will be beneficial for farmers to reduce their production costs and the soil will be high in fertility and productivity Kawthar et al. (2014).

Table-1 Effect of integrated nutrient management on plant height, number of leaves plant<sup>-1</sup>, fresh weight of leaves plant<sup>-1</sup> at 60 DAS in first, second year and pooled of spinach

Treat. Symb.	Treatment	Plant height (cm) at			No. of leaves plant <sup>-1</sup> at			Fresh weight of leaves plant <sup>-1</sup> (g) at		
		I Year	II Year	Pooled	I Year	II Year	Pooled	I Year	II Year	Pooled
T <sub>1</sub>	75% RDF + 20 t FYMha <sup>-1</sup>	32.41	33.67	33.04	18.50	19.97	19.23	63.92	65.72	64.82
T <sub>2</sub>	75% RDF + 20 t FYMha <sup>-1</sup> + 5kg PSBha <sup>-1</sup>	33.45	35.05	34.25	19.25	20.72	19.99	65.87	67.67	66.77
T <sub>3</sub>	75% RDF + 20 t FYMha <sup>-1</sup> + 5kg Azo. ha <sup>-1</sup>	34.35	35.95	35.15	20.10	21.57	20.83	67.10	68.90	68.00
T <sub>4</sub>	75% RDF + 20 t FYMha <sup>-1</sup> + 5kg PSBha <sup>-1</sup> + 5kg Azo. ha <sup>-1</sup>	35.49	37.42	36.45	20.82	22.29	21.55	68.99	71.12	70.05
T <sub>5</sub>	75% RDF + 10 t Vermicompostha <sup>-1</sup>	41.42	42.02	41.72	25.21	27.29	26.25	80.54	83.34	81.94
T <sub>6</sub>	75% RDF + 10 t VCha <sup>-1</sup> + 5kg PSBha <sup>-1</sup>	43.27	47.60	45.43	26.33	28.46	27.39	85.34	88.14	86.74
T <sub>7</sub>	75% RDF + 10 t VCha <sup>-1</sup> + 5kg Azo. ha <sup>-1</sup>	46.39	48.99	47.69	29.23	31.69	30.46	91.81	94.94	93.37
T <sub>8</sub>	75% RDF + 10 t VCha <sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg PSB ha <sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg Azo. ha <sup>-1</sup>	47.25	49.85	48.55	30.15	32.61	31.38	93.80	96.93	95.37
T <sub>9</sub>	75% RDF + 7.5 t Poultry Manureha <sup>-1</sup>	40.46	42.73	41.59	24.25	26.39	25.32	78.50	81.30	79.90
T <sub>10</sub>	75% RDF + 7.5 t PMha <sup>-1</sup> + 5kg PSB ha <sup>-1</sup>	42.71	45.31	44.01	25.85	27.97	26.91	83.12	85.92	84.52
T <sub>11</sub>	75% RDF + 7.5 t PMha <sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg Azo. ha <sup>-1</sup>	44.61	47.21	45.91	27.23	29.70	28.47	87.84	90.97	89.41
T <sub>12</sub>	75% RDF + 7.5 t PMha <sup>-1</sup> + 5kg PSB ha <sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg Azo. ha <sup>-1</sup>	45.41	48.01	46.71	28.46	30.93	29.69	90.12	93.25	91.69
T <sub>13</sub>	50% RDF + 20 t FYMha <sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg Azo. ha <sup>-1</sup> + 5kg PSBha <sup>-1</sup>	36.32	38.59	37.45	21.66	23.46	22.56	70.73	72.87	71.80
T <sub>14</sub>	50% RDF + 10 t VCha <sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg Azo. ha <sup>-1</sup> + 5kg PSBha <sup>-1</sup>	38.64	40.91	39.77	22.95	24.75	23.85	75.19	77.65	76.42
T <sub>15</sub>	50% RDF + 7.5 t PMha <sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg Azo. ha <sup>-1</sup> + 5kg PSBha <sup>-1</sup>	37.45	39.38	38.41	22.15	23.95	23.05	72.94	75.07	74.01
T <sub>16</sub>	Control (100 % RDF 150:80:100 kg NPKha <sup>-1</sup> )	39.40	41.33	40.37	23.67	25.81	24.74	76.97	79.44	78.21
	SE <sub>±</sub>	1.97	1.06	0.93	1.34	1.47	0.82	2.52	2.79	1.54
	C.D. at 5% level	5.69	3.05	2.61	3.88	4.24	2.30	7.27	8.05	4.32

Table-2 Effect of integrated nutrient management on dry weight of leaves plant<sup>-1</sup> at 60 DAS, leaves yield q ha<sup>-1</sup> in first, second year and pooled and economics of spinach

Treat. Symb.	Treatment	Dry weight of leaves (g) at			Leaves yield hectare <sup>-1</sup> (q) at			Gross income (Rs/ha)*	Expen-diture (Rs/ha)	Net income (Rs/ha)	C: B ratio
		I Year	II Year	Pooled	I Year	II Year	Pooled				
T <sub>1</sub>	75% RDF + 20 t FYMha <sup>-1</sup>	11.80	12.40	12.10	172.39	173.04	172.71	172710	56238	116472	3.07
T <sub>2</sub>	75% RDF + 20 t FYMha <sup>-1</sup> + 5kg PSBha <sup>-1</sup>	12.50	13.10	12.80	175.64	177.76	176.70	176700	56988	119712	3.10
T <sub>3</sub>	75% RDF + 20 t FYMha <sup>-1</sup> + 5kg Azo. ha <sup>-1</sup>	13.10	13.73	13.42	180.41	181.16	180.79	180790	56988	123802	3.17
T <sub>4</sub>	75% RDF + 20 t FYMha <sup>-1</sup> + 5kg PSBha <sup>-1</sup> + 5kg Azo. ha <sup>-1</sup>	13.70	14.33	14.02	184.39	186.62	185.51	185510	57738	127772	3.21
T <sub>5</sub>	75% RDF + 10 t VCha <sup>-1</sup>	16.90	17.60	17.25	215.72	216.34	216.03	216030	101838	114192	2.12
T <sub>6</sub>	75% RDF + 10 t VCha <sup>-1</sup> + 5kg PSBha <sup>-1</sup>	18.20	18.90	18.55	228.40	231.52	229.96	229960	102588	127372	2.24
T <sub>7</sub>	75% RDF + 10 t VCha <sup>-1</sup> + 5kg Azo. ha <sup>-1</sup>	20.10	20.83	20.47	247.64	250.61	249.13	249130	102588	146542	2.43
T <sub>8</sub>	75% RDF + 10 t VCha <sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg PSB ha <sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg Azo. ha <sup>-1</sup>	20.50	21.23	20.87	252.27	254.87	253.57	253570	103338	150232	2.45
T <sub>9</sub>	75% RDF + 7.5 t PMha <sup>-1</sup>	16.20	16.90	16.55	211.50	216.45	213.98	213980	60838	153142	3.52
T <sub>10</sub>	75% RDF + 7.5 t PMha <sup>-1</sup> + 5kg PSB ha <sup>-1</sup>	17.50	18.20	17.85	221.31	223.85	222.58	222580	61588	160992	3.61
T <sub>11</sub>	75% RDF + 7.5 t PMha <sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg Azo. ha <sup>-1</sup>	18.70	19.43	19.07	234.50	236.37	235.44	235440	61588	173852	3.82
T <sub>12</sub>	75% RDF + 7.5 t PMha <sup>-1</sup> + 5kg PSB ha <sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg Azo. ha <sup>-1</sup>	19.30	20.03	19.67	241.37	242.48	241.93	241930	62338	179592	3.88
T <sub>13</sub>	50% RDF + 20 t FYMha <sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg Azo. ha <sup>-1</sup> + 5kg PSBha <sup>-1</sup>	14.30	14.98	14.64	189.57	192.09	190.83	190830	55723	135107	3.42
T <sub>14</sub>	50% RDF + 10 t VCha <sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg Azo. ha <sup>-1</sup> + 5kg PSBha <sup>-1</sup>	15.20	15.88	15.54	201.34	204.60	202.97	202970	101323	101647	2.00
T <sub>15</sub>	50% RDF + 7.5 t PMha <sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg Azo. ha <sup>-1</sup> + 5kg PSBha <sup>-1</sup>	14.80	15.48	15.14	194.37	197.29	195.83	195830	60323	135507	3.25
T <sub>16</sub>	Control (100 % RDF 150:80:100 kg NPKha <sup>-1</sup> )	15.70	16.40	16.05	204.61	208.21	206.41	206410	53845	152565	3.83
	SE <sub>±</sub>	0.69	0.63	0.38	6.92	8.41	4.46				
	C.D. at 5% level	1.98	1.81	1.07	19.99	24.30	12.54				

## Materials and Methods

The present investigation entitled "Effect of integrated nutrient management on growth, leaf yield and quality of spinach (*Beta vulgaris* L.) var. Pusa Jyoti" was carried out during rabi 2016-17 (first year), 2017-18 (second year) and pooled at the Experimental field, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Datia (M.P.) The experimental material for the present investigation was comprised of 16 treatments combinations of three levels of inorganic fertilizers i.e. 50% RDF (75:40:50 kg NPK ha<sup>-1</sup>), 75% RDF (112.5:60:75 kg NPK ha<sup>-1</sup>) and 100% RDF control (150:80:100 kg NPK ha<sup>-1</sup>), three organic manure i.e. 20 t FYM ha<sup>-1</sup>, 10 t vermicompost (VC) ha<sup>-1</sup> and 7.5 t poultry manure (PM) ha<sup>-1</sup> and two bio-fertilizers viz., 5 kg Azotobacter (Azo) ha<sup>-1</sup> and 5 kg PSB ha<sup>-1</sup>. Experiments were laid out in Randomized Complete Block Design as describe by Panse and Sukhatme (1985) with three replications. Observations were recorded on the basis of five random competitive plants selected from each treatment separately for growth character and yield parameters were evaluated as per standard procedure and also estimate the economics as suggested by Yang *et al.* (1989). There are some minor differences in data of both the year due to some environmental factors such as temperature, rainfall, humidity and evaporation *etc.* the experimental plants were regularly observed and the data were recorded on plant height, number of leaves plant<sup>-1</sup>, fresh and dry weight of leaves plant<sup>-1</sup> and leaves yield hectare<sup>-1</sup>.

## Results and discussion

The plant height was significantly increased by the integrated nutrient

management [Table-1]. Significantly maximum 47.25, 49.85 and 48.55 cm plant height was recorded under the treatment T<sub>8</sub> (75% RDF + 10 t Vermicompost ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg PSB ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg Azotobacter ha<sup>-1</sup>) were at par with T<sub>7</sub> (75% RDF + 10 t Vermicompostha<sup>-1</sup> + 5kg Azotobacter ha<sup>-1</sup>) (46.39, 48.99 and 47.69 cm) and T<sub>12</sub> (75% RDF + 7.5 t Poultry Manure ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5kg PSB ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg Azotobacter ha<sup>-1</sup>) (45.41, 48.01 and 46.71 cm) at first year, second year and pooled, respectively and treatments T<sub>11</sub>, T<sub>6</sub> and T<sub>10</sub> in first year and T<sub>11</sub> and T<sub>6</sub> in second year also at par. While, it was recorded lowest 32.41, 33.67 and 33.04 cm in treatment T<sub>1</sub> (75% RDF + 20 t FYMha<sup>-1</sup>) at first year, second year and pooled, respectively [Table-1]. These results are in agreement with those of Ibrahim *et al.* (2012), Ali *et al.* (2013), Kawthar *et al.* (2014), Hossain *et al.* (2014), Solangi *et al.* (2015), Shaheen *et al.* (2016), Wahocho *et al.* (2016) and Shormin and Kibria (2018). Significantly maximum 30.15 and 32.61 leaves plant<sup>-1</sup> were recorded under the treatment T<sub>8</sub> (75% RDF + 10 t Vermicompost ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg PSB ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg Azotobacterha<sup>-1</sup>) followed by T<sub>7</sub> (75% RDF + 10 t Vermicompostha<sup>-1</sup> + 5kg Azotobacter ha<sup>-1</sup>) (29.23 and 31.69 leaves plant<sup>-1</sup>), T<sub>12</sub> (75% RDF + 7.5 t Poultry Manure ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5kg PSB ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg Azotobacter ha<sup>-1</sup>) (28.46 and 30.93 leaves plant<sup>-1</sup>), T<sub>11</sub> (75% RDF + 7.5 t Poultry Manure ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg Azotobacter ha<sup>-1</sup>) (27.23 and 29.70 leaves plant<sup>-1</sup>) and T<sub>6</sub> (75% RDF + 10 t Vermicompost ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5kg PSB ha<sup>-1</sup>) (26.33 and 28.46 leaves plant<sup>-1</sup>) at first year and second year, respectively and which were at par with each other. While, it was recorded lowest 18.50 and 19.97 in treatment T<sub>1</sub> (75% RDF + 20 t FYM ha<sup>-1</sup>) at first year and second year, respectively [Table-1].

At pooled, significantly maximum 31.38, 30.46 and 29.69 leaves plant<sup>-1</sup> were recorded under the treatment T<sub>8</sub> (75% RDF + 10 t Vermicompost ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg PSB ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg Azotobacter ha<sup>-1</sup>), T<sub>7</sub> (75% RDF + 10 t Vermicompost ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg Azotobacter ha<sup>-1</sup>) and T<sub>12</sub> (75% RDF + 7.5 t Poultry Manure ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg PSB ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg Azotobacter ha<sup>-1</sup>), respectively and which were at par with each other. While, it was recorded lowest 19.23 in treatment T<sub>1</sub> (75% RDF + 20 t FYM ha<sup>-1</sup>) [Table-1]. This might be due to availability of nutrients in a balanced proportion from inorganic fertilizers, organic manure and bio fertilizers which improves the plant height and number of leaves plant<sup>-1</sup> of palak. The faster availability of nutrients from inorganic fertilizers and slow release through organic manure and biofertilizers, the cropping period enhances nutrient requirement of the crop. Similar results have also been reported by Jha and Jana (2009), Ibrahim *et al.* (2012), Ali *et al.* (2013), Kawthar *et al.* (2014), Hossain *et al.* (2014), Solangi *et al.* (2015), Shaheen *et al.* (2016), Wahocho *et al.* (2016) and Shormin and Kibria (2018). It is obvious from data [Table-1] that the significantly maximum 93.80, 96.93 and 95.37 g fresh weight of leaves plant<sup>-1</sup> were recorded under the treatment T<sub>8</sub> (75% RDF + 10 t Vermicompost ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg PSB ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg Azotobacter ha<sup>-1</sup>) followed by T<sub>7</sub> (75% RDF + 10 t Vermicompost ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg Azotobacter ha<sup>-1</sup>) (91.81, 94.94 and 93.37 g) and T<sub>12</sub> (75% RDF + 7.5 t Poultry Manure ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg PSB ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg Azotobacter ha<sup>-1</sup>) (90.12, 93.25 and 91.69 g) at first year, second year and pooled, respectively and which were at par with each other. While, it was recorded lowest 63.92, 65.72 and 64.82 g in treatment T<sub>1</sub> (75% RDF + 20 t FYM ha<sup>-1</sup>) at first year, second year and pooled, respectively. These results are in close conformity with those of Ibrahim *et al.* (2012), Ali *et al.* (2013), Kawthar *et al.* (2014), Hossain *et al.* (2014), Solangi *et al.* (2015), Shaheen *et al.* (2016), Wahocho *et al.* (2016) and Shormin and Kibria (2018). The significantly maximum 20.50, 21.23 and 20.87 g dry weight of leaves plant<sup>-1</sup> were recorded under the treatment T<sub>8</sub> (75% RDF + 10 t Vermicompost ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg PSB ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg Azotobacter ha<sup>-1</sup>) followed by T<sub>7</sub> (75% RDF + 10 t Vermicompost ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg Azotobacter ha<sup>-1</sup>) (20.10, 20.83 and 20.47 g) at first year, second year and pooled, respectively and which were at par with each other, treatment T<sub>12</sub> and T<sub>11</sub> was also at par in first year and second year. While, it was recorded lowest 11.80, 12.40 and 12.10 g in treatment T<sub>1</sub> (75% RDF + 20 t FYM ha<sup>-1</sup>) at first year, second year and pooled, respectively [Table-2]. The better efficiency of integrated nutrient management might be due to the availability of nutrients at an optimum level and microbial activity in the soil. Plants get nutrients throughout the growing period which led to higher fresh and dry weight of leaves plant<sup>-1</sup>. These results are in close conformity with those of Ibrahim *et al.* (2012), Ali *et al.* (2013), Kawthar *et al.* (2014), Hossain *et al.* (2014), Shaheen *et al.* (2016), Wahocho *et al.* (2016) and Shormin and Kibria (2018). Significantly maximum 252.27, 254.87 and 253.57 q ha<sup>-1</sup> leaves yield was noted under the treatment T<sub>8</sub> (75% RDF + 10 t Vermicompost ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg PSB ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg Azotobacter ha<sup>-1</sup>) followed by T<sub>7</sub> (75% RDF + 10 t Vermicompost ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg Azotobacter ha<sup>-1</sup>) (247.64, 250.61 and 249.13 q ha<sup>-1</sup>) and T<sub>12</sub> (75% RDF + 7.5 t Poultry Manure ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg PSB ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg Azotobacter ha<sup>-1</sup>) (241.37, 242.48 and 241.93 q ha<sup>-1</sup>) at first year, second year and pooled, respectively and which were at par with each other. While, it was recorded lowest 172.39, 173.04 and 172.71 q ha<sup>-1</sup> in treatment T<sub>1</sub> (75% RDF + 20 t FYM ha<sup>-1</sup>) [Table-2]. The increment of yield could be ascribed to additive effect of both sources of nutrient (organic and inorganic) associated with microbial population through inoculation of Azotobacter and PSB (biofertilizers) helping in mobilizing P and N fixation in to soil solution in soluble form, there by higher release of both nutrient forms, this in turn reflected in promoted growth and proliferation of root, increased the rate of absorption, increased photosynthesis productivity and better source-sink relationship. Results of the present investigation was also in confirmatory with the findings of Jha and Jana (2009), Ibrahim *et al.* (2012), Ali *et al.* (2013), Kawthar *et al.* (2014), Solangi *et al.* (2015), Shaheen *et al.* (2016) and Wahocho *et al.* (2016). Higher money value and less cost of cultivation are desirable traits for getting higher returns. Hence economics of the treatments was work out. Results revealed from the [Table-2] that the significantly maximum leaf yield of 253.57 q ha<sup>-1</sup> was obtained in spinach variety Pusa Jyoti in the treatment T<sub>8</sub> (75% RDF + 10 t Vermicompost ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg PSB ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg Azotobacter ha<sup>-1</sup>) it was gave net return of Rs 1,50,232 ha<sup>-1</sup> and cost benefit ratio 1: 2.45 but the treatment T<sub>12</sub> (75% RDF + 7.5 t Poultry Manure ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg PSB ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg Azotobacter ha<sup>-1</sup>) gave the leaf yield 241.93 q ha<sup>-1</sup> (Rank

third and at par with T<sub>8</sub>) exhibited maximum net return of Rs 1,79,592 ha<sup>-1</sup> and cost benefit ratio 1: 3.88 in pooled. However, the lowest leaf yield of 172.71 q ha<sup>-1</sup>, net return of Rs 1,16,472 ha<sup>-1</sup> and cost benefit ratio 1: 3.07 was noted in T<sub>1</sub> (75% RDF + 20 t FYM ha<sup>-1</sup>) but lowest net return of Rs 1,01,647 ha<sup>-1</sup> and cost benefit ratio 1: 2.00 was obtained in treatment T<sub>14</sub> (50% RDF + 10 t Vermicompost ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg Azotobacter ha<sup>-1</sup> + 5 kg PSB ha<sup>-1</sup>). Due to high price of vermicompost, the net returns and cost: benefit ratio of the treatments with vermicompost were relatively low in spite of high green yield and gross return when compared with that of Poultry Manure. Similar results have also been reported by Choudhary *et al.* (2008), Jha and Jana (2009), Giridhar Kalidasu (2009), Singh *et al.* (2010) and Mehta and Patel (2011).

**Application of Research:** Study of nutrient management in spinach and also give brief information about of integrated nutrient management in spinach.

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**Study area / Sample Collection:** Research Farm, ICAR- Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Datia

**Cultivar / Variety name:** Spinach (*Beta vulgaris* L.) - Pusa Jyoti

**Conflict of Interest:** None declared

**Ethical approval:** This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.

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