

**PERFORMANCE OF OKRA (*Abelmoschus esculentus* (L) Moench) UNDER
VARIOUS APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES AND FERTILIZERS IN OXIC
PALEUSTALF**

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to determine the performance of okra, (*Abelmoschus esculentus* (L) Moench) under various application of pesticides and fertilizer in Oxic Paleustalf.

A field experiment was carried out to examine the effect of the combination of varying levels of neem (100%, 75% and 50% concentration), cypermethrin (350mls and 250mls), poultry manure (6000kg and 8000kg) and NPK fertilizer (112kg and 83kg) on the growth, yield and yield component of okra. The experimental design was a randomized complete block design with three replicates.

The results show that the application of the various pesticides and fertilizer have significant effect $P < 0.05$ on the performance of okra (*Abelmoschus esculentus*). The combined application of 100% neem, 350 mls/ha cypermethrin, 8000 kg/ha poultry manure and 112 kg/ha NPK fertilizer reduced pest population compared to the control plot.

The combination of 50% neem, 350 mls/ha cypermethrin, 6000 kg/ha poultry manure and 112 kg/ha NPK fertilizer produced the best yield in the numbers and weight of okra fruits.

It is concluded that the Combined application of pesticides and fertilizer resulted in the control of pest population and significantly $P < 0.05$ increased the soil fertility and yield of okra planted on Oxic Paleustalf.

Keyword: Pesticides, fertilizer, yield and yield components, and okra.

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37 **INTRODUCTION**

38 Okra (*Abelmoschus esculentus* (L) Moench) is one of the home garden vegetables
39 popularly grown and consumed in the tropical countries (Greensill, 1976, Fayemi, 1999).
40 It has a great demand because it forms an essential part of human diet. It is grown mainly
41 for its young tender fruits. However, its immature leaves are sometimes utilized for soup
42 making to thicken and add flavour to the soup (Fayemi, 1999).

43 Nevertheless, despite the great demand for okra due to its uses and importance, its
44 production is being hampered by some major pests and diseases such as Fleabeetles
45 (*Podarica species*); cotton stainer (*Dysdercus superstitus*); white fly (*Bermisia tabaci*);
46 and green stink bug (*Nezera viridula*) among others (Libby, 1968, Benson, 2004).
47 Observation at the National Horticultural Research Institute Farm revealed that the flea
48 beetles are the most common and injurious insect pest of okra (Ogunlana *et al.*, 1982).

49 However, in order to combat the problems of pests and diseases which hinder the
50 quality and optimum yield of okra, farmers have resorted to the use of pesticides as means
51 of controlling the pests and their damaging effects. This in turn increases the yield of the
52 crop and hence enhances the overall productivity. Various pesticides of both organic and
53 synthetic origin have been widely adopted by the farmers in times past. Nonetheless, the
54 synthetic pesticides are known to have caused more damage to the environment due to
55 their undecomposed residuals which may be persistent and lead to adverse effect on non-
56 target organisms and serious pollution of the ecosystem. They could also cause
57 atmospheric pollution and health hazards to farmers. (Giller *et al.*, 1989).

58 Therefore, there arises the need to research into organic pesticides like Neem
59 extracts, scent leaf extracts which are more environmental friendly, since they are
60 biodegradable and less toxic to human. They are also readily available and cheap unlike
61 the synthetic pesticides. Although researchers in times past have done few works on
62 discovery of botanicals but little is known about the most effective botanicals and their
63 recommended rates. Also, there is little or dearth information about possible integration
64 of both the synthetic and organic pesticides in order to curb the damaging effects of pests
65 and diseases. Hence the research work is aimed at proffering solutions to the problems
66 stated.

67 Besides the pests challenges of okra, poor soil nutrients status constitute another
68 set back for commercial optimum production of okra and other vegetables in Nigeria,
69 (Kroll, 1997). The intensive cultivation of available land with little or no fertility

70 management has been one of the major factors contributing to the decline in soil nutrients
71 vis-à-vis the conservation balances.

72 This eventually poses great difficulty to increased productivity to meet the food
73 requirements of a rapidly growing population thereby leading to food insecurity (Senjobi,
74 2007).

75 In view of the above, mineral fertilizers and organic fertilizers (Ammonium
76 sulphate, Urea, NPK 15:15:15, poultry manure, compost) have been widely used by
77 farmers to supplement the soil nutrient deficiencies in order to increase the yield of grown
78 vegetables. More so, with the increasing demand for food crops by the geometrically
79 growing population in Nigeria, there exists need for adequate fertilization or manuring of
80 the land for optimum growth and yield of planted crops.

81 Meanwhile, despite the fast nutrient releasing potential of mineral fertilizers
82 which meet the immediate needs of crops, yet they are scarce and expensive coupled with
83 their high pollution effects on the soil and its environments. Globally now, efforts have
84 been made by researchers in finding possible shift from mineral fertilizers to organic
85 fertilizers which are cheaper, more readily available to farmers and which could maintain
86 soil physical and chemical properties without pollution effect.

87 Though several works have been done and a lot more in progress to discover the
88 appropriate fertilizer for okra production very little is known about the integration of
89 organic and mineral fertilizers in okra.

90 Hence this study aims at determining the most effective recommended rates of
91 pesticides and appropriate fertilizers that will alleviate the incidence of okra pests, and to
92 increase soil fertility and yield of okra.

93 The major objectives of this study are:

- 94 1. To determine the effect of pesticides and fertilizers on the performance and
95 growth of okra.
- 96 2. To determine the appropriate pesticides and fertilizers for the optimal performance
97 of okra and improved soil nutrients' status and
- 98 3. To come up with the critical level of pesticides and fertilizers required for
99 remarkable production of okra.

100

101

102 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

103

104 **Description of the Study Area**

105 The study area is located within the College of Agricultural Sciences of the
106 Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ayetoro, Yewa North, Ogun State in Nigeria. Ayetoro is
107 located on 35km Northwest of Abeokuta or. Latitude $7^{\circ}12'N$ and Longitude $3^{\circ}0'E$. The
108 study area is located in a subtropical region with an average annual rainfall of 1250mm
109 and a mean temperature of $26^{\circ}C$. The onset and end of rains in this area have been mainly
110 governed by the position of Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ). The Relative
111 Humidity of Ayetoro is generally high.

112 The study area lies within the derived guinea savannah zone of Southwestern
113 Nigeria. There were some evidences that this area was formally humid tropical forest with
114 tall trees and green leaves throughout the year (Ayinde, 1983). However, man's daily
115 interference has translated all the trees to an area colonized with grasses and savannah
116 trees and shrubs.

117 The soil consists of a deeply weathered layer of sedimentary rocks consisting of
118 false bedded sand stones which underlined the area. It lies within the ferralitic zone.
119 Ferralitic soils are old deep highly weathered red soil (oxisols) of humid tropics, strongly
120 leached, highly deficient in weatherable mineral resources. The clay contents are of the
121 kaolinitic type with low water and nutrient holding capacity. The land was originally
122 fallowed for a long time before its cultivated for this experimental research work.

123

124 **Methodology of Investigation**

125 The land area was cleared, ploughed and harrowed with a tractor. Composite
126 surface soil samples were randomly collected for determination of physical and chemical
127 properties before planting. The land area of about 23.5m x 23m was mapped out for the
128 experiment. Seeds of Jokoso variety of okra was obtained and sown at a plant spacing of
129 60cm between rows and 30cm between individual plants with 3 stands per stand row and
130 3 rows per plot. The seeds were tested for viability before sowing.

131 The experimental design was a Randomized Complete Block Design (RCBD)
132 with three (3) replicates. Each plot had a dimension of 1.2cm x 60cm, separated by 2m
133 from each other. The synthetic insecticide was cypermethrin and plant extract was Neem
134 plant extracts; the mineral fertilizer was NPK and poultry manure as the organic fertilizer.
135 The factorial combination of the treatments is $3 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2$ and one control. Treatment
136 commenced at about 4 weeks after germination. The spraying exercise was carried out at
137 two weeks interval up to the flowering stage. The mineral fertilizer was applied at four

138 weeks after planting while poultry manure was applied two weeks before sowing.
139 Insecticides were applied with the aid of calibrated hand sprayer.

140 The procedure for Neem leaf (*Azadirachta indica*) extraction was adopted from
141 method of Omoloye *et al* (2002), the various weights of the leaves were soaked in 1 litre
142 of water for 48 hours. Later, the extracts was filtered and applied immediately with hand
143 sprayer.

144 The following data were collected through the period of the experiment which was
145 a period of 60 – 80 days. Morphological properties such as: plant height, leaf area per
146 plant, number of leaves per plant, number of damaged leaves per plant, pest population at
147 time of visit per plant, number of fruits per plot, weight of fruit per plot were collected on
148 weekly basis.

149 Soil samples were also collected after the final harvesting for chemical and
150 physical analyses according to AVAC (1990). The data collected were subjected to
151 analysis of variance (ANOVA) and means were separated by Duncan multiple range test
152 $P < 0.05$.

153

154 **RESULTS**

155 The result on Table 1 shows that the pH range of the soil is 5.3 – 5.9. The C.E.C
156 of the soil also ranges between 2.26 – 2.96. The percentage of sand has a higher value
157 compared to the percentage clay and silt component of the soil.

158 The result on Table 2 shows that the pH of the soil is slightly acidic ranging from
159 5.3 – 5.75. There was a slight variation in the pH level after the experiment.

160 Comparing this with pH range of 5.4 – 5.9 in Table 1, there is a slight decrease in
161 pH. There was also a significant increase in the nitrogen content of the soil after the
162 experiment. An appreciable increase in the level of exchangeable cations was equally
163 observed except in the concentration of sodium ion which reduced. The result also
164 showed that there is an increase in the cation exchange capacity of the soil, organic matter
165 content of the soil and organic carbon content of the soil. The percentage clay and silt
166 increased while the percentage sand content decreased at the end of the experiment.

167 The result on Table 3 shows that the combination of varying levels of Neem,
168 Cypermethrin, Poultry manure and NPK Fertilizer has significant effect $P < 0.05$ on the
169 plant height of okra. The combination of 50% neem concentration, 0.025 mls
170 cypermethrin, 400g poultry manure and 9 g N P K Fertilizer ($N_3C_2P_1Z_2$) has the tallest

171 plant height while the combination of 75% neem concentration, 0.018 mls cypermethrin,
172 400g poultry manure and 6g N P K Fertilizer ($N_2C_1P_1Z_1$) has the shortest plant height.

173 The result on Table 4 shows that there is a significant difference between the leaf
174 area and the treatments ($P < 0.05$). There is no significant difference within the
175 treatments. The combination of 100% neem concentration, 0.025 mls cypermethrin, 400g
176 poultry manure and 9 g N P K Fertilizer ($N_1C_2P_1Z_2$) has the smallest leaf area while the
177 combination of 100% neem concentration, 0.025 mls cypermethrin, 900 g poultry manure
178 and 9 g N P K Fertilizer ($N_1C_2P_2Z_2$) has the largest leaf area.

179 The result on Table 5 shows that there is a significant difference between the
180 number of leaves and the treatments ($P < 0.05$). There is no significant difference within
181 the treatments. The combination of 100% neem concentration, 0.025 mls cypermethrin,
182 400g poultry manure and 6 g N P K Fertilizer ($N_1C_2P_1Z_1$) gave the highest number of
183 leaves while the combination of 75% neem concentration, 0.018 mls cypermethrin, 600g
184 poultry manure and 9 g N P K Fertilizer ($N_3C_1P_2Z_2$) gave the lowest number of leaves.

185 The result on Table 6 shows that there is a significant difference between the
186 number of leaves and the treatments ($P < 0.05$). There is no significant difference within
187 the treatments. The combination of 100% neem concentration, 0.025 mls cypermethrin,
188 400g poultry manure and 6 g N P K Fertilizer ($N_1C_2P_1Z_1$) has the highest number of
189 damaged leaves while the combination of 100% neem concentration, 0.018 mls
190 cypermethrin, 600g poultry manure and 9 g N P K Fertilizer ($N_1C_1P_2Z_2$) has the lowest
191 number of damaged leaves.

192 The result on Table 7 shows that there is a significant difference between the
193 number of leaves and the treatments ($P < 0.05$). There is no significant difference within
194 the treatments. The control ($N_0C_0P_0Z_0$) has the highest pest population while the
195 combination of 75% neem concentration, 0.018 mls cypermethrin, 400g poultry manure
196 and 6 g N P K Fertilizer ($N_2C_1P_1Z_1$) and The combination of 100% neem concentration,
197 0.025 mls cypermethrin, 600g poultry manure and 6 g N P K Fertilizer ($N_1C_2P_2Z_1$) has
198 the lowest pest population.

199 The result on Table 8 shows that there is a significant difference between the
200 number of leaves and the treatments $P < 0.05$. There is no significant difference within
201 the treatments. The combination of 75% neem concentration, 0.025 mls cypermethrin,
202 400g poultry manure and 9 g N P K Fertilizer ($N_2C_2P_1Z_2$) has the highest number of

203 fruits while the combination of 50% neem concentration, 0.018 mls cypermethrin, 600g
204 poultry manure and 9 g N P K Fertilizer ($N_3C_1P_2Z_2$) has the lowest number of fruits.

205 The result on Table 9 shows that there is a significant difference between the
206 weight of fruits and the treatments $P < 0.05$. There is no significant difference within the
207 treatments. The combination of 75% neem concentration, 0.025 mls cypermethrin, 400g
208 poultry manure and 9 g N P K Fertilizer ($N_2C_2P_1Z_2$) has the highest weight of fruits
209 while The combination of 50% neem concentration, 0.018 mls cypermethrin, 600g
210 poultry manure and 9 g N P K Fertilizer ($N_3C_1P_2Z_2$) has the smallest weight of fruits.

211

212 **DISCUSSION**

213 The application of various pesticides and fertilizers produced significant effect on
214 the performance of okra when compared with the control treatment. All the parameters
215 taken were positively influenced by the application of the pesticides and fertilizers. The
216 plant height of okra increased in plants treated with the combination of 50% neem
217 concentration, 350 mls/ha of cypermethrin, 6000 kg/ha of poultry manure and 112 kg/ha
218 of NPK fertilizers were the tallest plants in the combined application. In the sole
219 application of poultry manure, NPK fertilizer, neem and cypermethrin, poultry manure
220 applied at the rate of 8000 ka/ha gave the shortest plant while the application of neem at
221 50 %concentration gave the tallest plant. This may be due to the presence of possible
222 growth hormones in the appropriate amount in neem (Ogunlana, 1995). This difference in
223 heights of plants being treated with the combination of neem, cypermethrin, poultry
224 manure and NPK fertilizer may also be attributed to the availability of the plants'
225 nutrients in absorbable forms and at the required time as supplied by the poultry manure
226 and NPK fertilizers (Singh *et al* 2004).

227 Other growth parameters like the leaf area and number of leaves appreciably
228 increased in most of the combined application of Neem, Cypermethrin, Poultry manure,
229 NPK fertilizer than the control. This can also be due to the efficacy of the combination of
230 the growth increasing characteristics of these pesticides and fertilizers. There was neither
231 phytotoxicity nor loss of coloration in leaves of okra as against the observation of
232 Cobbinah and Osa-Owusu (1988) when okra was sprayed with 10% and 20% methanolic
233 extract of neem.

234 Though there was an a increase in the number of damaged leaves per time, the
235 plants sprayed with 100 % neem, 250 mls/ha of cypermethrin, 8000 kg/ha of poultry

236 manure and 112 kg/ha of NPK fertilizers have the least numbers of damaged leaves.
237 There was significant difference between the control and the treated plots in the number
238 of leaves damaged. This could be attributed to efficacy of the combined treatment due to
239 the complementary action of the pesticides applied.

240 The pest population was highest in the control plot. Application of cypermethrin at
241 350 mls/ha has the lowest pest population. This is due to the immediate killing of thick
242 pests as it comes in contact with the okra leaves and its persistence. Application of 100 %
243 neem, 350 mls/ha cypermethrin, 8000 kg/ha poultry manure and 112 kg /ha of NPK
244 fertilizer also reduced pest population. Since this is more environmental friendly it can be
245 used to control pest population of okra.

246 The yield of okra both in the number of fruits and weights increased in an
247 appreciable pattern. 50% neem, 350 mls/ha cypermethrin, 6000 kg/ha poultry manure and
248 112 kg/ha of NPK fertilizer produced the highest fruits numbers and weights. This can be
249 due to the optimum availability of the nutrients to the crops.

250 Adequate nutrients availability had been indicated to improve crop growth and
251 yield parameter. For instance, it has been reported that, when N supply is not limiting, dry
252 matter production, assimilate partitioning as well as organic compounds production
253 (Protein) would not be disturbed. However, a shortage in any of the nutrient requirements
254 cause pronounced effect in the physiological processes in the crops (Akanbi *et al* 2000).
255 This explains the general higher performance of the crops resulting from the application
256 of both poultry manure and NPK fertilizer.

257 There was an increase in the soil fertility at the end of the experiment. The soil
258 acidity was reduced tending towards neutrality. There was also an increase in the level of
259 available P in the soil. P is very essential in cellular processes being a component of RNA
260 and DNA. It also aids cell division and fast growth and can be found mainly in large
261 quantities in young plants. This gives the reason for higher values in morphological
262 properties like leaf area, leaf number of okra plants treated with both poultry manure and
263 NPK fertilizer.

264 The significant increase in cation exchange capacity (CEC) of the soil,
265 exchangeable cations and increase in % clay and % silt after the experiment indicates that
266 apart from supplying nutrients to the soil and plants, the soil amendments also improved
267 the soil texture and stability (Akanbi, 2006).

268 In summary, viewing the yield and growth parameters, the crop treated with the
269 combination of 50 % concentration Neem, 350 mls/ha cypermethrin, 6000 kg/ha poultry
270 manure and 112 kg/ha NPK fertilizer may produce the optimum yield of okra.

271 **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

272 Cultivation of okra has been hampered in recent times by pest and soil
273 infertility. The use of synthetic pesticides has been discouraged by environmental
274 scientists, hence farmers have resulted to low production of this crop. Combination of the
275 organic pesticides and synthetic pesticide will help reduce the toxicity of the synthetic
276 pesticide while still taking advantage of their fast action. Also, the integrated form of soil
277 amendment will improve the soil structure and texture as conditioned by the organic
278 amendment and supply nutrients rapidly to crops as observed in inorganic fertilizers.

279 I will recommend that more research work be carried out on the extracts of plants
280 to be used as possible alternative to the synthetic pesticide. The critical level for neem and
281 the other plant extracts for optimum yield of okra should be studied. The overall effect of
282 this on the soil should also be critically studied.

283

284

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UNDER PEER REVIEW

387 **Table 1: Pre- Physical and Chemical Analysis of The Soil**

388 <-----Cmol/kg----->

389	Sample	pH	Na	k	Ca	Mg	H ⁺	CEC	Av.P	Zn	%	%	%	%	%	%
390	Description	(H ₂ O)	Cmol/kg	Cmol/kg	Cmol/kg	Cmol/kg			Mg/kg	Mg/kg	O.C	O.M	N	Sand	Clay	Silt
391	0-15cm A	0.56	0.24	0.96	0.88	0.11	2.75	5.80	6.90	4.90	0.79	1.36	0.079	81.00	10.90	09.10
392	15-30 cm A	0.48	0.19	1.08	0.90	0.13	2.78	5.40	4.60	6.00	0.63	1.08	0.063	70.00	21.00	09.00
393	0-15 cm B	0.63	0.26	0.92	0.82	0.10	2.73	5.90	7.20	6.10	0.91	1.57	0.091	78.40	10.00	11.60
394	15-30 cm B	0.43	0.16	0.90	0.80	0.14	2.43	5.50	5.00	7.40	0.68	1.17	0.068	69.60	22.10	08.30
395	0-15 cm C	0.60	0.25	1.10	0.90	0.13	2.93	5.60	8.10	6.10	0.89	1.53	0.089	73.00	14.00	13.00
396	15-30 cm C	0.43	0.16	0.83	0.73	0.15	2.30	5.30	5.30	8.20	0.70	1.20	0.070	70.00	18.00	12.00
397	0-15 cm D	0.56	0.22	0.89	0.80	0.14	2.61	5.50	6.80	5.90	0.76	1.31	0.076	80.00	09.00	11.00
398	15-30 cm D	0.49	0.18	0.76	0.70	0.13	2.26	5.40	5.20	8.10	0.63	1.08	0.063	70.10	20.00	09.00
399	0-15 cm E	0.59	0.28	0.99	0.89	0.13	2.46	5.60	7.20	6.10	0.81	1.39	0.081	78.10	10.00	11.90
400	15-30 cm E	0.46	0.20	0.89	0.78	0.13	2.46	5.40	6.00	5.20	0.78	1.34	0.078	70.00	21.00	09.00
401	0-15 cm F	0.63	0.22	1.08	0.91	0.12	2.96	5.70	6.90	5.80	0.76	1.31	0.076	76.00	11.90	12.10
402	15-30 cm F	0.58	0.15	0.89	0.76	0.13	2.51	5.40	4.80	7.00	0.77	1.20	0.070	66.10	25.00	8.90

403

404

405 **Table 2: Post- Physical And Chemical Analysis Of The Soil**

406

407

<-----Cmol/kg----->

408

Sample pH Na k Ca Mg H⁺ CEC Av.P Zn % % % % % %

409

Description (H₂O) Cmol/kg Cmol/kg Cmol/kg Cmol/kg Mg/kg Mg/kg O.C O.M N Sand Clay Silt

410

00-15cm A 5.70 0.38 0.50 1.12 0.68 0.085 2.765 6.90 5.90 1.16 2.00 0.116 71.00 09.00 20.00

411

15-30cm A 5.50 0.43 0.56 1.17 1.02 0.095 3.275 7.10 6.90 0.93 1.60 0.093 72.00 07.00 21.00

412

00-15cm B 5.60 0.41 0.53 1.20 1.10 0.090 3.330 6.40 6.70 1.10 1.90 0.110 69.00 10.00 21.00

413

15-30cm B 5.70 0.45 0.57 1.37 1.14 0.100 3.630 7.50 8.70 0.80 1.38 0.080 73.00 07.00 20.00

414

00-15cm C 5.60 0.39 0.49 1.40 1.03 0.080 3.390 6.50 5.90 1.14 1.97 0.114 64.00 08.00 24.00

415

15-30cm C 5.40 0.35 0.53 1.44 1.13 0.098 3.548 7.80 6.90 0.69 1.19 0.069 68.00 10.00 26.00

416

0-15cm D 5.30 0.40 0.44 1.10 1.12 0.085 3.145 6.90 7.80 1.12 1.93 0.112 70.00 18.20 11.80

417

15-30cm D 5.60 0.43 0.58 1.14 1.27 0.105 3.525 8.20 8.90 0.60 1.03 0.060 75.00 13.50 11.50

418

0-15cm E 5.40 0.39 0.43 1.07 1.06 0.090 3.040 8.50 7.10 1.17 2.02 0.117 70.20 19.00 10.80

419

15-30cm E 5.60 0.34 0.53 1.28 1.17 0.095 3.415 9.50 10.2 0.66 1.14 0.066 76.10 15.00 08.90

420

0-15cm F 5.75 0.47 0.46 1.08 1.00 0.083 3.093 6.90 8.90 1.12 1.93 0.112 68.00 10.00 22.00

421

15-30cm F 5.50 0.51 0.49 1.19 1.14 0.100 3.430 7.10 7.60 0.63 1.09 0.063 72.00 07.00 21.00

422

423 **Table 3:** The influence of the application of the combination of varying levels of Neem,
 424 Cypermethrin, Poultry manure and NPK Fertilizer on the plant height of okra.

425	Treatment	Plant height
426		
427		
428	N ₁ C ₁ P ₁ Z ₁	48.24 ^a
429	N ₂ C ₁ P ₁ Z ₁	27.46 ^{hij}
430	N ₃ C ₁ P ₁ Z ₁	38.67 ^{bcdef}
431	N ₁ C ₂ P ₁ Z ₁	40.85 ^{abcde}
432	N ₂ C ₂ P ₁ Z ₁	36.23 ^{cdefgh}
433	N ₃ C ₂ P ₁ Z ₁	34.78 ^{cdefghi}
434	N ₁ C ₁ P ₂ Z ₁	33.89 ^{cdefghij}
435	N ₂ C ₁ P ₂ Z ₁	30.59 ^{fghij}
436	N ₃ C ₁ P ₂ Z ₁	28.93 ^{ghij}
437	N ₁ C ₁ P ₁ Z ₂	35.23 ^{cdefghi}
438	N ₂ C ₁ P ₁ Z ₂	37.25 ^{bcdefg}
439	N ₃ C ₁ P ₁ Z ₂	32.50 ^{efghij}
440	N ₁ C ₂ P ₂ Z ₁	33.06 ^{defghij}
441	N ₂ C ₂ P ₂ Z ₁	35.31 ^{cdefghi}
442	N ₃ C ₂ P ₂ Z ₁	44.84 ^{ab}
443	N ₁ C ₂ P ₂ Z ₂	41.81 ^{abcd}
444	N ₂ C ₂ P ₂ Z ₂	33.42 ^{defghij}
445	N ₃ C ₂ P ₂ Z ₂	34.97 ^{cdefghi}
446	N ₁ C ₁ P ₂ Z ₂	31.10 ^{fghij}
447	N ₂ C ₁ P ₂ Z ₂	45.30 ^{ab}
448	N ₃ C ₁ P ₂ Z ₂	31.88 ^{efghij}
449	N ₁ C ₂ P ₁ Z ₂	35.26 ^j
450	N ₂ C ₂ P ₁ Z ₂	45.81 ^{ab}
451	N ₃ C ₂ P ₁ Z ₂	48.81 ^a
452	N ₀ C ₀ P ₀ Z ₀	36.07 ^{cdefgh}

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458 **Table 4:** The influence of the application of the combination of varying levels of Neem,
 459 Cypermethrin, Poultry manure and NPK Fertilizer on the leaf area of okra

461	Treatment	Leaf area
462		
463	N ₁ C ₁ P ₁ Z ₁	350.28 ^{abcd}
464	N ₂ C ₁ P ₁ Z ₁	199.56 ⁱ
465	N ₃ C ₁ P ₁ Z ₁	367.66 ^{abcd}
466	N ₁ C ₂ P ₁ Z ₁	384.52 ^{ab}
467	N ₂ C ₂ P ₁ Z ₁	311.79 ^{abcdefg}
468	N ₃ C ₂ P ₁ Z ₁	346.62 ^{abcde}
469	N ₁ C ₁ P ₂ Z ₁	243.82 ^{defghi}
470	N ₂ C ₁ P ₂ Z ₁	233.61 ^{efghi}
471	N ₃ C ₁ P ₂ Z ₁	211.41 ^{fghi}
472	N ₁ C ₁ P ₁ Z ₂	323.47 ^{abcdef}
473	N ₂ C ₁ P ₁ Z ₂	366.29 ^{abc}
474	N ₃ C ₁ P ₁ Z ₂	297.93 ^{abcdefgh}
475	N ₁ C ₂ P ₂ Z ₁	303.96 ^{abcdefg}
476	N ₂ C ₂ P ₂ Z ₁	309.44 ^{abcdefg}
477	N ₃ C ₂ P ₂ Z ₁	337.32 ^{abcde}
478	N ₁ C ₂ P ₂ Z ₂	405.32 ^a
479	N ₂ C ₂ P ₂ Z ₂	280.20 ^{bcdefgh}
480	N ₃ C ₂ P ₂ Z ₂	301.33 ^{abcdefgh}
481	N ₁ C ₁ P ₂ Z ₂	243.79 ^{defghi}
482	N ₂ C ₁ P ₂ Z ₂	403.55 ^a
483	N ₃ C ₁ P ₂ Z ₂	278.92 ^{bcdefghi}
484	N ₁ C ₂ P ₁ Z ₂	190.80 ^{hi}
485	N ₂ C ₂ P ₁ Z ₂	347.22 ^{abcde}
486	N ₃ C ₂ P ₁ Z ₂	384.42 ^{ab}
487	N ₀ C ₀ P ₀ Z ₀	309.75 ^{abcdef}

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492 **Table 5:** The influence of the application of the combination of varying levels of Neem,
493 Cypermethrin, Poultry manure and NPK Fertilizer on the number of leaves of okra.

494

495 **Treatment** **Number of leaves**

496

497 N₁C₁P₁Z₁ 10.33^{abcdefg}

498 N₂C₁P₁Z₁ 8.17^{ghijk}

499 N₃C₁P₁Z₁ 10.42^{abcdef}

500 N₁C₂P₁Z₁ 12.33^a

501 N₂C₂P₁Z₁ 9.33^{cdefghij}

502 N₃C₂P₁Z₁ 9.33^{cdefghij}

503 N₁C₁P₂Z₁ 8.42^{fghijk}

504 N₂C₁P₂Z₁ 7.92^{hijk}

505 N₃C₁P₂Z₁ 10.42^{abcdef}

506 N₁C₁P₁Z₂ 10.83^{abcde}

507 N₂C₁P₁Z₂ 10.08^{bcdefgh}

508 N₃C₁P₁Z₂ 8.92^{efghijk}

509 N₁C₂P₂Z₁ 9.50^{cdefghij}

510 N₂C₂P₂Z₁ 9.40^{cdefghij}

511 N₃C₂P₂Z₁ 11.42^{abc}

512 N₁C₂P₂Z₂ 9.00^{efghijk}

513 N₂C₂P₂Z₂ 8.42^{fghijk}

514 N₃C₂P₂Z₂ 7.92^{hijk}

515 N₁C₁P₂Z₂ 11.33^{abcd}

516 N₂C₁P₂Z₂ 7.75^{ijk}

517 N₃C₁P₂Z₂ 7.08^k

518 N₁C₂P₁Z₂ 10.75^{abcde}

519 N₂C₂P₁Z₂ 11.67^{ab}

520 N₃C₂P₁Z₂ 9.92^{bcdefghi}

521 N₀C₀P₀Z₀ 9.08^{abcdef}

522

523

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527

528 **Table 6:** The influence of the application of the combination of varying levels of Neem,
 529 Cypermethrin, Poultry manure and NPK Fertilizer on the number of damaged leaves of
 530 okra.

531

532	Treatment	Number of damaged leaves
533		
534	N ₁ C ₁ P ₁ Z ₁	9.17 ^{abcdef}
535	N ₂ C ₁ P ₁ Z ₁	7.25 ^{bcdefghi}
536	N ₃ C ₁ P ₁ Z ₁	8.25 ^{bcdefghi}
537	N ₁ C ₂ P ₁ Z ₁	10.25 ^a
538	N ₂ C ₂ P ₁ Z ₁	7.42 ^{bcdefghi}
539	N ₃ C ₂ P ₁ Z ₁	7.17 ^{cdefghi}
540	N ₁ C ₁ P ₂ Z ₁	7.33 ^{bcdefghi}
541	N ₂ C ₁ P ₂ Z ₁	7.00 ^{defghi}
542	N ₃ C ₁ P ₂ Z ₁	6.92 ^{efghi}
543	N ₁ C ₁ P ₁ Z ₂	9.75 ^{ab}
544	N ₂ C ₁ P ₁ Z ₂	9.17 ^{abcdef}
545	N ₃ C ₁ P ₁ Z ₂	8.83 ^{abcdefg}
546	N ₁ C ₂ P ₂ Z ₁	6.67 ^{fghi}
547	N ₂ C ₂ P ₂ Z ₁	7.25 ^{bcdefghi}
548	N ₃ C ₂ P ₂ Z ₁	8.17 ^{bcdefghi}
549	N ₁ C ₂ P ₂ Z ₂	9.50 ^{abcd}
550	N ₂ C ₂ P ₂ Z ₂	6.75 ^{fghi}
551	N ₃ C ₂ P ₂ Z ₂	7.00 ^{defghi}
552	N ₁ C ₁ P ₂ Z ₂	5.83 ⁱ
553	N ₂ C ₁ P ₂ Z ₂	8.83 ^{abcdefg}
554	N ₃ C ₁ P ₂ Z ₂	7.17 ^{cdefghi}
555	N ₁ C ₂ P ₁ Z ₂	6.33 ^{ghi}
556	N ₂ C ₂ P ₁ Z ₂	8.25 ^{bcdefghi}
557	N ₃ C ₂ P ₁ Z ₂	9.42 ^{abcde}
558	N ₀ C ₀ P ₀ Z ₀	9.58 ^{abc}
559		
560		
561		

562 **Table 7:** The influence of the application of the combination of varying levels of Neem,
 563 Cypermethrin, Poultry manure and NPK Fertilizer on the pest population of okra.

565	Treatment	Pest population
567	N ₁ C ₁ P ₁ Z ₁	4.58 ^{efghi}
568	N ₂ C ₁ P ₁ Z ₁	1.67 ⁱ
569	N ₃ C ₁ P ₁ Z ₁	7.00 ^{cdefg}
570	N ₁ C ₂ P ₁ Z ₁	2.17 ^{hi}
571	N ₂ C ₂ P ₁ Z ₁	3.00 ^{hi}
572	N ₃ C ₂ P ₁ Z ₁	2.67 ^{hi}
573	N ₁ C ₁ P ₂ Z ₁	3.17 ^{hi}
574	N ₂ C ₁ P ₂ Z ₁	2.50 ^{hi}
575	N ₃ C ₁ P ₂ Z ₁	3.83 ^{fghi}
576	N ₁ C ₁ P ₁ Z ₂	4.92 ^{defghi}
577	N ₂ C ₁ P ₁ Z ₂	5.00 ^{defghi}
578	N ₃ C ₁ P ₁ Z ₂	5.50 ^{defgh}
579	N ₁ C ₂ P ₂ Z ₁	1.67 ⁱ
580	N ₂ C ₂ P ₂ Z ₁	2.08 ^{hi}
581	N ₃ C ₂ P ₂ Z ₁	3.08 ^{hi}
582	N ₁ C ₂ P ₂ Z ₂	4.00 ^{efghi}
583	N ₂ C ₂ P ₂ Z ₂	2.08 ^{hi}
584	N ₃ C ₂ P ₂ Z ₂	2.50 ^{hi}
585	N ₁ C ₁ P ₂ Z ₂	2.58 ^{hi}
586	N ₂ C ₁ P ₂ Z ₂	3.25 ^{hi}
587	N ₃ C ₁ P ₂ Z ₂	5.75 ^{defgh}
588	N ₁ C ₂ P ₁ Z ₂	3.00 ^{hi}
589	N ₂ C ₂ P ₁ Z ₂	3.50 ^{ghi}
590	N ₃ C ₂ P ₁ Z ₂	2.00 ^{hi}
591	N ₀ C ₀ P ₀ Z ₀	13.67 ^a

592
 593
 594

595 **Table 8:** The influence of the application of the combination of varying levels of Neem,
596 Cypermethrin, Poultry manure and NPK Fertilizer on the number of fruits of okra.

597

598 **Treatment** **Number of fruits**

599

600	N ₁ C ₁ P ₁ Z ₁	3.08 ^{abcd}
601	N ₂ C ₁ P ₁ Z ₁	1.50 ^{bcd}
602	N ₃ C ₁ P ₁ Z ₁	2.33 ^{bcd}
603	N ₁ C ₂ P ₁ Z ₁	2.92 ^{abcd}
604	N ₂ C ₂ P ₁ Z ₁	1.83 ^{bcd}
605	N ₃ C ₂ P ₁ Z ₁	0.83 ^{cd}
606	N ₁ C ₁ P ₂ Z ₁	1.42 ^{bcd}
607	N ₂ C ₁ P ₂ Z ₁	1.33 ^{bcd}
608	N ₃ C ₁ P ₂ Z ₁	2.50 ^{bcd}
609	N ₁ C ₁ P ₁ Z ₂	1.83 ^{bcd}
610	N ₂ C ₁ P ₁ Z ₂	1.92 ^{bcd}
611	N ₃ C ₁ P ₁ Z ₂	1.42 ^{bcd}
612	N ₁ C ₂ P ₂ Z ₁	0.58 ^{cd}
613	N ₂ C ₂ P ₂ Z ₁	0.50 ^d
614	N ₃ C ₂ P ₂ Z ₁	1.17 ^{bcd}
615	N ₁ C ₂ P ₂ Z ₂	2.75 ^{bcd}
616	N ₂ C ₂ P ₂ Z ₂	1.42 ^{bcd}
617	N ₃ C ₂ P ₂ Z ₂	1.08 ^{bcd}
618	N ₁ C ₁ P ₂ Z ₂	0.83 ^{cd}
619	N ₂ C ₁ P ₂ Z ₂	3.42 ^{abc}
620	N ₃ C ₁ P ₂ Z ₂	0.42 ^d
621	N ₁ C ₂ P ₁ Z ₂	0.58 ^{cd}
622	N ₂ C ₂ P ₁ Z ₂	5.33 ^a
623	N ₃ C ₂ P ₁ Z ₂	3.75 ^{ab}
624	N ₀ C ₀ P ₀ Z ₀	1.42 ^b

625

626

627 **Table 9:** The influence of the application of the combination of varying levels of Neem,
 628 Cypermethrin, Poultry manure and NPK Fertilizer on the weight of fruits of okra.

630	Treatment	Weight of fruit
631		
632	N ₁ C ₁ P ₁ Z ₁	12.88 ^{bc}
633	N ₂ C ₁ P ₁ Z ₁	14.78 ^{bc}
634	N ₃ C ₁ P ₁ Z ₁	19.48 ^{bc}
635	N ₁ C ₂ P ₁ Z ₁	33.34 ^{bc}
636	N ₂ C ₂ P ₁ Z ₁	24.40 ^{bc}
637	N ₃ C ₂ P ₁ Z ₁	7.17 ^c
638	N ₁ C ₁ P ₂ Z ₁	15.21 ^{bc}
639	N ₂ C ₁ P ₂ Z ₁	12.27 ^{bc}
640	N ₃ C ₁ P ₂ Z ₁	13.34 ^{bc}
641	N ₁ C ₁ P ₁ Z ₂	18.91 ^{bc}
642	N ₂ C ₁ P ₁ Z ₂	18.73 ^{bc}
643	N ₃ C ₁ P ₁ Z ₂	16.48 ^{bc}
644	N ₁ C ₂ P ₂ Z ₁	4.65 ^c
645	N ₂ C ₂ P ₂ Z ₁	3.43 ^c
646	N ₃ C ₂ P ₂ Z ₁	6.78 ^c
647	N ₁ C ₂ P ₂ Z ₂	29.22 ^{bc}
648	N ₂ C ₂ P ₂ Z ₂	9.98 ^c
649	N ₃ C ₂ P ₂ Z ₂	11.61 ^c
650	N ₁ C ₁ P ₂ Z ₂	7.32 ^c
651	N ₂ C ₁ P ₂ Z ₂	32.59 ^{bc}
652	N ₃ C ₁ P ₂ Z ₂	5.93 ^c
653	N ₁ C ₂ P ₁ Z ₂	4.69 ^c
654	N ₂ C ₂ P ₁ Z ₂	68.66 ^a
655	N ₃ C ₂ P ₁ Z ₂	41.05 ^b
656	N ₀ C ₀ P ₀ Z ₀	14.03 ^{bc}
657		
658		

659
 660 **KEY**

661
 662 N₁C₁P₁Z₁ _ Combination of 100% Neem concentration, 0.018 mls Cypermethrin, 400g
 663 Poultry manure and 6 g N P K Fertilizer

664 N₂C₁P₁Z₁ _ Combination of 75% Neem concentration, 0.018 mls Cypermethrin, 400g
 665 Poultry manure and 6 g N P K Fertilizer

666 N₃C₁P₁Z₁ _ Combination of 50% Neem concentration, 0.018 mls Cypermethrin, 400g
 667 Poultry manure and 6 g N P K Fertilizer

668 N₁C₂P₁Z₁ _ Combination of 100% Neem concentration, 0.025 mls cypermethrin, 400g
669 Poultry manure and 6 g N P K Fertilizer

670 N₂C₂P₁Z₁ _ Combination of 75% Neem concentration, 0.025 mls Cypermethrin, 400g
671 Poultry manure and 6 g N P K Fertilizer

672 N₃C₂P₁Z₁ _ Combination of 50% Neem concentration, 0.025 mls Cypermethrin, 400g
673 Poultry manure and 6 g N P K Fertilizer

674 N₁C₁P₂Z₁ _ Combination of 100% Neem concentration, 0.018 mls Cypermethrin, 600g
675 Poultry manure and 6 g N P K Fertilizer

676 N₂C₁P₂Z₁ _ Combination of 75% Neem concentration, 0.018 mls Cypermethrin, 600g
677 Poultry manure and 6 g N P K Fertilizer

678 N₃C₁P₂Z₁ _ Combination of 50% Neem concentration, 0.018 mls Cypermethrin, 600g
679 Poultry manure and 6 g N P K Fertilizer

680 N₁C₁P₁Z₂ _ Combination of 100% Neem concentration, 0.018 mls Cypermethrin, 400g
681 Poultry manure and 9 g N P K Fertilizer

682 N₂C₁P₁Z₂ _ Combination of 75% Neem concentration, 0.018 mls Cypermethrin, 400g
683 Poultry
684 manure and 9 g N P K Fertilizer

685 N₃C₁P₁Z₂ _ Combination of 50% Neem concentration, 0.018 mls Cypermethrin, 400g
686 Poultry manure and 9 g N P K Fertilizer

687 N₁C₂P₂Z₁ _ Combination of 100% Neem concentration, 0.025 mls Cypermethrin, 600g
688 Poultry manure and 6 g N P K Fertilizer

689 N₂C₂P₂Z₁ _ Combination of 75% Neem concentration, 0.025 mls Cypermethrin, 600g
690 Poultry manure and 6 g N P K Fertilizer

691 N₃C₂P₂Z₁ _ Combination of 50% Neem concentration, 0.025 mls Cypermethrin, 600g
692 Poultry manure and 6 g N P K Fertilizer

693 N₁C₂P₂Z₂ _ Combination of 100% Neem concentration, 0.025 mls Cypermethrin, 600g
694 Poultry manure and 9 g N P K Fertilizer

695 N₂C₂P₂Z₂ _ combination of 75% neem concentration, 0.025 mls Cypermethrin, 600g
696 Poultry manure and 9 g N P K Fertilizer

697 N₃C₂P₂Z₂ _ combination of 75% neem concentration, 0.025 mls Cypermethrin, 600g
698 Poultry manure and 9 g N P K Fertilizer

699 N₁C₁P₂Z₂ _ Combination of 100% Neem concentration, 0.018 mls Cypermethrin, 600g
700 Poultry manure and 9 g N P K Fertilizer

701 $N_2C_1P_2Z_2$ _ Combination of 75% Neem concentration, 0.018 mls cypermethrin, 600g
702 Poultry manure and 9 g N P K Fertilizer
703 $N_3C_1P_2Z_2$ _ Combination of 50% Neem concentration, 0.018 mls Cypermethrin, 600g
704 Poultry manure and 9 g N P K Fertilizer
705 $N_1C_2P_1Z_2$ _ Combination of 100% Neem concentration, 0.025 mls Cypermethrin, 400g
706 Poultry manure and 9 g N P K Fertilizer
707 $N_2C_2P_1Z_2$ _ Combination of 75% Neem concentration, 0.025 mls Cypermethrin, 400g
708 Poultry manure and 9 g N P K Fertilizer
709 $N_3C_2P_1Z_2$ _ Combination of 50% Neem concentration, 0.025 mls cypermethrin, 400g
710 Poultry manure and 9 g N P K Fertilizer
711 $N_0C_0P_0Z_0$ _ Control
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UNDER PEER REVIEW