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RESEARCH ARTICLE

EFFECT OF SEED TREATMENT USING GIBBERLLIC ACID (GA3) AND KNO3 ON SEED GERMINATION AND GROWTH OF CUSTARD APPLE (*ANNONA SQUAMOSAL*.) CVS. BALANAGAR AND WASHINGTON

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ABSTRACT

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Key words:

Gibberellic acid (GA3), Potassium Nitrate (KNO3), Custard Apple, Balanagar, Washington. Custard apple (Annona squamosa L.) belongs to family annonaceae is a tropical and subtropical delicious fruits grown in Bahamas, Bermuda, Brazil, Egypt, Florida, Malaysia, Peru, Mexico, Philippines, India, Thailand, West Indies and America. The present investigation for studying the effect of Seed treatment using Gibberellic acid (GA₃) and KNO₃ on seed germination and growth of custard apple (Annona squamosa L.) cvs.Balanagar and Washington were conducted at Guru Kashi University, Talwandi Sabo, Punjab, India during 2021-2022. For present study fifteen different treatments of GA₃ and KNO₃ i.e. T0 to T14 was used on two different cultivars of custard apple.The result revealed that in custard apple cv. Balanagar and Washington at T14: GA₃@ 1000 ppm + KNO₃ 2 % reported minimum numbers of days taken for first emergence of nodes (8.95 days, 10.44days). Whereas the maximum number of days taken for first emergence of nodes was recorded in T0: Control (24.64, 25.80 days) respectively. The maximum germination percentage was recorded in both cvs. Balanagar and Washington at T14 (78.76, 76.67 per cent) in both Balanagar and Washington respectively. The result revealed that the maximum survival percentage was recorded in both cvs. Balanagar and Washington at T14 (86.96, 84.93 per cent). The result revealed that the maximum plant height, number of leaves at 45 and 90 DAS was recorded with T14: GA₃@ 1000 ppm + KNO₃ 2 % treatment. Therefore the use of GA₃ and KNO₃ as seed treatment should be recommended as it is showing significant positive results on growth parameters of custard apple crops.

INTRODUCTION

Custard apple (Annona squamosa L.) belongs to family annonaceae is a tropical and subtropical delicious fruits grown in Bahamas, Bermuda, Brazil, Egypt, Florida, Malaysia, Peru, Mexico, Philippines, India, Thailand, West Indies and America (El-Chaghabyet al. 2014; Kalidindiet al. 2015). In India, custard apple commonly known as Sitaphal introduced from tropical America (Sharma et al. 2020). It is cultivated in Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Bihar, Karnataka, Madhy Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orrisa, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan (Haral and Pawar 2013; Sravanthiet al. 2014). In India 387.49 MT production was estimated from 44 thousand hectare by National Horticulture Boardin current year. It is having good nutritional value, where every 100g contains 70.5 g moisture, 23.5 g carbohydrate, 1.6 g protein, 1.5 mg iron, 17 mg calcium, 47 mg phosphorus, magnesium, copper and 35-42 mg vitamin C, vitamin A, vitamin E, vitamin B1, B2, B3, B6 and B9 and 3.1 per cent dietary fibre (Dashoraet al., 2004; Zahid et al. 2018; Nair and Aggarwal 2017).

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Its bark, roots, leaf, stem, fruit, peel, and seeds, are having medicinal value. Custard apple is commonly propagated using seeds facing following limitation i.e. germination of seed is very poor, takes long time or very slow growth of seedlings causes constraint to meet the growing demands. To improve these problems motivated many researchers to work with various hormones, fertilizers, etc. for increasing seed germination percentage and healthy seedlings. So, for present study the pre sowing treatment i.e. custard apple seeds treatment was done by using plant growth regulators as gibberellic acid (GA₃) and Chemical fertilizer as KNO₃. The Gibberellic Acid (GA3) is a tetracyclic di-terpenoid compound and a plant hormone. It stimulate seed germination, rapid stem and root growth, vegetative to flowering, determines sex expression along with an interaction of different environmental factors i.e. light, temperature and water (Gupta and Chakrabarty 2013; Desai et al. 2017; Thongsri et al 2021). It also helps in temperature tolerance (Li et.al. 2013). It also improve the quality of seeds (Kumar et al. 2018).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study entitled "Effect of Seed treatment using Gibberllic acid (GA₃) and KNO₃ on seed germination and growth of custard apple (*Annona squamosa* L.) cvs. Balanagar and Washington" at Guru Kashi University, Talwandi Sabo, Punjab, Indiaduring 2021-2022.

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The details of materials used, experiment procedures followed and statistical techniques adopted during the course of investigation were as follows:

Experimental site and climatic condition: Current investigation was conducted at, Guru Kashi University, Talwandi Sabo, Bathinda, Punjab, India, during 2021-2022 on different dosage of Gibberellic acid (GA₃) and Potassium nitrate (KNO₃) under open green shade condition to observe the effect on germination and growth parameters of Custard apple cvs.Balanagar and Washington.The experiment site is located at latitude 29°59'0" N and longitude 75°5'0" East, has semiarid climate with wide variations of summer and winter temperatures. During study period the maximum summer temperature reached 49°C and the winter temperature was recorded as low as 2°C. The rainfall concentrated in July to September.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The present study entitled "Effect of Seed treatment using Gibberellic acid (GA₃) and KNO₃ on seed germination and growth of custard apple (*Annona squamosa* L.) cvs. Balanagar and Washington" at Guru Kashi University, Talwandi Sabo, Punjab, India during 2021-2022 results was mentioned below:



Fig 4.1. Effect of GA₃ and KNO₃ treatments on Number of days taken for first emergences in different cultivars of Custard apple

Number of Days to first emergences of seedling: The data given in Table 4.1 revealed that in custard apple cv. Balanagar at T14: GA_3 (a) 1000 ppm + KNO₃ 2 % minimum numbers of days taken for first emergence of nodes (8.95 days). In both cultivars the maximum number of days taken for first emergence of nodes was recorded in T0: Control (24.64, 25.80 days) respectively (Table 4.1). Out of both cultivars the Balanagar is showing relatively more effectiveness of GA₃ and KNO₃ as it is taking comparatively less number of days for first emergence of nodes then Washington (Graph 4.1). Similar type of experiment conducted by Vasantha*et al.* (2014) reported atGA3 200 ppm seed treatment decreases the number of days taken for germination (5.33 days). Mane et al. (2018) reported 37.97 days for first germination in pretreated seeds with KNO₃ (0.1%).

Germination Percentage: The result revealed that the maximum germination percentage was recorded in both cvs. Balanagar and Washington at T14: GA_3 @ 1000 ppm + KNO₃ 2 % (78.76,76.67percent) respectively.In both cultivars the minimum germination percentage was recorded in T0: Control

(59.17, 58.67 per cent) respectively (Table 4.2). Out of both cultivars the Balanagar is showing relatively more effectiveness of GA_3 and KNO_3 as it is showing higher germination percentage then Washington (Graph 4.2). In similar type of experiment Ratan and Reddy (2003) reported the 64 percent seed germination when custard apple seed soaking at 1% sodium nitrate.



Fig 4.2. Effect of GA₃ and KNO₃ treatments on Germination Percentage in different cultivars of Custard apple

Survival percentage: The result revealed that the maximum survival percentage was recorded in both cvs. Balanagar and Washington at T14: GA_3 (2000 ppm + KNO₃ 2% (86.96, 84.93 per cent) respectively. In both cultivars the minimum survival percentage was recorded in T0: Control (50.95, 50.85 per cent) respectively (Table 4.3). Out of both cultivars the Balanagar is showing higher survival percentage after using GA₃ and KNO₃ then Washington (Graph 4.3). Similarly Patel *et al.* (2016) reported the survival percentage (75.97 percent) when custard apple seed was pre-soaked in GA3 (2000) percent survival percentage when seeds are treatment of KNO₃ (0.1%). Jain et al. reported the significant effect on survival percentage and maximum survival percentage (83.75) was recorded with GA3 200ppm.



Fig 4.3. Effect of GA₃ and KNO₃ treatments on Survival percentage in different cultivars of Custard apple

Plant height (cm) at 45 DAS: The result revealed that the maximum plant height at 45 DAS was recorded in both cvs.In both cultivars the minimum height of plant after 45 DAS was recorded in T0: Control (14.50, 13.85 cm) respectively (Table 4.4).

Out of both cultivars the Balanagar is showing higher plant height after using GA_3 and KNO_3 then Washington (Graph 4.4).





Plant height (cm) at 90 DAS: The result revealed that the maximum plant height at 90 DAS was recorded in both cvs.In both cultivars the minimum height of plant after 90 DAS was recorded in T0: Control (24.99, 23.98 cm) respectively (Table 4.5). Out of both cultivars the Balanagar is showing higher plant height after using GA₃ and KNO₃ then Washington (Graph 4.5). Rahangdale*et al.* (2019) reported increased in the height of the plants (4.24, 5.64, 9.79 and 12.86cm) at 30, 60, 90 and 120 DAS using 500ppm GA₃ treated seeds.

Number of leaves at 45 DAS: The result revealed that the number of leaves at 45 DAS was recorded in both cvs.In both cultivars the number of leaves at 45 DAS was recorded in T0: Control (10.78, 10.49) respectively (Table 4.6).Out of both cultivars the Balanagar is showing higher number of leaves after using GA₃ and KNO₃ then Washington (Graph 4.6).



Fig 4.5. Effect of GA₃ and KNO₃ treatments on Plant height (cm) at 90 DAS in different cultivars of Custard apple

Number of leaves at 90 DAS: The result revealed that the number of leaves at 90 DAS was recorded in both cvs.In both cultivars the number of leaves at 90 DAS was recorded in T0: Control (23.00, 22.47) respectively (Table 4.7).



Fig 4.6. Effect of GA₃ and KNO₃ treatments on Number of leaves at 45 DAS in different cultivars of Custard apple



Fig 4.7. Effect of GA₃ and KNO₃ treatments on Number of leaves at 90 DAS in different cultivars of Custard apple

Out of both cultivars the Balanagar is showing higher number of leaves after using GA_3 and KNO_3 then Washington (Graph 4.7). Rajput and Sharma (2020) also reported the plant height (11.63cm) and number of leaves per seedling (11.87) with treatment of GA_3 .

CONCLUSION

The present investigation for studying the effect of Seed treatment using Gibberellic acid (GA₃) and KNO₃ on seed germination and growth of custard apple (Annona squamosa L.) cvs.Balanagar and Washington were conductedat Guru Kashi University, Talwandi Sabo, Punjab, India during 2021-2022. For present study fifteen different treatments of GA3 and KNO₃ i.e. T0: Control, T1: GA₃@ 250 ppm, T2: GA₃@ 500 ppm, T3: GA₃@ 750 ppm, T4: GA₃@ 1000 ppm, T5: KNO₃ 1 %, T6: KNO3 2 %, T7: GA3@ 250 ppm + KNO₃ 1 %, T8: GA₃@ 500 ppm + KNO₃ 1 %, T9: GA₃@ 750 ppm + KNO₃ 1 %, T10: GA₃@ 1000 ppm + KNO₃ 1 %, T11: GA₃@ 250 ppm + KNO3 2 %, T12: GA₃@ 500 ppm + KNO₃ 2 %, T13: GA₃@ 750 ppm + KNO₃ 2 % and T14: GA3@ 1000 ppm + KNO₃ 2 % was used on two different cultivars of custard apple. The result revealed that in custard apple cv. Balanagar and Washington at T14: GA3@ 1000 ppm + KNO3 2 % reported minimum numbers of days taken for first emergence of nodes (8.95 days, 10.44days). Whereas the maximum number of days taken for first emergence of nodes was recorded in T0: Control (24.64, 25.80 days) respectively. The maximum germination percentage was recorded in both cvs.

Balanagar and Washington at T14 (78.76, 76.67 per cent) > T13 (77.91, 75.92 per cent) > T12 (76.43, 75.41 per cent) > T11 (76.19, 73.76 per cent) > T10 (75.59, 73.05 per cent) > T9 (74.59, 72.26 per cent) > T4 (73.21, 72.73 percent)> T8 (72.98,71.34 per cent), T7 (72.77, 70.93 percent), T6, T5 (71.64, 69.81 percent), T3 (70.91, 69.98 percent), T2 (69.06, 67.24 percent) in both Balanagar and Washington respectively. The result revealed that the maximum survival percentage was recorded in both cvs. Balanagar and Washington at T14 (86.96, 84.93 per cent). The result revealed that the maximum plant height, number of leaves at 45 and 90 DAS was recorded with T14: GA₃@ 1000 ppm + KNO₃ 2 % treatment. Therefore the use of GA₃ and KNO₃ as seed treatment should be recommended as it is showing significant positive results on growth parameters of custard apple crops.

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