

**EFFECTS OF NAA AND NITROGEN FERTILIZER ON NPK UPTAKE
AND NITROGEN USE EFFICIENCY OF BARI GOM-25
(*TRITICUM AESTIVUM* L.)**

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Abstract

Effects of NAA (both as seed soaking and foliar spray) in combination with nitrogen fertilizer (0, 25, 50, 75 and 100% of recommended dose) on NPK uptake and nitrogen use efficiency (NUE) of BARI Gom-25 at flowering, grain filling, harvest and two sowing time (November 15 and 22) were evaluated. At flowering stage, significantly higher NPK uptake by shoot and root was obtained from seed soaking in 10 ppm NAA in combination with 75% N fertilizer (SOF₃) in both the sowing time with a few exceptions. But at grain filling stage, significantly higher NPK uptake by both shoot and root and N uptake by root was recorded from seed soaking in 10 ppm NAA in combination with 100% N fertilizer (SOF₄) followed by SOF₃ treatment. In comparison to full dose of N fertilizer, significantly higher NPK uptake by shoot, root and grain was also recorded from SOF₃ treatment in most of the cases. Findings indicated that NAA treatment at varying N-level had better stimulation on N and P uptake when sown on November 15 than November 22. However, the trend was reverse in case of K uptake. The NUE was significantly influenced by NAA at various N-levels. At flowering stage, significantly higher NUE of shoot and total plant was obtained from SOF₃ treatment in both sowing times. Whereas at grain filling stage, the same response was recorded from seed soaking in 10 ppm NAA in combination with 25% N fertilizer (SOF₁). Foliar application of 20 ppm NAA in combination with 25% N fertilizer (SSF₁) also resulted significantly higher NUE of root at both flowering and grain filling and those of shoot, grain and total plant with a few exceptions at harvest.

Introduction

Nitrogen is required by plants in comparatively larger amounts than the other essential nutrients. The amount of N fertilizer applied to plants must be carefully managed to ensure that it will be available throughout the growing season so that vegetative and reproductive development is not restricted (Vidal *et al.* 1999). Crops are often fertilized with large amounts of N fertilizer, but only a small fraction of this (roughly 5 - 50%) is taken up by the plants (Carranca 2012). Applied N is not taken up by the crop or immobilized in the soil but it is lost by volatilization, denitrification, leaching and runoff (Canfield *et al.* 2010). The N losses can be reduced by enhancing the plants' N uptake efficiency, which greatly affects the overall nitrogen use efficiency (NUE) of a crop. Moreover, higher NUE by plants could reduce fertilizer input costs, decrease the rate of nutrient losses and enhance crop yields.

Reports revealed that application of optimum dose of NAA, alone or in combination with N fertilizer had pronounced effect as growth promoter on growth, yield and biochemical processes of major cereal crops *viz.* rice (Adam and Jahan 2011, Jahan and Adam 2014), wheat (Jahan and Adam 2013, Islam and Jahan 2016a), maize (Akteer 2016). However, reports regarding the effect of NAA on nutrient uptake and NUE by cereal crops are scanty in Bangladesh (Adam *et al.* 2012, Islam and Jahan 2016b). In addition, no report is available on the responses of NAA at various doses of N fertilizer on nutrient uptake and fertilizer use efficiency by any variety of wheat in relation to sowing time. Thus, an attempt was taken to evaluate the effect of NAA both as seed

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soaking and foliar spray treatments in combination with different doses of N fertilizer on NPK uptake and NUE of a high yielding variety of wheat (var. BARI Gom-25) at two sowing time.

Materials and Methods

A field experiment on BARI Gom-25 was conducted at the Botanical garden of the Department of Botany, University of Dhaka during 2016 - 2017. The experiment was laid out in RBD, replicated four times. The total area of the experimental field was 98.56 m² which was divided into two plots. Each plot was again divided into 36 sub-plot having net size of approximately 0.32 m² maintaining sub-plot to sub-plot distance of 50 cm. Preparation of experimental field was done conventionally. Nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) content of experimental soil were determined following standard methods (Murphy and Riley 1962, Jackson 1973, Marr and Cresser 1983). Initial status of soil indicates the presence of low amount of nitrogen, very high amount of phosphorus and very low amount of potassium. Cow-dung was mixed thoroughly (4 ton/ha) and muriate of potash, gypsum and boric acid were applied at doses recommended by Fertilizer Recommendation Guide (2012). Two-thirds of urea and full of the other fertilizers were applied as basal dose during final land preparation. The remaining urea was applied immediately after the first irrigation at the age of 18 days.

Seeds of BARI Gom-25 were sterilized with 0.5% calcium hypochlorite followed by soaking in 10 ppm NAA for 12 hrs and then sown in lines 20 cm apart maintaining plant to plant distance of 10 cm at two sowing time *viz.* November 15 (timely sown) and November 22 (7 days late sown). Cultural practices *viz.* thinning, irrigation, weeding etc. were done following methods quoted in Handbook of Agricultural Technology (Chowdhury and Hassan 2013). This trial consisted of nine treatments *viz.* control = No NAA and N fertilizer; F₄ = 100% RDN (recommended dose of N fertilizer); SOF₀ = 10 ppm NAA; SOF₁ = 10 ppm NAA + 25% RDN; SOF₂ = 10 ppm NAA + 50% RDN; SOF₃ = 10 ppm NAA + 75% RDN; SOF₄ = 10 ppm NAA + 100% RDN; SSF₀ = Foliar spray of 20 ppm NAA; and SSF₁ = Foliar spray of 20 ppm NAA + 25% RDN.

Plant samples were collected randomly. Dry shoot and root of three different stages *viz.* flowering, grain filling and harvest and grain after harvest for both the sowing time were grinded into powder and then used for the determination of NPK content. Uptake of NPK by shoot, root and grain and NUE of shoot, root, grain and total plant was calculated using the formulae of Nyborg *et al.* (1995). Data were analyzed statistically, and treatment means were compared by LSD test at 5% level of significance (Steel *et al.* 1997).

Results and Discussion

Results (Table 1) revealed that in both the sowing time, application of NAA in combination with different doses of N fertilizer had significant effect on NPK uptake by shoot and root of BARI Gom-25 at flowering stage. At this stage, significantly higher NPK uptake by shoot and root was obtained from seed soaking in 10 ppm NAA in combination with 75% N fertilizer (SOF₃) in both sowing time except N uptake by shoot due to 10 ppm NAA with 100% N level (SOF₄) of both sowing time and K uptake by root due to 10 ppm NAA with 50% N level (SOF₂) of November 22 sown wheat.

In both the sowing times, P uptake by root due to 10 ppm NAA with 75% N fertilizer was statistically identical to 10 ppm NAA with 50% N fertilizer. Results also revealed that NPK uptake by shoot and root due to 10 ppm NAA in combination with 50, 75 and 100% N treatments (SOF₂, SOF₃, SOF₄) were significantly higher than that of recommended dose of fertilizer (F₄) in both the sowing times having an exception of N uptake by root due to SOF₄ treatment. The

Table 1. Effects of NAA and N fertilizer on NPK uptake by shoot and root at flowering stage of BARI Gom-25 in two sowing times.

Treatments	Timely sown BARI Gom-25 (on Nov. 15)						Late sown BARI Gom-25 (on Nov. 22)					
	Shoot			Root			Shoot			Root		
	N	P	K	N	P	K	N	P	K	N	P	K
Control	40.39 g	19.82 h	64.48 i	3.26 f	2.53 e	4.32 g	33.47 h	14.69 i	65.79 i	2.59 g	1.87 f	4.35 h
F ₄	94.56 c	46.90 d	206.64 d	7.67 c	2.99 d	5.73 f	84.20 d	36.67 d	212.92 d	5.68 c	2.77 d	5.62 g
SOF ₀	39.98 h	27.19 g	113.44 f	4.31 e	3.38 cc	6.44 e	33.53 h	21.81 g	114.16 f	3.72 f	2.93 d	6.75 e
SOF ₁	72.76 e	35.72 f	103.83 h	5.07 d	3.51 c	7.94 c	65.14 f	30.85 f	104.29 h	4.47 e	2.86 d	8.50 c
SOF ₂	113.13 c	64.28 b	238.05 b	9.22 b	5.57 a	9.50 b	103.94 c	64.73 b	247.59 b	8.50 b	4.46 a	11.08 a
SOF ₃	163.16 b	71.42 a	241.31 a	12.18 a	5.72 a	9.93 a	147.96 b	65.26 a	253.14 a	9.90 a	4.52 a	9.60 b
SOF ₄	178.16 a	53.01 c	228.22 c	5.13 d	3.84 b	7.51 d	154.58 a	41.27 c	240.77 c	4.73 d	3.21 c	8.74 c
SSF ₀	42.18 f	27.29 g	108.46 g	3.75 ef	2.60 e	5.74 f	35.96 g	21.15 h	109.80 g	3.51 f	2.27 e	6.05 f
SSF ₁	73.94 d	39.44 e	175.34 e	9.04 b	4.06 b	8.05 c	65.71 e	34.47 e	178.06 e	8.38 b	3.50 b	7.87 d
CV (%)	24.33	19.20	29.18	14.06	13.62	14.38	25.32	26.84	24.62	23.24	17.44	26.58
LSD (0.05)	0.36	0.37	0.65	0.34	0.31	0.19	0.19	0.17	0.47	0.22	0.18	0.24

Mean in a vertical column followed by same letter or without letter do not differ significantly at 5% level.

amount of N and P uptake by timely sown BARI Gom-25 were comparatively higher than those of late sown. However, reverse trend was observed in case of K uptake by shoot and root following all the treatments. Application of nitrogen significantly increased N and P uptake of wheat in different treatments in comparison to control (Chaturvedi 2006). However, variation in NPK uptake by two varieties of rice at flowering stage was observed by Adam *et al.* (2012). In addition, Islam and Jahan (2016b) reported that P uptake influenced both positively and negatively depending on the concentration of NAA and N-levels.

At grain filling stage, NAA in combination with different doses of N fertilizer had significant response on NPK uptake by shoot and root of both timely and late sown BARI Gom-25 (Table 2). Findings showed that application of NAA in combination with different N-levels (SOF₀, SOF₁, SOF₂, SOF₃, SOF₄, SSF₀, SSF₁) had higher N uptake by shoot and P and K uptake by root than that of 100% fertilizer (F₄) with appreciable variations at both sowing time, the only exception being K uptake by root due to SOF₃ treatment sown on November 15. But, P and K uptake by shoot and N uptake by root had significantly higher value mostly from SOF₃ and SOF₄ treatments at both sowing times.

The highest NPK uptake by shoot was recorded from SOF₄ treatment in both the sowing time. However, in case of root, only N uptake was found highest due to SOF₄ treatment. The second highest N and P uptake by shoot at both the sowing time and N uptake by root of late sown BARI Gom-25 were from SOF₃ treatment. Findings also showed that BARI Gom-25 uptake more nutrient when sown in November 15 than November 22 in most of the cases. Results of Islam and Jahan (2016b) on BARI Gom-26 revealed that N uptake by shoot and root and K uptake by root at grain filling stage increased due to application of NAA at varying N levels where, 25 ppm NAA in combination 75% N fertilizer produced maximum value. The author also reported that P uptake by both shoot and root increased following NAA at varying N levels but with a few exceptions.

NPK uptake by shoot, root and grain was significantly influenced by application of NAA treatments in combination with N fertilizer in both the sowing times (Table 3). In comparison to the full dose of fertilizer (F₄), significantly highest NPK uptake by shoot, root and grain was recorded from seed soaking in 10 ppm NAA in combination with 75% N fertilizer (SOF₃) except P and K uptake by root in both the sowing time. Seed soaking in 10 ppm NAA in combination 100% N treatment (SOF₄) also showed significantly higher uptake value than F₄ treatment. Results also indicated that NAA treatments in combination with different doses of N fertilizers had better stimulation on NPK uptake by shoot and NP uptake by root when sown in November 15 than November 22 in most of the cases. However, K uptake by root showed reverse trend. Significantly maximum NPK uptake by grain were also obtained from SOF₃ treatment followed by SOF₄ treatments in both sowing times with significant variation between them.

Increased application of nitrogen showed increased uptake of N by straw and grain in barley (Alam *et al.* 2005). Variable uptake of N, P and K due to application of different nitrogen levels in wheat were also reported by Chaturvedi (2006) and Laghari *et al.* (2010). Purbey and Sen (2007) reported that the N, P and K content of Fenugreek and their uptake in seed and straw were recorded highest from 20 ppm NAA which was closely followed by 10 ppm NAA treatment. Application of NAA at varying nitrogen levels had mostly beneficial effect on N, P and K content of grain of BARI Gom-26 where, the maximum N content of grain was due to 25 ppm NAA in combination with 75% N fertilizer (Islam and Jahan 2016b). However, Adam *et al.* (2012) found both increase and decrease in NPK content of grain depending on the concentration of NAA and rice variety. Thus, the results are in conformity with those of previous workers.

Results presented in Table 4 indicated that NUE was significantly influenced by NAA at different N levels. At flowering stage, significantly higher NUE of shoot and total plant was

Table 2. Effects of NAA and N fertilizer on NPK uptake by shoot and root at grain filling stage of BARI Gom-25 in two sowing times.

Treatments	Timely sown BARI Gom-25 (on Nov. 15)									Late sown BARI Gom-25 (on Nov. 22)								
	Shoot			Root			(mg/plant)	Shoot			Root							
	N	P	K	N	P	K		N	P	K	N	P	K					
Control	33.02 i	20.63 g	86.95 i	2.03 f	1.62 d	3.10 f	26.33 i	15.89 g	87.60 h	1.71 g	1.32 f	3.30 h						
F ₄	49.62 g	42.36 d	172.45 e	2.92 b	1.76 cd	3.71 de	44.13 g	35.20 c	171.36 d	2.51 c	1.43 f	3.59 g						
SOF ₀	49.04 h	28.93 f	124.55 g	2.28 d	1.89 c	3.88 d	43.73 h	23.89 f	123.45 f	1.89 f	1.69 e	4.03 f						
SOF ₁	103.49 d	29.06 f	146.67 f	2.06 ef	2.31 a	4.37 c	93.69 d	25.31 e	150.93 e	1.74 g	2.14 bc	4.62 d						
SOF ₂	79.38 e	37.27 e	213.47 b	2.39 d	2.45 a	4.45 bc	71.73 e	31.78 d	205.99 c	2.00 ef	2.25 b	4.49 d						
SOF ₃	120.37 b	45.93 b	204.14 d	2.23 de	1.78 cd	3.58 e	116.16 b	40.52 b	206.09 c	2.94 b	2.49 a	5.46 a						
SOF ₄	169.43 a	51.01 a	229.25 a	3.50 a	2.33 a	4.46 bc	155.34 a	41.57 a	240.42 a	3.20 a	2.04 cd	4.87 c						
SSF ₀	68.79 f	20.74 g	98.13 h	2.61 c	2.10 b	4.62 b	64.10 f	17.19 g	96.33 g	2.01 e	1.73 e	4.28 e						
SSF ₁	112.78 c	42.70 c	205.86 c	2.93 b	2.43 a	5.22 a	106.92 c	36.00 c	207.27 b	2.39 d	1.92 d	5.20 b						
CV (%)	17.20	9.74	13.56	19.02	16.06	15.35	29.17	13.72	23.23	22.65	19.84	15.45						
LSD (0.05)	0.36	0.29	0.64	0.18	0.17	0.23	0.24	0.26	0.17	0.11	0.13	0.13						

Mean in a vertical column followed by same letter or without letter do not differ significantly at 5% level.

Table 3. Effects of NAA and N fertilizer on NPK uptake by shoot, root and grain at harvest of BARI Gom-25 in two sowing times.

Treatments	Timely sown BARI Gom-25 (on Nov. 15)								
	Shoot			Root			Grain		
	N	P	K	N	P	K	N	P	K
	(mg/plant)								
Control	37.58 g	14.87 g	157.84 f	3.69 c	1.37 d	3.60 a	74.42 g	10.98 g	7.29 g
F ₄	72.48 c	28.01 c	216.23 d	4.32 b	1.21 e	2.98 cd	172.64 d	24.22 d	22.42 d
SOF ₀	42.77 f	12.44 i	146.02 h	3.05 e	1.37 d	3.06 a	65.69 i	9.84 h	8.55 f
SOF ₁	47.74 f	19.29 d	151.07 g	3.62 cd	1.41 cd	3.22 b	121.72 f	17.97 f	17.77 e
SOF ₂	60.33 d	16.48 f	181.13 e	5.07 a	1.50 bc	2.36 e	173.51 c	24.80 c	24.80 c
SOF ₃	97.81 a	34.67 a	301.88 a	4.85 a	2.20 a	2.84 d	220.88 a	29.45 a	28.75 a
SOF ₄	88.19 b	31.48 b	296.47 b	4.05 b	1.58 b	2.07 f	202.37 b	27.90 b	26.78 b
SSF ₀	27.59 h	13.00 h	120.80 i	3.31 de	2.17 a	2.85 d	68.22 h	9.93 h	6.80 g
SSF ₁	50.82 e	17.97 e	218.43 c	3.65 c	1.57 b	2.35 e	150.14 e	21.46 e	17.19 e
CV (%)	18.49	17.94	13.25	17.48	21.91	16.93	40.64	37.80	25.95
LSD (0.05)	0.47	0.49	0.49	0.33	0.12	0.16	0.86	0.39	0.58

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	Late sown BARI Gom-25 (on Nov. 22)								
	Shoot			Root			Grain		
	N	P	K	N	P	K	N	P	K
	(mg/plant)								
	19.69 g	7.68 f	212.67 c	2.71 d	0.20 g	4.99 d	80.97 i	12.25 g	9.18 i
	33.72 d	12.46 b	146.32 e	4.39 a	1.16 a	5.25 c	171.09 c	24.15 c	23.08 d
	16.51 h	9.51 e	115.82 g	2.14 e	0.75 e	4.89 d	89.09 h	13.82 f	12.52 g
	24.25 e	9.39 e	123.50 f	3.26 c	0.87 d	4.40 e	133.71 f	19.54 e	19.49 e
	47.21 a	10.60 d	197.94 d	3.91 b	0.98 c	3.99 f	166.56 d	23.88 c	24.13 c
	39.86 c	12.72 a	249.00 a	4.34 a	0.36 f	3.73 g	213.08 a	28.58 a	28.20 a
	43.11 b	9.48 e	240.91 b	4.40 a	1.06 b	2.73 h	190.04 b	26.57 b	26.08 b
	11.82 i	7.05 g	75.14 h	2.09 f	1.04 bc	8.92 a	91.88 g	13.91 f	10.13 h
	20.71 f	11.20 c	72.32 i	4.49 a	1.05 b	8.52 b	149.90 e	20.92 d	18.01 f
	22.55	18.64	14.72	17.14	18.92	18.04	31.61	27.91	25.39
	0.13	0.15	0.34	0.15	0.06	0.11	0.68	0.57	0.48

Mean in a vertical column followed by same letter or without letter do not differ significantly at 5% level.

Table 4. Effects of NAA and N fertilizer on NUE of BARI Gom-25 at three different stages of growth in two sowing times.

Treatments	Timely sown BARI Gom-25 (on Nov. 15)									
	Flowering			Grain filling			Harvest			
	Shoot	Root	Total	Shoot	Root	Total	Shoot	Root	Grain	Total
	(Kg N/Kg N)									
Control	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
F ₄	0.217 f	0.018 c	0.235 f	0.066 f	0.004 a	0.070 f	0.140 d	0.003 c	0.393 e	0.536 f
SOF ₀	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SOF ₁	0.504 d	0.012 d	0.516 e	0.838 a	-0.003 c	0.835 a	0.076 e	0.009 b	0.862 b	0.947 d
SOF ₂	0.585 b	0.039 b	0.624 b	0.243 e	0.001 b	0.244 e	0.141 d	0.016 a	0.863 b	1.020 c
SOF ₃	0.648 a	0.041b	0.689 a	0.375 d	0.000 b	0.375 d	0.290 b	0.009 b	0.817 c	1.116 b
SOF ₄	0.553 c	0.003 e	0.556d	0.480 c	0.005 a	0.485 c	0.182 c	0.004 c	0.547 d	0.733 e
SSF ₀	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SSF ₁	0.489 e	0.081 a	0.570 c	0.677 b	0.005 a	0.682 b	0.357 a	0.005 bc	1.260 a	1.622 a
CV (%)	27.89	38.72	27.54	28.69	18.93	51.97	29.58	28.07	35.23	34.72
LSD (0.05)	0.002	0.004	0.004	0.005	0.002	0.004	0.005	0.004	0.011	0.014

Right hand side of the table

	Late sown BARI Gom-25 (on Nov. 22)									
	Flowering			Grain filling			Harvest			
	Shoot	Root	Total	Shoot	Root	Total	Shoot	Root	Grain	Total
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	0.203 e	0.012 d	0.215 f	0.071 f	0.003 bc	0.074 f	0.056 f	0.007 d	0.360 f	0.423 f
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	0.486 c	0.012 d	0.498 d	0.769 a	-0.002d	0.767 a	0.119 d	0.017 b	0.686 b	0.822 c
	0.563 b	0.038 b	0.601 b	0.224 e	0.001 c	0.225 e	0.246 a	0.014 c	0.620 d	0.880 b
	0.602 a	0.032 c	0.634 a	0.381 d	0.006 a	0.387 d	0.123 c	0.012 c	0.653 c	0.788 d
	0.484 c	0.004 e	0.488 e	0.446 c	0.005 ab	0.451 c	0.106 e	0.009 d	0.404 e	0.519 e
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	0.459 d	0.075 a	0.534 c	0.659 b	0.006 a	0.665 b	0.137 b	0.037 a	0.893 a	1.067 a
	27.88	38.93	27.89	27.02	10.99	26.47	34.31	36.81	30.21	29.49
	0.002	0.002	0.003	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.007	0.006

Mean in a vertical column followed by same letter or without letter do not differ significantly at 5% level.

obtained from seed soaking of 10 ppm NAA in combination with 75% N fertilizer (SOF₃) in case of both sowing times. Whereas, at grain filling stage, the same response was recorded from seed soaking of 10 ppm NAA in combination with 25% N level (SOF₁). Results revealed that at both flowering and grain filling stage, significantly higher NUE of root was obtained from 20 ppm NAA in combination with 25% N treatment (SSF₁). Findings also revealed that at harvest SSF₁ treatment showed significantly higher NUE except those recorded from root of November 15 sown and shoot of November 22 sown BARI Gom-25. Nitrogen use efficiency gradually decreased with subsequent delay in sowing and influence of nitrogen fertilizer was found to increase significantly up to 90 kg N/ha in barley (Alam *et al.* 2005). In an experiment with BARI Gom-26, Islam and Jahan (2016b) recorded the highest NUE of shoot and total plant from 50 ppm NAA in combination with 50% N fertilizer at flowering stage, whereas, from 25 ppm NAA in combination with 75% N fertilizer at grain filling stage.

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