



# **Influence of Mulching and Organic Manure on the Growth and Pod Yield of French Bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.)**

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## **Authors' contributions**

*This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. Authors BCD, KK and AFMJU planned the experiment and overseen the research. Authors BCD and KK planned and conducted the study. Author BCD carried out the statistical evaluation. Author BCD gathered data and conducted field study. Authors MJH, MKAN, MR, SA and SEA handled the literature searches. Each author contributed ideas that helped refine the study, analysis, and article. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.*

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## ABSTRACT

An experiment was conducted at the Horticulture Farm of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka during November 2020 to March 2021 to study the influence of mulching and organic manure on the growth and pod yield of French bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.). French bean variety BARI Jharsheem-2 was used as planting material in this study. The experiment consisted of two factors: Factor-A: mulch materials (4 levels):  $M_0$  = No mulches,  $M_1$  = Black polythene,  $M_2$  = Rice straw and  $M_3$  = Water hyacinth; Factor-B:  $T_0$  = No organic manure,  $T_1$  = Kitchen compost ( $5 \text{ t ha}^{-1}$ ),  $T_2$  = Vermicompost ( $7 \text{ t ha}^{-1}$ ) and  $T_3$  = Kitchen compost + Vermicompost ( $2.5 \text{ t ha}^{-1} + 3.5 \text{ t ha}^{-1}$ ). In the trial, the  $M_1$  (Black Polythene Mulch) treatment outperformed the  $M_0$  (No Mulch) treatment in terms of plant morphology and yield and yield attributes. Higher pod yields per hectare were produced by the organic manure  $T_3$  (Kitchen compost + Vermicompost) than by the control  $T_0$  (no organic manure). The investigation's top treatment combination was identified as  $M_1T_3$  (black polythene mulch and kitchen compost + vermicompost), which had a  $17.55 \text{ t ha}^{-1}$  yield potential. At the interaction level between mulching and organic manure, a significant correlation between the yield and yield components was found.

**Keywords:** French bean; water hyacinth; vermicompost; black polythene mulch; Pearson's correlation.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

“French bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.) is an important vegetable crop belonging to the family Fabaceae and grown throughout the world. It is originated from Central and South America” [1]. “It is also grown in Europe, Italy, Africa, India, Peru, Mexico, Bangladesh etc. It has others name such as bush bean, kidney bean, snap bean, raj bean, common bean, basic bean, navy bean, haricot bean, pole bean, wax bean, string bean and bonchi” [2]. In our country it is known as “Jhar Sheem” [3]. The green pods and mature seeds are used as cooked vegetable in our country. Seeds are also used as pulse in Sylhet, Moulvibazar, Sunamgonj, Habigonj, Brahmanbaria, Coxsbazar, Chittagong, Feni etc. It is widely cultivated in many parts of the tropical, subtropical and throughout the temperate regions [4]. “But it is more suitable as a winter (rabi) crop in the India subcontinent area. Recently cultivation of French bean is gaining popularity in Bangladesh mainly because of its demand as a commodity for export. Hortex Foundation and BRAC are trying to extent the production area, because French bean is now an exportable vegetable among others” [5]. “The green pod is nutritionally rich which contains an average of 1.7 % protein, 4.5 % carbohydrate, 1.8% fiber, calcium 50 mg, magnesium 29 mg, phosphorous 28 mg, and iron 1.7 mg per 100 g of pod” [6]. “Production of French bean depends on many factors such as quality seed, variety, inorganic fertilizers, organic fertilizers, mulch materials and various management practices etc. Mulching is a desirable cultural management practice which is reported to improve soil moisture, physical conditions by enhancing

biological activity of the soil fauna and increases soil fertility” [7,8]. “Mulching may be natural or artificial. In artificial mulching soil surface is covered with crop residues or plant species and generally practiced in the production of horticultural crops” [9]. Lots of research work have been carried out in many countries with the use of natural mulches [10], synthetic films and also biodegradable films of organic origin [11]. “Organic matter content of most of the Bangladesh soils is very low, the majority being below the critical level (1.5%)” [12]. “Organic manure contains nutrient elements that can support crop production and enhance the chemical and physical properties of soil. Organic manure contains the essential nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium for growth and development of plants and improves the soil health” [13]. “The uptake of nutrient is higher with composted poultry manure. The added organic manure not only acts as a source of nutrient but also plays a vital role in transforming the inorganic fertilizer into their available form” [14]. Soil organic matter such as cowdung, poultry manure and vermicompost improves the tilt and structure of soil. It improves the ability of soil to hold water and plant nutrients. In Bangladesh, French bean is a newly introduced vegetable as well as pulse crop which is highly nutritious and can meet the demand of increasing population. Several works have been done on French bean but there is a limited work on the combining effect of mulching and organic manure on French bean. Therefore the present study was carried out with the following objectives: to select the suitable mulch material on growth and yield of French bean, to study the response of different organic manure on growth and yield of French

bean and to assess the combined effect of mulching and organic manure on growth and yield of French bean.

## 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was carried out at Horticultural Farm in Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh to study the response of different mulches and organic manure on the growth and yield of French bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.) during the period November, 2020 to March, 2021. In this experiment French bean variety of BARI Jharsheem-2 was used in the experiment as a planting material. Two factors were used in the experiment four levels of mulches (M) viz. M<sub>0</sub> = No mulches, M<sub>1</sub> = Black polythene, M<sub>2</sub> = Rice straw and M<sub>3</sub> = Water hyacinth and four levels of organic manure (T) viz. T<sub>0</sub> = No organic manure, T<sub>1</sub> = Kitchen compost (5 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), T<sub>2</sub> = Vermicompost (7 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) and T<sub>3</sub>= Kitchen compost+Vermicompost (2.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup>+3.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup>). There were 16 treatment combinations as follows: M<sub>0</sub>T<sub>0</sub>, M<sub>0</sub>T<sub>1</sub>, M<sub>0</sub>T<sub>2</sub>, M<sub>0</sub>T<sub>3</sub>, M<sub>1</sub>T<sub>0</sub>, M<sub>1</sub>T<sub>1</sub>, M<sub>1</sub>T<sub>2</sub>, M<sub>1</sub>T<sub>3</sub>, M<sub>2</sub>T<sub>0</sub>, M<sub>2</sub>T<sub>1</sub>, M<sub>2</sub>T<sub>2</sub>, M<sub>2</sub>T<sub>3</sub>, M<sub>3</sub>T<sub>0</sub>, M<sub>3</sub>T<sub>1</sub>, M<sub>3</sub>T<sub>2</sub>, M<sub>3</sub>T<sub>3</sub>. At the time of first ploughing, kitchen compost and vermicompost was applied as per treatment. The experimental area was fertilized as follow (Table 1).

Mulching materials are set up with specific mulch material as treatment wise on the plot after final land preparation and before seed sowing. The experiment was laid out in Randomized Complete Block Design (RCBD) with 3 replications. The unit plot size was 2 m x 1.5 m (3.00 m<sup>2</sup>). Plant to plant distance was 25 cm x 15 cm. The distance between block to block was 0.5 m and distance between plot to plot was 0.5 m. Various intercultural operations, such as gap filling, weeding, thinning, staking, irrigation, pest and disease control etc. were done for better growth and development of the seedlings. Five healthy plants were randomly selected in each plot as per treatment of each unit of plot to avoid border effect and data were recorded on plant morphology, dry weight, yield

and yield contributing characters of French bean. The collected data were statistically analyzed to obtain the level of significance using the Statistix 10 computer package program. Analysis of variance was done following two factors randomized complete block design. The mean differences among the treatments were compared by Least Significant Difference (LSD) test at 5% level of significance.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Different mulching materials significantly influenced the morphological performance of French bean (Table 2). The highest plant height (56.04 cm) was produced from M<sub>1</sub> (Black polythene) treatment and the shortest (54.48 cm) plant was produced in M<sub>0</sub> (no mulch) treatment. Similar trends was also observed in case of no. of leaves per plant, leaf length (cm), leaf breadth (cm), no. of branch plant<sup>-1</sup>, days to first flowering, no. of flowers plant<sup>-1</sup>, fresh weight of shoot plant<sup>-1</sup> (g), plant dry matter (%). Mulching was found to be more effective during the early stage of plant growth. The present result also agrees well with [15,16,17,18]. Different organic manure significantly influenced the morphological performance of French bean (Table 2). T<sub>3</sub> (Kitchen compost + Vermicompost) showed the best performance in case of plant height (cm), no. of leaves per plant, leaf length (cm), leaf breadth (cm), no. of branch plant<sup>-1</sup>, days to first flowering, no. of flowers plant<sup>-1</sup>, fresh weight of shoot plant<sup>-1</sup> (g), plant dry matter (%) among the treatment combinations. Similar trend of results observed [19,20].

Combined effect of different mulch materials and organic manure on the morphological performance of French bean was found statistically significant (Table 3). The interaction effect of M<sub>1</sub>T<sub>3</sub> (black polythene mulch and Kitchen compost + Vermicompost) showed the highest performance in case of all the parameters of morphological performance of French bean and M<sub>0</sub>T<sub>0</sub> (no mulch and no organic manure) showed the lowest performance.

**Table 1. Fertilizer management**

Fertilizers	Doses ha <sup>-1</sup>		Nutrients	Sources
Vermicompost	T <sub>2</sub>	7 t	N <sub>140kg</sub> P <sub>110kg</sub> K <sub>70kg</sub>	Nature
	T <sub>3</sub>	3.5 t	N <sub>70kg</sub> P <sub>55kg</sub> K <sub>35kg</sub>	Nature
Kitchen compost	T <sub>1</sub>	5 t	N <sub>120kg</sub> P <sub>90kg</sub> K <sub>60kg</sub>	Nature
	T <sub>3</sub>	2.5 t	N <sub>60kg</sub> P <sub>45kg</sub> K <sub>30kg</sub>	Nature

**Table 2. Effect of mulching and organic manure on the morphological performance of French bean**

Treatments Mulching	Plant height (cm)	No. of leaves per plant	Leaf length (cm)	Leaf breadth (cm)	No. of branch plant <sup>-1</sup>	Days to first flowering	No. of flowers plant <sup>-1</sup>	Fresh weight of shoot plant <sup>-1</sup> (g)	Plant dry matter (%)
M <sub>0</sub>	54.48 d	16.20 d	9.38 d	7.49 d	13.26 d	43.45 a	20.57 d	50.49 d	18.34 d
M <sub>1</sub>	56.04 a	18.54 a	10.90 a	8.76 a	14.80 a	40.67 d	25.12 a	55.47 a	19.91 a
M <sub>2</sub>	55.13 c	17.80 c	9.92 c	8.54 b	14.11 c	42.87 b	23.35 c	51.87 c	19.10 c
M <sub>3</sub>	55.47 b	18.281 b	10.44 b	8.39 c	14.34 b	42.17 c	23.86 b	52.85 b	19.68 b
CV%	7.5	2.46	4.36	2.94	5.71	3.06	3.79	2.58	6.26
<b>Organic manure</b>									
T <sub>0</sub>	53.08 d	15.52 d	9.21 d	7.35 d	12.69 d	43.50 a	20.04 d	42.12 d	15.89 d
T <sub>1</sub>	54.50c	16.97 c	9.89 c	7.97 c	13.55 c	42.36 b	21.75 c	50.61 c	18.18 c
T <sub>2</sub>	56.38 b	18.35 b	10.55 b	8.42 b	14.47 b	41.82 c	24.30 b	56.65 b	20.84 b
T <sub>3</sub>	57.17 a	19.98 a	10.98 a	9.42 a	15.81 a	41.46 d	26.82 a	61.30 a	22.11 a
CV%	7.5	2.46	4.36	2.94	5.71	3.06	3.79	2.58	6.26

**Table 3. Interaction effect of mulching and organic manure on the morphological performance of French bean**

Interaction Mulching x Organic manure	Plant height (cm)	No. of leaves per plant	Leaf length (cm)	Leaf breadth (cm)	No. of branch plant <sup>-1</sup>	Days to first flowering	No. of flowers plant <sup>-1</sup>	Fresh weight of shoot plant <sup>-1</sup> (g)	Plant dry matter (%)
M <sub>0</sub> T <sub>0</sub>	52.12 g	14.15 i	8.11 j	6.46 i	10.97 h	44.31 a	17.47 m	40.53 l	15.63 m
M <sub>0</sub> T <sub>1</sub>	53.55 f	15.26 h	8.81 i	6.93 h	13.20 g	43.29 bc	19.17 k	48.70 i	17.78 i
M <sub>0</sub> T <sub>2</sub>	56.04 c	17.20 e	9.94 f	7.33 g	14.09 de	43.22 c	21.2 j	54.18 f	19.52 f
M <sub>0</sub> T <sub>3</sub>	56.22 c	18.19 d	10.66 de	9.22 bc	14.78 c	42.99 cd	24.44 e	58.57 d	20.41 e
M <sub>1</sub> T <sub>0</sub>	53.41 f	15.93 g	9.64 g	8.05 f	13.81 ef	42.70 de	22.83 fg	42.85 j	16.15 j
M <sub>1</sub> T <sub>1</sub>	54.27 e	17.22 e	10.75 cd	8.18 f	14.19 de	41.21 h	23.38 f	52.33 g	18.68 g
M <sub>1</sub> T <sub>2</sub>	57.36 b	19.52c	11.28 b	8.88 d	14.72 c	39.73 i	25.37 d	61.21 c	21.02 d
M <sub>1</sub> T <sub>3</sub>	59.13 a	21.49 a	11.92 a	9.91 a	16.51 a	39.03 j	28.90 a	65.48 a	23.77 a
M <sub>2</sub> T <sub>0</sub>	52.18 g	16.53 f	9.14 h	7.48 g	12.91 g	43.68 b	21.64 ij	43.18 j	15.77 l
M <sub>2</sub> T <sub>1</sub>	55.10 d	17.26 e	9.95 f	8.48 e	13.16 g	42.80 d	22.01 hi	50.38 h	17.72 i
M <sub>2</sub> T <sub>2</sub>	56.10 c	17.37 e	10.14 f	9.04 cd	14.21 d	42.66 de	23.34 f	55.68 e	20.44 e
M <sub>2</sub> T <sub>3</sub>	57.16 b	20.03 b	10.43 e	9.16 bc	16.17 a	42.34 ef	26.42 c	58.26 d	22.46 b
M <sub>3</sub> T <sub>0</sub>	54.61 e	15.46 h	9.96 f	7.42 g	13.08 g	43.33 bc	18.22 l	41.93 k	16.02 k
M <sub>3</sub> T <sub>1</sub>	55.07 d	18.14 d	10.04 f	8.30 ef	13.66 f	42.16 f	22.41 gh	51.02 h	18.53 h
M <sub>3</sub> T <sub>2</sub>	56.03 c	19.31 c	10.85 cd	8.45 e	14.86 c	41.68 g	27.28 b	55.54 e	22.39 b
M <sub>3</sub> T <sub>3</sub>	56.15 c	20.22 b	4.36	2.94	5.71	3.06	3.79	62.89 b	21.78 c
CV%	7.5	2.46	4.36	2.94	5.71	3.06	3.79	2.58	6.26

Significant variation was observed in yield and yield contributing characters of French bean due to application of different mulching materials (Table 4). Among the treatment combinations M<sub>1</sub> (Black polythene) showed the best performance in terms of all the yield and yield contributing characters of French bean and M<sub>0</sub> (no mulch) showed the worst performance. In case of different organic manure application also significant variation was observed in yield and yield contributing characters of French bean (Table 4). T<sub>3</sub> (Kitchen compost + Vermicompost) showed the highest performance in terms of in

yield and yield contributing characters of French bean among the treatment combinations. Similar trends of results were observed [21,22,23].

Combined effect of different mulch materials and organic manure on the yield and yield contributing characters of French bean was found statistically significant (Table 5). The interaction effect of M<sub>1</sub>T<sub>3</sub> (black polythene mulch and Kitchen compost + Vermicompost) showed the highest performance in case of all the parameters of yield and yield contributing characters of French bean and M<sub>0</sub>T<sub>0</sub> (no mulch

and no organic manure) showed the lowest performance.

Pearson Correlation statistics is a widely applicable evaluation method that effectively shows the relationship between two variables. The current study revealed the correlation association at interaction level on yield and yield contributing characters of French bean (Fig. 1). No. of pod plant<sup>-1</sup> showed strongly significant and positive correlation association with seed germination (%) (0.89), yield ha<sup>-1</sup> (t) (0.89), 1000 seed weight (g) (0.85), no. of seed pod<sup>-1</sup> (0.87) and length of green pod (cm) (0.87) but showed non-significant and negative correlation

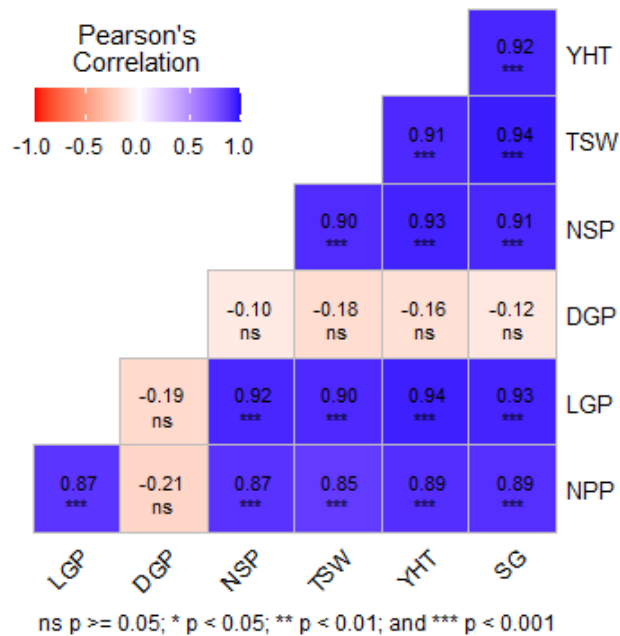
association with diameter of green pod (cm) (-0.21). Length of green pod (cm) showed the similar trend. Diameter of green pod (cm) showed non-significant and negative correlation association with seed germination (%) (-0.12), yield ha<sup>-1</sup> (t) (-0.16), 1000 seed weight (g) (-0.18), no. of seed pod<sup>-1</sup> (-0.10). No. of seed pod<sup>-1</sup> showed strongly significant and positive correlation association with seed germination (%) (0.91), yield ha<sup>-1</sup> (t) (0.93) and 1000 seed weight (g) (0.90). Thousand seed weight (g) showed strongly significant and positive correlation association with seed germination (%) (0.94) and yield ha<sup>-1</sup> (t) (0.91). Similar trend of results were observed [24].

**Table 4. Effect of mulching and organic manure on the yield and yield contributing characters of French bean**

Treatments mulching	No. of pod plant <sup>-1</sup>	Length of green pod (cm)	Diameter of green pod (cm)	No. of seed pod <sup>-1</sup>	1000 seed weight (g)	Yield ha <sup>-1</sup> (t)	Seed germination (%)
M <sub>0</sub>	16.55 d	11.71 d	1.10	6.85 d	905.44 c	12.71 d	87.25 d
M <sub>1</sub>	20.74 a	13.63 a	1.24	7.89 a	994.21 a	14.70 a	92.92 a
M <sub>2</sub>	18.83 c	12.60 c	1.17	7.26 c	929.39 b	13.92 c	89.33 c
M <sub>3</sub>	20.27 b	12.86 b	1.21	7.67 b	935.77 b	14.08 b	91.58 b
CV%	4.94	3.23	6.19	4.20	4.16	3.57	7.96
<b>Organic manure</b>							
T <sub>0</sub>	15.54 d	11.13 d	1.11	5.86 d	875.70 d	11.702 d	86.17 d
T <sub>1</sub>	18.31 c	12.43 c	1.17	6.81 c	914.90 c	12.84 c	89.00 c
T <sub>2</sub>	20.81 b	13.33 b	1.21	8.04 b	965.70 b	15.10 b	92.00 b
T <sub>3</sub>	21.72 a	13.91 a	1.24	8.94 a	1008.40a	15.77 a	93.92 a
CV%	4.94	3.23	6.19	4.20	4.16	3.57	7.96

**Table 5. Interaction effect of mulching and organic manure on the yield and yield contributing characters of French bean**

Interaction mulching x organic manure	No. of pod plant <sup>-1</sup>	Length of green pod (cm)	Diameter of green pod (cm)	No. of seed pod <sup>-1</sup>	1000 seed weight (g)	Yield ha <sup>-1</sup> (t)	Seed germination (%)
M <sub>0</sub> T <sub>0</sub>	14.52 l	10.41 j	1.05	5.18 j	849.70 k	11.37 j	83.67 j
M <sub>0</sub> T <sub>1</sub>	16.44 j	11.91 h	1.11	6.87 f	873.90 ij	12.05 h	85.67 i
M <sub>0</sub> T <sub>2</sub>	17.58 hi	12.14 gh	1.12	7.41 e	923.40 g	13.64 e	88.67 h
M <sub>0</sub> T <sub>3</sub>	17.63 hi	12.40 g	1.14	7.93 d	974.80 de	13.80 e	91.00 fg
M <sub>1</sub> T <sub>0</sub>	15.23 k	12.28 gh	1.17	6.12 hi	911.90 gh	11.66 i	88.33 h
M <sub>1</sub> T <sub>1</sub>	17.88 gh	12.91 f	1.20	6.90 f	964.60 ef	13.65 e	92.00 def
M <sub>1</sub> T <sub>2</sub>	24.48 b	14.16 c	1.25	8.61 c	1016.80 b	15.95 b	94.67 bc
M <sub>1</sub> T <sub>3</sub>	25.35 a	15.16 a	1.33	9.92 a	1083.60 a	17.55 a	96.67 a
M <sub>2</sub> T <sub>0</sub>	17.20 i	10.69 j	1.07	5.76 i	862.40 jk	11.65 i	85.33 i
M <sub>2</sub> T <sub>1</sub>	18.49 fg	12.94 f	1.16	6.86 f	909.10 h	13.28 f	88.00 h
M <sub>2</sub> T <sub>2</sub>	19.06 f	13.23 ef	1.21	7.71 de	960.60 f	15.21 d	91.33 efg
M <sub>2</sub> T <sub>3</sub>	20.56 e	13.52 de	1.26	8.70 c	985.50 cd	15.54 c	92.67 de
M <sub>3</sub> T <sub>0</sub>	15.19 k	11.15 i	1.15	6.39 gh	878.90 i	12.01 h	87.33 h
M <sub>3</sub> T <sub>1</sub>	20.44 e	11.95 h	1.22	6.62 fg	912.10 gh	12.37 g	90.33 g
M <sub>3</sub> T <sub>2</sub>	22.11 d	13.78 cd	1.24	8.45 c	962.20 ef	15.61 c	93.33 cd
M <sub>3</sub> T <sub>3</sub>	23.35 c	14.56 b	1.25	9.21 b	989.80 c	16.2 b	95.33 ab
CV%	4.94	3.23	6.19	4.20	4.16	3.57	7.96



**Fig. 1. Correlation coefficients for yield and yield contributing characters of French bean**  
 Here, NPP-No. of pod plant<sup>-1</sup>, LGP-Length of green pod (cm), DGP-Diameter of green pod (cm), NSP- No. of seed pod<sup>-1</sup>, TSW-1000 seed weight (g), YHT-Yield ha<sup>-1</sup> (t), SG-Seed germination (%)

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The goals of the current study were to choose the best mulch for French bean growth and yield, examine the effects of various types of organic manure on French bean growth and yield, and determine the combined impact of mulching and organic manure on French bean growth and yield. In the experiment M<sub>1</sub> (Black polythene mulch) treatment was more effective than without mulch M<sub>0</sub> (no mulch) treatment. The organic manure T<sub>3</sub> (Kitchen compost + Vermicompost) gave higher pod yield per hectare than without organic manure T<sub>0</sub> (no organic manure). During the investigation, the best treatment combination was obtained from M<sub>1</sub>T<sub>3</sub> (black polythene mulch and Kitchen compost + Vermicompost) treatment combination having yield potentiality of 17.55 tha<sup>-1</sup>. Significant correlation was observed among the yield and yield components at mulching and organic manure interaction level.

#### COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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