



## Effect of Different Levels of Potassium and Vermicompost on Physiological Parameters Leaf Area Plant<sup>-1</sup>, Leaf Area Index, Crop Growth Rate and Net Assimilation Rate of Potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L.)

Smita Agrawal\*, R. Lekhi, Payal Patidar and Priyanka Gangle

Department of Horticulture, R. V. S. K. V. V. COA, Gwalior (M. P.)

\*Corresponding Author E-mail: [smitaagrwl558@gmail.com](mailto:smitaagrwl558@gmail.com)

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### ABSTRACT

The field experiment was laid out in the experimental field of department of Horticulture, College of Agriculture, Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Gwalior (M. P.) during autumn-winter season. Experiment was conducted in factorial randomized blocked design with three replication comprised of eight treatments combination ( $K_1VC_0$ ,  $K_1VC_1$ ,  $K_2VC_0$ ,  $K_2VC_1$ ,  $K_3VC_0$ ,  $K_3VC_1$ ,  $K_4VC_0$ ,  $K_4VC_1$ ). On the basis of both the year, the data reveals that the treatment  $K_3$  (150 kg  $K_2O$ ) was observed significantly maximum in all physiological parameters followed by  $K_2$  (100 kg  $K_2O/ha$ ) as compared to other treatments. However, it was recorded minimum in treatment  $K_1$  (50 kg  $K_2O/ha$ ). In case of vermicompost, the treatment  $VC_1$  (20 t VC  $ha^{-1}$ ), recorded significantly maximum in all the parameters while minimum was observed in  $VC_0$  (0 t VC  $ha^{-1}$ ). Significantly maximum in all parameters (Leaf area plant, leaf area index, NAR and CGR) were noted in treatment combination  $K_3VC_1$  (150 kg  $K_2O/ha$  + 20 t VC/ha) followed by  $K_2VC_1$  (100 kg  $K_2O/ha$  + 20 t VC/ha) at 30, 60 and 90 DAP, respectively. While, it was recorded lowest in treatment  $K_1VC_0$  (50 kg  $K_2O/ha$  + 0 t VC/ha). The interaction effect of year and potassium (YXP), year and vermicompost (YXV) and year, potassium and vermicompost (YXPXV) on leaf area plant<sup>-1</sup> were non-significant in all parameters (Leaf area plant<sup>-1</sup>, leaf area index, NAR and CGR) at 30, 60, and 90 DAP respectively.

**Key words:** NAR, CGR, LAI, Vermicompost, Potassium

### INTRODUCTION

The potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L.) is one of the most important food crops both in developed as well as in developing countries. Due to its diversified uses in developed countries as food, feed raw material for producing starch. The potato was generally

regarded to be a crop suited for western world. The origin of potato is Peru, South America and belongs to family Solanaceae). In Madhya Pradesh the total area under potato cultivation is 136.0 thousand ha, with production 3048.0 thousand metric tons and productivity is 22.41 mt/ha (Anonymous 2014- 15).

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Potato required a numbers of macro and micro plant nutrients for the growth and development of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium are the most essential plant nutrients that are largely required by potato<sup>4</sup> being strong K loving crop potato required K in larger amount that in consumes N and P K is essential required for synthesis sugar and starch and also for translocation of carbohydrate; it also place and important role in maintaining growth and bigger of the plant<sup>7</sup>. Using of vermicompost is now a global movement for the second green revolution that emphasizes on composting. Vermicomposting is the science of producing compost from biodegradable organic matters through earthworms.

### MATERIAL METHODS

The experiment was laid out in randomized complete design (RCBD) with eight treatments replicated three times. The field experiment

was laid out in the experimental field of department of Horticulture, College of Agriculture, Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Krishi Vishwa Vidyalyaya, Gwalior (M. P.) during autumn-winter season. Experiment was conducted in factorial randomized blocked design with three replication comprised of eight treatments combination ( $K_1VC_0$ ,  $K_1VC_1$ ,  $K_2VC_0$ ,  $K_2VC_1$ ,  $K_3VC_0$ ,  $K_3VC_1$ ,  $K_4VC_0$ ,  $K_4VC_1$ ). As per the treatment vermicompost was applied during final land preparations full dose of Phosphorus and Potash applied as basal dose. Half of nitrogen was applied as basal dose and remaining half was applied as top dressing at the time of first earthing up (30 days after planting). Plant observation such as, LAI, CGR, NAR and Leaf Area/Plant were recorded at 30, 60 and 90 DAP.

To calculate these parameters following formulae were used:

#### Leaf area index

$$\text{LAI} = \frac{A}{P}$$

where,

A= Leaf area

P= Ground area

#### Net assimilation rate ( $\text{mg cm}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$ )

Where,

$$\text{NAR} = \frac{W_2 - W_1}{A_2 - A_1} \times \frac{\log A_2 - \log A_1}{(t_2 - t_1)}$$

$A_1$  and  $W_1$  are the leaf area and dry weight of the plant sample respectively at time  $t_1$  and  $A_2$  and  $W_2$  are the leaf area and dry weight of the plant sample respectively at time  $t_2$ .

#### Crop growth rate ( $\text{g m}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$ )

$$\text{CGR} = \frac{W_2 - W_1}{P (T_2 - T_1)}$$

where,

P = Ground area on which  $W_1$  and  $W_2$  were estimated.

$W_1$ = Dry weight of plant at 1<sup>st</sup> observation.

$W_2$ = Dry weight of plant at 2<sup>nd</sup> observation.

$T_1$  &  $T_2$  = interval between observation.

### RESULT AND DISCUSSION

#### Leaf area plant<sup>-1</sup> ( $\text{cm}^2$ )

Based on both year and pooled, data reveals that leaf area plant<sup>-1</sup> was significantly influenced by various treatments of levels of potassium and vermicompost. The significantly maximum (204.99, 308.93 and 369.97  $\text{cm}^2$ ) leaf area plant<sup>-1</sup> was observed under the treatment  $K_3$  (150  $\text{kgK}_2\text{O/ha}$ ) followed by  $K_2$  (100  $\text{kgK}_2\text{O/ha}$ )

(20 t VC  $\text{ha}^{-1}$ ), however, minimum (140.82, 179.95, 271.52 and 333.51  $\text{cm}^2$ ) as compared to other treatments at 30, 60 and 90 DAP, respectively. However, it was recorded minimum (94.49, 157.74 and 178.96  $\text{cm}^2$ ) in treatment  $K_1$  (50  $\text{kgK}_2\text{O/ha}$ ) at 30, 60 and 90 DAP, respectively. In case of vermicompost, the significantly maximum (168.61, 257.47 and 307.09  $\text{cm}^2$ ) was obtained in treatment  $VC_1$  (20 t VC  $\text{ha}^{-1}$ ), however, minimum (140.82,

220.06 and 264.60 cm<sup>2</sup>) was noted in VC<sub>0</sub> (0 t VC ha<sup>-1</sup>) at 30, 60 and 90 DAP, respectively. Significantly maximum (230.56, 347.63 and 416.56 cm<sup>2</sup>) leaf area plant<sup>-1</sup> were noted in treatment combination K<sub>3</sub>VC<sub>1</sub> (150 kgK<sub>2</sub>O/ha + 20 t VC/ha) followed by K<sub>2</sub>VC<sub>1</sub> (100 kgK<sub>2</sub>O/ha+ 20 t VC/ha) (198.83, 292.83 and 355.53 cm<sup>2</sup>) at 30, 60 and 90 DAP, respectively. While, it was recorded lowest (88.32, 152.55 and 170.25 cm<sup>2</sup>) in treatment K<sub>1</sub>VC<sub>0</sub> (50 kgK<sub>2</sub>O/ha + 0 t VC/ha) at 30, 60 and 90 DAP, respectively. The interaction effect of year and potassium (YXP), year and vermicompost (YXV) and year, potassium and vermicompost (YXPXV) on leaf area plant<sup>-1</sup> were non-significant at 30, 60 and 90 DAP.

#### Leaf area index

On the basis of pooled data reveals that K<sub>3</sub> (150 kg K<sub>2</sub>O/ha) was significantly maximum (0.171, 0.258 and 0.308) leaf area index followed by K<sub>2</sub> (100 kgK<sub>2</sub>O/ha) (0.150, 0.226 and 0.278) at 30, 60 and 90 DAP, respectively and it was calculated minimum (0.079, 0.131 and 0.149) in treatment K<sub>1</sub> at 30, 60 and 90 DAP, respectively. Similarly it was noted significantly maximum (0.141, 0.215 and 0.256) in treatment VC<sub>1</sub> (20 t VC ha<sup>-1</sup>), however, minimum (0.117, 0.183 and 0.221) was noted in VC<sub>0</sub> (0 t VC ha<sup>-1</sup>) at 30, 60 and 90 DAP, respectively. Treatment combination K<sub>3</sub>VC<sub>1</sub> (150 kgK<sub>2</sub>O/ha + 20 t VC/ha) was noted significantly maximum (0.192, 0.290 and 0.347) leaf area index followed by K<sub>2</sub>VC<sub>1</sub> (100 kgK<sub>2</sub>O/ha+ 20 t VC/ha) (0.166, 0.244 and 0.296) at 30, 60 and 90 DAP, respectively however, it was recorded lowest (0.074, 0.127 and 0.142) in treatment K<sub>1</sub>VC<sub>0</sub> (50 kgK<sub>2</sub>O/ha + 0 t VC/ha) at 30, 60 and 90 DAP, respectively. The interaction effect of both year potassium (YXP), and vermicompost (YXV) and, potassium and vermicompost (YXPXV) on leaf area index were non-significant at 30, 60 and 90 DAP.

#### Net assimilation rate (mg cm<sup>-2</sup> day<sup>-1</sup>)

On the basis of both year the data clearly showed that the net assimilation rate (30-60

DAP and 60-90 DAP) was significantly influenced by the different treatments. The NAR in general increased at 60-90 DAP in all the treatments and same trend was notice in both the year. Significantly lowest (0.0011 mg cm<sup>-2</sup> day<sup>-1</sup> at 30-60 DAP and 0.0130 mg cm<sup>-2</sup> day<sup>-1</sup> at 60-90 DAP) net assimilation rate was recorded in treatment K<sub>3</sub> (150 kgK<sub>2</sub>O/ha) followed by K<sub>2</sub> (100 kgK<sub>2</sub>O/ha) (0.0012 mg cm<sup>-2</sup> day<sup>-1</sup> at 30-60 DAP and 0.0201 mg cm<sup>-2</sup> day<sup>-1</sup> at 60-90 DAP) and which were at par with each other at 30-60 DAP. It was calculated maximum (0.0036 mg cm<sup>-2</sup> day<sup>-1</sup> at 30-60 DAP and 0.0329 mg cm<sup>-2</sup> day<sup>-1</sup> at 60-90 DAP) in treatment K<sub>1</sub>. Vermicompost, treatment significantly lowest (0.0016 mg cm<sup>-2</sup> day<sup>-1</sup> at 30-60 DAP and 0.0204 mg cm<sup>-2</sup> day<sup>-1</sup> at 60-90 DAP) was noted in treatment VC<sub>1</sub> (20 t VC ha<sup>-1</sup>), however, maximum ( 0.0025 mg cm<sup>-2</sup> day<sup>-1</sup> at 30-60 DAP and 0.0244 mg cm<sup>-2</sup> day<sup>-1</sup> at 60-90 DAP) was noted in VC<sub>0</sub> (0 t VC ha<sup>-1</sup>) .Significantly lowest (0.0005 mg cm<sup>-2</sup> day<sup>-1</sup> at 30-60 DAP and 0.0078 mg cm<sup>-2</sup> day<sup>-1</sup> at 60-90 DAP) net assimilation rate was calculated in treatment combination K<sub>3</sub>VC<sub>1</sub> (150 kgK<sub>2</sub>O/ha + 20 t VC/ha) followed by K<sub>2</sub>VC<sub>1</sub> (100 kgK<sub>2</sub>O/ha+ 20 t VC/ha) (0.0008 mg cm<sup>-2</sup> day<sup>-1</sup> at 30-60 DAP and 0.0179 mg cm<sup>-2</sup> day<sup>-1</sup> at 60-90 DAP) in first, second year and pooled, respectively and which were at par with each other at 30-60 DAP. However, it was recorded maximum (0.0038 mg cm<sup>-2</sup> day<sup>-1</sup> at 30-60 DAP and 0.0333 mg cm<sup>-2</sup> day<sup>-1</sup> at 60-90 DAP) in treatment K<sub>1</sub>VC<sub>0</sub> (50 kgK<sub>2</sub>O/ha + 0 t VC/ha) in first, second year and pooled, respectively. The interaction effect of year and potassium (YXP), year and vermicompost (YXV) and year, potassium and vermicompost (YXPXV) on net assimilation rate were non-significant at 30- 60 and 60-90 DAP.

#### Crop growth rate (g m<sup>-2</sup> day<sup>-1</sup>)

On the basis of both year mean data clearly indicated that there was significant difference amongst the treatments at both the stages of observations. In general CGR increased with increase in crop growth stages and same trend was notice in both the year and pooled also.

The maximum ( $0.127 \text{ g m}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$  at 30-60 DAP and  $1.186 \text{ g m}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$  at 60-90 DAP) crop growth rate was observed under the treatment  $K_1$  ( $50 \text{ kgK}_2\text{O/ha}$ ). Therefore, it was observed lowest ( $0.053 \text{ g m}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$  at 30-60 DAP and  $0.205 \text{ g m}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$  at 60-90 DAP) in  $K_3$  ( $150 \text{ kgK}_2\text{O/ha}$ ) followed by  $K_2$  ( $100 \text{ kgK}_2\text{O/ha}$ ) ( $0.054 \text{ g m}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$  at 30-60 DAP and  $0.609 \text{ g m}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$  at 60-90 DAP) and which were at par with each other at 30-60 DAP. Vermicompost, treatment significantly lowest ( $0.064 \text{ g cm}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$  at 30-60 DAP and  $0.618 \text{ g cm}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$  at 60-90 DAP) was noted in treatment  $VC_1$  ( $20 \text{ t VC ha}^{-1}$ ) and maximum ( $0.099 \text{ g cm}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$  at 30-60 DAP and  $0.724 \text{ g cm}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$  at 60-90 DAP) was noted in  $VC_0$  ( $0 \text{ t VC ha}^{-1}$ ) in both year mean, respectively.

Significantly lowest  $0.030 \text{ g cm}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$  at 30-60 DAP and  $0.107 \text{ g m}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$  at 60-90 DAP) crop growth rate was calculated in treatment combination  $K_3VC_1$  ( $150 \text{ kgK}_2\text{O/ha} + 20 \text{ t VC/ha}$ ) followed by  $K_2VC_1$  ( $100 \text{ kgK}_2\text{O/ha} + 20 \text{ t VC/ha}$ ) ( $0.036 \text{ g cm}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$  at 30-60 DAP and  $0.302 \text{ g cm}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$  at 60-90 DAP) and which were at par with each other at 30-60 DAP only. However, it was recorded maximum ( $0.135 \text{ g cm}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$  at 30-60 DAP and  $1.241 \text{ g m}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$  at 60-90 DAP) in treatment  $K_4VC_0$  ( $200 \text{ kgK}_2\text{O/ha} + 0 \text{ t VC/ha}$ )

The interaction effect of year and potassium (YXP), year and vermicompost (YXV) and year, potassium and vermicompost (YXPXV) on crop growth rate were non-significant at 30- 60 and 60-90 DAP. This could be due to the application of doses of potassium fertilizer increase the uptake/ availability of nitrogen, which might be promoting growth to enhance synthesis of or accumulation of proteins, amino acids and enzymes which are responsible for cell division and cell elongation thus resulted in improvement in leaf area index. The findings are in close harmony with the result of Singh and Lal Sandhu *et al.*, Azarpour *et al.* and Fekadu Asfaw . The increase in leaf area index in response to increasing rate of potassium and vermicompost may be ascribed to the availability of optimum nutrients contained in manure that led to high leaf area index through facilitated vegetative growth. The findings are in close harmony with the result of Banerjee *et al.* This revealed that as the LAI increased the shading effect of the leaves may have caused reduction in photosynthesis and NAR. It may also be due to the reduced photosynthesis of the older leaves. These findings are in agreement with the findings of Banerjee *et al.*

**Table 1: Leaf area plant<sup>-1</sup> (cm<sup>2</sup>) at different stages of potato as influenced by different levels of potassium and vermicompost at first, second year and pooled**

Treat. Symb.	Treatment	Leaf area plant <sup>-1</sup> (cm <sup>2</sup> ) at								
		First year			Second year			Pooled		
		30 DAP	60 DAP	90 DAP	30 DAP	60 DAP	90 DAP	30 DAP	60 DAP	90 DAP
$K_1$	50 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha	89.06	151.17	170.77	99.92	164.30	187.15	94.49	157.74	178.96
$K_2$	100 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha	172.91	262.58	321.93	186.99	280.47	345.08	179.95	271.52	333.51
$K_3$	150 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha	197.18	298.93	356.62	212.80	318.94	383.33	204.99	308.93	369.97
$K_4$	200 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha	133.29	208.90	251.00	145.56	224.84	270.87	139.42	216.87	260.94
SEm ±		1.75	1.24	1.87	1.84	2.03	2.77	1.19	1.15	1.65
CD 5%		5.32	3.75	5.68	5.59	6.15	8.41	3.44	3.33	4.79
$VC_0$	0 t VC/ha	134.61	211.92	254.38	147.03	228.21	274.81	140.82	220.06	264.60
$VC_1$	20 t VC/ha	161.61	248.87	295.78	175.60	266.07	318.40	168.61	257.47	307.09
SEm ±		1.24	0.87	1.32	1.30	1.43	1.96	0.84	0.81	1.17
CD 5%		3.76	2.65	4.02	3.95	4.35	5.94	2.43	2.36	3.39
$K_1VC_0$	50 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha + 0 t VC/ha	83.25	146.23	162.07	93.39	158.87	178.43	88.32	152.55	170.25
$K_1VC_1$	50 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha + 20 t VC/ha	94.87	156.12	179.47	106.44	169.73	195.86	100.65	162.92	187.67
$K_2VC_0$	100 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha + 0 t VC/ha	154.33	241.57	300.27	167.80	258.85	322.70	161.07	250.21	311.49
$K_2VC_1$	100 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha + 20 t VC/ha	191.49	283.58	343.59	206.18	302.08	367.47	198.83	292.83	355.53
$K_3VC_0$	150 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha + 0 t VC/ha	172.29	260.69	311.62	186.56	279.79	335.16	179.42	270.24	323.39
$K_3VC_1$	150 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha + 20 t VC/ha	222.07	337.16	401.62	239.04	358.10	431.49	230.56	347.63	416.56
$K_4VC_0$	200 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha + 0 t VC/ha	128.57	199.19	243.58	140.35	215.33	262.96	134.46	207.26	253.27
$K_4VC_1$	200 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha + 20 t VC/ha	138.02	218.62	258.43	150.76	234.35	278.78	144.39	226.48	268.60
SEm ±		2.48	1.75	2.65	2.61	2.87	3.92	1.68	1.63	2.34
CD 5%		7.52	5.31	8.04	7.90	8.70	11.89	4.86	4.71	6.77

**Table 2: Leaf area index at different stages of potato as influenced by different levels of potassium and vermicompost at first, second year and pooled**

Treat. Symb.	Treatment	Leaf area index at								
		First year			Second year			Pooled		
		30 DAP	60 DAP	90 DAP	30 DAP	60 DAP	90 DAP	30 DAP	60 DAP	90 DAP
K <sub>1</sub>	50 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha	0.074	0.126	0.142	0.085	0.137	0.156	0.079	0.131	0.149
K <sub>2</sub>	100 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha	0.144	0.219	0.268	0.156	0.234	0.288	0.150	0.226	0.278
K <sub>3</sub>	150 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha	0.164	0.249	0.297	0.177	0.266	0.320	0.171	0.258	0.308
K <sub>4</sub>	200 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha	0.111	0.174	0.209	0.121	0.187	0.226	0.116	0.181	0.218
SEm ±		0.003	0.004	0.004	0.003	0.006	0.003	0.002	0.003	0.002
CD 5%		0.010	0.012	0.011	0.009	0.019	0.010	0.006	0.010	0.007
VC <sub>0</sub>	0 t VC/ha	0.112	0.177	0.212	0.123	0.190	0.229	0.117	0.183	0.221
VC <sub>1</sub>	20 t VC/ha	0.135	0.208	0.246	0.147	0.222	0.265	0.141	0.215	0.256
SEm ±		0.002	0.003	0.003	0.002	0.005	0.002	0.001	0.002	0.002
CD 5%		0.007	0.008	0.008	0.006	0.014	0.007	0.004	0.007	0.005
K <sub>1</sub> VC <sub>0</sub>	50 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha + 0 t VC/ha	0.069	0.122	0.135	0.078	0.132	0.149	0.074	0.127	0.142
K <sub>1</sub> VC <sub>1</sub>	50 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha + 20 t VC/ha	0.079	0.130	0.149	0.092	0.141	0.163	0.085	0.136	0.156
K <sub>2</sub> VC <sub>0</sub>	100 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha+ 0 t VC/ha	0.129	0.202	0.250	0.140	0.216	0.269	0.134	0.209	0.260
K <sub>2</sub> VC <sub>1</sub>	100 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha+ 20 t VC/ha	0.160	0.236	0.286	0.172	0.252	0.306	0.166	0.244	0.296
K <sub>3</sub> VC <sub>0</sub>	150 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha+ 0 t VC/ha	0.144	0.217	0.259	0.156	0.234	0.279	0.150	0.225	0.269
K <sub>3</sub> VC <sub>1</sub>	150 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha+ 20 t VC/ha	0.185	0.281	0.335	0.199	0.298	0.360	0.192	0.290	0.347
K <sub>4</sub> VC <sub>0</sub>	200 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha + 0 t VC/ha	0.107	0.166	0.203	0.117	0.179	0.219	0.112	0.173	0.211
K <sub>4</sub> VC <sub>1</sub>	200 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha + 20 t VC/ha	0.115	0.182	0.215	0.126	0.195	0.232	0.120	0.189	0.224
SEm ±		0.005	0.005	0.005	0.004	0.009	0.005	0.003	0.005	0.003
CD 5%		0.014	0.016	0.016	0.012	0.027	0.015	0.008	0.014	0.009

**Table 3: Net assimilation rate during at different stages of potato as influenced by different levels of potassium and vermicompost at first, second year and pooled**

Treat. Symb.	Treatment	Net assimilation rate (mg cm <sup>-2</sup> day <sup>-1</sup> ) at					
		First year		Second year		Pooled	
		30-60 DAP	60-90 DAP	30-60 DAP	60-90 DAP	30-60 DAP	60-90 DAP
K <sub>1</sub>	50 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha	0.0037	0.0341	0.0036	0.0316	0.0036	0.0329
K <sub>2</sub>	100 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha	0.0011	0.0203	0.0012	0.0200	0.0012	0.0201
K <sub>3</sub>	150 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha	0.0011	0.0134	0.0010	0.0126	0.0011	0.0130
K <sub>4</sub>	200 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha	0.0024	0.0244	0.0023	0.0230	0.0023	0.0237
SEm ±		0.0001	0.0010	0.0001	0.0009	0.0001	0.0006
CD 5%		0.0002	0.0030	0.0003	0.0028	0.0002	0.0018
VC <sub>0</sub>	0 t VC/ha	0.0025	0.0253	0.0025	0.0236	0.0025	0.0244
VC <sub>1</sub>	20 t VC/ha	0.0016	0.0208	0.0016	0.0199	0.0016	0.0204
SEm ±		0.00004	0.0007	0.0001	0.0007	0.0000	0.0004
CD 5%		0.00013	0.0022	0.0002	0.0020	0.0001	0.0013
K <sub>1</sub> VC <sub>0</sub>	50 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha + 0 t VC/ha	0.0039	0.0348	0.0037	0.0317	0.0038	0.0333
K <sub>1</sub> VC <sub>1</sub>	50 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha + 20 t VC/ha	0.0035	0.0335	0.0034	0.0315	0.0035	0.0325
K <sub>2</sub> VC <sub>0</sub>	100 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha+ 0 t VC/ha	0.0015	0.0228	0.0017	0.0218	0.0016	0.0223
K <sub>2</sub> VC <sub>1</sub>	100 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha+ 20 t VC/ha	0.0008	0.0177	0.0008	0.0182	0.0008	0.0179
K <sub>3</sub> VC <sub>0</sub>	150 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha+ 0 t VC/ha	0.0017	0.0188	0.0016	0.0176	0.0016	0.0182
K <sub>3</sub> VC <sub>1</sub>	150 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha+ 20 t VC/ha	0.0005	0.0080	0.0005	0.0075	0.0005	0.0078
K <sub>4</sub> VC <sub>0</sub>	200 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha + 0 t VC/ha	0.0031	0.0246	0.0029	0.0233	0.0030	0.0240
K <sub>4</sub> VC <sub>1</sub>	200 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha + 20 t VC/ha	0.0017	0.0242	0.0016	0.0226	0.0017	0.0234
SEm ±		0.0001	0.0014	0.0001	0.0013	0.0001	0.0009
CD 5%		0.0003	0.0043	0.0004	0.0040	0.0002	0.0026

**Table 4: Crop growth rate at different stages of potato as influenced by different levels of potassium and vermicompost at first, second year and pooled**

Treat. Symb.	Treatment	Crop growth rate (30-60 DAP) at					
		First year		Second year		Pooled	
		30-60 DAP	60-90 DAP	30-60 DAP	60-90 DAP	30-60 DAP	60-90 DAP
K <sub>1</sub>	50 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha	0.127	1.183	0.127	1.189	0.127	1.186
K <sub>2</sub>	100 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha	0.052	0.606	0.056	0.612	0.054	0.609
K <sub>3</sub>	150 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha	0.053	0.202	0.053	0.208	0.053	0.205
K <sub>4</sub>	200 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha	0.094	0.682	0.092	0.688	0.093	0.685
SEm ±		0.002	0.035	0.004	0.034	0.002	0.022
CD 5%		0.005	0.105	0.011	0.105	0.006	0.063
VC <sub>0</sub>	0 t VC/ha	0.098	0.722	0.100	0.727	0.099	0.724
VC <sub>1</sub>	20 t VC/ha	0.065	0.615	0.064	0.621	0.064	0.618
SEm ±		0.001	0.025	0.003	0.024	0.001	0.015
CD 5%		0.004	0.074	0.008	0.074	0.004	0.045
K <sub>1</sub> VC <sub>0</sub>	50 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha + 0 t VC/ha	0.135	1.239	0.134	1.244	0.135	1.241
K <sub>1</sub> VC <sub>1</sub>	50 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha + 20 t VC/ha	0.120	1.128	0.119	1.134	0.120	1.131
K <sub>2</sub> VC <sub>0</sub>	100 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha + 0 t VC/ha	0.067	0.611	0.077	0.617	0.072	0.614
K <sub>2</sub> VC <sub>1</sub>	100 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha + 20 t VC/ha	0.036	0.300	0.036	0.305	0.036	0.302
K <sub>3</sub> VC <sub>0</sub>	150 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha + 0 t VC/ha	0.076	0.600	0.075	0.607	0.075	0.603
K <sub>3</sub> VC <sub>1</sub>	150 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha + 20 t VC/ha	0.030	0.104	0.030	0.110	0.030	0.107
K <sub>4</sub> VC <sub>0</sub>	200 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha + 0 t VC/ha	0.116	0.736	0.115	0.742	0.115	0.739
K <sub>4</sub> VC <sub>1</sub>	200 kgK <sub>2</sub> O/ha + 20 t VC/ha	0.072	0.628	0.070	0.633	0.071	0.631
SEm ±		0.003	0.049	0.005	0.049	0.003	0.031
CD 5%		0.008	0.149	0.016	0.148	0.008	0.090

### CONCLUSION

On the basis of present experiment results revealed that Physiological parameters viz., leaf Area/ Plant, LAI, CGR and NAR were found superior in Treatment K<sub>3</sub> (150 kg K<sub>2</sub>O) as compared to other treatments. Treatment VC<sub>1</sub> was found superior in case of Vermicompost for all the parameters. In treatment combination K<sub>3</sub>VC<sub>1</sub> was found best for all the growth analytical parameters

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