

# STUDY ON MANURES AND FERTILIZERS

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## Manures

Manures may also be called as 'Organic manure'. Some of the organic wastes or by-products (extracts of animals and birds, litter, crop refuses, and other by-products) either decomposed or treated or fresh are used to enrich soil fertility. These are called manures.

Manures may be bulky (nutrient contents are very low per unit area) such as farm yard manures (FYM), and compost or concentrated (containing a higher per cent of nutrients) such as oilcakes, meals of blood, meat, bone, fish, horns and hooves.

## Fertilizers

Broadly, a fertilizer may be defined as any substance (chemical, organic and microbial) that is added to the soil supply element (s) required for the nutrition of plants (BARC, 2005).

In a specific sense, fertilizers are chemicals that occur naturally or are produced in the factory and when added to the soil, supply nutrient elements required for better plant growth.

## Differences between manures and fertilizer

Sl. No.	Manures	Fertilizers
1.	Naturally occurring substance.	Artificially made.
2.	Generally bulky in nature. i.e. concentration of plant nutrient is low.	Concentration of plant nutrient is high.
3.	Obtaining from organic sources.	Obtaining from inorganic sources.
4.	Easy to prepare.	Preparation is complex.
5.	Excess application is not harmful to soil.	Excess application may cause harmful effect to soil.
6.	Release plant nutrient in available form slowly.	Release plant nutrient in available forms quickly.
7.	Residual effect is high.	Residual effect is low.
9.	Improves the physical properties of soil.	Does not improve the physical properties of soil, but sometimes it may cause negative effect on soil properties.
10.	Cost of preparation is low.	Cost of production is high.
11	They have no definite chemical formula.	They have definite chemical formula.

## List of manures

The followings are some important organic manures

- a. Cowdung
- b. Farm yard manures
- c. Compost
- d. Poultry manures
- e. Oil cakes
- f. Blood meal
- g. Meat meal
- h. Fish meal
- i. Green manures etc.
- j. Vermicompost



**List of fertilizers**

**Nitrogenous fertilizer:** Sodium nitrate, Calcium nitrate, Ammonium chloride, Ammonium sulphate, Anhydrous ammonia, Ammonium nitrate, calcium ammonium nitrate (CAN), Ammonium sulphate nitrate (ASN), Urea, Calcium cyanamide

**Phosphatic fertilizer:** Single super phosphate (SSP), Triple super phosphate (TSP), Ammonium phosphate, Dicalcium phosphate, Basic slag, Rock phosphate. Tricalcium phosphates

**Potassic fertilizer:** Muriate of potash (MOP), Potassium sulphate, Potassium nitrate, Potassium magnesium nitrate

**Properties of some manures and fertilizers**

**A. Properties of manures**

Name of the manures	Physical properties			Nutrient content
	Colour	Solubility	State	
<i>Cowdung</i>	Blackish	Water soluble	Solid	% N = 0.5-1.5 % P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> = 0.4-0.8 % K <sub>2</sub> O = 0.5-1.9
<i>Compost</i>	Blackish	Water soluble	Solid	% N = 0.4-0.8 % P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> = 0.3-0.6 % K <sub>2</sub> O = 0.7-1.0
<i>Farm yard manure (FYM)</i>	Light green or blackish	Water soluble	Solid	% N = 0.5-1.5 % P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> = 0.4-0.8 % K <sub>2</sub> O = 0.5-1.9
<i>Mustard oil cake (MOC)</i>	Brownish	Water soluble	Solid	% N = 5.1-5.2 % P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> = 1.8-1.9 % K <sub>2</sub> O = 1.1-1.3
<i>Til oil cake</i>	Blackish	Water soluble	Solid	% N = 6.2-6.3 % P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> = 2.0-2.1 % K <sub>2</sub> O = 1.2-1.3
<i>Wood ash</i>	Blakish or grayish	Water soluble	Solid	% N = Trace % P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> = 2.0 % K <sub>2</sub> O = 2.3-12

## B. Properties of fertilizers

Name of the fertilizers	Properties						
	Physical properties			Chemical properties			
	Colour	Solubility	Structure	Reaction	Chemical formula	Nutrient content	Available form (s)
<i>Urea</i>	White	Highly soluble in water	Granular	Acidic	$\text{CO}(\text{NH}_2)_2$	N= 46%	$\text{NH}_4^+$ $\text{NO}_3^-$
<i>Diammonium phosphate</i>	Brownish	Highly soluble in water	Granular	Alkaline	$(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{HPO}_4$	N= 18% $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5= 46\%$	$\text{NH}_4^+$ $\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^-$ $\text{HPO}_4^{2-}$ $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$
<i>SSP</i>	Grayish	Highly soluble in water	Dust	Neutral	$\text{Ca}(\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4)_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ . $\text{CaSO}_4$	$\text{P}_2\text{O}_5 = 16-18\%$ S = 10-14% Ca: 18-21%	$\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^-$ $\text{HPO}_4^{2-}$ $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$ $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$
<i>TSP</i>	Grayish or blackish	Easily soluble in water	Granular	Neutral	$\text{Ca}(\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4)_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$	$\text{P}_2\text{O}_5 = 48\%$ Ca: 15%	$\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^-$ $\text{HPO}_4^{2-}$ $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$
<i>MOP</i>	Brick red	Easily soluble in water	Granular	Acidic	KCl	$\text{K}_2\text{O} = 60\%$	$\text{K}^+$
<i>Gypsum</i>	Whitish	Easily soluble in water	Dust	Acidic	$\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$	S = 18% Ca = 33%	$\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ $\text{Ca}^{2+}$
<i>Zinc sulphate</i>	Whitish	Easily soluble in water	Granular	Acidic	$\text{ZnSO}_4$	Zn = 36% S = 18%	$\text{Zn}^{2+}$ $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$

## Calculations on fertilizers and manures

**Problem 1:** Calculate the quantity of urea, single superphosphate (SSP) and muriate of potash (MOP) required for one hectare of rice with the N, P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and K<sub>2</sub>O 100-50-50 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>.

**Solution:**

We know,

In urea, %N = 46,  
In SSP, % P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> = 16 and  
In MOP, % K<sub>2</sub>O = 60

The required amount of fertilizer =  $\frac{100 \times \text{Dose of nutrient}}{\text{Nutrient content in the applied fertilizer (\%)}}$

Therefore,

The required amount of urea =  $\frac{100 \times 100}{46} = 217.4 \text{ kg ha}^{-1}$

The required amount of SSP =  $\frac{100 \times 50}{16} = 312.5 \text{ kg ha}^{-1}$

The required amount of MOP =  $\frac{100 \times 50}{60} = 83.33 \text{ kg ha}^{-1}$

**Answer:** The required amount of urea, SSP and MOP for one hectare of rice field is 217.4, 312.5 and 83.33 kg, respectively.

**Problem 2:** Recommended rate of urea, TSP and MOP for wheat is 120, 60 and 60 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. Calculate the amount of N, P and K required for two hectares of land.

**Solution:**

We know,

In urea, %N = 46,  
In SSP, % P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> = 16 and  
In MOP, % K<sub>2</sub>O = 60

P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> content × 0.44 = P content

K<sub>2</sub>O × 0.83 = K content

The required amount of nutrient =  $\frac{\text{Nutrient content in the applied fertilizer} \times \text{Dose of fertilizer}}{100}$

Therefore,

The required amount of N for 2 hectare =  $\frac{46 \times 120}{100} \times 2 = 110.4 \text{ kg}$

The required amount of P for 2 hectare =  $\frac{48 \times 60}{100} \times 2 \times 0.43 = 24.77 \text{ kg}$

The required amount of K for 2 hectare =  $\frac{60 \times 60}{100} \times 2 \times 0.83 = 59.76 \text{ kg}$

**Answer:** The required amount of N, P and K for two hectares of land is 110.4, 24.77 and 59.76 kg, respectively.

**Problem 3:** Recommended rate of N, P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and K<sub>2</sub>O for wheat is 120, 80 and 70 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. If the land (2 ha) is supplemented with 10 tones of farm yard manure (FYM), calculate the amount of urea, TSP and MOP to meet the requirement.

**Solution:**

Let, in FYM %N ≈ 0.5, %P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ≈ 0.4 and % K<sub>2</sub>O ≈ 0.5

$$\text{The supplied amount of N from FYM} = \frac{0.5 \times 10000}{100} = 50 \text{ kg}$$

$$\text{The supplied amount of P}_2\text{O}_5 \text{ from FYM} = \frac{0.4 \times 10000}{100} = 40 \text{ kg}$$

$$\text{The supplied amount of K}_2\text{O from FYM} = \frac{0.5 \times 10000}{100} = 50 \text{ kg}$$

Recommended rates of nutrient for 2 hectare of wheat field are:

$$\text{N} = 120 \times 2 = 240 \text{ kg; P}_2\text{O}_5 = 80 \times 2 = 160 \text{ kg; and K}_2\text{O} = 70 \times 2 = 140 \text{ kg}$$

From FYM application, we get 50, 40 and 50 kg of N, P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and K<sub>2</sub>O, respectively.

So,

$$\text{The amount of N to be supplied from urea} = 240 - 50 = 190 \text{ kg}$$

$$\text{The amount of P}_2\text{O}_5 \text{ to be supplied from TSP} = 160 - 40 = 120 \text{ kg}$$

$$\text{The amount of K}_2\text{O to be supplied from MOP} = 140 - 50 = 90 \text{ kg}$$

We know,

$$\text{In urea, \%N} = 46,$$

$$\text{In TSP, \% P}_2\text{O}_5 = 48 \text{ and}$$

$$\text{In MOP, \% K}_2\text{O} = 60$$

$$\text{The required amount of urea} = \frac{100 \times 190}{46} = 413 \text{ kg}$$

$$\text{The required amount of TSP} = \frac{100 \times 120}{48} = 250 \text{ kg}$$

$$\text{The required amount of MOP} = \frac{100 \times 90}{60} = 150 \text{ kg}$$

**Answer:** The amount of urea, TSP and MOP for two hectare of wheat field is 413, 250 and 150 kg, respectively.

#### Useful Chemical Conversion Factors

$$\begin{aligned} \text{P} \times 2.29 &= \text{P}_2\text{O}_5 \\ \text{P}_2\text{O}_5 \times 0.43 &= \text{P} \\ \text{H}_3\text{PO}_4 \times 0.32 &= \text{P} \\ \text{K} \times 1.20 &= \text{K}_2\text{O} \\ \text{K}_2\text{O} \times 0.83 &= \text{K} \\ \text{KCl} \times 0.52 &= \text{K} \\ \text{K}_2\text{SO}_4 \times 0.45 &= \text{K} \end{aligned}$$

#### Some other useful conversions

$$\begin{aligned} 1 \text{ acre} &= 100 \text{ decimal} = 3.025 \text{ bigha} \\ 1 \text{ hectare} &= 1 \text{ ha} = 10,000 \text{ m}^2 = 2.47 \text{ acre} = 7.47 \text{ bigha} \\ 1 \text{ katha} &= 1.67 \text{ decimal} \\ 1 \text{ bigha} &= 20 \text{ katha} = 33.33 \text{ decimal} \\ 1 \text{ kg} &= 2.2046 \text{ pounds} \\ 1 \text{ lb} &= 0.4535 \text{ kg} \end{aligned}$$

#### Fertilizer/Nutrient Ratio

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Urea: N} &= \mathbf{2.17}: 1 \\ \text{TSP: P} &= \mathbf{5.00}: 1 \\ \text{MOP:K} &= \mathbf{2.00}: 1 \\ \text{Gypsum:S} &= \mathbf{5.56}: 1 \\ \text{ZnSO}_4\text{:Zn} &= \mathbf{2.79}: 1 \end{aligned}$$

**Suggested Reading:**

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