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Effects of growing mediums on the growth and yield of pot-grown Yard long bean (*Vigna unguiculata*)

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ABSTRACT

Yard long bean (Vigna unguiculata) is an important leguminous crop of tropical countries due to its good taste and nutritive value and it is very common vegetable cultivated by the farmers of South Asian countries, including Bangladesh. A pot experiment was conducted to evaluate the effect of different growing media on growth and yield of two varieties of yard long beans based on Randomized Complete Block Design (RCBD) with three replications at Cumilla from 4 August to 15 October 2020. Different morphological parameters for the varieties showed significant variation for different growing media. The highest leaf length (8.2) was recorded in soil and cocopeat medium (M₂), while the lowest (5.3) was observed in cocopeat and control (soil) media. The highest number of fruits per plant (20.5) was recorded in V₁M₂ (kagornatki variety × soil and cocopeat media). Maximum fruit length (43cm) was recorded in the kagornatki variety, followed by xinxiang-1820 (42cm) variety. In principle component analysis, first three components (76.53%, 12.59% and 10.88%) were recorded, which is statistically significant for variations, while in coefficient correlation, the positive highly significant genotypic associations ($r \geq 0.72$) were found in plant height with number of fruits per plant ($r=0.92$), fresh and dry weight of fruits per plant ($r=0.90$ and 0.87) and yield/pot ($r=0.91$). A maximum number of seeds per fruit (16.6) was found in kagornatki followed by Xinxiang-1820 (14.5) in soil and cocopeat medium. The maximum fresh weight (20.3g), dry weight (12.50g) and yield/pot (420.25g) were recorded by V₁M₂ (kagornatki variety × soil and cocopeat media), whereas V₁M₁ (Kagornatki × cocopeat) and V₁M₀ (Kagornatki × soil) showed the lowest performance. So, the variety kagornatki with soil and cocopeat media was found effective based on the overall performance for cultivation under the agro-climatic condition of Cumilla.

Key Words: Growing media, Pot cultivation, Cocopeat and Yield performance.

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I. Introduction

Yard long bean, also known as Vegetable cowpea, is a popular leguminous vegetable grown extensively in Asia, particularly in South Asian and Southeast Asian countries. It belongs to the

Fabaceae family and has the chromosome number $2n = 2x = 22$ (Fana et al., 2004). This climbing annual vine produces indeterminate vines reaching 9 to 12 feet. The pods, which hang in pairs, should be harvested before they mature (Coker et al., 2021). Yard long beans are grown for their crisp, soft green pods, which are good either raw or cooked. It is thought that the yard long bean was domesticated from cultivated cowpea in Asia (Kongjaimun et al., 2012).

The cultivation of yard long beans is increasing every year due to their commercial value and high yield. It requires a sunny area for optimal growth, although excessive shade can reduce flowering and bean production. Yard long bean is not very particular about soil pH but thrives in a pH range of 6.0 to 7.5. It can withstand heat and relatively dry conditions better than pole beans because it is a day-neutral plant. However, it requires higher rainfall than the more drought-tolerant black-eyed pea (Purseglove et al., 1968). As one of the most significant leguminous vegetables, it is abundantly grown in Bangladesh during the summer. Currently, yard long beans are grown extensively across Asia, particularly in South Asian and Southeast Asian nations (Huque et al., 2012). Bangladesh produces 33281.75 metric tons of yard long bean from 17680.08 acres of land, the average yield being 1882.44kg/acre (BBS, 2020). Yard long beans have a relatively short shelf life due to their high respiration rate and susceptibility to wilting. They are chilling-sensitive and can be injured when stored at temperatures below 10°C. The yard long bean is grown largely for its pods, unlike other vigna crops that are farmed for their seeds (Rubatzky, 1997). However, specific nutrient guidelines for organically grown yard long beans in pots are lacking. Excessive application of organic manures can lead to excessive vegetative growth. Therefore, it is essential to determine suitable growing media and organic nutrient regimes for pot-grown yard long beans.

Using pots to produce yard long bean vegetables is significant because they enhance plant growth and productivity. Hence, selecting an adequate growing medium is one of the greatly significant appreciations when raising containerized vegetable crops. The word "growing medium," among others, describes the material used in a container to care for a plant. The terms "rooting media" (Verhagen and Blok, 2009) and "substrate" (Schroeder, 2007; Vaughn et al., 2011) are also used interchangeably. Growing media are materials used to grow plants that aren't actual soil. These can be inorganic materials like clay, perlite, vermiculite, or mineral wool or organic materials including peat, compost, tree bark, coconut (*Cocos nucifera* L.) coir, and chicken feathers (Grunert et al., 2008; Vaughn et al., 2011). Peat and compost, coir and clay, and other combinations are examples of other combinations (Nair et al., 2011). Vegetable growth media have been created using a variety of substances. According to local availability, different raw materials are used around the world (Schmilewski, 2009). Growing media are frequently made from a combination of several raw materials to obtain the ideal balance of air and water holding capacity for the plants to be grown as well as for the medium's long-term stability (Bilderback et al., 2005; Nair et al., 2011). Thus, it is crucial to identify adequate growing media that improve identical emergence, growth and yield of yard long bean.

There is a scarcity of distinct nutrient directions for yard long bean risen organically in pots. Field research indicated that applying abundant organic manures may lead to excess vegetative development. However, the effect of an increased dose of organic nutrients on pot risen yard long bean has not been experimented. Although yard long bean is a leguminous crop, preliminary development and installation require a starter amount of split requisition of fermented manures, which may enhance the feedback of applied nutrients. Against this backdrop, the current examination was attempted to observe a suitable development medium and to regularize an organic nutrient record for pot (growbag) risen yard long bean variety Kagornatki and Xinxiang-1820.

II. Materials and Methods

The experiment was carried out on the roof of Datta villa in Rasecourse, Adarsha sadar Cumilla, from 4 August to October 15. Geographically, the experimental field was located at 23.27° N latitude and 91.12° E longitude. The experiment was undertaken to know the effects of growing mediums on the growth and yield of pot-grown yard long bean. The experiment had three replications and was set up using the Randomized Complete Block Design (RCBD). The treatments comprised three growing media (M_0 : Normal soil (control); M_1 : Cocopeat; M_2 : Soil and cocopeat) and two varieties (V_1 : Kagornatki; V_2 : Xinxiang-1820).

So, the treatment combination are:

$V_1 \times M_0$: Kagornatki \times Soil	$V_2 \times M_0$: Xinxiang \times Soil
$V_1 \times M_1$: Kagornatki \times Cocopeat	$V_2 \times M_1$: Xinxiang \times Cocopeat
$V_1 \times M_2$: Kagornatki \times (Soil and Cocopeat)	$V_2 \times M_2$: Xinxiang \times (Soil and Cocopeat)

Eighteen empty plastic pots with 30cm depth and 35cm diameter were used for the experiment and are clean, with plenty of room for roots, lightweight for easy handling and drainage holes in the bottom. Seeds were sown in every pot and after sowing of seeds, pots were kept in a protected environment that provided their basic needs of warm temperatures, water and oxygen. Three plants were kept in each pot and the rest were removed after recording the germination data. Regular weeding was carried out on the pot to prevent crop weed competition and the plant was irrigated after sowing and later, irrigation was given at 2-3 days intervals to maintain uniform soil moisture. Data were recorded on the following parameters such as number of leaves per plant, length of leaves per plant, width of leaves (cm), number of branches per plant, plant height (cm), no. of fruits per plant, length of fruits (cm), number of seeds per fruit, fresh weight of fruits per plant (g), dry weight of fruits per plant (g), fresh weight of seeds per fruit (g), dry weight of seeds per fruit (g) and yield per pot (g). Data from three different analyses were shown as means and standard deviation. Principal Component Analysis (PCA) and Correlation coefficient were carried out using the Minitab 17 statistical software package. A two-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was carried out in accordance with a factorial design on the basis of Randomized Complete Block Design (RCBD), and the significant differences between the pairs of means were separated by Tukey's pairwise comparison.

III. Results

Effects of growing mediums on vegetative traits

Number of leaves per plant: Genetics determine the number of leaves on a plant, and in this study, different varieties did not cause significant changes in leaf count (V_1) had the most leaves (30.33), while Xinxiang had the fewest (27.33) when grown in (M_1). Variety and media did not interact significantly regarding leaf quantity. V_1M_2 had the highest leaf count (37.33), followed by V_2M_2 . The lowest leaf count (30.33) was found in V_1M_1 (Table 01).

Length of leaves per plant: Leaves are essential appendages on plant stems and play a crucial role in photosynthesis, generating food for the plant. In the study, the combination of soil and cocopeat mixture produced the longest leaves (8.57 cm), while the cocopeat media (M_1) yielded the shortest leaves (5.23cm). The interaction between the growing media and plant variety had a significant impact on leaf length. The treatment V_1M_2 (Kagonatki with soil and cocopeat media) consistently produced the longest leaves, which differed significantly from other treatments. V_2M_2 (Xinxiang-1820 with soil and cocopeat media) had the second-highest leaf length (7.57 cm) throughout most growth stages (Table 01).

Width of leaves: Leaf breadth showed a highly significant difference due to the medium used. M_2 resulted in the widest leaves while M_1 had the narrowest leaves. Varieties also exhibited significant variation in leaf width, with V_1 having the widest leaves and V_2 having the narrowest leaves. There was no significant difference in leaf breadth due to the interaction between the medium and variety. Among the treatments, V_1M_2 produced the widest leaves (5.8cm), while V_2M_1 had the narrowest leaves (3.07cm). V_2M_2 and V_1M_1 fell in between these extremes (Table 01).

Number of branches per plant: Vegetative growth of yard long beans involves branch formation. The number of branches was recorded for plants grown in different plant growing media. M_2 resulted in the highest number of branches, followed by M_0 and M_1 . Significant variations were observed in the number of branches among different varieties. V_1 had the maximum number of branches (6.7), while V_2 had the minimum number of branches (5.7). The interaction between the growing media and variety did not yield significant variations in the number of branches per plant. V_1M_2 had the highest number of branches per plant (8.27), while V_2M_1 had the lowest number of branches per plant (4.57) (Table 01).

Plant height: Plant height increased progressively until reaching 100% flowering. The tallest plant was observed in M_2 media with the Kagornatki variety, while the shortest plant height was recorded in

M₁ medium. Both the media and variety significantly influenced plant height. V₁M₂ exhibited the tallest plants (143.30 cm), followed by V₂M₂, which differed from V₁M₀ (137.73 cm). The lowest plant height (124.77 cm) was observed in V₂M₁ (Table 01).

Table 01. Effect of variety and treatment on vegetative stage

Treatment	Plant height (cm)	Number of leaves/plant	Leaf length (cm)	Leaf width (cm)	Number of branch/plant
V ₁ M ₀	137.73 c	33.33 c	7.07 b	4.93 c	6.23 c
V ₂ M ₀	134.97 d	31.33 d	5.93 c	4.13 d	5.53 d
V ₁ M ₁	127.10 e	30.33 d	6.60 d	3.87 e	5.57 d
V ₂ M ₁	124.77 f	27.33 e	5.23 e	3.07 f	4.57 e
V ₁ M ₂	143.30 a	37.33 a	8.57 a	5.80 a	8.27 a
V ₂ M ₂	139.87 b	34.67 b	7.57 b	5.03 b	7.17 b
LSD (5% level of significance)	*	NS	*	*	NS
Standard Error (±)	0.31	0.51	0.16	0.04	0.11
CV %	0.28	1.93	2.81	1.13	2.25

Here, V₁= Kagornatki, V₂= Xinxiang-1820, M₀= Control (Soil), M₁= Cocopeat, M₂= Soil + Cocopeat, NS= Non significant, *= Significant.

Effects of growing mediums on reproductive traits

Number of fruits per plant: M₂ yielded the highest number of fruits (19.43) compared to the other media, followed by the control group M₀. M₁ resulted in the lowest number of fruits (13). Variety significantly influenced the number of fruits per plant, with V₁ producing the maximum number (16.78) and V₂ producing the minimum number (15.42). The interaction between growing media and variety did not lead to significant variations in the number of fruits per plant. The number of fruits increased with plant age in all treatments. V₁M₂ had the highest number of fruits (20.27) throughout the experiment, followed by V₂M₂ (18.60). The lowest number of fruits (12.37) was observed in V₂M₁, and V₁M₁ had slightly more fruits (13.63) (Table 02).

Fruit length: Variety significantly affected the length of fruits, with V₁ producing the longest (40.88 cm) and V₂ producing the shortest (39.44 cm). The plant growing medium also had a significant impact on fruit length. The control group M₀ and M₂ had the largest fruit length (41.33 cm), while the second medium M₁ resulted in the shortest fruit length (38.33 cm). The interaction between variety and plant growing medium did not significantly affect fruit length. The maximum fruit length (46.33 cm) was observed in V₁M₂, and the minimum fruit length (35.67 cm) was found in V₂M₁ (Table 02).

Number of seeds per fruit: The plant growing medium significantly affected the number of seeds per fruit. M₂ produced the highest number of seeds per fruit (15.50), followed by the control group M₀, while M₁ resulted in the lowest number of seeds per fruit (9.9). Variety also significantly influenced the number of seeds per fruit. V₁ had the highest number of seeds per fruit (13.46), while V₂ had the lowest number of seeds per fruit (12). The interaction between plant growing medium and variety had a significant impact on the number of seeds per fruit. The highest number of seeds per fruit (16.60) was observed in V₁M₂, followed by V₂M₂ (14.40), while the lowest number of seeds (9.37) was found in V₂M₁ (Table 02).

Fresh weight of fruits per plant: The growing medium significantly affected the fresh weight of fruits per plant. M₂ resulted in the highest fresh weight of fruits (19.33g), while M₁ yielded the lowest fresh weight (12.71g). Variety also significantly influenced the fresh weight of fruits per plant. V₁ had a higher fresh weight of fruits per plant (17.10g) compared to V₂, which produced 15.14g. The interaction between plant growing medium and variety did not significantly affect the fresh weight of fruits per plant. V₁M₂ had the highest fresh weight (20.37g), followed by V₂M₂ (18.30g), while V₂M₁ had the lowest fresh weight (11.80g) (Table 02).

Dry weight of fruit per plant: The plant growing medium had a remarkable impact on the dry weight of fruits per plant. M₀ resulted in a dry weight of 8.88g, M₁ yielded 7.88g, and M₂ produced the highest dry weight of 11.48g. Variety also significantly affected the dry weight of fruits per plant. V₁ had a

higher dry weight of fruits per plant (10.15g) compared to V₂, with 8.67g. There was a significant interaction between the plant growing medium and variety on the dry weight of fruits per plant. V₁M₂ had the highest dry weight (12.47g), while V₂M₁ had the lowest dry weight (7.30g) (Table 02).

Fresh weight of seeds per fruit: The plant growing medium had a significant influence on the fresh weight of seeds per fruit. M₂ resulted in a higher fresh weight compared to the control M₀. In V₂, the maximum fresh weight of seeds per fruit (7.65g) was observed in M₂, followed by M₀ (6.56g) as the control, and the minimum fresh weight of seeds per fruit (6.4g) was recorded in M₁ in V₁. There was a significant interaction between the plant growing medium and variety on the fresh weight of seeds per fruit. V₁M₂ had the highest fresh weight of seeds per fruit (8.40g), followed by V₂M₁ had the lowest fresh weight of seeds per fruit (5.03g) (Table 02).

Dry weight of seeds per fruit: Growing medium had a significant impact on the dry weight of seeds in yard long bean. M₂ resulted in the highest dry weight of seeds (6.35g), followed by M₀ (5.58g) as the control and the lowest dry weight of seeds (5g) was recorded in M₁. Variety also had a significant effect on the dry weight of seeds. V₂ produced the maximum dry weight of seeds (5.94g), while V₁ had the minimum dry weight of seeds per fruit (5.40g). The interaction between the plant growing medium and variety showed significant variations in the dry weight of seeds. V₁M₂ had the highest dry weight of seeds (6.40g), while V₂M₁ had the lowest dry weight of seeds (3.93g), which was similar to V₁M₁ (Table 02).

Yield per pot: In V₁ variety, M₂ resulted in the highest fruit weight (376.70g), significantly different from other media treatments. M₁ had the lowest yield (165.84g) due to its poor air-water relationship, resulting in low aeration and affecting oxygen diffusion. The interaction of medium and variety significantly impacted yield per pot. V₁M₂ had the highest yield (413.02g), significantly surpassing V₁M₀ (284.88g) and V₂M₀ (234.59g). V₂M₁ had the lowest yield per pot (145.85g) (Table 02).

Table 02. Effect of Variety and Treatment on Reproductive stage

Treatment	Number of fruit/plants	Fruit length (cm)	Number of seeds/fruit	Fresh weight of fruit/plant (g)	Dry weight of fruit/plant (g)	Fresh weight of seeds/fruit (g)	Dry weight of seeds/fruit (g)	Yield/ pot (g)
V ₁ M ₀	16.47 c	42.33 b	13.33 c	17.30 c	9.53 c	6.67 c	5.13 c	284.88 c
V ₂ M ₀	15.30 d	39.67 c	12.33 d	15.33 d	8.23 d	5.40 d	4.60 d	234.59 d
V ₁ M ₁	13.63 e	37.33 d	10.47 e	13 e	8.47 d	5.70 e	4.37 e	185.85 e
V ₂ M ₁	12.37 f	35.67 e	9.37 f	11.80 f	7.30 e	5.03 f	3.93 f	145.85 f
V ₁ M ₂	20.27 a	46.33 a	16.60 a	20.37 a	12.47 a	8.40 a	6.40 a	413.02 a
V ₂ M ₂	18.60 b	43.33 b	14.40 b	18.30 b	10.50 b	7.07 b	5.30 b	340.38 b
LSD 5% level of significance	*	NS	*	*	NS	*	*	*
Standard Error (±)	0.1884	0.5092	0.1680	0.2858	0.1325	0.1051	0.0694	4.9991

Here, V₁= Kagornatki, V₂= Xinxiang-1820, M₀= Control (Soil), M₁= Cocopeat, M₂= Soil + Cocopeat, NS= Non significant, *= Significant.

Traits associations

Principal component analysis (PCA): Principle component analysis (PCA) is a technique for reducing the dimensionality of databases. Here, principal component was analyzed for genetic diversity among all yard long bean genotypes. In PCA, the eigenvalue variances among the components were estimated in Table 03. Among the total variances in PCA, 76.53% were recorded in 1st component, 12.59% in 2nd and 10.88% in 3rd component (Table 03). In the first component, the maximum traits are positively identified: leaf length, leaf width, number of branches, plant height, number of fruit/plants, fruit length, number of seed/fruits, fresh and dry weight of fruit/plant, and yield. Only one trait (number of leaves/plant) contributed negatively. In the second component, number of leaves/plants, leaf length, plant height, fresh and dry weight of seed/fruit are positively

contributed. The rest of the 8 traits are negatively correlated. The third component accounts for 10.88% of the total variance. This component is positively defined by plant height, fruit length, fresh and dry weight of seed/fruit and yield/pot and rest of 9 traits was negatively contributed. There is 2-yard long bean variety with three growing media that were categorized into four groups in the score plot of PCA (Figure 01A). These were grouped based on their similarities with one another and their positions in different quadrants distant from the central point. Almost all traits have large positive loading on component 1 except FWS (Fresh weight of seed) and DWS (Dry weight of seed). It means all other traits played a significant role in growth and yield of yard long bean (Figure 01B).

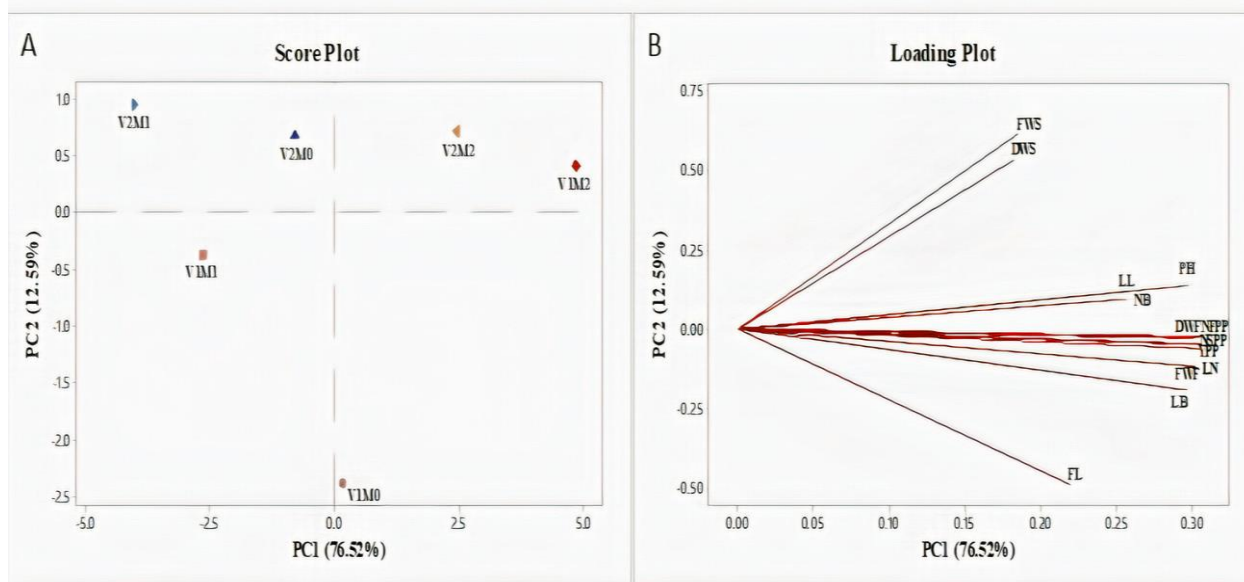


Figure 01. A schematic illustration of score plot (A) and loading plot (B) from PC

PC1: First principal component; PC2: Second principal component; PC3: Third principal component. LN - leaf number, LL - leaf length, LW - leaf width, NB - number of branches, PH - plant height, NFPP - number of fruits per plant, FL - fruit length, NSPF - number of seeds per fruit, FWF - fresh weight of fruits per plant, DWF - dry weight of fruits per plant, FWS - fresh weight of seeds per fruit, DWS - dry weight of seeds per fruit, YPP - yield per pot.

Table 03. Component loadings based on eigenvalue, factor scores and contribution of the first three principal component axes by Principal Component Analysis (PCA) for 13 quantitative traits

Variables	Eigenvectors		
	PC1	PC2	PC3
LN	-0.109	0.293	-0.722
LL	0.260	0.236	-0.400
LW	0.310	-0.185	-0.070
NB	0.314	-0.004	-0.093
PH	0.312	0.088	0.161
NFPP	0.319	-0.012	-0.051
FL	0.231	-0.520	0.008
NSPF	0.319	-0.068	-0.001
FWF	0.315	-0.109	-0.052
DWF	0.310	-0.013	-0.132
FWS	0.193	0.604	0.127
DWS	0.196	0.404	0.485
YPP	0.319	-0.032	-0.067
Eigenvalue	9.739	1.603	1.385
% Variation explained	76.52	12.59	10.88

PC1: First principal component; PC2: Second principal component; PC3: Third principal component. LN - leaf number, LL - leaf length, LW - leaf width, NB - number of branches, PH - plant height, NFPP - number of fruits per plant, FL - fruit length, NSPF - number of seeds per fruit, FWF - fresh weight of fruits per plant, DWF - dry weight of fruits per plant, FWS - fresh weight of seeds per fruit, DWS - dry weight of seeds per fruit, YPP - yield per pot.

Correlation analysis

The association level among the distinct properties of the 2 varieties with 3 mediums was analyzed. 91 associations with their correlation coefficients were generated from the 13 vegetative and reproductive traits. At a 5% significance level, 34 associations originated to be not correlated, 57 were positively correlated and only 1 was negatively correlated (Table 04). The correlation analysis indicated that the positive highly significant genotypic associations ($r \geq 0.72$) were found in plant height with number of fruit/plant ($r=0.92$), number of seed/fruit ($r=0.93$), fresh and dry weight of fruit/plant ($r=0.90$ and 0.87) and yield/pot ($r=0.91$) and significant association ($r=0.72$ to 0.59) with dry weight of seed/fruit. Number of seed/fruits exhibited highly significant relation ($r \geq 0.72$) with fresh and dry weight of fruit/plant and yield/pot. Fruit length exhibited negative correlation with fresh weight of seed/fruit ($r= -0.079$) and significant relations with number of seed/fruit, fresh weight of fruit/plant and yield/pot. Significant correlations ($r= 0.72$ to 0.45) were documented for leaf length and plant height ($r=0.67$). A highly significant positive association ($r \geq 0.72$) was reported for number of branches with plant height, number of fruit/plant, number of seed/fruit, and yield/pot. Leaf number indicated no significant relations ($r= 0.44$ to 0.15) with fruit length ($r= 0.37$), fresh and dry weight of seed/fruit. Number of seed/fruits indicated highly significant positive correlation ($r \geq 0.72$) with fresh and dry weight of fruit/plant and yield/pot.

Table 04. Correlation coefficient of 13 morphological traits of Yard long bean genotypes

Traits	LN	LL	LW	NB	PH	NFPP	FL	NSPF	FWF	DWF	FWS	DWS	YPP
LN	1												
LL	0.517	1											
LW	0.502	0.730	1										
NB	0.549	0.811	0.959	1									
PH	0.505	0.677	0.879	0.904	1								
NFPP	0.551	0.786	0.965	0.971	0.928	1							
FL	0.375	0.294	0.753	0.589	0.584	0.639	1						
NSPF	0.495	0.749	0.975	0.958	0.922	0.989	0.692	1					
FWF	0.556	0.741	0.987	0.959	0.900	0.981	0.715	0.984	1				
DWF	0.504	0.832	0.952	0.986	0.876	0.956	0.564	0.953	0.946	1			
FWS	0.440	0.559	0.371	0.551	0.685	0.569	-0.079	0.502	0.459	0.508	1		
DWS	0.300	0.390	0.401	0.488	0.731	0.545	0.164	0.547	0.462	0.457	0.762	1	
YPP	0.557	0.800	0.974	0.978	0.919	0.996	0.649	0.991	0.989	0.969	0.540	0.523	1

Black, Purple and Blue colors, respectively represent 1% and 5% level of significance and non-significance. LN - leaf number, LL - leaf length, LW - leaf width, NB - number of branches, PH - plant height, NFPP - number of fruits per plant, FL - fruit length, NSPF - number of seeds per fruit, FWF - fresh weight of fruits per plant, DWF - dry weight of fruits per plant, FWS - fresh weight of seeds per fruit, DWS - dry weight of seeds per fruit, YPP - yield per pot.

IV. Discussion

Effects of various growth media on vegetative traits

The degree of vegetative traits such as number of leaves per plant, leaf length, leaf breadth, number of branches, and plant height were used for this study to detect the effect of different growth media on the growth and yield of yard long bean. Regarding vegetative traits, most plants were grown in a soil and cocopeat medium, the least in cocopeat, while the control was soil media. Soil and cocopeat media is best because cocopeat may be directly absorbed into the soil to promote water retention aeration and reduce the danger of soil fungal and root diseases. Mixing the soil with cocopeat, it can be used as mulch around plants to help the soil retain moisture and inhibit weed growth. Similar result recorded by Thekkayam et al, (2021) comparing the maximum plant height and number of leaves per plant in soil and cocopeat media to soil as a control. It was also noted that by Hatibarua et al. (2003) similarly soil and cocopeat media had the highest leaf length and number of branches compared to the control. According to Khalaj et al. (2015), an experiment was carried out to determine the impact of various growing conditions on the growth and yield of gerbera (*Gerbera jamesonii* L.). In this trial, results indicated that flower number, flower diameter, shoot diameter, stem neck diameter, flower height and vase life in cocopeat and soil media showed significant differences among growing media associated with our findings.

Seedlings grow very well on cocopeat. Plants require sufficient nutrients as they mature, however, cocopeat cannot provide these nutrients. As a result, good outcomes in cocopeat media are not found. This experiment recorded minimum results in M₁, which was used as cocopeat media. Rani et al. (2005) also found same results in vegetative traits. According to their trial the longest bud (7.65cm), bigger flower (18.30cm) and higher number of bulblets (1.83/bulb) were produced by mixture of soil and cocopeat. Minimum leaf length and leaf width were recorded from cocopeat media. Same results were recorded by Umar et al. (2003). The minimum number of branches and highest plant height recorded in cocopeat media compared to soil (Mahadeen et al., 2009). It also mentions that using cocopeat media identified the minimum number of leaves per plant (Mahadeen et al., 2009).

Effects of various growth media on reproductive traits

Flowering and fruit formation are favored by reproductive growth in establishing a marketable crop. In this experiment, the number of fruits per plant, fruit length, no. of seeds per fruit, fresh and dry weight of fruits per plant, fresh and dry weight of seeds per fruit, and yield per pot were used to evaluate the effect of different growing media on the growth and yield of yard long bean. M₂, which was utilized as a soil and cocopeat media in this study, significantly impacted the growth and yield of yard long bean. Highest water use efficiency, amount of porosity, cation exchange capacity (CEC) in date-palm peat was higher in soil and cocopeat mixtures in yard long bean compared to other media which is effective for reproductive phase (Mohammadi et al., 2013). Coco peat and soil are good moisture-retentive materials; however, aeration is required in most circumstances, especially for bulbous plants. When comparing these two media - coco peat alone against coco peat/soil (1:1) - the latter is more likely to be suggested because 1) Coco peat provides moisture availability and nutrient status of the medium, and 2) aeration is provided by soil. So, the soil and cocopeat media are far superior in yield production (Khayyat et al., 2007). Our findings matched those of researchers who discovered that Treatment G5 (soil and cocopeat) had significantly larger numbers of fruits per plant, average fruit weight, and yield than the other treatments (Lata et al., 2020). Roses planted on coco peat with soil medium were also observed to yield the best.

Cocopeat may contain pollutants from the soil. According to statistical data on fresh weight of plants (FWP), cocopeat media had strawberry plants with a minimum fresh weight of 22.21 g (Tariq et al., 2013). This investigation recorded the lowest fruit length in M₁, which was used as cocopeat media. An experiment was conducted to optimize plant growth and yield through innovation of the viticultural materials and media (Sitawati et al., 2016). In this trial result found that fresh weight per plant was low in cocopeat. But, the maximum length of fruit and fresh weight of cowpeas in cocopeat media compared to control has been reported by Sarwar et al. (2008). Growbags filled with pure coco-peat media had the lowest yield, water, land, and fertilizer productivity (Naem et al., 2015). The lowest results were obtained when coco-peat was used as a soilless media. This is due to cocopeat's weak air-water connection, which resulted in insufficient aeration within the media, affecting oxygen transfer to the roots (Abad et al., 2002).

Principal component analysis and correlation among the traits

The first five principal components axis explained 89.45% of the overall variation, according to the results of the principal component of yield and its components in 20 mung bean accessions. With Eigenvalues greater than 1.0, the first three components explained 70.48% of the total variation. The first five principal components had eigenvalues of 2.72, 2.09, 1.53, 0.96, and 0.74, corresponding to the total variations of 30.25%, 23.23%, 17.01%, 10.71%, and 8.25%. Others who studied mungbean observed similar outcomes (Pandiyan et al., 2012; Divyaramakrishnan et al., 2014; Jeberson et al., 2021). The same or related genes may regulate agronomic traits that exhibit positive and strong correlations, genes with pleiotropic effects on these traits, or genes with close relationships (Caligari et al., 2020). Pod length showed high heritability and genotypic coefficient of variation values, so they could be used as reference criteria in the initial selection. According to Hapsari et al. (2010), high heritability followed by high genotypic coefficient of variation can provide opportunities for genetic progress. On the other hand, number of pod per bunch, days to 75% of flowering, days to first harvest, pod diameter, number of pods per plant, number of seeds per pod, weight of 100 seeds, seed length, diameter of seed, and potential yield pods per hectare have genotypic coefficient of variation and heritability which were not linear. Effendy et al. (2018) mentioned that environmental factors affected the heritability.

V. Conclusion

For potted plants to be effective, the right growing media is required. The growing media composition significantly influenced plant growth and productivity of the harvested plants. Due to its strong water-holding capacity, aeration, and increased uptake of nutrients, growing media are effective for increasing crop yield. The study mixture of soil and cocopeat media in pot could be suggested to obtain better quality and yield for yard long bean. Different potting media had a substantial impact on the majority of the examined parameters. In potting media M₂ (soil and cocopeat), plant parameters such as leaf number, plant height, leaf length, leaf breadth, and branch number were determined to be highest, whereas M₁ (cocopeat) had the lowest performance. As opposed to Xinxiang-1820 with control media (V₂M₀), reproductive parameters such as fruit production (number of fruits per plant, fresh and dry weight of fruits per plant, yield per pot) were better seen in V₁M₂, a kagornatki variety with soil and cocopeat media. The yard long bean is sensitive to the cocopeat medium. However, plants grown in cocopeat medium drastically reduced the morphological characteristics of yard long bean in pot culture experiments. Soil and cocopeat potting media showed positive responses against control for all the parameters regarding growth and yield characteristics of yard long bean.

VI. References

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