

## Nutrient Mineralization and Soil Biology as Influenced by Temperature and Fertilizer Management Practices

(Pemineralan Nutrien dan Biologi Tanah yang Dipengaruhi oleh Suhu dan Amalan Pengurusan Baja)

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### ABSTRACT

*High soil temperature due to climate change may influence nutrient mineralization and soil biology. An incubation study was conducted at Bangladesh Rice Research Institute to determine the effect of temperature (28°C and 45°C) on nutrient mineralization and soil microbial population of two different soils (terrace and saline soil) having different nutrient management practices (chemical fertilizer and integrated nutrient management). Terrace soil was clay loam and saline (6 ds m<sup>-1</sup>) soil was sandy loam in texture. Total N and organic C content was significantly high in terrace soil compared to saline soil. High temperature (45°C) enhanced C mineralization by 33% in integrated nutrient management (INM) of terrace soil and 41% in chemical fertilizer treatment in saline soil. The NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>-N mineralization was increased by 3 fold in saline soil at 45°C as compared to the same at normal temperature of 28°C. Temperature and nutrient management options also significantly influenced phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) mineralization. High temperature significantly enhanced P mineralization in INM compared to chemical fertilizer amendment. In terrace soil, at 28°C temperature K mineralization was high in chemical fertilizer amended soil as compared to INM treatment. Temperature and nutrient sources affected soil bacterial population significantly compared to fungi, and actinomycetes. Phosphate solubilizing bacteria (PSB) were more resistant to high temperature compared to free-living N<sub>2</sub> fixing bacteria. In general, high temperature and nutrient management practices affected C, N, P, K mineralization and soil biology; although mode of action varied and depending on soil types and nutrient management practices.*

*Keywords: Climate change; integrated nutrient management; soil microorganisms; soil nutrient mineralization*

### ABSTRAK

*Suhu tanah yang tinggi disebabkan oleh perubahan iklim boleh mempengaruhi biologi pemineralan dan nutrien tanah. Kajian inkubator yang telah dijalankan di Institut Penyelidikan Beras Bangladesh untuk menentukan kesan suhu (28°C dan 45°C) terhadap nutrien pemineralan dan populasi mikrob tanah bagi dua tanah berbeza (tanah teres dan salin) yang mempunyai nutrien yang berbeza amalan pengurusan (baja kimia dan pengurusan nutrien bersepadu). Tanah teres lom liat dan tanah (6 ds m<sup>-1</sup>) salin adalah lom tekstur berpasir. Jumlah N dan kandungan C organik adalah tinggi dalam tanah teres berbanding tanah salin. Suhu yang tinggi (45°C) mempertingkatkan pemineralan C sebanyak 33% dalam pengurusan nutrien bersepadu (INM) bagi tanah teres dan 41% dalam baja kimia rawatan bagi tanah salin. Pemineralan bagi NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>-N meningkat 3 kali lipatan dalam tanah salin pada suhu 45°C berbanding pada suhu biasa iaitu 28°C. Suhu dan pengurusan nutrien juga mempengaruhi pemineralan fosforus (P) dan kalium (K). Suhu tinggi meningkatkan pemineralan P dalam INM berbanding baja kimia pindaan. Dalam tanah teres, pada suhu 28°C, pemineralan K adalah tinggi dalam tanah baja kimia yang dipinda berbanding rawatan INM. Suhu dan sumber nutrien mempengaruhi populasi bakteria tanah secara signifikan berbanding kulat dan aktinomiset. Bakteria pemelarutan fosfat (PSB) berdaya tahan terhadap suhu tinggi berbanding bakteria hidup bebas N<sub>2</sub>. Secara amnya, suhu yang tinggi dan amalan pengurusan nutrien mempengaruhi pemineralan C, N, P, K dan biologi tanah; namun mod tindakan yang berubah dan bergantung kepada jenis tanah dan amalan pengurusan nutrien.*

*Kata kunci: Mikroorganisma tanah; nutrien pemineralan tanah; pengurusan nutrien bersepadu; perubahan iklim*

### INTRODUCTION

Global temperature is increasing because of climate change. Surface global temperature increased 0.6°C to 0.9°C between 1906 and 2005 (<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov>) and global mean temperature is predicted to be increased by 2-7°C at the end of this century (Allison et al. 2009), which may have adverse impact on soil

biology, organic matter mineralization and soil salinity. In Bangladesh due to climate change effect, area under salinity have been increased from 0.83 to 1.06 mha within last 27 years (Mahmud et al. 2016). In this situation, nutrient management practices in such soils becomes necessary to have better rice production. In addition, agricultural production could be severely affected in

near future because of increasing summer and winter temperatures (Islam & Neelim 2010).

Soil temperature directly influences microbial activity, as bacterial growth is rapid at higher temperature (van Gestel et al. 2016). Soil temperature also determined the temperature sensitivity of the microbial community by selecting a community adapted to the existing temperature regime. This has repeatedly been shown for bacterial growth in soil, both in natural temperature gradients (Rinnan et al. 2009; Tibbles & Harris 1996), laboratory experiments (Bárcenas-Moreno et al. 2009; Birgander et al. 2013; Ranneklev & Bååth 2001), and field experiments (Rousk et al. 2012). Similar results have also been found due to temperature shifts in composts (McKinley & Vestal 1984); but adverse effect of rising temperature may act differently in various soil types having various pattern of nutrient mineralization. This situation demands special attention for nutrient management techniques required for crop production. The importance of temperature dependence soil organisms has been further emphasized during recent years due to the global warming issues, as soil microorganisms are the main player for producing CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> during decomposition of soil organic materials. In Bangladesh, farmers mainly rely on inorganic fertilizers for rice production, although some of them follow INM practices. The microbial community and nutrient release patterns are expected to vary under both fertilizer management options and increased temperature conditions for saline non-saline soils. Hence, the objectives of the present study were to determine the influence of temperature on nutrient mineralization from INM and chemical fertilizer amended saline and non-saline soils and to assess changes of microbial population and beneficial microbial community under varied temperature regimes and fertilizer management practices in those soils.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### SOIL SAMPLE COLLECTION

Saline soil was collected from paddy field located at coastal area of south east (21.88°N, 90.24°E) part of Bangladesh. Farmers were cultivating rice in that soil since 15 years as a single crop by using mostly inorganic fertilizers. Grey terrace soil was collected from Bangladesh Rice Research Institute, Gazipur (29.54°N, 90.24°E) research farm. This soil belongs to a long-term nutrient management experiment, which was initiated in 1985 and followed both inorganic and INM practices.

### TREATMENT APPLICATION AND SOIL INCUBATION

Collected soil samples were air dried ground and sieved (2 mm mesh). Exactly 3 kg each type of sieved soil was filled in to the separate plastic pot and after imposing treatment pots were kept in incubator. Treatments imposed for both the soils were; T<sub>1</sub>-chemical fertilizer, N-P-K-S @ 135-18-82-20 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> and T<sub>2</sub>- INM (cow dung @ 3

ton ha<sup>-1</sup> + N-P-K-S-@ 120-13.5-75.1-20 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>). After mixing inorganic fertilizer and organic matter, soil was moistened and incubated in an incubator at 28 ± 2°C, and 45 ± 2°C. Soil moisture was maintained as saturated for 1 month. Initial soil microbial and chemical properties such as; organic carbon (OC), N, P, K, were determined. Soil nutrient mineralization and changes in soil microbial population was measured after 3, 6, 9, 14, 20 and 30 days of incubation. Design of the experiment was complete randomized design, with 2 factors (factor a: soil type and factor b: fertilizer management practices). Treatment was replicated three times. Each plastic container was considered as replication of treatment.

### DETERMINATION OF NUTRIENT MINERALIZATION

The organic C and total N were determined by wet oxidation method (Walkley & Black 1935) and Kjeldhal method (Bremner & Mulvaney 1982), respectively. Carbon mineralization rate (*k*) was calculated as (Bustamante et al. 2008),

$$k = 2.303 \frac{(\log C_o - \log C)}{t}$$

where *C<sub>o</sub>* is the initial carbon content and *C* at the time (*t*). Available P in extract was determined by developing blue color with ascorbic acid-ammonium molybdate Vanadate complex and color intensity was measured colorometrically at 710 wavelengths in Jasco V630, Japan spectrophotometer (Murphy & Riley 1962). Exchangeable K was extracted with 1 M NH<sub>4</sub>OAc at pH7 (Benton 2001) and measured using flame photometer, Sherwood model-410, UK.

### DETERMINATION OF SOIL MICROBIAL POPULATION

Soil samples were collected in plastic bag and kept in ice box and preserved in the laboratory at 4°C until analyses. Microbial population was determined following total plate count method. Total bacterial population was counted using nutrient agar plate. Potato dextrose agar and actinomycetes isolated media were used to determine fungus and actinomycetes population, respectively. Free-living N<sub>2</sub> fixing bacteria population was determined in nitrogen-free media (Prasad et al. 2001) and phosphate solubilizing bacteria (PSB) population in national botanical research institute phosphate (NBRIP) media plates. For each type of microbial population determination, 10 grams of soil was taken during sampling and a serial dilution was made up to 10<sup>10</sup> and 0.1 mL of each dilution was spread in respective media plates. Inoculated plates were incubated at 28°C temperature for 5 days. Population counted was started after 1 day of incubation and finished at day six.

### STATISTICAL ANALYSES

Data were statistically analyzed for ANOVA using SPSS version 17.0. Treatment means were separated by

Duncan's multiple range test (DMRT) test for any significant difference among the treatment means at  $p < 0.05$ .

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### INITIAL SOIL BIO-CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

Terrace soil was clay loam in texture, pH 6.8 and contained 1.51% OC and 0.13% total nitrogen (TN) having adequate available P and K for rice production (Table 1). Total bacteria, free-living  $N_2$  fixing bacteria and PSB population were higher in terrace soil compared to saline soil. Saline soil (EC 6 ds  $m^{-1}$ ) was slightly alkaline in nature (pH 7.8) and sandy loam in texture. Organic C (0.67%), TN (0.05%), available P (3.2 ppm) were low in this soil, but exchangeable K was higher than terrace soil.

### SOIL ORGANIC CARBON (OC) MINERALIZATION

Initial SOC was high in terrace soil (1.51%) compared to saline soil (0.67%). After addition of cow dung (3 ton  $ha^{-1}$  dry weight) it was 1.6% in terrace and 0.74% in saline soil. Between the two nutrient management practices, OC content was high in INM treatment. In terrace soil, SOC gradually decreased over time irrespective of temperature and nutrient management practices. Several factors influenced soil C mineralization such as soil organic matter content, soil temperature (Bekku et al. 2004), soil texture (Siqueira Neto et al. 2010), soil structure (Coˆte' et al. 2000), soil moisture (Craine & Gelderman 2010) and activity of soil microorganism (Lange & Green 2005) are important. In our study, we have found significantly higher C mineralization rate ( $r$ ) in saline soil compared to terrace soil (Figure 1). High temperature (45°C) enhanced C mineralization in both the soils. Carbon mineralization enhanced by temperature was also reported by Deressa (2015) and Xe et al. (2007). In the terrace soil at 28°C, C mineralization rate was slightly higher (0.011) in chemical fertilizer amendment compared to INM treatment (0.010), which might be due to available  $NH_4^+$ -N from chemical fertilizer that favored microbial activity and stimulated C mineralization. High temperature influenced microbial

mineralization of SOC (Xu et al. 2012). Evidences of soil organic matter decomposition increased with increasing temperature, is in agreement with our present study (Figure 1(a) & 1(b)). In the study, at 45°C temperature, C mineralization rate was high in INM (0.015) compared to chemical fertilizer (0.013) treatment (Table 2). In the INM treatment, C mineralization increased by 33% due to high temperature, which could be resultant effect of accelerated microbial activities.

In saline sandy loam soil, we have found faster SOC mineralization compared to clay loam terrace soil. Although loss of SOC varied with soil texture (Setia et al. 2011), clayey soils have more potential for SOC storage than sandy soils (Neto et al. 2010). In saline soil, SOC content sharply declined after 3 to 6 days of incubation and C mineralization was higher in chemical fertilizer amended soil compared to INM treatment. Availability of  $NH_4^+$ -N from chemical fertilizer may induce C mineralization rate. At 28°C temperature, C mineralization rate was 0.020 in chemical fertilizer amended soil and 0.017 in INM treatment, respectively. At 45°C temperature, C mineralization rate was 0.034 in chemical fertilizer amended soil and 0.031 in INM treatment, respectively (Figure 1(c) & 1(d)). High temperature increased C mineralization by 41% in chemical fertilizer treatment compared to INM practice. Carbon mineralization in INM treatment was low as microbial activity significantly reduced by high temperature in saline soil, which was proved at the latter part of this study. In general, microbial activity and soil nutrients are low in saline soil compared to non-saline soils (Rietz & Haynes 2003). Several reports also proved that salinity decreases C mineralization from soil organic sources (Walpola & Arunakumara 2010; Yuan et al. 2007).

### NITROGEN MINERALIZATION

Initial soil total N (%) content was significantly high in terrace soil ( $0.12 \pm 0.003$ ) compared to saline soil ( $0.05 \pm 0.003$ ) and in between two nutrient management practices; it was high in INM treatment as compared to chemical fertilizer amended soil. Application of cow dung in the soil (equivalent to 3 t  $ha^{-1}$  at dry weight basis)

TABLE 1. Initial soil biochemical properties of terrace and saline soil

Properties	Saline soil	Grey terrace soil
Texture	sandy loam	clay loam
Soil pH	7.8	6.8
Soil Ec	6.0	<2
Organic carbon	0.67	1.51
Total N (%)	0.05	0.13
Available P (ppm)	3.20	20
Exchangeable K (ppm)	58	47
Total bacteria	$1.2 \times 10^7$	$5 \times 10^7$
Total fungus	$3.5 \times 10^3$	$3 \times 10^3$
Total actinomycetes	$3.4 \times 10^3$	$2.5 \times 10^2$
Free living $N_2$ fixing bacteria	$7 \times 10^4$	$3.5 \times 10^5$
Phosphate solubilizing Bacteria	$4.2 \times 10^4$	$3.7 \times 10^5$

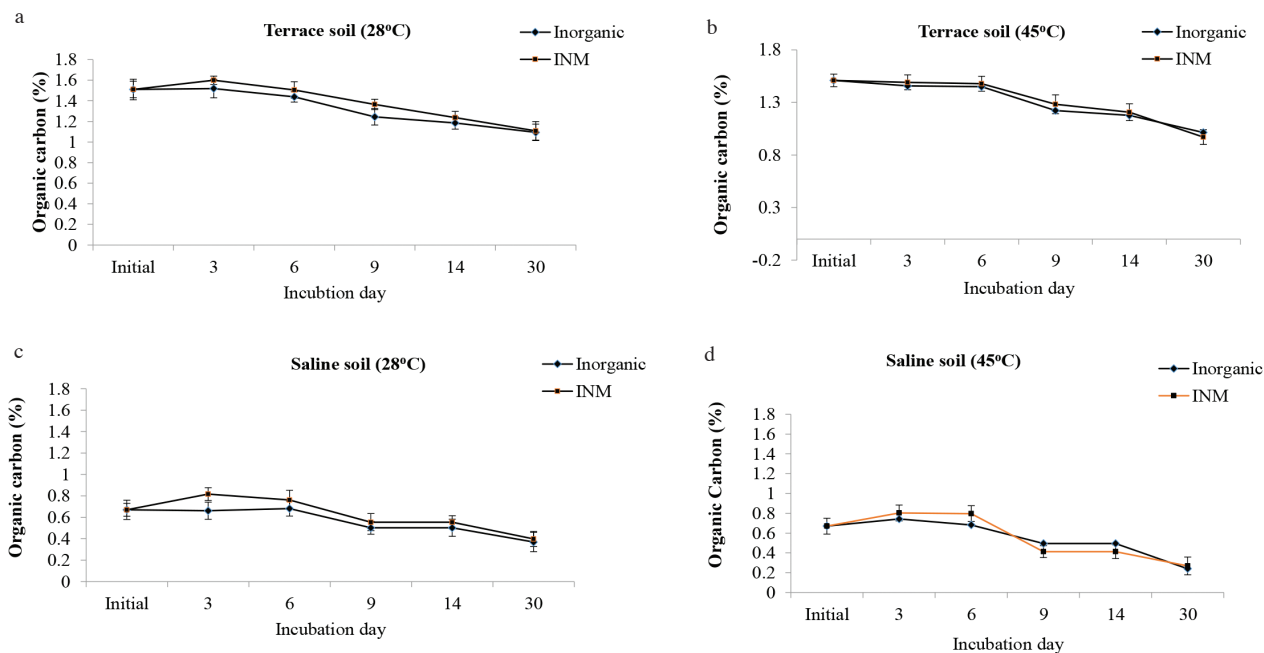


FIGURE 1. Effect of temperature and nutrient management practices on C mineralization in terrace and saline soils

TABLE 2. Effect of temperature and nutrient management practices on C mineralization rate ( $r = \text{gm C soil kg}^{-1} \text{ day}^{-1}$ ) in terrace and saline soil

Soil type	Temp 28°C		Temp 45°C	
	Chemical fertilizer	INM	Chemical fertilizer	INM
Terrace soil	0.011	0.010	0.013	0.015
Saline soil	0.020	0.017	0.034	0.031

increased soil total N (%) in INM treatment. The TN was  $0.14 \pm 0.001$  and  $0.07 \pm 0.005$  for INM treatment in terrace and saline soils, respectively. Alike C mineralization,  $\text{NH}_4^+\text{-N}$  mineralization differed with soil type (Table 3). There were significant treatment and interaction effects (temperature  $\times$  fertilizer management practices) for  $\text{NH}_4^+\text{-N}$  mineralization in both the soils. At normal temperature (28°C) in terrace soil, significantly higher  $\text{NH}_4^+\text{-N}$  mineralization took place from chemical fertilizer amended soil compared to INM treatment. Thangarajan et al. (2015) also reported high mineral N concentration in urea treatments than in organic N sources. In this temperature, the highest  $\text{NH}_4^+\text{-N}$  mineralization (31.5 ppm) was found at day 3 and then declined sharply. However, in the same soil, high temperature (45°C) induced  $\text{NH}_4^+\text{-N}$  mineralization in INM treatment compared to chemical fertilizer amended soil. Application of organic materials increases soil N mineralization potential (Benitez et al. 2003) of any soil, although it mainly increases due to high temperature associated with increased initial soil microbial activities (Joergensen et al. 1990). It was proved that urease activity increases with increase in temperature (Suter et al. 2011), and urease is the prerequisite for  $\text{NH}_4^+\text{-N}$  mineralization.

In saline soil irrespective of fertilizer management, high temperature significantly induced (about 3 fold)

$\text{NH}_4^+\text{-N}$  mineralization compared to normal temperature (28°C). In between two fertilizer practices,  $\text{NH}_4^+\text{-N}$  mineralization was high in chemical fertilizer treatment. The highest  $\text{NH}_4^+\text{-N}$  mineralization (80.97 ppm) was found at day 9 and then declined sharply. The mineralization of N in salt-affected soils is a subject of much controversy because of salt induced non-biological ammonification (Thangarajan et al. 2015). However, our recent findings strongly showed that high temperature increased  $\text{NH}_4^+\text{-N}$  mineralization in chemical fertilizer applied saline soil (Table 3).

#### PHOSPHORUS MINERALIZATION

Phosphorus availability in wetland condition is largely controlled by chemical equilibria in soils (Richardson & Marshall 1986), although temperature and moisture play an important role in its mineralization. In the present study, soil moisture was in saturated condition and showed significant interaction effect between temperature and nutrient management practices for P mineralization in both the soils. Initial soil available P was higher in terrace soil compared to saline soil (Table 4). High temperature significantly enhanced P mineralization in INM compared to chemical fertilizer amended treatments. Phosphorus mineralization from organic sources increases with

TABLE 3. Effect of temperature and nutrient management practices on  $\text{NH}_4^+\text{-N}$  (ppm) mineralization in terrace and saline soil

Incubation day	Terrace soil				Saline soil			
	Temp 28°C		Temp 45°C		Temp 28°C		Temp 45°C	
	Chemical fertilizer	INM	Chemical fertilizer	INM	Chemical fertilizer	INM	Chemical fertilizer	INM
Day 3	31.5 ed	29.1ed	26.3 e	24.9 e	23.45 e	22.05 e	68.95 ab	36.4 d
Day 6	26.5 e	24.9 e	23.1 e	28.4 ed	25.55 e	22.05 e	51.80 c	53.2 c
Day 9	24.3 e	22.9 e	23.0 e	24.5 e	25.55 e	18.43 ef	80.97a	74.67 ab
Day 14	21.7 ef	18.4 ef	22.4 e	23.1e	23.10 e	23.80 e	69.30ab	61.95 b
Day 30	14.7 f	17.5 f	20.1ef	22.4e	20.77 ef	18.55 ef	26.95 e	40.95 d

Means followed by the same letter are not statistical significant

TABLE 4. Effect of temperature and nutrient management practices on available P (ppm) in terrace and saline soil (standard error of 3 replications)

Incubation day	Terrace soil				Saline soil			
	Temp 28°C		Temp 45°C		Temp 28°C		Temp 45°C	
	Chemical fertilizer	INM	Chemical fertilizer	INM	Chemical fertilizer	INM	Chemical fertilizer	INM
Day 3	21.16±0.23	23.14±0.28	22.11±0.86	25.99±0.39	3.22±0.44	4.23±0.16	3.41±0.41	3.79±0.21
Day 6	22.15±0.21	24.31±0.23	21.67±0.64	28.60±0.31	3.64±0.22	5.88±0.94	4.53±0.18	4.39±0.23
Day 9	22.13±0.38	25.99±0.20	20.87±0.62	30.46±0.18	3.90±0.12	6.26±0.06	5.14±0.46	6.35±0.05
Day 14	18.78±1.08	21.01±0.73	17.85±0.28	19.25±1.25	3.83±0.29	4.66±0.10	3.95±0.08	4.63±0.47
Day 30	14.04±1.37	16.11±0.87	13.36±0.83	16.02±0.79	3.67±0.22	3.97±0.32	4.12±0.26	3.53±0.25

increasing temperature (Thompson & Black 1947; Whalen et al. 2001) which is in agreement with our present findings. In INM treatment, after 9 days of incubation, the highest P mineralization (25.99 ppm) was found at 28°C and at 45°C temperature; it was 30.46 ppm and then declined sharply. Grierson et al. (1998) also reported that increase in incubation temperature from 15°C to 38°C increased P mineralization from 13% to 53%. In case of inorganic fertilizer treatment, a gradual decrease in P mineralization occurred with both imposed temperatures.

In the saline soil, nutrient management practices and temperature also affected P mineralization. Similarly, to terrace soil, P mineralization was high in INM treatment. At 28°C temperature, P mineralization was high with INM treatment (Table 4). The highest available P (6.26 ppm) was found in this treatment at 9 days of incubation and then declined sharply. In chemical fertilizer treatment, P mineralization followed linear pattern. At 45°C temperature the highest available P (6.35 ppm) was found in INM treatment at 9 days of incubation.

#### POTASSIUM MINERALIZATION

Potassium release in soils is largely controlled by physical adsorption of clay particles (Mengel 1982; Scheffer & Schachtschabel 1989). However, high temperature and biological activity also increases K release (Sparks &

Huang 1985). In our study, initial K content was high in saline soil compared to terrace soil (Table 5). There was significant treatment effect and interaction effect (temperature × nutrient management practices) for K mineralization in both the soils. In terrace soil, treatment effect was significant up to 14 days of incubation. In this soil at 28°C temperature, K mineralization was higher with chemical fertilizer amended soil compared to INM treatment. The highest soil exchangeable K (86 ppm) was found at 6 days in chemical fertilizer treatment and then declined sharply and mineralization became stable at 14 days. At the initial stage, availability of K from chemical fertilizer may have induced soil K in this treatment. In INM treatment, it gradually decreased up to 30 days. Higher amount of K mineralization was found in INM treatment at 45°C temperature and it decreased gradually up to 30 days. The highest exchangeable K (70.1 ppm) was found in INM treatment at 3 days of incubation.

In saline soil, treatment and its interaction effect was significant only up to 6 days of incubation period. In this soil, higher K mineralization was found in INM treatment up to 9 days and then decreased gradually. In chemical fertilizer treatment, K mineralization was high only up to 3 days and it declined sharply at 14 days. At 45°C temperature, no differences were found for K mineralization with both the nutrient management practices. This may be due to high temperatures reduced

TABLE 5. Effect of temperature and nutrient management practices on exchangeable K (ppm) mineralization in terrace and saline soil (standard error of 3 replications)

Incubation day	Terrace soil				Saline soil			
	Temp 28°C		Temp 45°C		Temp 28°C		Temp 45°C	
	Chemical fertilizer	INM	Chemical fertilizer	INM	Chemical fertilizer	INM	Chemical fertilizer	INM
Day 3	59.1±3.0	64.1±6.7	55.1±6.2	70.1±3.4	89.0±6.0	96.9±3.4	90.9±2.6	94.9±3.0
Day 6	86.0±3.1	55.1±4.6	45.2±1.7	54.1±4.2	45.2±1.7	90.9±1.6	98.9±3.0	93.9±5.1
Day 9	50.2±3.0	47.2±2.4	44.2±1.5	54.6±1.5	78.5±1.4	90.4±1.6	81.5±1.5	78.5±1.5
Day 14	27.3±3.4	39.2±1.6	32.3±3.0	38.2±4.3	24.3±5.2	41.2±4.7	51.2±1.2	45.2±4.2
Day 30	25.3±2.3	26.3±1.7	26.3±1.3	30.3±4.2	38.2±2.1	45.2±3.4	42.2±1.7	40.2±3.2

microbial populations in sandy soils (Table 5). At this temperature, K mineralization was high up to 6 days and then gradually declined and at 14 days of incubation period K mineralization became stable.

#### SOIL BIOLOGICAL PROCESS

The significant effect of temperature and nutrient management practices for soil biological process was recorded, although the pattern of population changes in response to temperature was not similar for bacteria, actinomycetes and fungi. The highest population change was found in bacteria. Same trend was reported by Biederbeck and Campbell (1973) that the extent of growth response was the highest for bacteria and the least for the actinomycetes population.

#### BACTERIAL POPULATION

Bacteria population was higher in terrace soil compared to saline soil, which might be due to soil texture, salinity and organic matter content. Bacterial population is affected by particle size and the higher population is found with finer textured soil compared to coarse texture (Mohammad et al. 2015). In terrace soil at 28°C temperature, population declined sharply after 14 days

of incubation. At 45°C, initial bacterial population was more with INM treatment that decreased after 9 days of incubation period and followed similar pattern for both the nutrient management practices. High temperature may increase initial population growth with INM treatment and its decreasing trend proved lack of available substrates. The highest bacteria population ( $4.2-4.4 \times 10^8$  Cf<sub>u</sub> g<sup>-1</sup> soil) was found at day 9 with high temperature under INM treatment (Table 6).

In saline soil at 28°C, decrease in bacterial population followed similar patterns with both the nutrient management practices (Table 6). The highest bacterial population ( $1.1-3.9 \times 10^7$  Cf<sub>u</sub> g<sup>-1</sup> soil) was found at 3 days of incubation period and then decreased gradually up to 9 days. A slight increase in population was found on day 14, and again declined at 30 days of incubation period. At 45°C, bacterial population was low ( $4.2-4.5 \times 10^6$  Cf<sub>u</sub> g<sup>-1</sup> soil) at 3 days of incubation compared to 28°C temperature. In chemical fertilizer treatment,  $3.4 \times 10^5$  Cf<sub>u</sub> g<sup>-1</sup> bacteria population maintained up to 9 days of incubation and then declined. In INM treatment similar population maintained up to 14 days of incubation period. Organic nutrient sources might have supported bacterial growth slightly longer than chemical fertilizers.

TABLE 6. Effect of temperature and nutrient management practices on soil bacteria population (Cfu g<sup>-1</sup> soil) in terrace and saline soil

Incubation day	Terrace soil				Saline soil			
	Temp 28°C		Temp 45°C		Temp 28°C		Temp 45°C	
	Chemical fertilizer	INM	Chemical fertilizer	INM	Chemical fertilizer	INM	Chemical fertilizer	INM
Day 3	4.8×10 <sup>7</sup> b	5.0×10 <sup>7</sup> b	6.0×10 <sup>6</sup> c	3.6×10 <sup>7</sup> b	1.1×10 <sup>7</sup> b	3.9×10 <sup>7</sup> b	4.2×10 <sup>6</sup> c	4.5×10 <sup>6</sup> c
Day 6	3.6×10 <sup>7</sup> b	3.5×10 <sup>7</sup> b	4.0×10 <sup>6</sup> b	7.2×10 <sup>6</sup> c	3.1×10 <sup>5</sup> d	4.2×10 <sup>4</sup> e	4.4×10 <sup>5</sup> d	6.2×10 <sup>4</sup> e
Day 9	6.2×10 <sup>7</sup> b	7.2×10 <sup>7</sup> b	4.4×10 <sup>8</sup> a	4.2×10 <sup>8</sup> a	2.8×10 <sup>5</sup> d	3.2×10 <sup>5</sup> d	3.4×10 <sup>5</sup> d	2.2×10 <sup>5</sup> d
Day 14	2.9×10 <sup>7</sup> b	3.6×10 <sup>7</sup> b	3.0×10 <sup>5</sup> d	1.2×10 <sup>5</sup> d	5.1×10 <sup>6</sup> c	2.5×10 <sup>6</sup> c	4.4×10 <sup>4</sup> e	2.9×10 <sup>5</sup> d
Day 30	9.3×10 <sup>4</sup> e	5.8×10 <sup>4</sup> e	2.7×10 <sup>4</sup> e	4.1×10 <sup>4</sup> e	1.2×10 <sup>4</sup> e	1.5×10 <sup>4</sup> e	1.0×10 <sup>4</sup> e	2.7×10 <sup>4</sup> e

Means followed by the same letter are not statistical significant

TABLE 7. Effect of temperature and nutrient management practices on fungus population (Cfu g<sup>-1</sup> soil) in terrace and saline soil

Incubation day	Terrace soil				Saline soil			
	Temp 28°C		Temp 45°C		Temp 28°C		Temp 45°C	
	Chemical fertilizer	INM	Chemical fertilizer	INM	Chemical fertilizer	INM	Chemical fertilizer	INM
Day 3	2.3 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	2.2 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	1.5 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	4.4 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	3.4 × 10 <sup>3</sup> b	2.0 × 10 <sup>3</sup> b	2.5 × 10 <sup>4</sup> a	2.8 × 10 <sup>4</sup> a
Day 6	6.1 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	4.3 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	3.6 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	2.8 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	1.9 × 10 <sup>3</sup> b	1.7 × 10 <sup>3</sup> b	5.1 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	2.5 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c
Day 9	2.1 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	2.3 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	1.4 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	6.3 × 10 <sup>3</sup> b	1.2 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	1.1 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	1.0 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	1.2 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c
Day 14	2.0 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	2.2 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	1.3 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	2.4 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	1.4 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	1.2 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	1.2 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	1.1 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c
Day 30	1.3 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	1.2 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	1.1 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	1.0 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	1.2 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	1.5 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	1.1 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	1.1 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c

Means followed by the same letter are not statistical significant

#### FUNGUS POPULATION

Fungus population was higher in saline soil compared to terrace soil (Table 7). Significant effect of temperature and nutrient management practices was found on fungus population only up to 14 days of incubation. In saline soil, high temperature enhanced fungus population (2.5-2.8 × 10<sup>4</sup> Cfu g<sup>-1</sup> soil) with INM treatment only up to 3 days of incubation period and then decreased linearly.

#### ACTINOMYCETES POPULATION

There was no significant interaction effect of temperature and nutrient management practices on actinomycetes population for both the soils (Table 8). Actinomycetes population was higher in saline soil compared to terrace soil. At 28°C temperature, soil actinomycetes population (1.7-2.0 × 10<sup>3</sup> Cfu g<sup>-1</sup>) maintained until day 6 and after that it followed linear growth pattern. High temperature increases its population (2.5-2.8 × 10<sup>4</sup> Cfu g<sup>-1</sup> soil) in saline soil only at 3 days of incubation and then decreased in linear pattern. However, the study report of Biederbeck and Campbell (1973) showed that actinomycetes were more resistant to temperature than bacteria and fungus community.

#### FREE LIVING N<sub>2</sub> FIXING AND PSB POPULATION

Free-living N<sub>2</sub> fixing and PSB population are beneficial soil bacteria and directly involve for bio-available N and P nutrition (Biswas et al. 2000; Naher et al. 2013; Panhwar et al. 2014). Irrespective of soils and nutrient management practices, N<sub>2</sub> fixing bacteria population was high in INM treatments (Figure 2). At 28°C temperature in terrace soil, no significant effect of nutrient management practices was found on free-living N<sub>2</sub> fixing bacteria population. In this soil at 45°C temperature, N<sub>2</sub> fixing bacteria survived only up to 14 days of incubation. High temperature affected soil microbe-microbe interactions directly (Classen et al. 2015) and this could be more sensitive for free-living N<sub>2</sub> fixing bacteria. In saline soil, N<sub>2</sub> fixing bacteria population was found only up to 9 days of incubation, which indicates that free living N<sub>2</sub> fixing bacteria are more sensitive to constant soil salinity in artificial condition. There was significant effect of temperature and nutrient management practices on phosphate solubilizing bacteria population in saline soil (Figure 3). In terrace soil, high PSB population was found at 3 days of incubation and then declined. Whereas, in saline soil there a linear declined of PSB population was recorded.

TABLE 8. Effect of temperature and nutrient management practices on actinomycetes population (Cfu g<sup>-1</sup> soil) in terrace and saline soil

Incubation day	Terrace soil				Saline soil			
	Temp 28°C		Temp 45°C		Temp 28°C		Temp 45°C	
	Chemical fertilizer	INM	Chemical fertilizer	INM	Chemical fertilizer	INM	Chemical fertilizer	INM
Day 3	2.3 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	2.2 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	1.5 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	4.4 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	3.4 × 10 <sup>3</sup> b	2.0 × 10 <sup>3</sup> b	2.5 × 10 <sup>4</sup> a	2.8 × 10 <sup>4</sup> a
Day 6	6.1 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	4.3 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	3.6 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	2.8 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	1.9 × 10 <sup>3</sup> b	1.7 × 10 <sup>3</sup> b	5.1 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	2.5 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c
Day 9	2.1 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	2.3 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	1.4 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	6.3 × 10 <sup>3</sup> b	1.2 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	1.1 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	1.0 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	1.2 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c
Day 14	2.0 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	2.2 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	1.3 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	2.4 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	1.4 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	1.2 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	1.2 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	1.1 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c
Day 30	1.3 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	1.2 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	1.1 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	1.0 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	1.2 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	1.5 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	1.1 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c	1.1 × 10 <sup>2</sup> c

Means followed by the same letter are not statistical significant

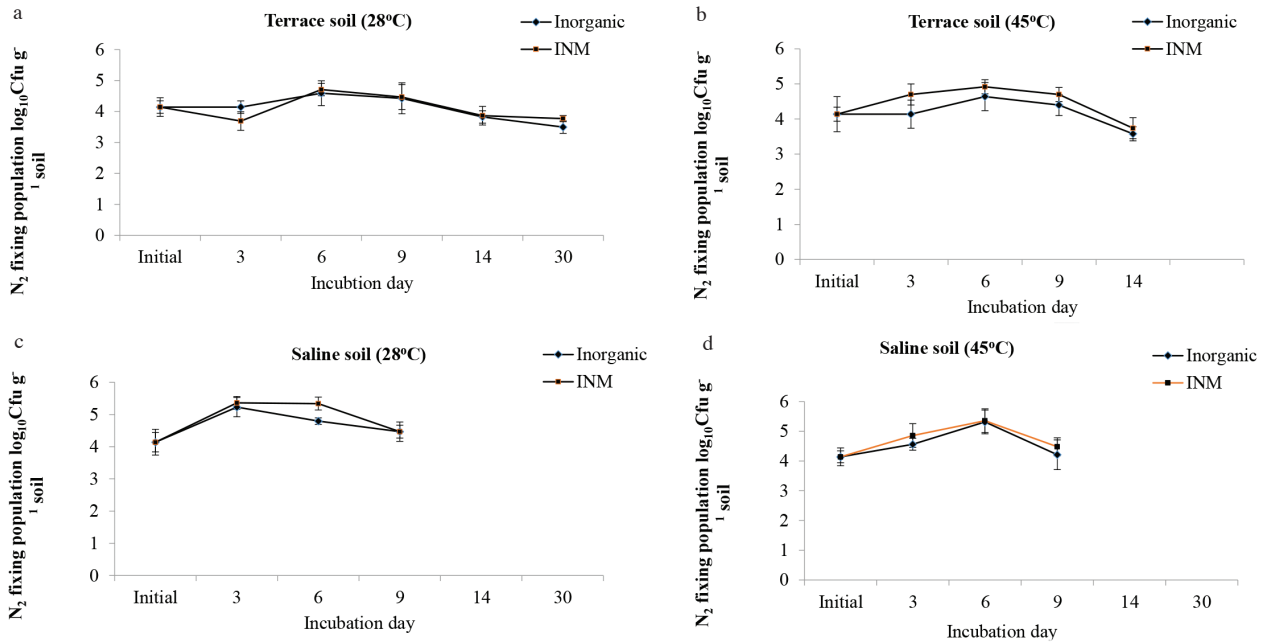


FIGURE 2. Effect of temperature and nutrient management practices on  $N_2$  fixing bacteria population in terrace and saline soil

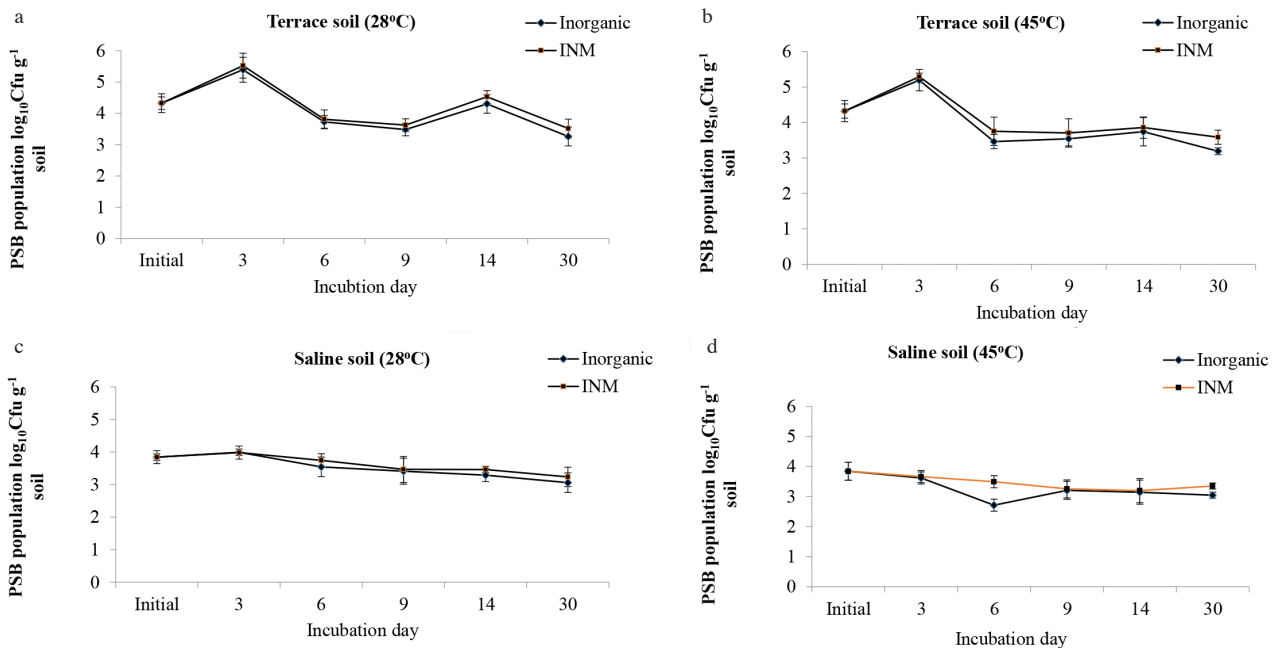


FIGURE 3. Effect of temperature and nutrient management practices on PSB population in terrace and saline soil

### CONCLUSION

Nutrient mineralization and biology of any soil is affected by temperature, fertilizer management practices, soil texture, soil salinity and soil organic matter content. The mode of action varied according to soil type. In the present investigation, significant treatment effect and its interaction effect (temperature  $\times$  nutrient management practices) was recorded for SOC, N, P, K mineralization and microbial populations for both terrace and saline soils. At high temperature, SOC and  $\text{NH}_4^+$ -N mineralization

rate was more with saline soil compared to terrace soil. Phosphorus mineralization was rapid at high temperature, especially in INM treatment. Potassium mineralization was high in chemical fertilizer treatment. Free-living  $N_2$  fixing bacteria were more sensitive to high temperature. Bacteria population was more affected and decreased than fungi and actinomycetes and exaggerated more in chemical fertilizer compared to INM practice. In changing climate with high temperature, INM could be a better option for saline soil management.



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