



Mitigation of Salinity Effect in Dry Matter Distribution of Two Soybean Genotype (*Glycine max* L.) by Applying Different Level of Potassium

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
<p>Received date: August 01, 2019 Accepted date: Nov. 12, 2019</p>	<p>An experiment in field was conducted to determine the dry matter distribution of two soybean genotype (one is suitable for genetic improvement and another one is resistant to salinity) in root, stem, leaves, shoot, total dry matter partitioning were done by applying different doses of potassium and soybean may be mitigate the salinity stress. The percent reduction in stem dry weight (DW) due to salinity was more in Galarsum than Bangladesh soybean 4 when salinity increased from S_2 (7.5 dS/m) to S_1 (5.0 dS/m) under K_2 (double to the RD i.e. 119.52 kg/ha) and K_3 (triple to the RD i.e. 179.28 kg/ha) potassium treatments. Moreover, the positive effect of K on the production of relative stem DW under different level of salinity was more clear in Bangladesh soybean 4 than that of Galarsum. The relative leaf DW production of Galarsum at S_1 (5.0 dS/m) level ranged from 50-73% and that at S_2 (7.5 dS/m) level from 35-43%. In Bangladesh soybean 4 the relative leaf dry weight production increased with the increasing doses of K at both S_1 (5.0 dS/m) and S_2 (7.5 dS/m) levels of salinity. Compared to the K_0 (Control or native potassium) treatment, the application of K enhanced the relative root dry weights, to some extent, under saline conditions in both the genotypes. The relative root DW ranged from 41-55% at S_1 level of salinity, and that from 28-42% at S_2 salinity in Galarsum. On the contrary, the relative root DW ranged from 86-130% in S_1 (5.0 dS/m) and that from 76-103% in S_2 (7.5 dS/m) salinity in Bangladesh soybean 4 genotype. The total dry weight (roots + shoot) was decreased severely by the salinity in both the genotypes, and the reduction in the TDW increased with the increase in salinity levels.</p>

Key words: Dry Matter, Field experiment, Mitigating salinity, Potassium, Soybean

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1. INTRODUCTION

Soybean (*Glycine max* L.) is considered as a source of complete protein. A complete protein is one that contains significant amounts of all the essential amino acids that must be provided to the human body, because of the body's

inability to synthesize them. Soya protein products can replace animal-based foods, which also have complete proteins but tend to contain more fat, especially saturated fat without requiring major adjustments elsewhere in the diet. The high-quality protein and oil of soybean seed is a major source for human consumption (Katerji et al., 2001). The

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unique chemical composition of soybean made it one of the most valuable agronomic crops worldwide (Thomas et al., 2003). Oil and protein contents of soybean account for about 60% of dry soybeans by weight of which 40% is protein and 20% oil. Despite its high nutritive values, soybean is grown in a limited scale in Bangladesh. For a long time, its cultivation has been concentrated mostly in the southern Bangladesh, most specifically in the district of Noakhali, where salinity is a potential threat for crop production. However, the cultivation of soybean is also expanding in the northern part of Bangladesh along with the increase in the southern part with the increase in its demand as an animal feed and consciousness about the nutritive values of the food made from this crop (Karim et al., 2012).

Salinity is a great problem in agriculture, especially in the coastal areas of the world. In many arid and semi-arid regions the soil salinity is caused by natural processes or by crop irrigation with saline water (Meloni et al., 2004). The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) estimated that, 20% of the agricultural land is salt affected in the world (Yan, 2008). Munns, 2005 also reported the matter where he claimed that over 8×10^8 ha, which is about 6% of the world's land area is affected by salinity. The salinization in Bangladesh is mainly caused by seepage of seawater, inundation of coastal land with seawater due to cyclone and intrusion of brackish water into sweet water river during dry season (Karim et al., 1982; Mannan, 2012; Khan, 2013).

Most of the salt stresses in nature are due to Na^+ salts, particularly NaCl. Sodium is a non essential plant nutrient for most of the crops. High salt content, especially high Na^+ accumulation, reduces the growth and development of a plant by affecting physiological processes, including modification of ion balance, water status, mineral nutrition, stomatal behavior, and photosynthetic efficiency (Munns, 1993). Plant physiological processes at both whole plant and cellular levels are affected by osmotic and ionic stresses caused by salinity (Murphy & Durako, 2003). The higher ratio of toxic salts in leaf leads to dehydration and turgor loss, and finally death of leaf cells and tissues. Furthermore, salt stress has various effects on plant physiological processes such as increased respiration rate and ion toxicity, changes in plant growth, mineral distribution, membrane instability resulting from the displacement of calcium and potassium ions by sodium ion (Grattan & Grieve, 1992), membrane permeability (Gupta et al., 2002) and decreased efficiency of photosynthesis (Ashraf & Shahbaz, 2003; Kao et al., 2003; Sayed, 2003). The most important process is affected by salinity is the photosynthesis (Hayat et al., 2010), which may be due to increase in stomatal resistance rather than nonstomatal factor (Karim et al., 2012). Usually, salt-tolerant plant accumulates lower amount of Na^+ and higher amount of K^+ in plant cells than salt-susceptible plant (Mannan et al., 2013b).

So far, a large number of experiments employing more than hundreds of soybean genotypes have been conducted at the Department of Agronomy of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University for evaluating the genotypic variations in yield performance and their salt

tolerance (Mannan, 2009; Khan, 2013). Generally, salinity impaired the normal uptake of K^+ as well as other essential plant nutrients in soybean (Mannan, et al., 2013b.; Hussain et al., 2013) found that, the grain and dry matter yield of wheat at both saline and sodic soil increased significantly by addition of K. Earlier Cakmak (2005) also showed that, improving K nutrition of plants under salt stress could be essential in minimizing oxidative cell damage, at least in part by reducing reactive oxygen species (ROS) formation during photosynthesis. Therefore, it is important to examine that whether application of higher levels of potassium could ameliorate the toxic effect of salinity on nutrients uptake and subsequent growth in soybean. Such possibility was founded by Kabir et. al., (2004) where they found that application of higher potassium doses enhanced the salinity tolerance of mungbean (*Vigna radiata*). This study was initiated with the following objectives: i) To analyze the response of potassium on dry matter distribution pattern in salt affected soybean plants, ii) To draw the relationship between the dry matter production and effect of potassium in mitigating salinity stress.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The Department of Agronomy of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University (BSMRAU) has a large number of soybeans in collection. The yield performances as well as salinity tolerance of those collections have already been evaluated (Mannan, 2009; Khan, 2013). Khan (2013) grouped the genotypes Galarsum and Bangladesh Soybean-4 as relatively salt tolerant ones. Therefore, both the genotypes were included in this study as plant materials. The plants were grown in plastic pots of 24 cm (diameter) \times 30 cm (height) under natural sunlight inside vinyl house. The pots were filled with 14 kg of air-dried soils. Four levels of potassium and three levels of salinity were the treatment variables. The source of potassium was muriate of potash (MoP).

Treatment compositions

- i. Genotypes: V_1 = Galarsum and V_2 = Bangladesh Soybean-4
- ii. Potassium: Four levels, namely
 K_0 = Control or native potassium,
 K_1 = recommended dose (RD) i.e. 59.76 kg/ha, (Fertilizer Recommendation Guide, BARC) K_2 = double to the RD i.e. 119.52 kg/ha and K_3 = triple to the RD i.e. 179.28 kg/ha
- iii. Salinity: Three levels of salinity created by dilution of sea water such as S_0 = Control (tap water), S_1 = 5.0 dS/m and S_2 = 7.5 dS/m

Fertilization

Nitrogen, phosphorus, sulphur and boron were applied as urea, TSP, gypsum and borax at the rate of 60, 175, 120, 115 and 10 Kilogram per hectare respectively for all treatments. The amount of different fertilizers for each pot containing 8 kilogram dry soil was calculated and mixed with soil during pot filling.

Seed sowing

Eight healthy seeds were sown in each pot on 17 April 2012. Immediately after sowing seed, a light irrigation was given for the ease of seed germination.

Intercultural operation

Thinning: Thinning was done during the appearance of second trifoliate and kept two uniform and healthy plants in each pot.

Weeding: Weeding was done intensively to keep the pots weed free.

Pesticide application: To protect the plant from cutworm, insecticide Carate was sprayed when it was needed.

Irrigation: Irrigation was applied with tap water in all the pots up to imposition of salinity treatment.

Salinity imposition

Tap water of 0.1 dS/cm electrical conductivity (EC) was applied to the pots up to the emergence of 1st trifoliate leaf. Afterwards the tap water was applied only to the control plot. Seawater was collected from the Bay of Bengal at the Cox's Bazar point. The initial EC value of the seawater was 49 dS/m. The seawater was diluted with tap water and a sufficient amount of diluted seawater of 2.5 dS/m was applied to the pots in excess so that the excess seawater dripped out from the bottom of the pots. Two days later, the diluted seawater of 5.0 dS/m (S_1) was applied similarly. As the salinity concentration of the applied solution increased by 2.5 dS/cm every alternate day, it increased to 7.5 dS/m (S_2) after 4 days of salinity imposition. Thus, the salinity treatments were S_0 = Control, S_1 = 5.0 dS/m and S_2 = 7.5 dS/m. The saltwater was applied till harvest, on 27 August, 2013. The salinity was applied for 3 months and 14 days.

Dry matter accumulation

After harvest, the plants were partitioned into root, stem, leaf and pod (in Bangladesh soybean-4 only).

Though Bangladesh soybean-4 produced some pods but there were no any developed seeds in those pods. The plant parts were oven dried at 70°C for 72 hours. Total dry weight (DW) was calculated by summing up the dry weight of roots, stem, leaf and petiole of the plant. Shoot DW was calculated by excluding dry weight of root from total dry weight. Root: shoot ratio was calculated for all the treatments.

3. RESULTS**Salinity effects on dry matter production****3.1 Stem dry weight**

Application of different levels of K increased the production of relative stem dry weight (DW) at both 5 dS/cm (S_1) and 7.5 dS/cm (S_2) levels of the salinity compared to the control (S_0). At S_1 salinity the relative stem DW in Galarsum ranged from 46 to 66% and that at S_2 salinity from 35 to 40%. Whereas, in Bangladesh Soybean-4 the stem DW ranged from 58 to 75% at S_1 and that from 34 to 52% at S_2 level of salinity. Therefore, the percent reduction in stem DW due to salinity was more in V_2 than V_1 when salinity increased from S_1 to S_2 under K_0 and K_1 potassium treatments. The percent reduction in stem DW due to salinity was more in V_1 than V_2 when salinity increased from S_1 to S_2 under K_2 and K_3 potassium treatments. Moreover, the positive effect of K on the production of relative stem DW under different level of salinity was more clear in V_2 (34%-48% in S_2) in than that of V_1 (35%-40% in S_2).

3.2 Leaf dry weight

Irrespective of K levels salinity decreased the leaf dry weight in both the genotypes and the reduction in leaf DW increased with the increasing of salinity levels (Table 2). The leaf DW of Galarsum (V_1) was much higher than that of Bangladesh Soybean-4 at all level of salinity and potassium. At the control (S_0) the increasing levels of K application decreased the leaf DW production in V_1 , though in V_2 the weight increased substantially. Contrary, at both 5 dS/cm

Table 1. Effect of salinity and potassium level on stem dry weight of two soybean genotypes

Stem dry weight									
		K ₀		K ₁		K ₂		K ₃	
		(g/plant)	Relative value	(g/plant)	Relative value	(g/plant)	Relative value	(g/plant)	Relative value
V ₁	S ₀	12.93a		13.21a	102	12.13a	94	13.18a	102
	S ₁	5.96efg	46	8.40bc	65	7.25cde	56	8.53bc	66
	S ₂	4.82ghil	37	5.15fghi	40	4.56ghij	35	5.23fghi	40
V ₂	S ₀	8.56bc	-	7.57cd	88	7.62cd	89	9.62b	112
	S ₁	4.94fghij	58	5.20fghi	61	5.62fgh	66	6.38def	75
	S ₂	2.90k	34	3.54jk	41	4.11ijk	48	4.43hij	52
CV(%)		12.65							

Means followed by common letter(s) within a parameter do not differ significantly ($P>0.05$) by DMRT. Values presented in relative value indicate percent value to the control. V_1 =Galarsum, V_2 = Bangladesh Soybean-4; S_0 =Control, S_1 =5.0 dS/cm and S_2 =7.5 dS/cm; K_0 =Control, K_1 =recommended dose (RD) i.e. 48 g MP per pot (59.76 kg/ha), K_2 =double to the RD i.e. 96 g MP per pot (119.52 kg/ha) and K_3 =triple to the RD i.e. 144 g MP per pot (179.28 kg/ha).

Table 2. Effect of salinity and potassium level on leaf dry weight of two soybean genotypes

Leaf dry weight									
		K ₀		K ₁		K ₂		K ₃	
		(g/plant)	Relative Value	(g/plant)	Relative Value	(g/plant)	Relative Value	(g/plant)	Relative Value
V ₁	S ₀	11.52a	-	10.92ab	95	10b	87	7cd	61
	S ₁	5.75f	50	7.3de	63	7de	61	8.4c	73
	S ₂	4hi	35	4.59ghi	40	5fgh	43	4.5ghi	39
V ₂	S ₀	5.17fg	-	6.8e	131	7.3de	141	7.12de	137
	S ₁	3.86ij	75	4hi	77	4.60ghi	89	5.82f	113
	S ₂	1.83l	35	2.61kl	50	3jk	58	3.75ij	72
CV(%)		10.55							

Means Followed by common letter(s) within a parameter do not differ significantly ($P>0.05$) by DMRT. Values presented in relative value indicate percent value to the control. Abbreviation of (V₁-V₂), (K₀-K₃) and (S₀-S₂) are same as Table 1.

(S₁) and 7.5 dS/cm (S₂) K increased the leaf DW in both V₁ and V₂. The relative leaf DW production of V₁ at S₁ level ranged from 50-73% and that at S₂ level from 35-43%. In V₂ the relative leaf dry weight production increased with the increasing doses of K at S₁ and S₂ levels of salinity. At the S₁ salinity level the relative leaf dry weight ranged from 75-113% in V₂ and that at S₂ salinity level from 35 to 72%. The relative leaf DW of two soybean genotypes increased with increasing K application in each salinity level except S₁K₂, S₂K₃ treatments of V₁. Therefore, the relative leaf DW was increased due to increasing levels of K more in V₂ than V₁ under saline conditions.

3.3 Root dry weight

Like other parameters salinity affected root dry weight in both Galarsum (V₁) and Bangladesh Soybean-4 (V₂) at all levels of K (Table 3). However, in general, the absolute root dry weight in V₁ was higher than V₂ irrespective of salinity and potassium levels. Compared to the K₀ treatment, the application of K enhanced the relative root dry weights, to some extent, under saline conditions in both the genotypes. The relative root DW ranged from 41-55% at S₁ level of salinity, and that from 28-42% at S₂ salinity in V₁. On the contrary, the relative root DW ranged from 86-130% in S₁

and that from 76-103% in S₂ salinity in V₂ genotype. Therefore, the relative root dry weight production in V₂ was higher than that of V₁ due to potassium application.

3.4 Shoot dry weight

Irrespective of K levels, salinity decreased the shoot dry weight (DW) in both Galarsum (V₁) and Bangladesh Soybean-4 (V₂) & the reduction was increased with the increase of salinity levels (Table 4). At S₀ condition the application of increasing rates of K did not reflect any beneficial effect on the shoot DW in V₁, though in V₂ the higher level of K application increased the shoot DW substantially indicating a differential response of the genotypes to K application. At S₁ level of salinity the relative shoot DW in V₁ ranged from 49-68% due to variation in K levels, and that ranged from 36-40% at S₂ salinity. On the contrary, the relative shoot DW increased steadily with the increase in K levels in V₂ at both S₁ and S₂ levels of salinity. The relative shoot DW in V₂ ranged from 64-88% at S₁ and that ranged from 34-59% at S₂ level of salinity. Therefore, the role of K in ameliorating salinity effect on relative shoot dry weight was more conspicuous in V₂ than in V₁.

Table 3. Effect of salinity and potassium level on root dry weight of two soybean genotypes

Root dry weight									
		K ₀		K ₁		K ₂		K ₃	
		(g/plant)	Relative value	(g/plant)	Relative value	(g/plant)	Relative value	(g/plant)	Relative value
V ₁	S ₀	3.16a	-	2.55b	81	2.37b	75	2.30 bc	72
	S ₁	1.31fghi	41	1.52efg	48	1.73de	55	1.63ef	52
	S ₂	1.05ij	33	1.05ij	33	1.33fghi	42	0.90j	28
V ₂	S ₀	1.16hij	-	2.02cd	174	1.56ef	134	2.14b	184
	S ₁	1.15hij	99	1.41efgh	121	1.00 j	86	1.51efg	130
	S ₂	0.88 j	76	1.20ghij	103	1.00 j	86	1.00 j	86
CV(%)		14							

Means Followed by common letter(s) within a parameter do not differ significantly ($P>0.05$) by DMRT. Values presented in parenthesis indicate percent value to the control. Abbreviation of (V₁-V₂), (K₀-K₃) and (S₀-S₂) are same as Table 1.

Table 4. Effect of salinity and potassium level on shoot dry weight of two soybean genotypes

Shoot dry weight									
		K ₀		K ₁		K ₂		K ₃	
		(g/plant)	Relative value	(g/plant)	Relative value	(g/plant)	Relative value	(g/plant)	Relative value
V ₁	S ₀	24.46a	-	24.13a	98	22.22b	91	21b	86
	S ₁	11.71fg	49	15.73cd	64	14.3de	58	16.7c	68
	S ₂	8.82hi	36	9.7hi	39	9.51hi	39	9.73hi	40
V ₂	S ₀	13.82e	-	14.37de	104	14.92de	107	16.75c	121
	S ₁	8.8hi	64	9.12hi	70	10.22gh	74	12.20f	88
	S ₂	4.74l	34	6.15kl	45	7.11jk	51	8.18ij	59
CV(%)		8.44							

Means Followed by common letter(s) within a parameter do not differ significantly ($P>0.05$) by DMRT. Values presented in relative value indicate percent value to the control. Abbreviation of (V₁-V₂), (K₀-K₃) and (S₀-S₂) are same as Table 1.

3.5 Total dry weight (TDW)

The total dry weight (roots + shoot) was decreased severely by the salinity in both the genotypes, and the reduction in the TDW increased with the increase in salinity levels (Table 5). At the S₀ level of salinity the application of higher levels of K did not improve TDW in Galarsum (V₁), though the higher doses of K increased the TDW substantially in V₂ indicating a genotypic variations in response to higher level of K. At the S₁ salinity level the TDW ranged from 47-67% due to K levels and that at S₂ from 36-39% in V₁. Conversely, in V₂ the relative TDW varied from 66 to 91% due to K application at S₁, and that from 37 to 61% at S₂ salinity level. The result indicated the more response of TDW_{V2} to K under saline conditions than V₁.

4. DISCUSSION

The present study was initiated with the objectives to clarify the role of K on the pattern of dry matter distribution in different plant parts and the accumulation of different mineral ions in leaves as well as to estimate the relationships between the accumulated mineral ions and dry matter production. Two soybean genotypes, Galarsum (V₁) and Bangladesh Soybean-4 (V₂) were used. None of the two genotypes were able to produce seeds, mostly because of serious flowers and pod dropping. The temperature inside the vinyl house rose to $>40^{\circ}\text{C}$, which was probably the cause for the flower dropping. According to Blum (1985) and Karim et al. (2003) several reproductive processes are sensitive to heat stress, such as floral bud development,

Table 5. Effect of salinity and potassium level on total dry weight of two soybean genotypes

Total dry weight									
		K ₀		K ₁		K ₂		K ₃	
		(g/plant)	Relative value	(g/plant)	Relative value	(g/plant)	Relative value	(g/plant)	Relative value
V ₁	S ₀	27.62a	-	26.68a	96	24.60b	89	23.13b	83
	S ₁	13.02h	47	17.26de	64	15.97de	58	18.53ef	67
	S ₂	9.87cd	36	10.7ij	39	10.6ij	38	10.7ij	39
V ₂	S ₀	14.98ij	-	16.4fg	109	16.48ef	110	19.16ef	127
	S ₁	9.95c	66	10.62ij	71	11.14ij	76	13.71i	97
	S ₂	5.61m	37	7.35l	49	8kl	53	9.1jk	61
CV(%)		7.71							

Means Followed by common letter(s) within a parameter do not differ significantly ($P>0.05$) by DMRT. Values presented in relative value indicate percent value to the control. Abbreviation of (V₁-V₂), (K₀-K₃) and (S₀-S₂) are same as Table 1.

Results of the study clearly indicated that salinity decreased plant height, the production of dry matter in leaves, stem, roots and finally total dry weight (DW). Salinity affects plant growth by (i) creating physiological drought in plant cells by reducing smooth uptake of water due to lowering of the soil water potential. Under saline stress, leaf area *vis a vis* leaf DW is mostly reduced because of lower cell expansion due to maintaining low turgor. According to Gunes et al. (1996) under salt stress plant suffered from physiological drought state and consequently the reduction in plant height occurred

due to either osmotic effect or excess accumulation of Na⁺ and Cl⁻ in plant tissue. It is reported that salinity stress reduced net photosynthesis rate, increased energy loss for salt exclusion mechanism, largely hindered nutrient uptake mechanism and finally reduced plant growth (Long & Baker, 1986; Seeman & Sharkey, 1986; Orcutt & Nilsen, 2000). Reduction in dry weight also indicated the increased metabolic energy cost in saline condition and reduced carbon gain. It was reported further that the salt affected largely on the tissue functions (Karimi et al., 2005), photosynthetic rates

(Ziska et al.,1990; Ashraf, 2004) and the attainment of maximum salt concentrations tolerated by the fully expanded leaves (Hu et al.,2000).anther development and embryo development. In legumes, the individual anther is sensitive to heat 9 to 7 days before anthesis which is just after meiosis. The damage is associated with premature degeneration of the tapetal layer, lack of endothelial development, low pollen viability and low anther dehiscence. Pollen viability and pollen shedding are highly sensitive to high temperature though the ability of the pistil to be fertilized remains unaffected (Hall, 1992; Suzuki, et al.,1999; Taiz & Zeiger, 2006).

The two genotypes showed variability in their salt tolerance considerably. Between the two genotypes, Galarsum (V₁) showed higher biomass production in different plant parts at all levels of salinity. However, when relative values (% value to the control) are concerned Bangladesh Soybean-4 (V₂) had the higher values. According to Maas & Hoffman (1977) and Mannan, *et al.* (2013a) both absolute and relative productivity are important consideration for improving crop production in the marginal environment. The absolute productivity is an important consideration for increasing farm productivity in the saline area, whereas the relative tolerance is important in improving salinity tolerance of a crop through genetic engineering. Therefore both V₁ and V₂ are important genotypes for improving soybean productivity in Bangladesh.

5. CONCLUSIONS

The following conclusions may be drawn based on the findings of this study -

Salinity decreased biomass production in leaves, stem and roots of the soybean genotypes. Of the two genotypes, Galarsum (V₁) showed higher biomass production in different plant parts at all levels of salinity. However, when relative values were concerned, Bangladesh Soybean-4 (V₂) had the higher values. Since, the absolute productivity is an important consideration for increasing farm productivity in the saline area and the relative tolerance is important in improving salinity tolerance of a crop through genetic engineering, both V₁ and V₂ genotypes are important for improving soybean productivity in Bangladesh. While Galarsum showed high absolute growth under saline conditions, Bangladesh Soybean-4 had the high relative value of plant growth. So on the basis of result, Bangladesh Soybean-4 has high genetic potential for improving any variety. Therefore, both of the genotypes are important in improving soybean productivity in the saline areas of Bangladesh.

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