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ZN X S INTERACTION IN PRESENCE AND ABSENCE OF VERMICOMPOST IN THE SOIL UNDER TWO MOISTURE REGIME

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ABSTRACT

Food grain production in India witnessed an unprecedented increase over the last five decades. It bounced from nearly 74.23 million tonnes (1966-67) to 218.20 million tonnes (2009-2010) (www. financialexpress. com). This dramatic increase in food grain production was mainly a result of intensification of agriculture. The increasing use of NPK fertilizers, generally devoid of micronutrients and other macronutrients, has no doubt increased the food production, but it brought with it a host of problems related to micronutrient deficiencies, of which zinc deficiency is the most predominant.

Zinc is a trace mineral essential to all forms of life because of its fundamental role in gene expression, cell development and replication (Hambridge 2000). Millions of people throughout the world may have inadequate levels of zinc in the diet due to limited access to zinc-rich foods. Rice serves as a major source of calories for over 60 per cent of the world population and it provides 32.59 percent of the dietary energy and 25-44 per cent of the dietary protein. Enhancement of Zn content in rice grain may help to meet Zn nutritional deficiency problem to a certain extent.

KEYWORDS: Zn X S Interaction in Presence and Absence of Vermicompost, NPK Fertilizers