Nutrient Management Effects on Yield and Economics of *rabi* Maize (*Zea mays*)

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ABSTRACT

A field experiment was conducted during 2012-2013 at Agricultural College Farm, Naira to find out the best nutrient management package for *rabi* maize in North Coastal Zone of A.P. The growth parameters, yield attributes and yield of maize were significantly influenced due to different fertility levels tried. Although maximum yield was registered with T_8: 240-120-180 kg NPK ha^{-1}+ soil application of $ZnSO_4$ @ 50 kg ha^{-1}, it was comparable with T_7: 200-100-150 kg NPK ha^{-1}+ soil application of $ZnSO_4$ @ 50 kg ha^{-1}, T_{12}: 240-120-180 kg NPK ha^{-1}+ foliar spray of $ZnSO_4$ @ 0.5% and T_{11}: 200-100-150 kg NPK ha^{-1}+ foliar spray of $ZnSO_4$ @ 0.5%. Considering higher gross and net returns as well as B:C ratio, application of 200:100:150 kg NPK ha^{-1} + soil application of $ZnSO_4$ @ 50kg ha^{-1}) (T_7) could be an effective nutrient package for remunerative maize cultivation in North Coastal Zone of A.P.

Key words : Foliar application, *Rabi* maize, Nutrient management, Soil application, Zinc.