

## International Journal of Agriculture Extension and Social Development

Volume 8; Issue 8; August 2025; Page No. 462-465

Received: 04-06-2025  
Accepted: 07-07-2025

Indexed Journal  
Peer Reviewed Journal

### Influence of pruning level and nutrient sources on yield and economics of rice under agri silviculture system

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DOI: <https://www.doi.org/10.33545/26180723.2025.v8.i8g.2305>

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#### Abstract

A field experiment was conducted during Kharif 2023-2024 at JNKVV, Jabalpur to assess the impact of *Dalbergia sissoo* Roxb. pruning intensities and nutrient sources on rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) yield and economics. Results showed significant effects of pruning  $\times$  sources of nutrient. The lowest yield (22.80 and 39.70 q ha<sup>-1</sup>) occurred under no pruning with 100% RDF, while the maximum (48.92 and 66.50 qha<sup>-1</sup>) was obtained under open conditions with 75% RDF + VAM + foliar fulvic acid. Yields consistently improved from P<sub>0</sub> to P<sub>3</sub>, with integrated nutrients (T<sub>2</sub>) performing best. Economic evaluation revealed the highest gross (₹172501 ha<sup>-1</sup>) and net returns (₹119753 ha<sup>-1</sup>) along with maximum B:C ratio (3.27) under P<sub>3</sub>T<sub>2</sub>, indicating the profitability of moderate pruning with integrated nutrient management. Thus, canopy reduction of *D. sissoo* combined with balanced nutrients enhances rice productivity and economic sustainability in agroforestry-based Agri silviculture systems.

**Keywords:** *Dalbergia sissoo*, pruning, sources of nutrients, rice yield, economics, Agri silviculture systems

#### Introduction

Shisham (*Dalbergia sissoo*) is a multipurpose agroforestry tree valued for timber, fodder, shade, and soil fertility enhancement through leaf litter and nitrogen fixation. However, its dense canopy and competitive root system suppress productivity of understory crop reduces solar radiation and increase competing space for water and nutrients (Chaturvedi and Das, 2002; FSI, 2023) [3, 6]. Pruning has been shown to mitigate these effects by improving light penetration and reducing tree and crop competition. Previous studies reported that 50% pruning of *D. sissoo* increased rice yield by 12 and 13% and improved tiller number and biomass accumulation (Singh *et al.*, 2015; Malviya *et al.*, 2019) [17, 13]. Since rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) is highly sensitive to in photosynthetically active radiation yield of rice. The radiation in radiation negatively affects the, with a 20 and 30% decline causing yield losses of 10 and 18% (Ghosh *et al.*, 2014) [8], hence the management of tree canopy and nutrients critical for improving both yield and profitability. Nutrient interventions particularly arbuscular mycorrhizal which root associated fungi along with humic substances (fulvic acid) productivity under shaded conditions. Are have enormous potential to sustain both are considered a biostimulant and enhancing root growth, nutrient uptake, chlorophyll content, and photosynthetic efficiency and leading to 10 and 15% higher grain yield under stress (Khan *et al.*, 2013; Verma *et al.*,

2020) [11, 20]. Keeping the above fact in view the present study was carried out with on objective to assess the impact of pruning and stimulant on productivity and profitability of *D. sissoo* Rice agrisilviculture system.

#### Materials and Methods

##### About the Experiment and experimental Site

A field experiment was conducted during Kharif 2023 and 2024 at the Agroforestry Research Farm, JNKVV, Jabalpur. The agrisilviculture system consist of 26-year-old *D. sissoo* trees. The experiment was conducted in strip plot design with three replications (0, 25, 50, 75%, and open) and four nutrient practices (100% RDF, 50% RDF + VAM + foliar fulvic acid, 75% RDF + VAM + foliar fulvic acid and 50% RDF + VAM + FA as soil inoculation + foliar fulvic acid0), giving 20 treatment combinations. Fulvic acid @ 2 kgha<sup>-1</sup> at 5 DAT and 750 mlha<sup>-1</sup> foliar spray at 25 and 45 DAT) and VAM were applied as per treatment. Data in relation to grain and straw yields computed the economics were recorded from the field experiment and in term of cost of cultivation from the field experiment and were analysed in terms of cost of cultivation, gross and net returns (GMR) Net Monetary Return (NMR) and benefits cost ratio.

#### Results and Discussion

The data pertaining to different yield and economic aspects are presented in (Table 1 and 2 as well as Figures 1 and 2.)

## Yields

Different pruning intensities and nutrient sources had a significant influence on the grain and straw yield of rice (Table 1. And Figures 1.1 and 1.2). The increase in grain and straw yields were observed with increasing pruning intensity under all nutrient treatments. The lowest yield (22.80 and 39.70 q ha<sup>-1</sup>) was recorded under without pruning and 100% RDF (control), Grain and straw yields progressively improved from P<sub>0</sub> to P<sub>3</sub> under all nutrient combinations, reflecting the significant effect of pruning. Among nutrient sources, T<sub>2</sub> Application of 75% RDF along with VAM @ 5 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> as soil inoculation followed by 2 sprays of fulvic acid at 25 and 50 DAT exhibited markeable improvement in yield under all the pruning level. Similarly, these results are in close conformity with previous findings.

## Cost of cultivation (Rs. ha<sup>-1</sup>)

The cost of cultivation (Table-2) remains unchanged under without pruning and open condition. The pruning at 75% possess higher cost of cultivation than without but lower to

50% and 75%. However integrated nutrient also increases the cost of cultivation. The highest cost of cultivation Rs 52799ha<sup>-1</sup> was recorded under P<sub>3</sub>T<sub>3</sub> closely followed by P<sub>3</sub> T<sub>2</sub> and P<sub>2</sub> T<sub>3</sub> while the lowest was RS 47299/ ha under P<sub>0</sub>T<sub>1</sub> and P<sub>4</sub> T<sub>1</sub>. These results are findings.

## Gross monetary return (Rs. ha<sup>-1</sup>)

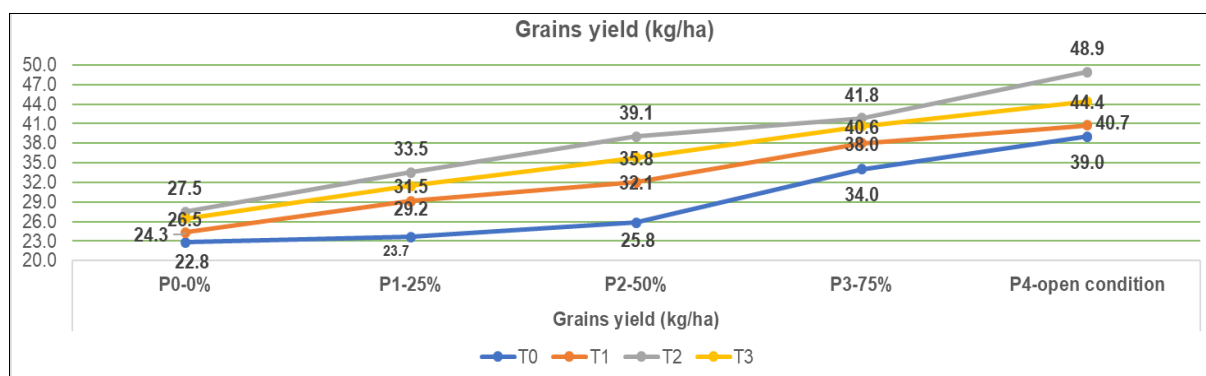
The gross monetary return (Table-1) Rs 172501 ha<sup>-1</sup> was obtained under P<sub>3</sub> T<sub>2</sub> closely followed by Rs 167944 ha<sup>-1</sup> under P<sub>3</sub>T<sub>3</sub>, whereas the lower GMR of Rs 75245/ ha was obtained under P<sub>0</sub>T<sub>0</sub>. Islam *et al.*, 2006 <sup>[10]</sup>.

## Net monetary returns (Rs. ha<sup>-1</sup>) and Benefit Cost ratio

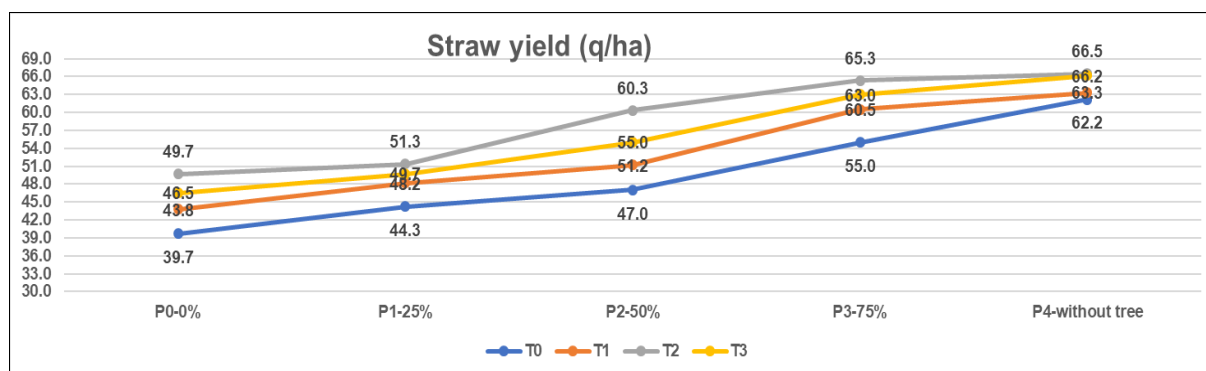
NMR and BCR Similarly net monetary return of Rs 119753ha<sup>-1</sup> was recorded from P<sub>3</sub> xT<sub>2</sub> followed by Rs 115145 ha<sup>-1</sup> under P<sub>3</sub>xT<sub>3</sub>. The treatment combination P<sub>3</sub> xT<sub>2</sub> fetched the highest BC ratio of 3.27 however, treatment P<sub>3</sub> xT<sub>3</sub>, P<sub>3</sub>xT<sub>1</sub>, and P<sub>4</sub>xT<sub>2</sub> are equally good and gave highest return/rupee investment. These results are in close conformity with previous findings (Thakur, 2013) <sup>[18]</sup>.

**Table 1:** Interaction Effect of Pruning Intensities and Nutrient Sources on Grain and straw Yield (qha<sup>-1</sup>) of Rice crop under *Dalbergia sissoo*-Based Agri silviculture Systems.

Interaction effect of pruning intensities and nutrient sources on grain and straw yield (qha <sup>-1</sup> ) of rice crop and tree.												
Sources Of nutrients	Pruning intensities											
	Grains yield (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )						Grains yield (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )					
	P <sub>0</sub> =0%	P <sub>1</sub> =25%	P <sub>2</sub> =50%	P <sub>3</sub> =75%	P <sub>4</sub> = Without tree	Mean	P <sub>0</sub> =0%	P <sub>1</sub> =25%	P <sub>2</sub> =50%	P <sub>3</sub> =75%	P <sub>4</sub> = Without tree	Mean
T0	22.80	23.67	25.83	34.00	39.00	29.06	39.70	44.25	47.00	55.00	62.17	49.62
T1	24.32	29.17	32.05	38.00	40.72	32.85	43.75	48.17	51.18	60.50	63.33	53.39
T2	27.48	33.53	39.06	41.83	48.92	38.16	49.70	51.33	60.33	65.33	66.50	58.64
T3	26.49	31.48	35.82	40.58	44.38	35.75	46.54	49.72	55.00	63.00	66.17	56.09
Mean	25.27	29.46	33.19	38.60	43.25	33.96	44.92	48.37	53.38	60.96	64.54	54.43
Treatment	Pruning intensities		Sources of Nutrient		Interaction (P x S)		Pruning intensities		Sources of Nutrient		Interaction (P x S)	
S.Em ±	3.20		1.93		1.68		3.62		2.16		1.85	
CD(P=0.05)	9.64		5.82		6.60		10.92		6.51		7.27	
Abbreviation: -Sources of nutrient												
T <sub>0</sub> :100% RDF(Control), Recommended dose of fertilizer (RDF)												
T <sub>1</sub> : Application of 50% RDF along with VAM @ 5 kg ha <sup>-1</sup> as soil inoculation followed by 2 sprays of fulvic acid at 25 and 50 DAT												
T <sub>2</sub> : Application of 75% RDF along with VAM @ 5 kg ha <sup>-1</sup> as soil inoculation followed by 2 sprays of fulvic acid at 25 and 50 DAT												
T <sub>3</sub> : Application of 50% (RD)NPK along with VAM @ 5 kg ha <sup>-1</sup> as soil inoculation followed by fulvic acid @ 2kg ha <sup>-1</sup> as soil application at 5 DAT as well as two sprays of fulvic acid at 25 and 50 DAT												



**Fig 1:** Interaction Effect of Pruning Intensities and Nutrient Sources on Grain Yield (qha<sup>-1</sup>) o.



**Fig 2:** Interaction effect of pruning intensities and nutrient sources on grain yield (qha<sup>-1</sup>) of rice crop and tree

**Table 2:** Effect of Pruning Intensities and Nutrient Sources on Cost of Cultivation, Gross and Net Monetary Returns, and Benefit: Cost Ratio in Rice and tree (2023, 2024 and Pooled)

Treatment	Cost of cultivation (Rs. ha <sup>-1</sup> )			Gross monetary return (Rs. ha <sup>-1</sup> )			Net monetary returns (Rs. ha <sup>-1</sup> )			Benefit cost ratio (%)		
	2023	2024	Pooled	2023	2024	Pooled	2023	2024	Pooled	2023	2024	Pooled
P <sub>0</sub> T <sub>0</sub>	46932	48068	47500	72430	78060	75245	25498	29992	27745	1.54	1.62	1.58
P <sub>0</sub> T <sub>1</sub>	46731	47867	47299	79085	82883	80984	32354	35016	33685	1.69	1.73	1.71
P <sub>0</sub> T <sub>2</sub>	48180	49316	48748	88952	94277	91614	40772	44961	42866	1.85	1.91	1.88
P <sub>0</sub> T <sub>3</sub>	48231	49367	48799	85378	89938	87658	37147	40571	38859	1.77	1.82	1.80
P <sub>1</sub> T <sub>0</sub>	48932	50068	49500	89310	95799	92554	40378	45731	43054	1.83	1.91	1.87
P <sub>1</sub> T <sub>1</sub>	48731	49867	49299	103075	112466	107771	54344	62599	58472	2.12	2.26	2.19
P <sub>1</sub> T <sub>2</sub>	50180	51316	50748	113930	126471	120200	63750	75155	69452	2.27	2.46	2.37
P <sub>1</sub> T <sub>3</sub>	50231	51367	50799	107735	120613	114174	57504	69246	63375	2.14	2.35	2.25
P <sub>2</sub> T <sub>0</sub>	49732	50868	50300	109313	113736	111525	59581	62868	61225	2.20	2.24	2.22
P <sub>2</sub> T <sub>1</sub>	49531	50667	50099	121770	135644	128707	72239	84977	78608	2.46	2.68	2.57
P <sub>2</sub> T <sub>2</sub>	50980	52116	51548	141748	159993	150871	90768	107877	99323	2.78	3.07	2.93
P <sub>2</sub> T <sub>3</sub>	51031	52167	51599	128615	151271	139943	77584	99104	88344	2.52	2.90	2.71
P <sub>3</sub> T <sub>0</sub>	50932	52068	51500	145955	148919	147437	95023	96851	95937	2.87	2.86	2.86
P <sub>3</sub> T <sub>1</sub>	50731	51867	51299	152010	168610	160310	101279	116743	109011	3.00	3.25	3.12
P <sub>3</sub> T <sub>2</sub>	52180	53316	52748	160840	184162	172501	108660	130846	119753	3.08	3.45	3.27
P <sub>3</sub> T <sub>3</sub>	52231	53367	52799	157100	178788	167944	104869	125421	115145	3.01	3.35	3.18
P <sub>4</sub> T <sub>0</sub>	46932	48068	47500	125220	124882	125051	78288	76814	77551	2.67	2.60	2.63
P <sub>4</sub> T <sub>1</sub>	46731	47867	47299	126420	134203	130312	79689	86336	83013	2.71	2.80	2.75
P <sub>4</sub> T <sub>2</sub>	48180	49316	48748	147433	155090	151262	99253	105774	102514	3.06	3.14	3.10
P <sub>4</sub> T <sub>3</sub>	48231	49367	48799	135057	145950	140504	86826	96583	91705	2.80	2.96	2.88

**Abbreviation:** Pruning intensities X sources of nutrient

P <sub>0</sub> : 0% no pruning	T <sub>0</sub> : 100% Recommended dose of fertilizer (RDF)(Control)
P <sub>1</sub> : 25% pruning	T <sub>1</sub> : Application of 50% RDF along with VAM @ 5 kgha <sup>-1</sup> as soil inoculation followed by 2 sprays of fulvic acid at 25 and 50 DAT
P <sub>2</sub> : 50% pruning	T <sub>2</sub> : Application of 75% RDF along with VAM @ 5 kgha <sup>-1</sup> as soil inoculation followed by 2 sprays of fulvic acid at 25 and 50 DAT
P <sub>3</sub> : 75% pruning	T <sub>3</sub> : Application of 50% (RD)NPK along with VAM @ 5 kgha <sup>-1</sup> as soil inoculation followed by fulvic acid @ 2kgha <sup>-1</sup> as soil application at 5 DAT as well as two sprays of fulvic acid at 25 and 50 DAT
P <sub>4</sub> : without tree	

## Conclusion

The study revealed that both pruning intensity and nutrient management exerted a significant influence on rice yields and profitability in *Dalbergia sissoo*-based Agri silviculture. Grain and straw yields consistently increased with higher pruning intensity, with the maximum recorded under open condition and integrated nutrient application (75% RDF + VAM + fulvic acid). Among nutrient sources, integrated use of RDF, VAM, and FA proved most effective across all pruning levels. Although the cost of cultivation was relatively higher under P<sub>3</sub>T<sub>3</sub>, the maximum gross monetary return (₹172501ha<sup>-1</sup>), net monetary return (₹119753 ha<sup>-1</sup>), and B:C ratio (3.27) were achieved under P<sub>3</sub>T<sub>2</sub>, closely followed by P<sub>3</sub>T<sub>3</sub>. These findings emphasize that 75% pruning combined with integrated nutrient management

(RDF + VAM + FA) offers the most productive and economically viable option for sustaining rice cultivation in *D. sissoo*-based agroforestry systems.

Grain and straw yields increased with increasing pruning intensities. However, higher yield were recorded under open condition which fertilized application 75% RDF + VAM + fulvic acid). Among nutrient sources, integrated use of RDF, VAM, and FA proved most effective across all pruning levels. Although the cost of cultivation was relatively higher under P<sub>3</sub>T<sub>3</sub>, the maximum gross monetary return (₹172501ha<sup>-1</sup>), net monetary return (₹119753 ha<sup>-1</sup>), and B:C ratio (3.27) were achieved under P<sub>3</sub>T<sub>2</sub>, closely followed by P<sub>3</sub>T<sub>3</sub>. These findings emphasize that 75% pruning combined with integrated nutrient management (RDF + VAM + FA) offers the most productive and economically viable option

for sustaining rice cultivation in *D. sissoo*-based agroforestry systems.

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