



Influence of soil properties on yield and quality of tobacco plant in Akhisar region of Turkey

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Abstract

The research was carried out in Akhisar environs where tobacco was very popular in the period of 2004-2005. In this study, 9 fields were selected which are known to show differences in terms of soil properties. The relationships between yield and quality of tobacco and some soil properties were determined by correlation tests. After two years of the study, total alkaloid (nicotine), total reducing sugar, total nitrogen, and raw ash were measured as 0.126-1.410%, 7.81-33.71%, 0.45-3.24 %, 8.49-30.01%, respectively. The yield and total reducing sugar were decreased by increasing bulk density as an important soil property. On the other side raw ash content of tobacco increased. It is recommended that low raw ash and high sugar content are required for tobacco quality. With this content, The yield and quality of tobacco can increase with taken some necessary measurement for decreasing bulk density. The nicotine content of tobacco increased with increasing available Mg, Na and Cu content in soil. On the other side, the raw ash content in tobacco decreased with increasing total salt and available Fe, Zn and Mn in soil. It was determined that there was a positive relationship between salt in soil and reducing sugar in soil which is another quality factor for tobacco. In the research, some results were reached as mentioned above. However, further studies must be carried out in the next years to determine relationships between soil properties and yield and quality of tobacco. It can be possible to improve yield and quality of tobacco with using these relations for producers.

Keywords: Tobacco, Soil Properties, Quality, Yield, Akhisar

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Introduction

It is known that Virginia type of tobacco accounts for 60 % of the global tobacco production; while Burley type of tobacco accounts for 13,6 %, dark coloured and cigar tobaccos constitute 11,3 % and Oriental type of tobacco accounts for 10 % of total global production. It is also known that 40 % of Oriental type of tobacco production is occurred in Turkey; among tobacco-producing countries and Oriental type of tobacco producing countries, Turkey is the 6th and 1st most tobacco-producing country by quantity, respectively (Anonymous, 2002). Aegean Region tobaccos which are called as Aegean tobaccos in international market, constitute 60-70 % of total production. In Turkey, tobacco production is concentrated in the Aegean region. The Aegean region tobacco production account for 79 and 83 % of total production in 2004 and 2005, respectively.

According to Wolf (1962) and others, the relationships between soil properties and yield and quality of tobacco are complex. By doing analyses of sugar, nicotine, raw ash, protein and total N of tobacco, it is possible to determine quality to a certain extent (Akehurst, 1970; Sekin, 1979). Akehurst (1970) who investigated the relationships between chemical compounds and soil properties of Bitlis tobaccos, determined a

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significantly positive relationships between alkaloid content and K and total soluble salt content of soils. They also determined a significantly negative relationship between hygroscopic moisture content and soil pH.

İçöz et al. (2004) stated that, although Turkish tobaccos grow better and become more qualified in weak soils, it is important to fertilize them scientifically. Also according to some other researchers, in productive bottom lands, tobacco yield increases but tobacco quality decreases (Kocak et al., 2007). Tuncay et al. (1985) investigated relationships between soil properties and tobacco quality. They stated that there is no relationship between soil pH and tobacco quality; on the other hand, there is a significant positive relationship between soil pH and total soluble salt content and physical properties. Şişman et al. (2007) informed that average reducing sugar, nicotine, total N and chlorine contents of Aegean Region tobaccos are 21.76 %, 0.66 %, 1.40 % and 0.48 %, respectively.

Turkish tobaccos which are used due to their low nicotine rate and their intense flavour, constitute following four groups according to their production areas; Izmir Region, Black Sea Region, Marmara-Thracian Region and East-Southern East Region (Kocak et al., 2007).

Aegean Region tobaccos has always retained their position in world market for their use in cigarette blends (Kocak et al., 2007). Aegean Region tobaccos has very low nicotine and N contents and high sugar substance content. When tobacco blends mixed with a small amount of them, they improve smoking quality. While their average nicotine content is below 0.70 %, it can decrease to 0.25 %. Their protein N contents ranges between 0.90 and 1.30 %; their reducing sugar contents ranges between 15-20 %.

Material and Methods

Material

In the year 2004, 36 soil samples were taken from 9 pedon opened in the fields of 5 different villages and 9 farmers field which are chosen for research project. Second sampling was done in 2005 and samples were taken from the same fields. Also 9 tobacco samples were taken from 5 different villages and 9 farmers field.

Location of Research Area

The research area is located in the middle of Akhisar Plain with an area of 2500 km² extending in a north-south direction between 60-100 m. 10 % of the area is producing high yield-high quality, high yield-low quality, low yield-high quality and low yield-low quality tobaccos. Villages, field number of villages and their symbols are given in Table 1. These villages have similar properties from the point of tobacco production, however they have some differences about sowing time and cultural practises.

Akhisar, the biggest district in Aegean Region, is in the middle of Akhisar Plain with an area of 2500 km² extending in a north-south direction between 60-100 m. 10 % of the area is producing high yield-high quality, high yield-low quality, low yield-high quality and low yield-low quality tobaccos. Villages, field number of villages and their symbols are given in Table 1. These villages have similar properties from the point of tobacco production, however they have some differences about sowing time and cultural practises.

Table 1. Village names, field numbers and their symbols in research area

flşoak-çşâş®	°®şoâ«¶şôm	şî®şôm	Mecidiye	'şî®şâ'â	Total: 5
3 (H/1; H/2; H/3)*	2 (A/4; A/5)	1 (D/6)	1 (M/7)	2 (S/8; S/9)	Total: 9

Method

Soil Analyses

Particle size distribution of experimental soil was determined by the Bouyoucos hydrometer method (Bouyoucos 1962); bulk density was determined from undisturbed soil samples that were taken by using a steel cylinder of 100 cm³ volume (Black, 1965); total silt+clay, nonaggregated silt +clay and structure stability index (SSI) were calculated by formula (U.S. Soil Survey Staff, 1951); total water soluble salts determined according to U.S. Soil Salinity Lab. (1954); pH determined in soils saturated with water (Jackson, 1965); CaCO₃ determined according to Schlichting and Blume (1966); organic matter content determined according to Rauterberg and Kremkus (1951); total N determined according to Bremner (1965); available P

by Bingham method, available K, Ca, Mg and Na determined by 1 N NH₄ OAc (pH:7) method (Kacar, 1995); available Fe, Cu, Mn and Zn was determined by DTPA method (Lindsay and Norvell, 1978).

Methods of Chemical Analyses of Tobacco Samples

Tobacco samples were taken from tobacco bales of each farmers. Samples were grinded for chemical analyses and preserved in refrigerator. Tobacco samples analysed for raw ash (Nelson, 1960); total alkaloids (nicotine) (Anonymous, 1965); total reducing sugar (Lindsay, 1973) and total N (Kacar, 1972). Tobacco yield determined by weight of total dry tobacco leaf from decare.

Statistical Analyses

Data were analyzed for determining correlations between them by using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 9 (SPSS, 1999)

Results and Discussion

Total Alkaloid Content (Nicotine) of Tobacco

Total alkaloid contents of dry leaf samples of tobaccos that are produced in different villages and fields, are given in Table 2. In this study that carried out in the years 2004-2005, nicotine contents have ranged between 0.131-1.114 %. These values adjust with nicotine content of Aegean Region tobaccos (Akehurst, 1970; Sekin, 1979; Collins and Hawks, 1993; Tso, 1990). When considering differences between years, nicotine values of the second year are found higher than the first year. While the highest nicotine value of the year 2004 was 0.861%, highest value of second year is determined as 1.114 %. Nicotine content of tobaccos bottom land structure, more intensive irrigation and fertilization. The lowest nicotine content of first year 0.131%, lowest value of second year is determined as 0.271%. Nicotine content of tobaccos low in each year. The reason of high nicotine contents that plant has to struggle to reach water and nutrients in unproductive and superficial soils, this means that plant has to develop a strong root structure; nicotine that represents %95 of total alkaloid content of tobacco, are produced in roots; due to high surface, it can easily deposit in leaves (Tso, 1972). Collins and Hawks (1993) stated that nicotine contents of Virginia type of tobaccos range between 1.5-3.5 %. Nicotine is an important quality parameter for tobacco and it needs to be neither high nor low. Abdallah (1986) underlined that, while high nicotine content adds some hardness and bitterness to taste, low nicotine content causes weak taste and physiological dissatisfaction. Alkaloid contents of tobaccos are easily influenced by environmental conditions and ranges between certain limits.

Table 2. Total nicotin, total reducing sugar, total N and raw ash content of tobacco samples from different villages and fields

Field number	Total nicotine (%)			Total reducing sugar (%)			Total N (%)			Raw ash (%)		
	2004	2005	Average	2004	2005	Average	2004	2005	Average	2004	2005	Average
H/1	0.359	0.566	0.462	32.72	24.84	28.78	0.91	1.56	1.23	8.66	15.27	11.96
H/2	0.638	0.704	0.671	30.38	24.72	27.55	1.32	1.56	1.44	13.33	13.10	13.21
H/3	0.420	0.623	0.521	27.04	22.81	24.95	1.33	1.41	1.37	12.83	11.55	12.19
A/4	0.131	0.271	0.201	23.76	32.82	28.29	0.88	1.29	1.08	19.66	20.31	19.98
A/5	0.504	0.595	0.549	27.64	27.33	27.48	1.41	1.57	1.49	16.32	19.79	18.05
D/6	0.332	0.335	0.333	23.85	24.81	24.01	1.40	1.45	1.42	17.92	18.05	17.98
M/7	0.486	0.840	0.663	19.52	23.98	21.75	1.58	2.04	1.81	20.50	18.35	19.42
S/8	0.861	0.791	0.826	26.01	25.21	25.61	1.94	1.83	1.88	15.54	17.09	22.31
S/9	0.756	1.114	0.935	23.59	14.20	18.89	2.56	2.72	2.64	17.53	20.22	18.87
Average	0.498	0.664	0.588	26.05	24.52	25.25	1.48	1.71	1.60	15.81	17.08	17.11

Total Reducing Sugar Content of Tobacco

As it is outlined in Table 2, while total reducing sugar contents of research region tobaccos was changed between 19.52-32.72 % in the first year, in the second year it was between 14.20-32.82%. Total reducing

Some Physical and Chemical Properties and Nutrient Contents of Researched Soils of Farmers

Some physical and chemical properties and nutrient contents of researched soils of farmers are given in the Table 4.

Table 4. Some physical and chemical properties and nutrient contents of researched soils of farmers

Field number	pH		Salt (%)		OM (%)		Lime (%)		Sand (%)	Silt (%)	Clay (%)	Texture
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005				
H/1	7.53	7.22	0.112	0.117	1.45	1.45	20.29	32.45	37.52	28.72	33.76	CL
H/2	7.56	7.32	0.110	0.085	1.39	1.39	2.21	14.18	53.52	20.72	25.76	SCL
H/3	7.62	7.35	0.051	0.048	2.37	2.37	22.67	32.01	59.52	20.72	19.76	SL
A/4	7.78	7.78	0.051	0.051	0.93	0.93	1.72	7.98	63.28	22.00	14.72	SL
A/5	7.27	7.27	0.097	0.097	0.88	0.88	0.72	0.72	52.40	22.72	24.88	SCL
D/6	7.78	7.39	0.051	0.065	0.93	0.93	1.72	2.80	61.52	10.72	27.76	SCL
M/7	7.40	7.49	0.041	0.046	1.19	1.19	3.43	8.47	69.52	12.72	17.76	SL
S/8	7.67	7.51	0.064	0.059	1.60	1.60	11.38	10.09	55.52	22.72	21.76	SCL
S/9	7.67	7.66	0.068	0.055	0.72	0.72	15.41	15.23	45.52	26.72	27.76	SCL

Table 4. Continue.

Field number	Total (%)	silt+clay	Non aggregated	silt+clay	SSI		Aggregation(%)		Bulk density	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
H/1	65.44	59.20	13.44	17.20	52.00	42.00	79.46	70.95	1.02	0.98
H/2	65.44	35.20	21.44	13.20	44.00	22.00	67.23	62.50	1.00	1.57
H/3	38.32	39.20	15.20	23.20	23.12	16.00	60.33	40.82	1.12	1.24
A/4	53.20	53.20	31.20	31.20	22.00	22.00	41.35	41.35	1.09	1.01
A/5	51.76	35.20	7.76	13.20	44.00	22.00	85.00	62.50	1.28	1.11
D/6	34.32	33.20	7.20	19.20	27.12	14.00	79.02	42.17	1.22	1.17
M/7	23.76	31.20	7.76	21.20	16.00	10.00	67.34	32.05	1.33	0.95
S/8	57.76	61.20	13.76	29.20	44.00	32.00	76.17	52.29	1.13	1.22
S/9	57.76	51.20	9.76	27.20	48.00	24.00	83.10	46.88	1.16	1.31

Table 4. Continue.

Field number	Total N (%)		*P (mg/kg)		*K (mg/kg)		*Ca (mg/kg)		*Mg (mg/kg)		*Na (mg/kg)	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
H/1	0.067	0.084	0.10	0.15	252	310	2853	2866	375	255	24.90	14.94
H/2	0.067	0.045	0.09	1.29	427	272	2098	2234	300	147	19.92	9.96
H/3	0.095	0.073	0.05	0.19	97	77	3569	3489	131	81	9.96	9.96
A/4	0.101	0.056	0.37	0.30	563	446	3479	3671	427	442	9.96	19.92
A/5	0.034	0.034	0.21	0.21	456	456	1509	1509	339	339	19.92	19.92
D/6	0.050	0.062	0.01	0.19	233	272	2584	2684	224	227	24.90	19.92
M/7	0.062	0.067	0.06	2.09	174	233	1389	1200	453	617	9.96	9.96
S/8	0.067	0.073	0.02	0.76	408	408	3494	3361	673	657	69.73	29.88
S/9	0.073	0.078	0.08	0.42	398	408	3479	3479	816	794	49.81	49.81

*Available

Table 4. Continue.

Field number	*Fe (mg/kg)		*Cu (mg/kg)		*Zn (mg/kg)		*Mn (mg/kg)	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
H/1	3.77	3.85	1.64	1.54	1.66	0.86	9.50	6.64
H/2	2.50	3.85	1.60	1.30	0.76	1.12	8.62	5.17
H/3	6.26	5.18	0.76	1.06	0.58	0.58	17.32	4.12
A/4	1.83	1.95	1.20	1.36	0.86	0.76	6.56	5.65
A/5	1.83	1.83	1.16	1.16	0.72	0.72	2.06	2.06
D/6	2.16	2.61	0.94	1.14	0.48	0.68	7.14	5.15
M/7	2.19	1.62	1.12	1.46	0.68	0.76	4.50	5.87
S/8	1.47	1.43	1.80	1.92	0.62	0.60	5.90	5.01
S/9	1.67	1.60	1.82	1.70	0.64	0.58	5.80	4.57

*Available

