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Table 1. Chemical properties of soil and vermicompost in this study.

( ) Electrical conductivity (dS m <sup>-1</sup> )	pH	( ) Organic mater (%)	Available (mg kg <sup>-1</sup> )				Properties
			Mn	Cu	Zn	Fe	
2.34	7.52	2.41	13.9	3.63	1.0	58.4	(Soil)
3.3	7.75	21	450	35	126	9740	(VC)

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Table 2. Mean comparison of growing media chemical properties in different fertilizer treatments (60 days after sowing, initial flowering).

HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	Mg	Ca	Cl	Na	pH	( )	Treatments
Extractable soil (mq L <sup>-1</sup> )						Electrical conductivity (dS m <sup>-1</sup> )	
0.87c	2.37d	10.00d	3.60d	9.52c	7.59c	2.66c <sup>††,†</sup>	T <sub>1</sub> (control) <sup>†††</sup>
1.43ab	3.25d	14.37ab	3.77d	9.81c	7.59c	2.76c	T <sub>2</sub> (NPK)
0.86c	2.83d	14.18ab	7.11c	12.67b	7.65bc	3.22b	T <sub>3</sub> (15 t.ha <sup>-1</sup> VC)
1.50ab	5.25b	11.50cd	10.43b	14.12b	7.72ab	3.47b	T <sub>4</sub> (30 t.ha <sup>-1</sup> VC)
1.62a	6.25a	15.87a	14.65a	19.53a	7.81a	4.80a	T <sub>5</sub> (45 t.ha <sup>-1</sup> VC)
0.94c	4.06c	14.12ab	8.22c	13.25b	7.69bc	3.22b	T <sub>6</sub> (15 t.ha <sup>-1</sup> VC+1/2NPK)
1.31b	4.00c	13.18bc	10.62b	14.12b	7.75ab	3.16b	T <sub>7</sub> (30t.ha <sup>-1</sup> VC+1/2NPK)
1.25b	5.37b	15.62a	15.79a	19.36a	7.81a	4.69a	T <sub>8</sub> (45 t.ha <sup>-1</sup> VC+1/2NPK)
14.39	13.77	10.63	9.08	7.67	0.88	7.31	(CV)

(%)

††† T<sub>1</sub> (control): Check (no organic or chemical fertilizer application); T<sub>2</sub> (NPK): Chemical fertilizer (100 kg h<sup>-1</sup> urea, potassium sulfate, triple super phosphate); T<sub>3</sub> (15 t.ha<sup>-1</sup> VC): 15 t ha<sup>-1</sup> vermicompost; T<sub>4</sub> (30 t.ha<sup>-1</sup> VC): 30 t ha<sup>-1</sup> vermicompost; T<sub>5</sub> (45 t.ha<sup>-1</sup> VC): 45 t ha<sup>-1</sup> vermicompost; T<sub>6</sub> (15 t ha<sup>-1</sup> VC+1/2NPK): 15 t ha<sup>-1</sup> vermicompost + 1/2NPK; T<sub>7</sub> (30 t ha<sup>-1</sup> VC+1/2NPK): 30 t ha<sup>-1</sup> vermicompost + 1/2NPK; T<sub>8</sub> (45 t ha<sup>-1</sup> VC+1/2NPK): 45 t ha<sup>-1</sup> vermicompost + 1/2NPK.

T<sub>3</sub> (15 ( ) ) :T<sub>2</sub> (NPK) ( ) :T<sub>1</sub> (control) †††  
 T<sub>6</sub> (15 t :T<sub>5</sub> (45 t ha<sup>-1</sup> VC) :T<sub>4</sub> (30 t ha<sup>-1</sup> VC) :t ha<sup>-1</sup> VC)  
 T<sub>8</sub> / + :T<sub>7</sub> (30 t ha<sup>-1</sup> VC+1/2NPK) / + :ha<sup>-1</sup> VC+1/2NPK)  
 . / + :(45 t ha<sup>-1</sup> VC+1/2NPK)

Table 3. Mean comparison chemical properties of bush bean root and shoot in different fertilizer treatments (60 days after sowing, initial flowering).

Dry weight	Zn	Mn	Cu	Fe	K	P	N	Na	Treatments
Root (g plant <sup>-1</sup> ) ( )	Root (mg kg <sup>-1</sup> ) ( )		Root (%) ( )						
0.33c	55.23d	68.79c	30.59d	1181.67c	1.70e	0.19d	2.05e	1.10d <sup>†</sup>	T <sub>1</sub> (control) <sup>††</sup>
0.73b	58.86c	75.21bc	38.51c	1209.30c	1.79de	0.23bc	2.44c	1.17d	T <sub>2</sub> (NPK)
0.74b	59.22c	76.55b	38.51c	1538.27b	2.16cd	0.20cd	2.27d	1.71c	T <sub>3</sub> (15 t.ha <sup>-1</sup> VC)
0.61b	67.95ab	79.94b	42.05ab	1628.44b	2.55bc	0.20bcd	2.31d	1.90bc	T <sub>4</sub> (30 t.ha <sup>-1</sup> VC)
0.08d	70.12a	94.84a	44.56a	1951.41a	3.22a	0.23b	2.51c	2.70a	T <sub>5</sub> (45 t.ha <sup>-1</sup> VC)
0.03a	64.68b	77.52b	40.39bc	1720.13b	2.19bcd	0.20bcd	2.51c	1.67c	T <sub>6</sub> (15 t.ha <sup>-1</sup> VC+1/2NPK)
0.97a	68.31ab	80.16b	45.69a	1904.17a	2.66b	0.22bcd	2.92b	1.95b	T <sub>7</sub> (30t.ha <sup>-1</sup> VC+1/2NPK)
0.17d	71.22a	97.02 a	46.14a	1976.16a	3.61a	0.28a	3.10a	2.67a	T <sub>8</sub> (45 t.ha <sup>-1</sup> VC+1/2NPK)
15.77	3.71	5.64	5.92	6.81	12.07	9.02	2.71	8.10	(%)
Dry weight	Zn	Mn	Cu	Fe	K	P	N	Na	
Aerial (g plant <sup>-1</sup> ) ( )	Shoot (mg kg <sup>-1</sup> ) ( )		Shoot (%) ( )						
1.74e	35.98e	60.80b	21.48e	329.26c	4.89bc	0.45d	3.00e	0.10de	T <sub>1</sub> (control)
2.45d	37.91de	64.56b	27.19d	344.31c	4.93abc	0.48bc	3.35c	0.14e	T <sub>2</sub> (NPK)
2.60d	37.08e	66.02b	27.46d	348.69c	4.83c	0.42e	3.18d	0.185c	T <sub>3</sub> (15 t.ha <sup>-1</sup> VC)
3.10c	41.62bc	63.73b	33.02bc	375.18c	5.04abc	0.47cd	3.29cd	0.182cd	T <sub>4</sub> (30 t.ha <sup>-1</sup> VC)
0.73f	43.68ab	81.52a	35.33ab	470.50ab	5.10abc	0.48bc	3.35c	0.28a	T <sub>5</sub> (45 t.ha <sup>-1</sup> VC)
4.75b	39.83cd	66.20b	30.48c	441.76b	5.01abc	0.49ab	3.41c	0.22b	T <sub>6</sub> (15 t.ha <sup>-1</sup> VC+1/2NPK)
5.30a	43.26ab	69.96b	36.22a	463.79ab	5.39a	0.51a	3.57b	0.19c	T <sub>7</sub> (30 t.ha <sup>-1</sup> VC+1/2NPK)
1.71e	45.88a	85.30a	38.02a	496.05a	5.34a	0.52a	3.74a	0.29a	T <sub>8</sub> (45 t.ha <sup>-1</sup> VC+1/2NPK)
9.14	4.36	8.88	6.57	8.11	5.62	3.20	3.06	8.24	(%)

† In each column, mean with different letters are significantly different at 5% level of probability using DMRT.

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†† T<sub>1</sub> (control): Check (no organic or chemical fertilizer application); T<sub>2</sub> (NPK): Chemical fertilizer (100 Kg h<sup>-1</sup> urea, potassium sulfate, triple super phosphate); T<sub>3</sub> (15 t ha<sup>-1</sup> VC): 15 t ha<sup>-1</sup> vermicompost; T<sub>4</sub> (30 t ha<sup>-1</sup> VC): 30 t ha<sup>-1</sup> vermicompost; T<sub>5</sub> (45 t ha<sup>-1</sup> VC): 45 t ha<sup>-1</sup> vermicompost; T<sub>6</sub> (15 t ha<sup>-1</sup> VC+1/2NPK): 15 t ha<sup>-1</sup> vermicompost + 1/2NPK; T<sub>7</sub> (30 t ha<sup>-1</sup> VC+1/2NPK): 30 t ha<sup>-1</sup> vermicompost + 1/2NPK; T<sub>8</sub> (45 t ha<sup>-1</sup> VC+1/2NPK): 45 t ha<sup>-1</sup> vermicompost + 1/2NPK.

T<sub>3</sub> (15 t ha<sup>-1</sup> VC) :T<sub>2</sub> (NPK) :T<sub>1</sub> (control) ††  
 T<sub>6</sub> (15 t ha<sup>-1</sup> VC) :T<sub>5</sub> (45 t ha<sup>-1</sup> VC) :T<sub>4</sub> (30 t ha<sup>-1</sup> VC) :1 VC)  
 T<sub>8</sub> (45 t ha<sup>-1</sup> VC) / + :T<sub>7</sub> (30 t ha<sup>-1</sup> VC+1/2NPK) / + :VC+1/2NPK)  
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Table 4. Correlation coefficients of soil chemical properties with electrical conductivity and Na content of bush bean root and shoot (n = 32).

Aerial Na	Root Na	HCo3	Mg	Ca	Cl	Na	pH	Electrical conductivity	Conductivity
								1	
							1	0.72 <sup>††</sup>	Electrical
						1	0.75 <sup>††</sup>	0.93 <sup>††</sup>	pH
					1	0.93 <sup>††</sup>	0.80 <sup>††</sup>	0.90 <sup>††</sup>	Na
				1	0.54 <sup>††</sup>	0.53 <sup>††</sup>	0.45 <sup>††</sup>	0.65 <sup>††</sup>	Cl
			1	0.40 <sup>†</sup>	0.82 <sup>††</sup>	0.79 <sup>††</sup>	0.72 <sup>††</sup>	0.79 <sup>††</sup>	Ca
		1	0.66 <sup>††</sup>	0.24	0.44 <sup>†</sup>	0.44 <sup>††</sup>	0.39 <sup>†</sup>	0.45 <sup>††</sup>	Mg
	1	0.39 <sup>†</sup>	0.82 <sup>††</sup>	0.53 <sup>††</sup>	0.95 <sup>††</sup>	0.92 <sup>††</sup>	0.75 <sup>††</sup>	0.89 <sup>††</sup>	HCo3
1	0.88 <sup>††</sup>	0.21 <sup>†</sup>	0.69 <sup>††</sup>	0.52 <sup>††</sup>	0.85 <sup>††</sup>	0.89 <sup>††</sup>	0.61 <sup>††</sup>	0.86 <sup>††</sup>	Root Na
									Aerial Na

†† and †: Significant at 1% and 5% level of probability, respectively.

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