Effects of fertilizer reduction on Yield and non-point source pollution of Yongyou rice

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Abstract:

In the main grain producing areas of China, there are still problems of agricultural non-point source pollution and eutrophication of surrounding surface water caused by excessive application of chemical fertilizers. In order to change the unreasonable traditional fertilization habits of farmers and minimize agricultural non-point source pollution, a fertilizer reduction fertilization project was carried out in Jiangshan City to study the effects of 10%~30% fertilizer reduction on the yield of rice Yongyou 15 and the loss of nutrients (total nitrogen, total phosphorus and total potassium) in surface runoff of paddy fields on the basis of farmers' conventional fertilization. The results showed that there was no significant change in rice yield by reducing the amount of conventional fertilizer by 10%~20%, and the yield by reducing 10% was the highest. The nutrient concentration in the drainage of paddy field quickly rose to the highest value 1h after fertilization, and then nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium quickly decreased by 25.9%~66.0%, 70.1%~88.3% and 25.0%~52.5% after 24h. After that, all nutrients decreased slowly until the end of the experiment. This shows that if the paddy field irrigation water outflow is caused by heavy rain or artificial drainage, the nutrient diversion loss risk period (also a high risk period of non-point source pollution) is within a few days after fertilization. The reduction of chemical fertilizer has a significant impact on the nutrient content in the drainage of paddy field, and the amount of conventional fertilization is reduced by 10%~30%\u one hour after fertilization, the contents of total nitrogen, total phosphorus and total potassium in the drainage decreased by 3.7%~68.2%, 26.3%~64.8% and 5.8%~57.5% respectively. It is of great significance to improve economic benefits and protect the ecological environment in rice production.

Keywords: Reducing fertilization; Yongyou 15; rice; Nutrient loss; Non point source pollution

Rice is one of the main food crops in China, with a rice area of 2.969 in $2019 \times 10^7 \text{hm}^2$, total output $2.096 \times 10^{11} \text{kg}^{[1]}$, with the area and output ranking second after that of corn, providing a basic guarantee for China's food security. As a basic element of agricultural production, chemical fertilizer has played an important role in increasing rice yield [2-3]; however, while chemical fertilizer has greatly

increased crop yield, it has also led to people's dependence on it, which not only leads to the phenomenon of increasing fertilizer without increasing production, but also pollutes the air, soil and water, bringing huge environmental pressure to the sustainable development of agriculture [3-4]. Makun et al. [2] analyzed the contribution of chemical fertilizer to grain production by using the panel data model. They

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believed that since 2000, china's chemical fertilizer input has exceeded the optimal application amount in economics and entered the stage of diminishing marginal return. Under the condition that the input of other factors is relatively stable, increasing the amount of chemical fertilizer will not bring about the expected increase in production, but will increase the production cost and increase the risk of polluting the agricultural production environment. They suggested that the amount of fertilizer applied chemical should appropriately reduced.

In recent years, many technicians have carried out research on the impact of fertilizer reduction on rice production and environmental pollution, and achieved great results. Liuhongjiang et al. [5] conducted a reduction test on the customary nitrogen application amount. The results showed that under the condition of reducing 10% nitrogen fertilizer, the rice yield was not affected and the total nitrogen loss rate of surface runoff decreased by 9.2%; shenjianguo et al. [6] applied different slowrelease fertilizers to reduce the yield by 20% and 25%, but the rice yield increased by 8.8% and 5.0%. However, there are relatively few studies on the effect of fertilizer reduction on nitrogen and phosphorus in paddy field drainage at the same time. Therefore, under the condition of conventional fertilization, this paper studied the effect of fertilizer reduction treatment on the nitrogen and phosphorus content in the field water layer and rice yield, in order to optimize scientific fertilization technology reducing non-point source pollution without rice yield reduction, and provide technical support for improving the agricultural ecological environment.

1 Materials and methods

1.1 Test materials

The experiment was conducted in the rice field of Jianai family farm, huqian village, hecun Town, jiangshan City. The test site has a typical subtropical monsoon climate, and the agricultural production is mainly rice planting. The soil of the test field is slightly acidic, with clay texture and high content of organic matter. The specific physical and chemical properties are total nitrogen 14g·kg⁻¹, available phosphorus 224.1mg·kg⁻¹, available potassium 48.0mg·kg⁻¹, organic matter 27.1g·kg⁻¹ and ph5.42.

The tested rice variety was Yongyou 15. The fertilizer is 45% compound fertilizer (N15%, $P_2O_515\%$, $K_2O15\%$), urea (N46%) and potassium chloride ($K_2O60\%$).

1.2 Treatment design

There were 5 treatments: no fertilization (CK); conventional fertilization (CF) for farmers: n210kg·hm⁻², $p_2o_590kg \cdot hm^{-2}$, k2o150kg·hm⁻²; conventional farmers' fertilization and chemical fertilizer shall be reduced by 10% (90%CF); 20% reduction of conventional fertilization and chemical fertilizer for farmers (80%CF); farmers' conventional fertilization and chemical fertilizer shall be reduced by 30% (70%CF). The small area is 35m², repeated for 3 times, and arranged in random blocks. 30cm×30cm wide for inter district use. The high ridge is separated by independent irrigation and drainage, and the ridge is covered with black film to avoid mutual leakage of water and fertilizer between communities. Protective rows are set around.

Rice will be sown on June 5, 2020, transplanted on July 1, and matured and harvested on October 30. The base fertilizer was applied on the test field on June 28, and the amount of N, P₂O₅ and K₂O fertilizer accounted for 26.7%, 62.5% and 37.5% of the total fertilizer respectively. After the base fertilizer was applied to each plot, the iron rake was used

to manually mix the fertilizer into the arable soil, and the rest of the fertilizer was directly applied to the surface of the paddy field as Topdressing on July 9. The management of irrigation water and pest control in each community shall be carried out in a unified manner with reference to the habits of local farmers.

1.3 Investigation and analysis

Before the test, a soil sample was collected from the paddy field to represent the test soil properties and analyze the soil total nitrogen, available phosphorus, available potassium, organic matter and ph. At the mature stage of rice, the yield of each plot is calculated by actual cutting. After the rice is dried in the sun, the water content is measured, and finally converted into the rice yield with 14% water content.

During the experiment, the flooded layer of about 2cm was maintained within one week after transplanting. After the application of base fertilizer and top dressing, the paddy field ponding samples were collected. After the drainage outlet was drained for 10min, 1kg of irrigation water was collected and put into polyethylene bottles for sealing in time. Three samples were collected repeatedly in each plot. At first, water samples were collected at 1 and 4 hours after fertilization, and then samples were collected every day for 5 consecutive days (not collected on the fourth day after topdressing). A total of 7 water samples were collected after base fertilizer and 6 water samples were collected after topdressing. All samples shall be sent to the local laboratory for analysis of total phosphorus nitrogen, total and total potassium. The samples were digested with k2s2o8-naoh analyzed and by UV spectrophotometry and flame photometer respectively. The nutrient loss of surface runoff is calculated by multiplying the volume of paddy water by the nutrient depth of the day.

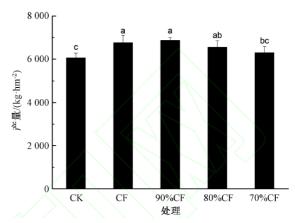
1.4 Statistical methods

The average yield of rice among different treatments and the nutrient content of water samples at the same time were statistically analyzed by dps9.5, multiple comparisons were made by LSD method, and the significance was tested at the level of p<0.05. The correlation diagram was made by origin9.0 software.

2 Results and analysis

2.1 Output

Figure 1 shows that the yield of fertilizer treatment is 4.0%~13.4% higher than that of no fertilizer treatment. Among them, 90%CF treatment had the highest yield, which was 6863.5kg·hm⁻², significantly higher than CK and 70%CF treatment, and had no significant difference with CF and 80%CF. The results showed that the conventional fertilization amount of farmers was high, while the reduction of chemical fertilizer by more than 30% was low, which had a negative impact on rice yield, while the reduction of 10%~20% had no significant impact on rice yield, especially the reduction of chemical fertilizer by 10% was the best amount of chemical fertilizer.



There was no same small letter between columns, indicating significant difference between groups (p<0.05).

Yield			
Handle			

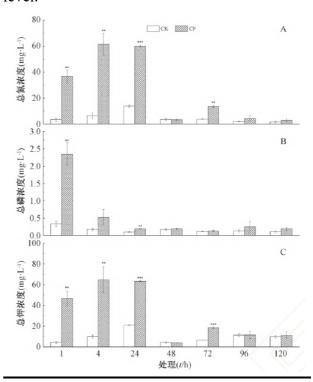
2.2 Field water nutrients

As shown in Figure 2, the nutrient content in the field ponding increased rapidly after deep application of base fertilizer, and the total nitrogen and total potassium content reached the peak at 4h, which were 61.6 and 64.6mg·L⁻¹ respectively, 9.7 and 6.6 times that of no fertilizer (CK), with significant difference. At 24h, the content remained high (60.1 and 63.3mg·L⁻¹). Two days after fertilization, there was a heavy rainstorm (Fig. 3). From June 30 to July 1, the average daily rainfall reached more than 150mm. All irrigation ponding in the test field was discharged through surface runoff, and the contents of total nitrogen and total potassium in the remaining ponding rapidly decreased to CK level. At 72h, the contents of total nitrogen and total potassium in fertilization treatment increased, and were significantly higher than CK, which were 3.6 times and 2.9 times of CK. Then it decreased gradually, and there was no significant difference with CK.

The change of total phosphorus content in paddy field ponding was different from that of nitrogen and potassium. Total phosphorus reached its peak at 2.4mg·L⁻¹ after 1h of fertilization, and rapidly decreased to 0.5mg·L⁻¹ after 4H. After 24h, it was basically the same as CK. The above results showed that the content of nitrogen and potassium in the paddy field ponding remained high after applying base fertilizer, and decreased and stabilized at a low level after at least 96h, while the content of phosphorus in the paddy field ponding rapidly decreased to the level of the unfertilized paddy field after reaching the peak value about 1H, and the content of phosphorus in the paddy field ponding was extremely unstable.

Figure 4 shows that the chemical fertilizer has been basically dissolved 1h after topdressing,

and the contents of total nitrogen, total phosphorus and total potassium in the accumulated water on the field surface have rapidly increased to the peak (nitrogen 269.7mg·L⁻¹, phosphorus 72.2mg·L⁻¹, potassium 98.0mg·L⁻¹), and then gradually decreased. Among them, the total nitrogen content in ponding decreased significantly after 24 hours of fertilization. Compared with 1 hour after fertilization, the total nitrogen content in each fertilization treatment decreased by 25.9%~66.0%, and the decline increased with the increase of fertilizer dosage, and then decreased slowly. Compared with the total nitrogen content of CF, there was no significant difference between 90%CF and 80%CF within 96h after fertilization, while 70%CF was significantly lower than that of CF treatment. By 120h, 70%CF treatment had dropped to CK level.



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Total potassium concentration

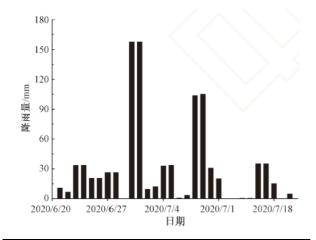
Total phosphorus concentration

Total nitrogen concentration

Compared with the same time, ** was significant

(p<0.05), and **** was extremely significant (p<0.001).

Fig. 2 Nutrient content of field drainage at different time after base fertilizer application



Rainfall

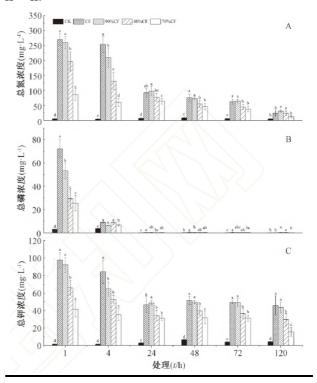
Date

Fig. 3 Rainfall of rivers and mountains from June 20 To July 20, 2020

The change of total phosphorus content in ponding was similar to that after base fertilizer application. The peak value of each fertilizer application treatment reached at 1H (25.4~72.2mg·L⁻¹), which showed that the high fertilizer treatment was significantly higher than the low fertilizer treatment, and it dropped by 70.1%~88.3% at 4h, both significantly higher than CK, and dropped to a very low level at 24h, and then it was 0.13~0.57mg·L⁻¹ in all treatments.

The change of total potassium content was relatively mild. At 24h, it decreased by 25.0%~52.2% from the peak value, and then changed little at the end of the test, and remained at a high level until the end of the test. In the whole test period, cf and 90% were compared at the same time. There was no same small letter between columns, indicating that the difference between groups was significant (p<0.05). CF treatment was always significantly higher than 80%CF and 70%CF treatment. The above

results showed that reducing the amount of chemical fertilizer could significantly reduce the nutrient content in paddy water, and the decline rate of nutrient content in paddy water was p > n > n.



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Total potassium concentration

Total phosphorus concentration

Total nitrogen concentration

Fig. 4 Nutrient content of field ponding at different time and different treatment after topdressing

2.3 Non point source pollution

Two days after the application of base fertilizer in this test, a heavy rainstorm occurred, and the rainfall in 24h reached more than 150mm (Fig. 3), causing the ponding in the test field to flow out completely. The contents of total nitrogen and total potassium in the ponding in the next day's fertilization treatment decreased rapidly by 94.6% and 94.0%, the same level as CK (Fig. 2). In the early stage of the experiment, the irrigation water was basically kept at about 2cm. This rainstorm caused the loss of total nitrogen and potassium

in the fertilization area to reach 12.0 and 12.7kg·hm⁻² through surface runoff. After removing soil nutrients (CK), the loss of nitrogen and potassium accounted for 16.4% and 15.1% of the base fertilizer application. The phosphorus content in the ponding has dropped to a very low level, indicating that the rainstorm has a great impact on the diversion of nitrogen and potassium nutrients from paddy fields. At the same time, it can be seen from Fig. 2 and Fig. 4 that the nutrient content of paddy water after fertilization decreases with the extension of time, and also decreases significantly with the reduction of fertilization amount, indicating that the amount of fertilization, the time of rainstorm and the interval after fertilization have an impact on the nutrient loss of paddy field. The lower the amount of fertilization and the longer the time after fertilization, the less the nutrient diversion loss of paddy field caused by rainfall, and the lower the risk of pollution to surrounding water bodies.

3 Discussion

3.1 Fertilizer reduction and rice production

There is a close relationship between the increase of grain yield and the change of chemical fertilizer application amount. The contribution rate of chemical fertilizer to the yield in China was as high as 56.81%^[2]. However, due to the habit of relying too much on chemical fertilizer for a long time, the phenomenon of excessive use of chemical fertilizer is widespread, resulting in the rise of production costs, the decline of fertilizer utilization rate, the decline of economic benefits, etc. [7-9]. Even in rice, excessive chemical fertilizer (especially nitrogen fertilizer) is easy to cause rice greed at the mature stage, under the condition of high temperature and high heat, a large amount of nutrients accumulated in the plant and could not be transferred to the grain,

but the final yield decreased [7], which verified the truth that "when things reach extremes, they will reverse". In this experiment, the highest rice yield is the conventional fertilization reduction of 10%, and the reduction of 10%~20% on the basis of conventional fertilization has no significant effect on rice yield, which is consistent with zhaoqinglei et al. [10] that excessive application of nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizer has no significant effect on rice yield. It shows that the current agricultural main body still has the problem of excessive use of chemical fertilizer, and there is a large space for chemical fertilizer reduction.

3.2 Fertilizer reduction and agricultural nonpoint source pollution

In order to reduce agricultural non-point source pollution and continuously improve the quality of ecological environment, reducing fertilization is the key work advocated by the Chinese government in agricultural production, and it is also one of the main means to solve the eutrophication of surface water, the high content of nitrate nitrogen in groundwater and the low utilization rate of nutrients. Compared with the conventional fertilization of farmers. appropriately reducing the amount of chemical fertilizer will not only not reduce the yield, but also increase the yield due to improving the population structure of rice, improving the photosynthesis and nutrient transfer capacity of leaves [11], improving the nutrient utilization efficiency of rice and reducing the nutrient loss of rice fields, so as to avoid the risk of water pollution [5,10,12]. In this experiment, after applying topdressing for 1h, the contents of total nitrogen, total phosphorus and total potassium in paddy water increased rapidly, and the increase decreased with the decrease of topdressing. Compared with conventional fertilization, the total nitrogen, total phosphorus and total

potassium decreased significantly by 27.1%, 59.5%, 32.7% and 68.2%, 64.8% and 57.5% when the fertilizer was reduced by 20% and 30%. Because the nutrient content in the paddy water was directly related to non-point source pollution [13-14], it showed that reducing fertilization was conducive to reducing the risk of non-point source pollution. Wang et al. [15] investigated the loss of nitrogen in rice field in the application test of different nitrogen amounts. The results showed that the nitrogen loss increased exponentially with the increase of nitrogen application amount. Sun et al. [16] showed through the geographic information system technology scenario analysis that the application amount of nitrogen and phosphorus in rice fields decreased by 10% respectively, and the loss of nitrogen and phosphorus through surface runoff decreased by 7.6% and 3.0% respectively, and believed that the loss of phosphorus was more easily affected by soil properties. After 5 days of balance, the nitrogen content of top dressing in ponding has decreased by 86.1%~91.1%, and the risk of pollution to surrounding water bodies by drainage has decreased significantly; as the soil has a strong fixation capacity [13,17], the phosphorus phosphorus content in the ponding has been in a very low state after 24h (all <0.5mg·L⁻¹). After 5 days, the 30% reduction treatment is even lower than the class III limit of the surface water quality standard (<0.2mg·L⁻¹), and there is no risk of non-point source pollution; the potassium content is still maintained at a high level. In case of rainstorm or drainage loss, it is still large. The results showed that the pollution of paddy field ponding nutrient outflow to the surrounding environment was mainly in a period of time after fertilization, and there was a "critical period of pollution risk". Irrigation and drainage before and after the critical period was conducive to greatly reducing the pollution to the surrounding

water environment. Sun et al. [16] also believed that the loss of nutrients in paddy field through surface runoff was mainly within 1 week after fertilization, in which the loss of nitrogen runoff was mainly within 1 week after fertilization, and the loss of phosphorus was mainly within 3~5d, after which the content of nitrogen and phosphorus stabilized at a very low level. Ji et al. [18] found in the investigation of double cropping rice in subtropical hilly and mountainous areas that the high risk period of nitrogen and phosphorus loss is 5 days after the application of base fertilizer and 10~15 days after the application of top dressing. Lentz et al. [19] even believed that the effect of time after fertilization on nutrient loss caused by surface runoff of irrigated fields was greater than the change of fertilization amount. The conclusions of this study are basically consistent with them. However, due to the short time of experimental investigation, it is difficult to confirm whether the contents of nitrogen and potassium other than phosphorus have been reduced to the lowest point, so it is necessary to carry out a further experiment with a longer investigation time.

4 Summary

Under the experimental conditions, the farmers' customary fertilization amount could be reduced by 10%~20% without significantly affecting the rice yield. The suitable fertilization amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium 168~189, were 72~81 for rice 120~135kg·hm⁻² respectively. In the process of rice surface application (topdressing), reducing the amount of conventional fertilizer applied by farmers by 10%~20% can effectively reduce the nutrient content of paddy water, and the total nitrogen, total phosphorus and total potassium decreased by 3.7%~27.1%, 26.3%~59.5% and 5.8%~32.7% respectively. At the same time,

with the extension of time after fertilization, the nutrient content in ponding decreased gradually, and the decreasing rate was phosphorus > nitrogen > potassium. Phosphorus decreased and stabilized at a very low level 24 hours after fertilization, and the risk of environmental pollution was low; the nitrogen content decreased by more than 80% after 5 days, and the pollution risk was significantly reduced. It is suggested that farmers choose the appropriate time for fertilization, try to avoid rainstorm or drainage within 5 days artificial fertilization, so as to reduce the loss of nutrients in paddy fields and reduce the risk of agricultural non-point source pollution.

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