

Chemical characteristics of soil cultivated with vine and submitted to nitrogen and organic fertilization at the semiarid of the Rio Grande do Norte State, Brazil

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Abstract

A probable reason for the scarce levels of N in the soils of the semi-arid regions would be the low levels of organic matter in these soils. In this way, the aim of the present study was to evaluate the effects of nitrogen and organic fertilization and their interaction on chemical properties of soils cultivated with 'Isabel Precoce' vines in the semiarid of the Rio Grande do Norte State, Brazil. The experiment was carried out at the Experimental Farm of the Federal Rural University of the Semi-arid Region, in Mossoró, RN. The soil in the area is classified as a Distrofic Red Argisol with sandy texture. The research was carried out in two cycles of grape production. The experiment was accomplished in a randomized blocks design, with six repetitions, in a 5 x 2 factorial scheme, corresponding to 5 doses of nitrogen fertilization (0, 30, 60, 90 and 120 kg ha⁻¹), in the absence and presence of organic fertilization (0 and 20 m³ ha⁻¹, bovine manure). Samples of the 0-20 cm layer were collected for the evaluation of macro and micronutrient contents, pH, electric conductivity, organic matter and sum of bases. The N and organic fertilization doses influenced the chemical attributes evaluated. The interaction between nitrogen and organic fertilizer resulted in an increase in nutrient, organic matter and sum of bases content. N doses were responsible for reducing pH levels, resulting in higher amounts of nutrients availability.

Keywords: fertility, mineralization, nutrients, organic matter

Introduction

Among the nutrients required by the cultivated plants, nitrogen (N) is one of the most limiting to plant development (VERAS et al., 2016). In literature, it is possible to verify the N influence on yield and quality of vine fruits (BRUNETTO 2009; LORENSINI et al., 2014, 2015). As most of the soils of the Northeast region of Brazil present low organic matter content and since this is the most natural nutrients supplier to the soil, mainly N, it is necessary the use of mineral sources to meet the plant needs to obtain satisfactory yields.

Due to these characteristics, the addition of organic fertilizers (animal manures) as a form of supplemental fertilization may be an alternative to

increase the soil nutrient contents, in addition, it is assumed that the application of organic material on soils induces the increase of microbial activity, providing improvements in the construction and maintenance of soil fertility (SOUTO et al., 2013). This would result in savings on the use of mineral fertilizers, given the high prices currently experienced for such fertilizers. Thus, it is possible the use of organic fertilization, which most of the times are available in the rural properties of the Northeast region of Brazil (GALVÃO et al., 2008), reducing costs and making the property more sustainable and economical.

However, there are no experimental results that provide technical information

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regarding the specific crop and soil of the region. In the Northeast of Brazil, most of the researches with vines are concentrated almost exclusively in the Submedium of the São Francisco River Valley, with a need of local knowledge. The objective of this research was to investigate the effects of nitrogen and organic fertilization and its interaction on the chemical properties of the soil cultivated with 'Isabel Precoce' vines in the semiarid region of the Rio Grande do Norte State, Brazil.

Materials and Methods

The experiment was carried out at the Rafael Fernandes Experimental Farm, of the

Federal Rural University of the Semi-arid Region (UFERSA), in the municipality of Mossoró, in the western region of the Rio Grande do Norte State, whose geographical coordinates are 5 ° 03'37 ''S of latitude and, 37 ° 23'50''W of longitude, with an altitude of 78 m and flat relief. According to Köppen's classification, the climate of the region is BSw'h 'type, tropical semiarid hot, with average annual rainfall of 695.8 mm and average temperature of 27.4° C, with two well defined periods: dry (prolonged) and humid (short and irregular). The natural vegetation is the Hyperxerophilic Caatinga. In Table 1 is possible to observe the meteorological data recorded during the experiments.

Table 1. Recorded rainfall, mean temperature and relative air humidity during the period of the experiments. Mossoró-RN, Brazil, 2017.

Month	Precipitation (mm)	Mean temperature (°C)	Humidity (%)
2015			
September	0.0	27.9	57.0
October	0.0	28.0	56.8
November	0.0	28.2	59.6
December	8.0	28.8	58.7
2016			
April	51.0	28.6	63.7
May	8.0	28.7	61.5
June	29.0	28.2	59.8
July	0.0	28.2	52.8

Source: Meteorological station of the UFERSA experimental farm. Mossoró, RN, Brazil.

The soil of the experimental area was classified a Typical Distrofic Red Argisol, with sandy texture (RÊGO et al., 2016). Before the installation of the experiment, soil samples of the

0-20 cm layer were collected and the physical and chemical characteristics determined (TEDESCO et al., 1995; EMBRAPA, 2009), being the results presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Chemical and physical characteristics of a typical Dystrophic Red Argisol (0-20 cm) with sandy texture, before the experiment implementation. Mossoró, RN, Brazil, 2017.

Attribute	Value	Attribute	Value
pH (H ₂ O)	7.95	V (%)	100
Electrical conductivity (µS m ⁻¹)	80.0	M (%)	0
Organic matter (g kg ⁻¹)	4.07	ESP (%)	1
Total N (g kg ⁻¹)	0.77	Cu (mg dm ⁻³)	1.11
P (mg dm ⁻³)	39	Fe (mg dm ⁻³)	12.57
K ⁺ (mg dm ⁻³)	117	Mn (mg dm ⁻³)	29.75
Na ⁺ (mg dm ⁻³)	49	Zn (mg dm ⁻³)	4.0
Ca ²⁺ (cmol _c dm ⁻³)	4.17	Sand (g kg ⁻¹)	836
Mg ²⁺ (cmol _c dm ⁻³)	1.05	Silt (g kg ⁻¹)	84
Al ³⁺ (cmol _c dm ⁻³)	0.0	Clay (g kg ⁻¹)	80
(H+Al) (cmol _c dm ⁻³)	0.0	Soil density (kg dm ⁻³)	1.54
SB (cmol _c dm ⁻³)	5.73	Particle density (kg dm ⁻³)	2.63
Effective CEC (cmol _c dm ⁻³)	5.73	Total porosity (%)	41.44
Soil CEC (cmol _c dm ⁻³)	5.73		

pH = hydrogenionic potential; SB = sum of bases; CTC = cation exchange capacity; V (%) = bases saturation; M (%) = aluminium saturation; ESP = exchangeable sodium percentage.

The research was carried out in two cycles of vine production, being the first from September 22 to December 23, 2015, and the second from April 14 to July 20, 2016, corresponding to a total of 92 and 97 days, respectively, from pruning to harvest.

The vine variety 'Isabel Precoce' grafted on 'IAC 766' rootstock was used. At the time of the experiment, the vines were five years old, which is considered a time for the vine to express its productive potential. The plants were spaced in 3 x 2 m of lines and plants, respectively (1,667 plants ha⁻¹), conducted in a sparlier (open Y) system with 3-wires and North-South orientated.

The traits for crop development were similar in both cycles. Prior to the application of the treatments, manual weeding was performed to remove the spontaneous plants in a radius of approximately 70 cm (considering the stem of the vine as the center of the area), while the mechanical trimmer was used between lines.

The irrigation system used was micro sprinkler with 1 hour watering and irrigation frequency on every 24 hours. The calculation of the irrigation depth was based on the reference evapotranspiration (ET_o), with parameters

measured through the meteorological station installed in the Experimental Farm. The water table was applied according to the cultivation coefficient of the vine for each phenological phase (BASSOI et al., 2007).

The experimental was carried out in a randomized block design with six repetitions, in a 5 x 2 factorial scheme, corresponding to 5 doses of nitrogen fertilizer (0, 30, 60, 90 and 120 kg ha⁻¹), in the absence and presence of organic fertilization (0 and 20 m³ ha⁻¹, respectively, corresponding to 13.3 tonnes ha⁻¹, dry basis). The nitrogen fertilization was carried out with urea (45% N) and the application was divided as follows: 50% in one week before pruning and the remaining 50% fractionated in four weekly applications. The source of organic fertilization was bovine manure, applied in a single dose with the first nitrogen application. A sample of the organic fertilizer was collected and sent for analysis, the chemical characteristics are described in Table 3. The mineral and organic fertilizers were applied to soil surface and immediately after the fertilization process, the area was irrigated to reduce the N losses by volatilization.

Table 3. Chemical characteristics of the cattle manure used in the experiment and the proportional amount of nutrients added per plant and per hectare contained in the 20m³ ha⁻¹ of the organic fertilizer, Mossoró, RN, Brazil 2017.

N	C	P	K ⁺	Na ⁺	Ca ²⁺	Mg ²⁺	Cu	Fe	Mn	Zn
----- g kg ⁻¹ -----						-----mg kg ⁻¹ -----				
9.81	104.11	2.43	9.47	2.78	10.04	4.88	11	157	250	164
----- g plant ⁻¹ -----										
78.5	832.9	19.44	75.8	22.24	80.32	39.04	0.09	1.26	2.0	1.31
----- kg ha ⁻¹ -----										
130.86	1.388.8	32.42	126.33	37.08	133.93	65.1	0.15	2.1	3.33	2.18

The current soil fertility of the experimental area was observed (Table 2) in order to verify the need of soil correction, providing optimum development conditions for all experimental units. Based on these results and following the fertilization recommendations for grapevine cultivation (IPA, 2008), a corrective fertilizer, with the exception of nitrogen, was applied, restricting the soil of the tested nutrient. Thus, 80 kg ha⁻¹ of P₂O₅ and 150 kg ha⁻¹ of K₂O were applied, using simple superphosphate and potassium chloride,

respectively. Phosphorus was applied in a single dose together with the first application of N, The potassium fertilization followed the same schedule used for N doses.

At the end of each experimental cycle, soil samples were collected from the 0-20 cm layer in all experimental units, aiming to evaluate the chemical characteristics: macronutrients (N, P, K, Ca and Mg), micronutrients (Fe, Mn and Zn), sodium (Na), hydrogenionic potential (pH), electrical conductivity (EC), organic matter

content (OM) and sum of bases (SB).

The pH and EC were determined in water, with the ratio 1:2.5 soil:water. Nitrogen was determined from sulfur digestion and quantified by the Kjeldahl method. Ca^{2+} and Mg^{2+} were extracted with 1 mol L^{-1} with KCL solution at the ratio 1:10 soil:solution, and determined by EDTA titration. K^+ , Na^+ and P were extracted with Mehlich 1 solution at the ratio 1:10 soil:solution. K^+ and Na^+ were determined by flame photometry, and P by spectrophotometry. The organic matter content was determined by wet oxidation of the organic matter by 0.2 mol L^{-1} of potassium dichromate in sulfuric medium and titration with 0.1 mol L^{-1} with ammoniacal ferrous sulfate. The micronutrients were determined in an atomic absorption spectrometer using the Mehlich 1 extractor. With the analytical results the sum of bases (SB) was calculated, following the methodology of Embrapa (2009).

The results were submitted to variance analysis, using the T test to compare the averages to the qualitative factor (organic Fertilizer), at 5% of probability level. For the quantitative factor (N) and for interaction between the factors, regression equations were adjusted by testing the linear and quadratic models by the F test, choosing the one with less than 5% of significance, using the R statistical software, Expdes.pt package.

Results and discussion

After the evaluations carried out at the end of the production cycles, the occurrence of changes in soil chemical characteristics was verified. It was observed a significant effect ($p \leq 0.05$) of the interaction of Nitrogen (N) x Organic Fertilizer (AO) for all evaluated variables.

Regarding the total nitrogen contents of the soil, analyzing within the levels of N studied, it is observed that the average values of N concentration in the levels of organic fertilization, after the cycles of cultivation of the vine and in all N doses, ($p \leq 0.01$) were adjusted to the linear regression model, meaning that in both the presence and absence of the organic fertilizer, the average concentration of N in the soil increased proportionally to the increase of the applied N doses.

For the dose of 120 kg ha^{-1} of N, in the

presence of organic fertilizer, the content of 1.36 and 1.35 g kg^{-1} of N, in the first and second cycle, respectively, was estimated. With no organic fertilization the contents were 1.14 and 1.17 g kg^{-1} of N (Table 4). Using the organic fertilizer the total N concentration of the soil presented a superiority of 19.3% in the first cycle and 15.4% in the second one, proving the influence of the nitrogen on the mineralization process of the nutrients of the organic fertilizer added to the soil. Taking into consideration that the estimated N content in manure was approximately 131.0 kg ha^{-1} (Table 3), it may have contributed to these results.

On the other hand, evaluating the levels of organic fertilizer studied, all N applied promoted a higher average concentration of N in the presence of organic fertilizer, except in the absence of N, where the effect of organic fertilizer addition was not verified (Table 4). This is due to the immobilization of nitrogen by microbial biomass (MENEZES & SALCEDO, 2007), which caused changes in the C: N ratio, due to the high carbon load added to the soil by the organic fertilization (1,389 kg ha^{-1} , Table 3) favoring the immobilization process.

In a simplified way, it can be explained that when the deposition of organic residues (plants or animals) on the soil surface is promoted, it results in a development of microorganisms (Silva et al., 2014b). These microorganisms are responsible for the decomposition of the organic material deposited in the soil and require nitrogen to use it as energy source in the decomposition process. If the deposited material has a high C: N ratio, which means little nitrogen to meet the needs of the microorganisms, both the nitrogen present in the organic material and the soil N can be incorporated by the microbial biomass, causing its immobilization (GIACOMINI et al., 2009; SILVA et al., 2014b).

The relevance of this previous fact and part of the results of the presente study has a strong connection with the activity of soil microorganisms. There are many factors influencing the nutrients of the organic fertilizer to be mineralized and its availability, such as the material (vegetable or animal), soil and climate conditions, chemical composition, the lignin content, the C: N ratio, as well as the nature and

community of the decomposing microorganisms (SILVA et al., 2014b). Among these, the C: N ratio is of great importance, since the imbalance of this relation can delay the speed in which this material is decomposed, causing immobilization of the N present in the soil.

Table 4: Nitrogen(N), phosphorus (P), potassium (K), calcium (Ca) and magnesium (Mg) concentration in the soil cultivated with vines, under the influence of nitrogen fertilization, with and without the use of organic fertilizer in two crop cycles. Mossoró, RN, Brazil 2017.

Variable	OF	Nitrogen doses (kg ha ⁻¹)					Equation	R ²
		0	30	60	90	120		
1 st cycle								
N	Without	0.51a	0.59b	0.78b	1.04b	1.12b	$y = 0.4743+0.0056x$	0.97**
	With	0.41b	0.81a	1.03a	1.17a	1.28a	$y = 0.5226+0.007x$	0.93**
P	Without	41.55a	42.90b	43.34b	42.92b	43.02b	$y = 41.674+0.0419x-2.6e^{-4}x^2$	0.88*
	With	41.65a	47.22a	48.68a	49.98a	50.78a	$y = 42.069+0.1625x-7.7e^{-4}x^2$	0.97**
K	Without	127.5b	128.9b	130.5b	131.0b	132.0b	$y = 127.650+0.0387x$	0.97**
	With	128.8a	133.7a	138.1a	143.4a	147.9a	$y = 128.753+0.1601x$	0.99**
Ca	Without	4.04b	4.09b	4.15b	4.10b	4.14b	$\bar{y} = 4.10 \text{ cmol}_c \text{ dm}^{-3}$	- ²
	With	4.16a	4.30a	4.37a	4.43a	4.43a	$y = 4.16+0.0051x-2.3 e^{-5}x^2$	0.99**
Mg	Without	0.99b	1.04b	1.03b	1.03b	1.02b	$\bar{y} = 1.02 \text{ cmol}_c \text{ dm}^{-3}$	- ¹
	With	1.15a	1.27a	1.37a	1.45a	1.55a	$y = 1.1397+0.0035x$	0.98*
2 nd cycle								
N	Without	0.48a	0.59b	0.76b	1.04b	1.17b	$y = 0.449+0.0060x$	0.98**
	With	0.42b	0.81a	1.02a	1.17a	1.27a	$y = 0.531+0.0068x$	0.93**
P	Without	41.12b	41.84b	42.60b	42.68b	42.79b	$y = 41.101+0.0321x-1.5e^{-4}x^2$	0.98**
	With	42.43a	46.52a	49.07a	50.18a	50.30a	$y = 42.483+0.1539x-7.4e^{-4}x^2$	0.99**
K	Without	126.7b	128.0b	129.7b	130.1b	131.1b	$y = 126.826+0.0374x$	0.95**
	With	129.7a	134.6a	138.8a	144.0a	148.1a	$y = 129.865+0.1531x$	0.99**
Ca	Without	3.99b	4.09b	4.13b	4.12b	4.12b	$\bar{y} = 4.09 \text{ cmol}_c \text{ dm}^{-3}$	- ²
	With	4.19a	4.33a	4.41a	4.42a	4.44a	$y = 4.196+0.0049x-2.3e^{-5}x^2$	0.98**
Mg	Without	0.95b	0.96b	0.98b	0.96b	0.96b	$\bar{y} = 0.96 \text{ cmol}_c \text{ dm}^{-3}$	- ¹
	With	1.14a	1.34a	1.41a	1.45a	1.57a	$y = 1.1886+0.0032x$	0.93**

OF = organic fertilization; N = g kg⁻¹; P and K = mg dm⁻³; Ca and Mg = cmol_c dm⁻³. In lines, for each variable – means for the levels of OF in each N level and their respective regressions. Means followed by the same letter in column (N levels in each OF level) are not different according to t test (p≤0,05). ¹= means of this factor were not considered different, according to F test. ²= data were not adjusted to any regression model. * and ** significant at 0.05 and 0.01 of probability according to F test, respectively.

Thus, the N doses (30, 60, 90 and 120 kg ha⁻¹) used in this study may have promoted a better equilibrium in the C:N ratio, leading to more satisfactory conditions for the mineralization process of nutrients present in the organic fertilizer. As a result, the availability of the nutrients may have undergone variations in the release time, whether in an accelerated or paced manner. In the studies carried out by Carneiro et al. (2013), Silva et al. (2014a) and Lorensini et al. (2014), the authors report the influence on the release of nutrients by several organic materials due to changes in the C: N ratio, as well as the influence of the addition of mineral N associated with organic materials (POTRICH et al., 2014 e SILVA et al., 2016).

In general, when in the presence of organic fertilizer, the N doses result in higher values of phosphorus (P) concentration in the soil, except in the absence of nitrogen for the first cycle, in which, both in the absence and

in the presence of the fertilizer, no influence on P concentration was observed (Table 4). This can be due to the immobilization previously mentioned, since, as no nitrogen was added, the decomposition process may have been reduced and with this, it is estimated that it affected the release of the P present in the organic fertilizer. Relative to the second cycle, in the presence of the organic fertilizer, P was available at all levels of nitrogen applied, which may be due to the P supply in the organic fertilizer (Table 3).

In both cycles, the P presented increments with quadratic adjustment to increase their contents. In the combination of doses of N with organic fertilizer, the highest values were 50.6 and 50.5 mg dm⁻³ of P, estimated at the doses of 105.5 and 103.9 kg ha⁻¹ of N. Without the organic fertilizer, the contents were 43.3 and 42.8 mg dm⁻³ of P, estimated at the doses of 84.6 and 107.0 kg ha⁻¹ of N for the first and second cycle, respectively. The average

concentrations of P in the presence of organic fertilizer can be explained due to the actual supply of phosphorus by manure, estimated at approximately 33 kg ha⁻¹ of P₂O₅ (Table 3), which corresponds to an application of 183.3 kg ha⁻¹ of single superphosphate (18% of P).

It is important to observe that all experimental units received P₂O₅ (80 kg ha⁻¹) as a corrective fertilizer and, possibly, the average values observed in the treatment without application of the organic fertilizer to the P content, were influenced by the decrease of the pH, since, before the installation of the experiment, the soil of the area presented a pH of 7.95 (Table 2) and under these conditions, the availability of phosphorus is compromised.

According to Malavolta (1979), the pH range that allows the best P availability is between 6.5 and 7.2, with progressive unavailability for values below or above this range. In this way, according to the values of the pH variable on Table 6, it can be observed that, with the increase of N doses, a linear decrease in soil pH occurred, which probably favored better phosphorus availability. This dynamics verified in the reduction of pH and the reasons for the occurrence of such effect will be treated with more emphasis in the discussion of this specific variable.

In a study carried out by Maeda & Bognola (2012) evaluating the influence of pH on the efficiency of phosphorus use, the authors concluded that at pH close to neutrality, the soil phosphorus availability was higher, increasing the efficiency of use.

Regarding the potassium (K) concentration in the soil within the studied doses of organic fertilizer, it was observed a higher average concentration of K in the presence of organic fertilizer (Table 4). The addition of organic fertilizer was essential for the soil K availability. On the other hand, evaluating the N doses, the average concentration of K for the organic fertilizer level were both adjusted ($p \leq 0.01$) to the linear regression model, meaning that, both in the presence and in the absence of organic fertilizer, the soil K concentration increased proportionally to the increase of the N doses applied.

At the highest N dose (120 kg ha⁻¹), it was estimated by the regression equations

the contents of 147.9 and 148.2 mg dm⁻³ of K when using organic fertilizer and 132.2 and 131.3 mg dm⁻³, without the organic fertilizer, for the first and second cycle, respectively. Taking into consideration the average obtained by the sum of the values observed in each cycle, it is verified that, in the presence of the organic fertilizer, the N doses resulted in an increase of 12.4% when compared to the effect of the N doses. This linear increase in K levels may have been caused by the actual contribution of the organic fertilizer, which was approximately 126.0 kg ha⁻¹ (Table 3). The effect provided by the manure and other organic residues on the increase of soil K levels were also reported by Jiménez Becker et al. (2010), Bustamante et al. (2011) and Clemente et al. (2012).

Regarding the observed results for K contents without N doses in the organic fertilizer, it can be observed that even with linear regression adjustment (Table 4), the average values observed in the absence of N (127.5 and 126.7 mg dm⁻³ of K) in the first and second cycles are similar to the average values (132.0 and 131.1 mg dm⁻³) observed when 120 kg ha⁻¹ of N was applied, being the difference only 4.5 and 4.4 mg dm⁻³ of K. However, when using the organic fertilizer, this difference increases to 19.1 and 18.4 mg dm⁻³. It is important to observe that the K₂O (150 kg ha⁻¹) was used as a corrective method of soil fertilization.

For the calcium concentration (Ca), it is verified that within the levels of organic fertilizer studied, the doses of N tested presented better results for the Ca contents in the presence of the organic fertilizer. Without the organic fertilizer, the data was not adjustable to the tested regression models. When organic fertilizer was added, it was observed an adjustment to the quadratic model for the increase of Ca contents, according to N levels in both cycles.

It was estimated by regression equations that the highest Ca contents were 4.44 and 4.46 cmolc dm⁻³ at the rates of 110.8 and 106.5 kg ha⁻¹ of N in the first and second cycle, respectively. Thus, when N and organic fertilizer are applied together, the concentration of Ca in the soil increases until a certain point.

Based on the initial soil Ca content before

the application of the treatments ($4.17 \text{ cmol}_c \text{ dm}^{-3}$, Table 2) and comparing with the average content in the two cycles, it was verified an increase of 6.7%. This content can be considered low, since the Ca content in the organic fertilizer was considerable (134.0 kg ha^{-1} , Table 3).

Magnesium (Mg) levels in the soil were affected in the same manner as the Ca contents by the N doses and organic fertilizer (Table 4). However, it was observed in both cycles that, for the effect of N doses, the average levels of Mg present in the soil were statistically similar by the F test. It was observed an adjustment only for the Mg levels referring to the N doses with the use of the organic fertilizer, with values of 1.56 and $1.57 \text{ cmol}_c \text{ dm}^{-3}$ of Mg, for the first and second cycle, respectively, when the higher dose of N was applied (120 kg ha^{-1}).

Taking into consideration the content of Mg in the soil before the experiment installation ($1.05 \text{ cmol}_c \text{ dm}^{-3}$, Table 2) and the average obtained between the two cycles, a 48.6% of increase was observed, due do the use of organic fertilizer. With its introduction, it is estimated that the content of approximately 65.0 kg ha^{-1} of Mg (Table 3) was added to the soil.

Results of other researches show a significant contribution in the use of organic fertilizer to increase Ca and Mg contents in the soil. According to Silva et al. (2016), evaluating the use of organic fertilizer and N doses in the chemical characteristics of the soil cultivated with vines, when organic fertilizer was added, it was observed the Ca and Mg contents of the organic source of 301.5 and 103.5 kg ha^{-1} , respectively, values higher than those observed in the present study (134.0 and 65.0 kg ha^{-1}). However, the nutritional composition of manure may vary according to the animal and to the diet in which animals are submitted, since in the previously mentioned research, the goat manure was used as organic fertilizer.

For the sodium (Na) concentration it could be observed that, within the studied levels of organic fertilization, the N doses resulted in a higher sodium content in the presence of the organic fertilizer. However, according to the data for the tratments without the organic fertilization within the N levels, no statistical diferences were

observed, according to the F test. However, when the organic fertilizer was used, a quadratic behavior was observed, increasing the Na contentes according to the N levels, fot both evaluated cycles. This increase can be explained due to the introduction of the organic fertilizer, because considering the Na content, it was estimated an addition of 37.0 kg ha^{-1} to the soil (Table 3).

For the highest N dose (120 kg ha^{-1}) applied, with the use of organic fertilizer, it was estimated, with the aid of regression equations, contents of 54.76 and 54.99 mg dm^{-3} of Na in the first and second cycles, respectively (Table 5). Comparing the initial soil content (49.0 mg dm^{-3} , Table 2) and adopting the average observed in the two cycles, it was observed an increase of approximately 12% of Na.

The average concentration of the micronutrients (Fe, Mn and Zn) after the vine cultivation in both cycles indicate that within the levels of organic fertilizer studied, the N rates promoted a higher concentration of Fe, Mn and Zn in the presence of the organic fertilizer.

For the N levels studied within the organic fertilizer levels, it is observed that the average Fe, Mn and Zn contents were adjusted to the linear regression model in both cycles, indicating that both in the presence and in the absence of the organic fertilizer, the average concentration of N in the soil increased proportionally to the increase of the N doses.

On the other hand, the average levels of Fe in the first cycle, without the use of the organic fertilizer, were considered similar by the F test. For the second cycle, at 120 kg ha^{-1} of N, the estimated value was 12.39 mg dm^{-3} . Comparing this value to the content of 12.57 mg dm^{-3} (Table 2) present in the soil before the treatments, a decrease of Fe content (0.18 mg dm^{-3}) was observed. This can be explained by the absorption by the vine root system.

For the interaction of N with the organic fertilizer, the highest N dose (120 kg ha^{-1}) was estimated at 14.32 and 14.41 mg dm^{-3} of Fe in the first and second cycle, respectively. In the two cycles, an increase of 14% was observed when compared to the initial soil content (12.57 mg dm^{-3} , Table 2). It should be noticed that

the organic fertilizer provided the increase of approximately 2.1 kg ha⁻¹ of Fe (Table 3).

The Mn and Zn contents at the N doses of the organic fertilizer were estimated at 31.05 and 31.17 mg dm³ for the Mn, and from 3.86

and 3.97 mg dm³ for the Zn. In the use of N and organic fertilizer, the estimated values were 48.24 and 48.33 mg dm³ for Mn and 5.90 and 5.99 mg dm³ for Zn, corresponding to the first and second cycle, respectively.

Table 5. Split of the total concentration of sodium (Na), iron (Fe), zinc (Zn) and manganese (Mn) in the soil cultivated with grapevine, under the influence of nitrogen fertilization, with and without organic fertilizer, in two crop cycles. Mossoró-RN, Brazil, 2017.

Variable	OF	Nitrogen doses (kg ha ⁻¹)				Equation	R ²	
		0	30	60	90			
1 st cycle								
Na	Without	50.39b	50.42b	50.44b	50.40b	50.43b	$\bar{y} = 50.42 \text{ mg dm}^{-3}$	— ¹
	With	52.33a	53.28a	53.84a	54.15a	54.67a	$y = 52.5413+0.0185x$	0.96**
Fe	Without	12.30b	12.23b	12.23b	12.29b	12.30b	$\bar{y} = 12.27 \text{ mg dm}^{-3}$	— ¹
	With	12.42a	12.61a	13.32a	13.90a	14.30a	$y = 12.3030+0.0168x$	0.98**
Mn	Without	29.98b	30.09b	30.31b	30.88b	31.06b	$y = 29.874+0.0098x$	0.94**
	With	33.36a	38.33a	42.30a	46.20a	46.64a	$y = 34.48+0.1147x$	0.95**
Zn	Without	3.55b	3.65b	3.73b	3.74b	3.86b	$y = 3.560+0.0024x$	0.95**
	With	4.00a	4.52a	5.04a	5.47a	5.86a	$y = 4.0486+0.01548x$	0.99**
2 nd cycle								
Na	Without	50.27b	50.36b	50.38b	50.35b	50.37b	$\bar{y} = 50.35 \text{ mg dm}^{-3}$	— ¹
	With	52.62a	53.50a	53.97a	54.43a	54.92a	$y = 52.7856+0.0184x$	0.98**
Fe	Without	12.20b	12.31b	12.32b	12.37b	12.37b	$y = 12.2407+0.00133x$	0.84**
	With	12.50a	12.70a	13.42a	14.00a	14.38a	$y = 12.393+0.0168x$	0.98**
Mn	Without	29.91b	30.18b	30.39b	30.97b	31.15b	$y = 29.868+0.0109x$	0.97**
	With	33.45a	38.42a	42.38a	46.29a	46.72a	$y = 34.570+0.1147x$	0.95**
Zn	Without	3.46b	3.73b	3.81b	3.82b	3.94b	$y = 3.5480+0.0035x$	0.86**
	With	4.09a	4.61a	5.13a	5.55a	5.94a	$y = 4.1386+0.0155x$	0.99**

OF = organic fertilizer; Na, Fe, Mn e Zn = mg dm⁻³. For each variable, in lines are the means of the OF levels within each N level and the respective regressions. Means followed by the same letter in the column (N levels within each OF level) are not different according to the t test (p<0.05). ¹= means of this factor were considered with no statistical difference, according to the F's test. * and ** significant at 0.05 and 0.01 of probability, respectively.

Considering the initial soil content of 29.75 mg dm³ of Mn and 4.0 mg dm³ of Zn (Table 2) and adopting the average of the two cycles, it was verified that there was an increase of 1.36 mg dm³ of Mn, and a decrease of 0.09 mg dm³ for Zn, regarding the effect of N doses without the use of the organic fertilizer. For the interaction of N and organic fertilizer, an increase of 18.53 and 1.94 mg dm³ of Mn and Zn, corresponding to an increase of 62.3 and 48.5%, respectively, was observed when compared to the initial content. These results can be explained by the nutrient content provided by the organic fertilizer, since it was estimated an addition of 3.33 and 2.18 kg ha⁻¹ of Mn and Zn (Table 3) to the soil.

Silva et al. (2016) observed that with the use of organic fertilization (goat manure), Mn levels increased 35% and 41% in the layers 0.0-20.0 and 20.0-40.0 cm, respectively. These results were attributed to the content of 4.7 kg ha⁻¹ of Mn present in the organic fertilizer added to the soil. This same effect of the application of compost

and other organic wastes was also described in the studies carried out by Bustamente et al. (2011) and Clemente et al. (2012).

The probable explanation for the micronutrient contents found in the absence of the organic fertilizer, follow the same reasoning used for the phosphorus. According to Malavolta (1979), the availability of Fe, Mn and Zn are proportional to the decline in soil pH. The pH value before the experiment installation was 7.95 (Table 2) and with increasing N doses, it was observed a linear decrease of soil pH, leading to better conditions for the nutrients availability (Table 6).

According to the exposed, the pH soil variable was used to explain the availability of some previously discussed nutrients (P, Fe, Mn and Zn). Thus, it can be observed that N doses and their interaction with organic fertilizer were adjusted to the linear regression model in both evaluated cycles.

Using the regression equations, it was

estimated at the dose of 120 kg ha⁻¹ of N, pH values of 7.40 and 7.17 when only N was used. For interaction with organic fertilizer the estimated values were of 7.52 and 7.44, corresponding to the first and second cycle, respectively. Based on the average value obtained by the sum of the

two cycles and a correlation with the initial pH value (7.95 Table 2), it was observed a decrease of approximately 0.7 points when only N was used, while for interaction with organic fertilizer, this reduction was approximately 0.47 points.

Table 6. pH, electric conductivity (EC), organic matter (OM) and sum of bases (SB) of soil cultivated with vine with N fertilization and with or without the use of organic fertilization, in two crop cycles. Mossoró-RN, Brazil, 2017.

Variable	OF	Nitrogen doses (kg ha ⁻¹)					Equation	R ²
		0	30	60	90	120		
1 st Cycle								
pH	Without	7.90a	7.82a	7.68a	7.58a	7.39b	y = 7.930-0.0044x	0.98**
	With	7.86b	7.73b	7.68a	7.58a	7.54a	y = 7.836-0.0026x	0.97**
EC	Without	79.65b	79.83b	80.75b	81.65b	81.47b	y = 79.580+0.0181x	0.89**
	With	82.62a	84.78a	85.82a	87.72a	88.33a	y = 82.980+0.0479x	0.97**
OM	Without	3.75b	3.72b	3.68b	3.67b	3.61b	y = 3.753-0.0011x	0.95**
	With	13.41a	11.62a	10.88a	10.33a	10.11a	y = 13.324-0.058x+2.6e ⁻⁴ x ²	0.99**
SB	Without	5.59b	5.74b	5.73b	5.68b	5.73b	□ = 5.69 cmol _c dm ⁻³	- ²
	With	5.83a	6.14a	6.33a	6.48a	6.60a	y = 5.90+0.0063x	0.96**
2 nd Cycle								
pH	Without	7.86a	7.61a	7.47b	7.37b	7.17b	y = 7.822-0.0054x	0.98**
	With	7.71b	7.62a	7.55a	7.49a	7.46a	y = 7.696-0.0021x	0.97**
CE	Without	80.55b	80.73b	81.65b	82.55b	82.36b	y = 80.480+0.0181x	0.89*
	With	83.51a	85.68a	86.71a	88.61a	89.23a	y = 83.880+0.0479x	0.97**
MO	Without	3.71b	3.64b	3.54b	3.60b	3.54b	□ = 3.60 g kg ⁻¹	- ¹
	With	15.51a	13.58a	12.62a	12.28a	12.24a	y = 15.445-0.0679x+3.4e ⁻⁴ x ²	0.99**
SB	Without	5.50b	5.63b	5.67b	5.63b	5.63b	□ = 5.61 cmol _c dm ⁻³	- ²
	With	5.89a	6.32a	6.41a	6.46a	6.63a	y = 5.941+0.0107x-4.5e ⁻⁵ x ²	0.93**

OF = organic fertilizer; CE = $\mu\text{S m}^{-1}$; MO = g kg⁻¹; SB = cmol_c dm⁻³. For each variable in lines are the means of the OF levels within each N level and the respective regressions. Means followed by the same letter in the column (N levels within each OF level) are not different according to the t test ($p \leq 0.05$). ¹= means of this factor were considered with no statistical difference, according to the F's test. ²= data were not adjusted to any regression model. * and ** significant at 0.05 and 0.01 of probability, respectively

According to Tasca et al. (2011), after the soil application, urea is hydrolyzed by the enzyme urease, resulting in ammonium formation. During this process, an increase of pH was initially observed, mainly around the fertilizer granules due to the consumption of the H⁺ ions. However, after the ammonium nitrification, the pH decreases to values lower than the original content (ROCHETTE et al., 2009). Thus, each urea molecule produces, at the end of the ammonium nitrification process, a positive balance of two H⁺. Rosado et al. (2014), testing doses and sources of N applied to the soil, observed similar behavior, also attributing the results to the effect of the hydrolysis of urea in the soil, which produce H⁺ and contributed to the decrease of soil pH, which are in accordance to the results obtained in the present study.

For the electrical conductivity (EC), it was observed that data was adjusted to the linear regression model, for both cycles (Tabela 6). It is important to observe that the mean values for

the effect of N doses in the absence of organic fertilization are similar to the original value of the EC (80.0 $\mu\text{S m}^{-1}$, Table 2).

Based on the derivative of the regression equations, for the N doses in the absence of the organic fertilizer, it was observed, using 120 kg ha⁻¹ of N, the estimated values of 81.75 and 82.65 $\mu\text{S m}^{-1}$. For the interaction of N with the organic fertilizer, the estimated values were 88.75 and 89.63 $\mu\text{S m}^{-1}$ in the first and second cycles, respectively. Thus, using the average values obtained in each cycle, it was observed that an increase of 2.75% was accomplished for the N doses and approximately 11.5% for the interaction of N and organic fertilizer.

This fact was observed when N and organic fertilizer are used together and can be explained by the contribution of salts, mainly Na and K present in the organic fertilizer (Table 3). When the N doses were absent from the organic fertilizer, a small increase occurred when compared to the original value, which could be

the effect of the corrective fertilizer used in the soil, where the use of KCl (potassium chloride) may have provided this alteration. Thus, these levels would not be capable of causing damage to the vine development. Silva et al. (2016) observed similar results, observing that the use of goat manure resulted in an increase of soil EC, but without causing problems for the vine. However, in a study by Jiménez Becker et al. (2010) the authors observed that the application of organic fertilization increased the soil EC to such a high level that soil use would be restricted only to salt tolerant plants.

For the soil organic matter (OM) contents, within the studied levels of organic fertilizer, it can be verified in the two cycles that the N doses promoted better results when they were associated with the organic fertilizer. Analyzing the OM levels within the N levels studied, it is observed that, without the organic fertilizer, the first cycle data were adjusted to the linear regression model, estimating for the highest N dose the content of 3.62 g kg⁻¹. For the first cycle, the data were considered with no statistic differences, according to the F test.

For the combined effect of N doses and organic fertilization, in both cycles, quadratic equations were adjusted, with contents of 10.1 and 12.0 g kg⁻¹, estimated at the doses of 111.5 and 99.8 kg ha⁻¹ of N. Considering the initial content of 4.07 g kg⁻¹ present in the soil (Table 2), it is observed that decrease with the use of N with no organic fertilization. However, when organic fertilizer was associated with the N doses, an increase about 172% in soil OM content was verified, according to the average maximum values of each cycle.

Increases in soil OM due to the application of organic residues were also described by other authors (CLEMENTE et al., 2012; SILVA et al., 2014a). In a study by Silva et al. (2016) evaluating the influence of organic fertilizer and N rates on the chemical characteristics of soil cultivated with vines, it was observed that when organic fertilizer was added, the levels of soil OM increased from 6.87 to 17.09 g kg⁻¹. Even so, the authors pointed out that this value is still considered low, suggesting the ideal for grapevines a value above 20 g kg⁻¹.

For the soil sum of bases (SB), within the

studied levels of organic fertilizer, it was verified in the two cycles that the N doses promoted better results when associated with the organic fertilizer. On the other hand, for SB values within N levels, it is observed that in the absence of organic fertilization the data did not fit any regression model, in both cycles. For the combined effect of the N and organic fertilizer doses, the data of the first cycle were adjusted to the linear regression model, estimating for the highest N dose a content of 6.65 cmolc dm⁻³ and for the second cycle an adjustment to the quadratic model was carried out, with a value of 6.57 cmolc dm⁻³, estimated with 118.9 kg ha⁻¹ of N.

As can be seen, a superiority of the organic fertilizer and N combination occurred, demonstrating the possibility of establishing more viable fertilization alternatives for soils in the semi-arid region, especially for sites where organic fertilizers, such as cattle manure, is available on the farm or at low cost. Thus, strategies of combined use between mineral fertilization and bovine manure can be an alternative in reducing costs and to improve the environmental quality of the cultivated areas.

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Conclusions

In the presence of nitrogen, the organic fertilizer resulted in an increase in the macro and micronutrient contents, in the organic matter and in the sum of bases, favoring improvements in soil fertility.

Nitrogen doses in with no use of organic fertilization were responsible for reducing pH levels, leading to a greater nutrients availability.

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