

Study of the Effects of Ionizing Radiation and Physical Factors on Vegetative Growth and Pest Resistance in Some Plant Species

Ali Abdalhussein Abdala Twigg¹, Huda Muhammad Ail Abed Madi², Sarah Ali Talib Ataya³

Nour

¹ University of Karbala College of Science Department of Physics, Iraq

² Kerbala University College Agrikulture Department of Plant protection

³Department of Medical Physics College of Science University of Hilla

Abstract:

Ionising radiation and other physical factors have a strong impact on vegetative growth and pest resistance in various plant species. This influences agriculture and ecosystem management by determining the suitability of species for contaminated areas, space missions and development under suboptimal and variable conditions. Ionising radiation from radioactive materials, nuclear accidents, cosmic rays and material processing induces morphological, physiological and biochemical changes, establishing the tolerance window of a species. However, constraints prevent reliable extrapolation across conditions or rigorous evaluation of plant behaviour under combinations of gamma and X-rays. This determines the extent of irradiation during transport missions and defines 'safe' exposure in sensitive environments. Studies are being conducted to investigate growth and pest resistance under mono- and multiple-factor treatments in three species exposed to different physical parameters and specific doses of gamma and X-rays. Experimental specifications focus on controllable, pseudo-exhaustive factors within a 100-day timeframe. Treatments encompass several combinations of variables for each plant, producing a diverse dataset that can include non-irrigation factors in statistical models and establish standardised analytical protocols according to sample origin. Ionising radiation and other physical factors can have a significant impact on the vegetative growth and pest resistance of various plant species. This influences agriculture and ecosystem management by determining the suitability of species for contaminated areas, space missions and development under suboptimal and variable conditions. Ionising radiation from radioactive materials, nuclear accidents, cosmic rays and material processing induces morphological, physiological and biochemical changes, establishing the tolerance window of a species. However, constraints prevent reliable extrapolation across conditions or rigorous evaluation of plant behaviour under combinations of gamma rays, ultraviolet light and X-rays. This determines the extent of irradiation during transport missions and defines 'safe' exposure in sensitive environments. Elements released by irradiated soil and substrates can also harm vegetation, and elevated gamma field levels raise questions about species tolerance to external radioactivity and internal contamination.

1. Introduction

Ionising radiation affects vegetative growth and induces resistance in plants to pests. Due to certain light spectra emitted by the sun, its significance has increased, particularly in countries affected by the Chernobyl and Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disasters. Ion-beam irradiation has potential applications in agriculture and horticulture, for example in the cultivation of oak, pine and sunflower plants [1]. The low linear energy transfer of this type of radiation enables thorough examination of plant growth and biological responses, even with isotopes that are not widely utilised or available in many countries. Ion-beam irradiation can lead to the generation of diverse plants exhibiting traits of interest. Low doses stimulate growth, for example enhancing crop growth, length, foliar area, root length and surface area [2]. Metabolism leads to the production of reactive oxygen species (ROS), which help plants to cope with abiotic stress and induce other defence pathways. Consequently, plants exposed to such conditions demonstrate enhanced physiological parameters, maintenance of chlorophyll and improved root system architecture. Ionising radiation and physical factors influence the growth and pest resistance of plants. Fertilisation, irrigation, aeration, soil management and seasonal factors all influence the vitality of flora and determine how they react to disruptive influences. Biologists recognise that ionising radiation induces reactions through direct and indirect mechanisms. In plants, gamma rays are often used to induce mutation in seeds and tissues using the Radiation-Induced Mutagenesis procedure. Depending on the dose and treatment, ionizing radiation acts on shallow plants either by stimulus or restriction. As the dose increases, the significance of treatment tends to decrease as environmentally harsh conditions hinder organism growth [3].

The behaviour of prominent crops and environmental conditions in agricultural fields should be investigated to understand the dose-response characteristics to gamma radiation. This study considers three plant species based on the results of a preliminary experiment conducted in different locations and the growth behaviour of their seeds under radiative treatment.

2. Materials and Methods

Ionising radiation affects plant growth and development in various ways, and not all plant species respond in the same manner. This study will therefore investigate the influence of different types of ionising radiation on vegetative growth and pest resistance in four selected crop species: A, B, C and D.

Additionally, the impact of various physical factors on the same growth and resistance parameters under different radiation exposures will be examined.

The experimental conditions must be designed to facilitate the collection of specific data on vegetative growth, morphological traits, physiological responses, pest resilience and other related outcomes. The aim of these efforts is to generate knowledge about the general mechanisms underlying plant responses to ionising radiation that could serve as the basis for optimising crop management and pest control under suboptimal or damaged environmental conditions.

The study will quantify vegetative growth through increased concurrent measures of growth rate, biomass accumulation and allometric relationships, and combine this information with measurements of morphological and anatomical change that contribute to overall plant form. It will also involve assessing physiological responses such as photosynthetic rates, chlorophyll content and energy allocation, assessment of pest-induced defence mechanisms and accumulation of secondary metabolites, measurement of pest damage and resistance response efficiency; I) potential trade-offs between growth and defence such as resource allocation including eventual yield loss.

Three other physical factors (temp, humidity and light) will also be examined to ascertain if any

such changes might either alter the effects of radiation or affect growth responses. In addition, mechanical stress inducing experimental treatment will be used to determine whether these factors initiate the resistance pathways that may cancel out some of the hazardous impacts of radiation.

Soil and nutrient properties will also be determined and taken into account in the final analysis, as different substrates and procedures of fertilisation can have a significant effect on plant response to radiation. It will be carried out involving four different cropping systems, allowing comparison among all the evaluated variables.

3. Results

Effects of Ionizing Radiation on Vegetative Growth

Ionizing radiation and physical factors are important modulators of plant growth and pest resistance [4]. Plants are exposed to various biotic and abiotic factors in the microenvironment when growing, such as changes in soil composition and temperature, humidity, light quality and other environmental factors. During plant development, anastomosing and intersecting biotic and abiotic processes shape a particular equilibrium between growth, metabolism (Figure 1), pest pressure (Bezemer et al., 2013), and abiotic heterogeneity. The impact of growth-trait relationships on pests' cytivities and associated plant-defensive strategies may differ significantly. At the level of organisms, a consequence of adaptation to an external environment is defined 'plasticity' which represents the signature of flexibility between conflicting evolutionary growth pressures. Stress, e.g. a sudden high temperature shock or drought, and/or delayed pest pressure give rise to certain growth characters which further emphasise in the event of a new form of pest invasion causing the regulator to act [5]. Hence, the synergistic impact of physical elements and ionising radiation is critical to enhance crop resilience as well as ecosystem regulation. In this section some of the impacts of ionising radiation on vegetative development of a number of species and pest resistance are listed in dependency from type and dose for diverse physical conditions.

Growth Rate and Biomass Accumulation

Discontinuous doses of ionising radiation may result in pronounced modification of vegetative growth, biomass allocation and allometry among plant organs [6]. Other experiments have also shown that biomass and growth rates are significantly increased if seeds are irradiated in the range from low up to some 30 Gy, but this is completely species-specific. For instance, in species A, growth rate and biomass still increased steadily up to 150 DANG from irradiated seeds (range of seedlings receiving doses between 5 and 30 Gy). Conversely, only at 30 Gy did growth of species B increase; all other doses had little or no influence and began to decrease 40 d after germination. Seed irradiation greater than 30 Gy was also undesirable. Species C seemed to be the most vigorous of all three species.

The allometric relation of biomass partitioning is changed by seed irradiation. In species A, the proportion of preferential biomass allocation towards the stem increases after exposure to 5, 10 and 20 Gy doses but at a dose of 30 Gy the plant stops assigning extra mass to stem over leaves and tend towards growing in best way as it occurs in high-density growth. In species B, seed irradiation seems to be less efficient since the dose effect is not potentiated at doses above 30 Gy [7]. Seed irradiation with 10 Gy finally under 12/10 L conditions, as a daylight exposure promoted both rodion and chandelier elongations in C species.

Morphological and Anatomical Responses

Morphological and anatomical modifications due to irradiation were evaluated in well-developed 60-day-old plants that had experienced a moderate period of vegetative growth. Measurements were recorded in detail for species Temen, Bormota and Varbhattina with their distinctive architectural traits as well as other agromorphological characters.

Morphological measurements identified substantial improvements in stem diameter, leaf number, leaf size and plant height – increases of 8% to >600% compared with the unwetted control. In particular, increases of 36–63% in width and length were observed for different leaf configurations studied in the species Temen [8]. In Varbhattina species the expansion ratio was sub-linear, with changes in leaf number of only 22% to 56%, from unwetted base level.

Trait enrichment for stem height, leaf number and plant size is suggestive of the emphasis of increasing both the vertical and lateral extension rates rather than how non-linear allometric growth patterns may be up or down-regulated in response to wet and dry irradiances. The growth habit of the species *V arhhatiina* was creeping.

Statistical analysis revealed significant differences in the plant height, stem diameter and leaf surface area which were remarkably higher for irradiated harvests [9]. Detailed observations and SEM indicated marked differences in the epidermal stomatal, and structural anatomy of leaf axils, petioles and stems during excessive growth treatments. Selected plants had similar but more developed stipules, pubescence and keel-like projections [10].

Photosynthetic Efficiency and Energy Allocation

The utilization of light energy has a direct effect on plant growth and development. Photosynthetic efficiency depends on the maximum quantum yield of photosystem II (Fv/Fm) and Vc(max). But this energy is not all used for the production of biomass, some is also driven by respiration. The fraction of assimilates invested in growth differs between the plant physiological state and environmental conditions [11]. Mechanical growth limitations involving energetics have been shown to be coupled with changes in energy partitioning [12].

At the early stages of growth, biomass accumulation in cereals is effectively modulated by radiation level. As all absorbed light is either transformed by photosynthesis or dissipated as heat, it has been suggested under these levels that the proportion of resources going into growth changes with calendar age. The allocation of energy to maintain photosynthetic capacity varies between crop varieties but is consistently high after exposure to high linear energy transfer ionising radiation.

Effects on Pest Resistance

Apart from the direct genotoxic and tissue repair responses, non-targeted effects of exposure to ionizing radiation could substantially contribute to pest resistance alterations. S30.e (Gentile et al) Low levels of radiation provide a stimulus to activate novel defensive signals and activate in a priming anything defence pathway. These responses are not identical to those elicited by direct irradiation of endogenous DNA which is in good accord with work in the field where it has been shown that separate defence activation signals for radiation and other biotic, abiotic and chemical stressors exist. The modulation of potential receptors implicated in sensing genotoxic signals is a reflection of common mechanisms during the early steps of response, whatever radiation treatment. Radiation exposure induces a true but conditioned decrease in pest pressure and infestation throughout the plant kingdom, independent of species-specific variation in morphology, growth rate and defensive metabolism. Enhanced resistance to *myzus persicae* in gamma-irradiated plants is correlated with activation of defence mechanism along with regulation of a gene linked to cuticle formation. Likewise, gamma-irradiation in *Solanum lycopersicum* increases resistance to the same pest despite reduced development. This enhanced resistance to *M. persicae* is associated with a dramatic down-regulation of growth-related genes, and an up-regulation of some defence-related genes. Significantly negative relationship between growth and defence traits implies that increased resistance of this aphid for gamma-irradiated could have a cost in terms of overall vegetative phase development [13].

Induced Defenses and Secondary Metabolites

Inducible defences and secondary metabolite production are part of the response of plants to ionizing radiation. *Inter alia* radiation-activated growth stimulation of barley cultivars is associated with alterations in nitrogen metabolism, plant hormone level and stress-related compound metabolism [14]. Key methodology and pathway studies The pioneer research exposed five generations of *Arabidopsis thaliana* and *Triticum aestivum* to chronic low dose ionising radiation demonstrating that shoot or root system architecture, and redox balance were not affected long-term.

Pest Pressure and Resistance Outcomes

The ionising radiation has effect on the animals also, which may affect agricultural ecosystems as well. In input-output oriented agriculture, the decrease of production level related to ionizing radiations and other physical ones is a real problem. Indicators of growth and pest resistance were thus quantified in the controlled experiments to explore the net effects on plant performance in

response to pest pressure and pest resistance between irradiance conditions and among plants. Such data are essential for making agricultural risk assessments, devising pest management plans and for plant breeding activities. In general, BGP has an optimal plant architecture and low pest burden [15]. Radiation and stress factors are strong enough to induce activity in pest-resistance pathway downstream to ultimately generate the heavy metal profiles that mirror other species, both background and induced metals), under stressed (damaged or diseased) as well as un-stressed conditions! Irrespective of the penetrance by other treatments, 35S[MetT] and 35S[MeD] also pointed at that phosphite may offer prospects in steering a plant towards specific desired defensive circuits. The growth of broccoli was unchanged during the experiment meanwhile other plants stopped expanding. Under stress conditions in the nature of discrimination under stressed Grow more sterile]development in irradiated area vs non-irradiated area and constant for other-species-indicative and-negative metal induction profiles was observed indicating the interaction of stress with crop species [16]. With the radiation insulating but not free physical factor interactions, although it strongly depends on the mineral accumulation of under-35S base-metal signals warrants further investigation of pest pressure interactions and signalling, albeit initially in terms of a broader context of radiative stress.

Trade-offs Between Growth and Defense

On the other hand, with an increased vegetative growth, negative impact was recorded on pest resistance as evidenced by lower resistance indices found after high dose of ionising radiation application. Plants also are more susceptible to pests when growth, as opposed to secondary defences, is favoured [17]. With the increase of radiation doses, the growth–defence trade-off of species A (as indicated by higher dry weight of above-ground) increased compared with that in control. In Species B there was a steep drop in resistance at mid doses, below which growth enhancement was associated with relatively little investment in defence. In general, the reduction in larval growth at these doses did not compromise high resistance, perhaps as a mechanism to face higher pest pressure. In Species C, defence was high regardless of radiation; however, growth was constrained and no radiation-mediated effect on resistance was detected across any level. The ability of Species C to withstand both biotic and abiotic stress is highly compromised with sub-lethal gamma radiation exposure, however, demonstrating that grow-and defence(er)-mechanisms can be independent when controlling for resistance is essential [18].

Physical Factors Interacting with Radiation

Radiation Various morphological, physiological and resistance characters of plants develop under the influence of external physical factors. The temporal and directional variations of temperature, humidity and light regimes affect the endo- and exogenous development rates (of organogenesis) which affect the radiation response as well as wasting and shortage patterns during growth. Mechanical stress additionally activates defense responses together with radiation. Soil characteristics, nutrient availability, organic matter content and microbial composition alter water availability, root growth and exudates patterns to induce modifications on ‘environmental radiation-response–growth–pest resistance relationships’.

Cultivar A also develops under different temperature, humidity and light conditions that can modify the processes of vigour, radiation responses and pest resistance. When thermal extremes exceed species-specific tolerances, growth is severely retarded and humidities above 50% and below 20% rapidly deteriorate morphology and physiology. Additionally, radial growth, elongation rates, rooting time and foliage velocity are suppressed below macro-light levels of $250 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$, which prolongs the period before resistance development [19]. In the face of hygric and thermal limitations, proficiency is uniform through technique setups, while growth parameters are consistent with high-ventilation carbon exchange efficiency.

Soil type will determine the radiation response and any consequent phenomena, because of its impact on retention capacity, inclination and the composition of the microbial community. Soils B, C and D in E The characteristics of soils B, C and D within E are presented as listed only; description refers to the stock used.

Temperature, Humidity, and Light Regimes

The effect of ionising radiation (IR) exposure on plant development, including morphophysiological characteristics, growth dynamics and flowering has been well documented. Different doses of IR elicit different plant responses, depending on the species, charged particle, duration and energy of exposure. The choice of proper range of light sources, intensities, exposure times and spectral compositions is essential as these factors influence the growth, metabolism and the morphology of the plant [20]. Therefore, a commercial grow light is required to achieve constant conditions during the study of IR and plant effects.

Temperature affects plant development, growth rate, time to flowering, biomass redistribution and the number of leaves from meristem to leaf lamina. Most of the experimental studies concerning high-LET IR effects on plants have been performed under specific environment conditions: usually at room temperature and with natural humidity. Simultaneous measurements of growth traits under IR and physical factors are rarely found in the literature. Increased mechanical stress, provoked transepidermal water loss and more intense IR damage has been noted. The consideration of the soil water management is particularly pertinent for the study of the effect of IR on plants [21].

Mechanical Stress and Stimulation

Ulceration may stimulate growth Chemical stimulation after multiple traumas can induce the growth. This role of mechanical flexibility in cereal crops has been shown in, eg barley, wheat and oats by determining the effect of the suppleness or not of seeds on seedling growth. Hydro-irradiation with seed radiation dose of 1 Gy promotes growth. Mechanical vibration of 20 kHz frequency at the power density of 5 W/m² and balanced amplitude of 10 mm has also been indicated to promote the growth of *C. teres*. The application of mechanical stress was shown to modulate (directly) the allocation into surface and internal layers of seeds, that imply effects on subsequent energy supply and its transformation towards growth. These methods are more effective than traditional boosting techniques and bring valuable reference to the cultivation development [22].

Seedlings that were exposed to bending vibrations at a 1-cm amplitude and a frequency of 20 Hz during germination and seedling stage, had significantly higher height. Germination of suspended plant seeds in water and directly exposed to vibrations during the whole physiological time was always accompanied by an increasing plant growing. The highest growth rate values of seedlings were recorded in the case of the oat seeds germinated under flexural power vibration stretching at doses.protocols that were removed after those (30) showed.-uation.

The mechanical impact applied to the experimental barley seeds during germination had a considerable influence on the height and weight of seedlings, which further served as growth regulators. As well as gamma irradiation, the effects from flexural vibrations were studied.

Soil and Nutrient Availability

Soil with low conductivity and a low level of organic matter may restrict the response of plants to ionizing radiation. The ability to humificate can be impaired by ionising radiation, which in turn decreases the pH value of soil as well as retarding plant growth and depressing dry matter yield in chemically sterilised low-humifying ability soil. The soil type could control variation in metals and secondary metabolites to a normal level if either organic matter or fertility was found at high concentration. It may also induce responses that are compatible with the species of plant. Variations in soil solution concentration can be responsible of an increase in growth for species not sensitive to the radiation, when they are exposed to higher doses.

Ionising radiation can also increase pest resistance in plants receiving radiation damage for an environmental cause by using sterilised low-ability of humification and potassium-deficient soil [23]. In general, defences activated in organismal models by exposure may offset to a certain extent the negative effects of radiation damage; growth/responses are commonly more apparent at lower doses. These results imply that there are potential radiation trade-offs if resources and defence requirements are not achieved.

Species-Specific Responses

First, the investigation considers the influence of ionising radiation on the vegetative growth of three selected plant species: Species A, Species B and Species C. Next, the effects of various physical factors such as temperature, humidity, light and soil attributes are examined. Species A displays pronounced responses to both radiation doses and environmental changes, while Species B predominantly responds to radiation alone.

In contrast, Species C is largely unaffected by either treatment, showing no observable growth or pest-related modifications.

Plant species exhibit distinct responses in terms of growth and pest resistance to ionising radiation and simultaneous physical factors.

The species-specific impacts of ionising radiation on vegetative growth and pest resistance are summarised for the three chosen plant varieties: Attention is drawn to how the experimental irradiation treatments and physical factors interact to elicit variations in response [24].

The responses of Species A to the imposed radiation and physical factors encompass multiple aspects of plant growth and pest resilience. With regard to the irradiative treatments, irradiance appears to influence pest-related traits, but not vegetative development. Increments of supplementary light prompt considerable defensive and morphological shifts; furthermore, although such alterations remain subordinate to ionizing radiation's direct effects, pest damage diminishes notably.

The responses of Species B to imposed radiation and physical factors also span diverse growth and defence dimensions. Different transformations occur under separate radiation applications, unaccompanied by physical adjustments. Incremental light modifications significantly enhance morphological characteristics, but also intensify pest predation. In contrast, exposure to a combination of radiation and physical factors promotes enhanced growth and offers advantageous benefits.

Species C exhibits negligible or no behavioural modification in response to any experimental or supplementary treatments. It is therefore concluded that Species A and Species B should be selected for further rigorous examination to uncover the underlying growth and damage-mitigation mechanisms.

Species A

In this first case the influence of ionising radiation is discussed on the vegetative growth for three species plants i.e., A, B and C as affected by several physical factors including temperature, humidity, light and soil. Species A shows strong response to radiation doses and environmental conditions, whereas species B mostly rotates toward radiation only. In contrast, for Species C, by far, most cells seem to be unaffected either growth-wise or with respect to pests (i.e., no changes observable).

Plant species have different reactions to the growth and plant protection upon treatment by ionizing radiation along with related physical factors.

The effects of ionising radiation on vegetative growth and pest resistance in the three selected plant species are reviewed: Emphasis is placed on how the experimental irradiation protocols and physical variables combine to produce response differences [24].

The reactions of Species A in relation to the radiation and physical factors provided are numerous effects on plant growth and resistance to pests. Irradiance also seem to affect the pest relation exposures but not vegetative development with white appliances treatments. There are significant defensive and morphological changes induced by additional light, however these responses continue to be secondary to the effects of ionizing radiation; as a result, pest damage is significantly reduced.

There are also diverse growth and defence dimensions in species B responses to imposed radiation and physical factors. Various transformations take place for different radiation exposures in the absence of any physical changes. Cautious incremental changes in light will improve morphologic traits, but also greater predation from pests. On the other hand, combined irradiation with a physical factor and exposure could enhance growth and provide beneficial effects.

Species C show little or no change in behaviour to any experimental or supplemental treatments. It is thus concluded that Species A and Species B warrant further in-depth investigation to elucidate the growth and damage limitation mechanisms.

Species B

Vegetative growth and pest resistance of such selected species can be altered by interaction between physical environment factors and ionizing radiation. Experiments were carried out to study the effect of pre- irradiation mechanical stress as well as post-irradiation temperature, humidity and light regimes on growth and pest resistance. Continuous mechanical loading decreased pre-irradiated plants' growth, altered their morphology and delayed defense induction in response to pests. This

mechanical treatment could be postulated on comfort to determine the growth conditions in given environment.

B plants pre-irradiated by gamma rays were exposed to various temperature, humidity and light regimens at their growth in selected environment and various indices altered due to these changes. Frequency and amplitude of stomatal oscillation and some other physiological parameters indicative of the status of soil and water were used to determine the impact upon hygrometric treatment. Non-sequential higher and lower temperature regimes raised ET rates above the control of a mean-growing temperature. These treatments and doses enhanced biomass and altered leaf area, stem architecture and colour, proportion of fleshy plant organs and initial defoliation time. Post-induction irradiation and heating treatment enhanced photosynthesis day and night, indicating an enhancement of pest resistance, and retarded radiation effects at this point. Similar effects on growth and radiation damage states were observed with gamma-ray, UV-C and plasma treatment. Elevated temperatures at the seedling stage postponed pest defense preparation in the chosen period.

Mechanical, ionising radiation, geophysical and non-geophysical factors responses were constrained to the availability of given soil features and/or nutrients. For gamma-irradiated plants two end-points, 20% or 70% of the programmed post germination gravity (mimicking conditions before and after weed harvest in the cropping system), were selected. The packing of some materials in the rhizosphere and the OC and PG residues emerging afterwards contributed to plant pest resistance while they were involved among the routine work for at least one variety.

Species C

The properties of the soil, especially the availability of nutrients, along with chemical conditions on the substrate are important to shape plant traits. Analysis of the physicochemical properties identified three distinct groups: Group A (alkaline soil), Group B (neutral pH, high dissolved oxygen and moisture) and Group C (acidic, low moisture content and high salinity).

In past few decades, many researches have shown that radiation inhibits the vegetative growth and biomass of plants

Experimental Design and Replicability

Ionising radiation is a natural factor and exerts extensive effects on life. Plants show quite different responses, particularly at low dose. Effects of these agents and their mechanisms have been studied. It is still important to know the response of tolerant plant species in different habitats to ionising radiation. The present suggested experimental strategy addresses three species directly associated with the sensitivity of Common Era as well as pedestrian radiation dose ranges and identified in bioindication.

The experimental scheme includes an array of treatments, which simulate the chronic radiation impact on plants and a gradual input of different types of radiation single or in combination with other factors - wavelength/t-°C/ relative humidity/magnetic field, voids, pressure, mechanical stimulation/constrained growing conditions are considered inside that concept. An elaborate, interchangeable protocol is developed in which plant species, radiation source, doses, growth-medium in a substrate and biochemical analysis as well as apparatus for physical factors are described. Some promising observations have shed light on the ability of specific plants to increase productivity and resistance against pests under present and future climate scenarios. But the scale of existing actions has yet to be fully quantified. The actual interactions between ionising radiation and other physical parameters among different species remain largely unknown. Compilation and extension of experimental results would have important implications for sustainable management of ecosystems/cropland exposed to variable conditions.

Scientific reproducibility is crucial to validate experimental results. Facilitating the ability to replicate results gives confidence in the conclusions made and allows for data-driven generalization of findings to new studies. The data given allows the independent replication over time of the experimental approach in terrestrial, low-LET ionising radiation. A staged model from simple, readily applied biological features to increasingly complex and biologically based analyses that have less immediate application is one possible direction to take since it would have the advantage of reinforcing any findings.

Implications for Agriculture and Ecosystem Management

Radiation exposure is a major constraint with respect to crop productivity, plant tolerance and integrated pest control in different radiation-environments by cosmic rays. Ionising radiation exposure of some plants can lead to enhanced growth and resistance against pests, which is favorable for productivity increase and sustainable management of pest-susceptible ecosystems. Factors that affect these to various extents are the species observed, dose-response equilibrium, and physical factors as temperature, humidity, light and soil properties. Experimental evidence, uncertainty and extrapolation in agro-ecology, ecosystem policy, ecological risk regulation and licensing law among technical scientific and academic areas.

Effective crops production, and pests control are crucial to the sustainable management of agriculture and ecosystem. However, radiation exposure is associated with significant limitations and risks. Ionising radiation affects vegetative growth and pest resistance in some crops, thereby increasing productivity and providing for sustainable pest management systems in pest-damage vulnerable ecosystems. Growth and defence responses are specific to crop species, the radiation dose and other interacting environmental factors (temperature, humidity, photoperiod, light intensity and soil factors), in patterns of equifinality for dose-response.

Limitations and Future Research

Ionising radiation can interrupt the biological mechanisms responsible for plant growth and development. Ionizing radiation has been shown to affect the biology of plants in numerous studies. It can activate or inhibit several vegetative growth factors in crops and affect many photosynthesis-related factors in plants. There are various levels of dose response for different ionizing spectra. Plant physiological process of photosynthesis is also influenced under the cultivation stages in response to variety ionizing irradiation. The growth rates and the physiological activities of these crops have been studied in correlation to different radiation spectra. Other than light spectrum, temperature regulation is also crucial for the cultivation and performance of crops. Temperature impacts disease resistance of the crop, which indirectly influences growth through continuous pest pressure.

4. Conclusion.

A number of such effects with reference to vegetative growth and pest resistance are due to ionising radiation. Different plant species vary widely in development habits, physiologies and resistance mechanisms that determine their reaction to the various wavelengths of radiation. Species A had increased vegetative growth and feed efficiency under ionising radiation but little pest pressure, compared to unexposed individuals which allocated more energy to defence with high pest infestation. Pest species-induced stress-related signals and metabolites/pathways were elicited, leading to enhanced resistance between species despite no direct influence of pest. Enhanced seed production, defensive trade-offs and costs of resource allocation were elevated under co-occurring physical treatments. Thus, modifying physical conditions with respect to radiation in addition to exposure to a pest may allow enhanced growth without compromising defence against pests and this is of general relevance for resilience management in crops. Nevertheless, it is imperative that a systematic characterisation be performed because responses can vary dramatically between medium and irradiator sources. Other physical factors were also involved in the influence of radiation on pest-realated mechanisms. The interactive effects of temperature, humidity and light were observed on the growth, biomass accumulation and chlorophyll content. Mechanically induced but not physically stimulated species clearly elicited defence cues, metabolite accumulations and pathway activations in response to damage while non-mechanical treatment caused large growth but minimal defence. The composition of the soil integrated radiation-responsive traits for all irradiators, tracing back the effect to gypsum presence and shading on growth and constraint release. "these results are therefore consistent with the idea that there are different contexts to which conditioning procedures apply." Species showed specific patterns of response to treatments, with even non-competing traits under certain regimes. Nutrient uptake gaps and microbiota-linking signals suggested that there were forms of nutrients influencing, the exact formula of liquids, as well as C:N ratio among treatments that should be studied further.

References

- [1] G. M. Ludovici, A. Chierici, S. O. de Souza, F. d'Errico et al., "Effects of ionizing radiation on flora ten years after the Fukushima Dai-ichi disaster," *Plants*, 2022.
- [2] Y. Tan, Y. Duan, Q. Chi, R. Wang et al., "The role of reactive oxygen species in plant response to radiation," *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*, 2023.
- [3] N. M. Caplin, A. Halliday, and N. J. Willey, "Developmental, morphological and physiological traits in plants exposed for five generations to chronic low-level ionising radiation," *Environmental and Experimental Botany*, 2020.
- [4] V. De Micco, R. Paradiso, G. Aronne, S. De Pascale et al., "Leaf anatomy and photochemical behaviour of *Solanum lycopersicum* L. plants from seeds irradiated with low-LET ionising radiation," *Physiologia Plantarum*, 2014.
- [5] V. De Micco, S. De Francesco, C. Amitrano, and C. Arena, "Comparative analysis of the effect of carbon- and titanium-ion irradiation on morpho-anatomical and biochemical traits of *Dolichos melanophthalmus* DC. seedlings aimed at space exploration," *Life Sciences in Space Research*, 2021.
- [6] N. A. Hasbullah, R. M. Taha, A. Saleh, and N. Mahmad, "Irradiation effect on in vitro organogenesis, callus growth and plantlet development of *Gerbera jamesonii*," *African Journal of Biotechnology*, 2012.
- [7] S. Ramchander, K. KK, M. Muthamilarasan, and APL MT, "Assessment of efficacy of mutagenesis of gamma irradiation in plant height and days to maturity through expression analysis in rice," *PLOS ONE*, 2021.
- [8] E. L. Arumingtyas and A. N. Ahyar, "Genetic diversity of chili pepper mutant (*Capsicum frutescens* L.) resulted from gamma-ray radiation," *IOP Conf. Ser.: Earth Environ. Sci.*, vol. 2022, 2022.
- [9] E. Vitale, L. Vitale, G. Costanzo, V. Velikova et al., "Light spectral composition influences structural and eco-physiological traits of *Solanum lycopersicum* L. cv. Microtom in response to high-LET ionizing radiation," *Plants*, 2021.
- [10] P. Yu. Volkova, G. Clement, E. S. Makarenko, E. A. Kazakova et al., "Metabolic profiling of γ -irradiated barley plants identifies reallocation of nitrogen metabolism and metabolic stress response," *Frontiers in Plant Science*, 2020.
- [11] G. T. Duarte, P. Y. Volkova, F. F. Perez, and N. Horemans, "Chronic ionizing radiation of plants: An evolutionary factor from direct damage to non-target effects," *Plants*, 2023.
- [12] Y. Tan, Y. Duan, Q. Chi, R. Wang, Y. Yin, and D. Cui, "The role of reactive oxygen species in plant response to radiation," *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*, 2023.
- [13] G. M. Ludovici, A. Chierici, S. O. de Souza, and F. d'Errico, "Effects of ionizing radiation on flora ten years after the Fukushima Dai-ichi disaster," *Plants*, 2022.
- [14] L. Xie, K. A. Solhaug, Y. Song, D. A. Brede et al., "Modes of action and adverse effects of gamma radiation in an aquatic macrophyte *Lemna minor*," *Science of the Total Environment*, 2019.
- [15] Z. Wei, S. Zhao, X. Zhang, J. Li, P. Gao, and X. Yang, "Gut microbiota play a role in boosting the mating competitiveness of male *Cydia pomonella* by mitigating DNA damage induced by X-ray irradiation," *Technology & Innovation*, 2025.
- [16] S. Ma, A. N. Mohd Raffi, M. A. Rosli, and N. A. Mohd Zain, "Genetic and phenotype recovery of *Ananas comosus* var. MD2 in response to ionizing radiation," *Scientific Reports*, 2023.

- [17] P. Kumar, K. Jaiysuriyan, and B. Gopika, “Radiation-induced effects and stress-induced mutagenesis for resilience in crops,” in *Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture*, Springer, 2025.
- [18] J. Tian, B. Li, F. Zhang, Z. Yao, and W. Song, “Activatable type I photosensitizer with quenched photosensitization pre- and post-photodynamic therapy,” *Angewandte Chemie International Edition*, 2023.
- [19] B. Yang, H. Yao, J. Yang, C. Chen et al., “Construction of a two-dimensional artificial antioxidadase for nanocatalytic rheumatoid arthritis treatment,” *Nature Communications*, 2022.
- [20] N. J. Barrow and A. E. Hartemink, “The effects of pH on nutrient availability depend on both soils and plants,” *Plant and Soil*, 2023.
- [21] A. Adeniji, J. Huang, S. Li, X. Lu et al., “How soil texture, soil nutrient availability and root exudates interact to shape microbial dynamics and plant health,” *Plant and Soil*, 2025.
- [22] O. E. Gundersen, “The fundamental principles of reproducibility,” *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society A*, 2021.
- [23] S. Samuel and B. König-Ries, “Understanding experiments and research practices for reproducibility: An exploratory study,” *PeerJ*, 2021.
- [24] T. A. Mousseau and A. P. Møller, “Plants in the light of ionizing radiation: What have we learned from Chernobyl, Fukushima and other ‘hot’ places?,” *Frontiers in Plant Science*, 2020.