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A Review on Abiotic Stress Caused by Industrial Effluents on Seed Quality

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. Author BV managed the literature searches and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. The remaining authors PS and MAJB was proof read and corrected the draft. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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Review Article

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ABSTRACT

India is one of the top ten industrialized countries of global importance. But industries release waste products, which exert negative influences by causing toxicity to biotic organisms and environment. Liquid wastes of industries termed as effluents are characterized with possession of organic and inorganic compounds that evolve with varying levels of toxicity based on the type of industry and its bi-product. Recycling of treated effluent serves as an alternative to tie over water scarcity in sustainable agriculture. On the other hand, dilutions of industrial effluents serves as growth stimulants at an optimal concentration and influences the seed and seedling quality characters and aids in improving the productivity of crops. The safe levels of dilutions expressing the seed invigourative effect are reviewed hereunder, which could serve as a solution for disposal of effluent in agriculture in an effective manner.

Keywords: Industrialization; effluents; toxicity; dilution; seed invigoration.

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1. INTRODUCTION

With increasing global population, the gap between the supply and demand for water is widening and is reaching alarming levels in some parts of the world and is posing threat to human existence. Scientists around the globe are working on new ways of conserving water. India is one among the first ten industrialized countries of global importance. Though industrialization is the entry point for national development, industries such as metal cleaning, paper and pulp, dairy, tanneries, textile and dye, sugar mills, distilleries, sago and starch, fertilizers, plating baths, electroplating and paint not only produce the products but also release wastes, which exert negative influences on man and environment causing toxicity to plants and other forms of biotics organisms.

The State Board, based upon the large database in terms of effluents and emissions generated over the years of its existence, has categorized industries as Red (highly polluting industries), Orange (moderately polluting industries) and (marginally Green polluting units) (dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in) [1] distilleries, paper and pulp mills, dairy industries, sugar mills, tanneries, textile, fertilizers industries and dye, brewery industries, sago and starch industries etc are highly polluting categorized industries (CPCB), while the sheet glass and photo framing, automobile servicing and repairs stations, hotels and restaurants, instant tea/coffee, coffee processina. non-alcoholic beverages (soft drinks), fragrances and industrial perfumes, fish processing, organic nutrients, surgical and medical products, laboratory-wares, stone crushers, tyres and tubes vulcanization, retreading molding are classified as orange category. The industries coming under green category are rice mullors, mineralized water, dal mills, bakery products, biscuits, confectionery, groundnut decorticating (dry), masala grinding, chilling plants and cold storages, ice cream or ice-making, tailoring, garment making, handloom weaving, gold and silver thread zari work, gold and silver smithy and manufacturing of musical instruments and sports goods.

Recycling of industrial waste water and urban wastewater for irrigation and other purposes [2] are attracting the researchers for obtaining beneficial and economic results. Waste water of industries creates potential hazards for our environment because of the introduction of various contaminants such as heavy metals into soil and water resources in addition to the consumption of higher quantum of water for basic functioning. Presence of pollutants in effluent is a common environmental hazard since the toxic metal ions dissolved can ultimately reach the top of the food chain and becomes a risk factor for human beings. The effluents are not only a rich source of organic matter but also contain heavy metals like Fe, Mn, Cu, Zn, Pb, Cr and Ni. Continuous use of such effluents for crop production could result in accumulation of these metals in the soil as well as in plants, in concentrations that may become phytotoxic. Accumulation of heavy metals over prolonged time becomes hazardous to animals and human health after entering in their body systems through food chain. Heavy metal pollution of agricultural soils is one of the most severe ecological problems faced worldwide. The environment is under increasing pressure from solid and liquid waste emanating from the leather industry. The byproducts of the leather manufacturing process cause significant pollution unless treated in someway prior to discharge. Tanning industrial wastes are a serious threat when they pollute streams, fresh water bodies and land. The wastes from this industry rank among the most polluting of all industrial wastes. Chemicals such as sodium chloride, sodium sulfite, lime and chromium used at different stages of tanning process are present in the discharged effluent. When used for irrigation, the effluent containing chromium in non-permissible limits can prove to be phytotoxic. Which exists in two oxidation states, trivalent (CrIII) and hexavalent (CrVI). Both the forms are toxic to the plants and inhibit germination, reduce growth, generate oxidative stress, decrease protein content, inhibit photosynthesis and alter enzyme activities in the exposed plants. Reactive oxygen species (ROS) are produced in plants in response to the damaging effects of environmental stresses and plants have evolved a variety of antioxidant defense mechanisms in response to stress. Thus, wastewater can be considered as both a resource and a problem. Wastewater and its nutrient content can be used extensively for irrigation and other ecosystem services. Its reuse can deliver positive benefits to the farming community by proper management practices Hari et al. [3].

1.1 Problem and Prospects Liquid Industrial Waste

Ground water is the important source of potable water utilized for the agricultural irrigation and

industrial production. It is experiencing an increasing threat of pollution coming from urbanization and industrial development [4]. These pollutants find their way to aquatic ecosystem such as rivers, ponds and lakes which pose a risk to the health of human and ecosystem [5]. The global water pollution due to the increase in number of industries is a serious problem faced by the modern world. Soil serves as the most important component as the ultimate sink for the pollutants discharged into the environment [6]. Gowd et al. [7] also ensured the entry of the organic and inorganic contaminants from the disposal of industrial effluents contaminate the soils with heavy metals or micronutrients in phytotoxic concentrations and generates adverse effects not only on plants but also poses risks to human health [8].

Almost all industries discharge water containing wastes in one stage or another during their manufacturing process, which are not the same in every case. As a result, the presence of pollutants in water alters different physico chemical parameters from their normal prescribed levels. Annual waste water discharge and consumption of industrial sectors is explained by www.downtoearth.org.in [9] as in Table 1.

The increase in requirement of fresh water for industrial use also alarmed to rose from 30 BCM (Billion Cubic Meters) to 120 BCM by 2025 AD. (www.cseindia.org) [10] Negative impacts on water quality include increase in turbidity, colour, nutrient load and addition of toxic and persistent compounds [11].

1.2 Effect of Industrial Effluent on Seed Quality

In line with views of Hari et al. [3] effluents are much harmful for expression of physiological

seed quality characters. At 100 per cent concentration, they reduce the quality to the maximum level and decayed the seed due to imbibitions of toxic material at lethal dose that leads to death of seed either on sowing or at external treatment. Rajannan et al. [12] also reported that Seed germination of Oryza sativa was inhibited by 25 and 50% effluent and fully dormant by 75 and 100% effluent. Researchers of various crops for the past three decades tracing the influence of pollution [2,12-41], opined that the effluents exert optimum, supra and sub optimal dose for expression of results on germination and seedling growth seed characters.

1.3 Causes for Negative Influence of Direct Effluents

Rajaram and Janardhanam, [42] revealed that processed distillery effluents were rich in inorganic constituents like ammoniacal nitrogen and traces of heavy metals and these markedly suppressed the germination per cent and early growth of the seedling as the concentration of the effluent increase. Rout [43] revealed that irrigation with paper factory effluent in experimental plantations of 13 tree species, found to reduce the germination, shoot growth, root growth, chlorophyll content, protein content, DNA, RNA, free amino acids and soluble sugar of plants The content of chlorophyll 'a' and 'b' decreased with increase in the concentration of the effluent. Mishra and Bera [44] showed that olive Mill waste water had phototoxic influence on wheat due to the polyphenols and other unidentified material. Selvakumar [20] also revealed that at higher concentrations of tannery effluents, due to the presence of organic compounds, acids, alkalies, suspended solids and heavy metal, growth of the new seedlings were inhibited. Vidhya [27] expressed the causes for inhibited growth of seedlings as high

Table 1.	Annual wast	e water dischar	e and consumptio	n of industrial sector
			, i	

Industrial sector	Annual wastewater water discharge (million cubic meters)	Annual consumption (million cubic meters)
Thermal power plants	27000.9	35157.4
Engineering	1551.3	2019.9
Pulp and paper	695.7	905.8
Textiles	637.3	829.8
Steel	396.8	516.6
Sugar	149.7	194.9
Fertiliser	56.4	73.5
Others	241.3	314.2
Total	30729.2	40012.0

respiration which is utilized in building new protoplasm, which results in growth of new embryo where, due to enhanced salinity and conductivity of solutes, imbibition decreases and the oxygen for germination is reduced. Rani and Alikhan, [45] noticed that the percentage germination and seedling energy of rice and wheat reduced significantly with a raise in spent wash concentration.

Singh et al. [31] also reported that absorption of higher dissolved solids by the seed affected the germination on usage of tannery effluent. Madhumita et al. [32] also reported that under 100 per cent concentrations paper mill effluent had inhibitory effect and alter the salt concentration of soil and build up salinity in soils that resulted in disturbance of seed water interaction necessary for triggering the enzyme system and nutrients concentration was too high to become toxic, resulting in restricted seedling growth. On dilution due to presence of nutrients like nitrogen, potassium, calcium and magnesium in diluted effluents at optimum concentration promoting growth of the seedlings. Yadav and Meenakshi, [35] to assess the toxicity of effluent on seedling germination, seedling growth, biomass and crop yield of Raphanus sativus var. Pusa Chetki (Raddish) and Hibiscus esculentus

versha uphar (Bhendi) and found that the germination per cent decreased with rising effluent concentration.

Mahimairaja [37] expressed that at higher concentrations, germination reduced due to accumulation of excess inorganic salts that distrub osmatic relation of the seed with the water. Accumulation of salts like chloride create water stress induced by high osmotic pressure at hiah concentration that might reduced germination and inhibit enzyme activity. While, Dhanam [40] opined that germination percentage and seedling growth was inhibited at 100 per cent concentration due to higher osmotic pressure of the effluent at higher concentration of total salts made the imbibition more difficult and retarded germination, while the lower concentration of the effluent had promoted the presence of plant nutrient in the effluent. Baskaran et al. [39] also revealed that at higher concentrations, due to the disturbance of the osmotic relations of the seed and water, the amount of absorbed water had been reduced and retarded seed germination by enhanced salinity and conductivity of the solutes. Furthermore, the germinated seeds also did not have any oxygen due to organic and inorganic chemicals present in the effluent.

Crop	Concentration and duration of soaking that influence seed/crop guality characters	Authority
Paper mill effluent		
Rice seeds	Pre soaked in 2.5 to 5.0 per cent for 15h enhanced the germination	Dixit et al. [15]
Maize, Wheat, Ragi,	Soaked in 25 per cent influenced the germination	Kannan and
Groundnut and Cotton	and vigour index	Oblisami, [16]
Radish	10 per cent of effluent influenced the mean root length, shoot length and secondary roots as compared with control	Srivastava, [2]
Neem, Tamarind and	75 per cent of seeds germinated at 25 and 50 per	Gomathi and
Pungam	cent concentrations.	Oblisamy, [17]
Rice	25 per cent recorded higher seed germination and seedling quality	Udayasoorian et al., [21]
Petunia	Seed fortification with 5 per cent dilution recorded the highest germination of 90 per cent.	Natarajan, [46]
Rice PB-1	25 per cent effluent dilution enhanced seed germination and vigour	Madhumita et al., [32]
Dairy effluent		
Wheat	The germination duration was spread over a period	Goutam and
	of 9, 7 and 4 days in pure, diluted effluent and water respectively.	Bishnoi, [47]
Barley and Rice	The germination per cent was maximum at 25 per cent dilution.	Goutam et al. [48]

Table 2. Positive influence of diluted industrial effluents on seed quality characters

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Сгор	Concentration and duration of soaking that	Authority
Doddy	Soud cormination, root longth and choot longth	Dhanam [40]
Fauuy	increased at 25 per cent dilution	Dhaham, [40]
Lady's finger	Higher germination percentage recorded at 25 per cent dilution	Sharma et al. [49]
Sugar mill effluent		
Greengram	At ten per cent dilution of sugar mill effluent recorded more germination compared to higher concentrations	Baskaran et al. [39]
Blackgram	Seeds showed reduction in seed germination percentage as the effluent dilution increased from 20 to 100 per cent	Kailas et al. [41]
Distillery effluents		
Phaseolus radiatus	The percentage germination and speed of germination index (SGI) is increased with corresponding increase in distillery effluent diluted to five per cent and the growth and biomass of seedlings and their pigment content up to the dilution of 10 per cent.	Sahai and Neelam, [14]
Pisum sativam	Distillery effluent treatment 10 per cent enhance the root growth	Rani and Shrivastava, [50]
White sorghum (APK 1) and Red sorghum (Namakkal local).	10 per cent dilution reported more germination and vigour	Zalawadia and Raman, [19]
Acacia catechu and	The effluent with lowest dilution (10 per cent)	Pandey and Soni,
Morus alba.	enhanced vigour and mean daily germination compared to control.	[51]
Oryza sativa L. cv.	25 per cent recorded higher germination and other	Chinnusamy et al.
Saka-4 and Pusa 44	quality parameters	[22]
gourd, Cucumber and Onion.	10 per cent dilution recorded higher germination	Ramana et al., [21]
Ragi, Sorghum, Gingelly, Groundnut and Green gram	Seed soaking in 10 or 20 per cent solution of spent wash at a seed to solution ratio of 1:1 for 16 h in ragi and sorghum for 12 h in gingelly, six hours in groundnut and three hours in green gram improved the germination by 16, 27, 28, 30 and 28 % respectively over the control.	Mahimairaja and Bolan [52]
Phaseolus aureus	Seed germination was found stimulatory effect at one to five per cent	Chandra et al. [53]
Sorghum	2.5 per cent distillery spentwash enhanced the seed germination	Kaushik et al., [30]
Zea mays and Rice	50 per cent distillery effluent enhanced the seed germination and seedling growth of <i>Zea mays</i> and Rice	Pandey et al. [36]
Spent wash effluent		
Soybean, cowpea, rice	Germination percentage and seedling growth	Rajaram and
and sorghum	enhanced at lower dilution of 10 per cent.	Janardhanam [42]
Sorghum, Green gram	Soaking with 25 per cent dilution for 4h recorded more germination percentage.	Vidhya, [27]
Bhendi	Diluted at higher level (50 times) recorded more seed guality	Soundarrajan and Pitchai. [33]
Rice and wheat	Five per cent dilution enhanced the overall growth of seedling compared with control.	Singh et al. [31]
Sorghum	6.25 per cent dilution resulted in better growth of the cultivar.	Garg and Kaushik [54]

Сгор	Concentration and duration of soaking that	Authority
-	influence seed/crop quality characters	-
Mung bean (<i>Vigna</i> <i>radiata</i>),	Seeds presoaked for 6h at a dilution of five per cent v/v resulted in increased percentage of germination, speed of germination index, vigor index and length of root and embryonic axis	Kannan and Upreti, [55]
Rice (Oryza sativa) and wheat (<i>Triticum</i> aestivum)	Seeds hardened at lower dilution (one per cent for wheat and one per cent, five per cent for rice) increased the seed germination, seedling growth, fresh weight and dry weight of seedlings compared to higher concentration.	Rita et al. [56]
Maize, Sunflower and Red gram	spent wash at 5 per cent dilution improved the seed germination	Mahimairaja, [37]
Blackgram	Germination percentage, growth and seedling weight of seedlings increased at 10 per cent dilution of spent wash when compared to other concentrations.	Indra and Ravi [57]
Finger and Pearl millet	2.5 to 5.0 per cent spent wash recorded higher seed germination and seedling quality	Kalaiselvi et al <i>.,</i> [36]
Groundnut (<i>Arachis</i> <i>hypogaea</i> L.) cv. TMV7	Spent wash three per cent dilution for two hours improved the germination and vigour potential	Chidananda, [58]
Tannery effluent		<u> </u>
Neem	25 per cent recorded higher seed germination, root length and shoot length.	Selvakumar, [20]
Wheat	5 per cent recorded more germination.	Singh et al. [31]
Textile effluents		
Wheat	6.25 per cent improved the seed quality	Aliotta et al. [25]
Arachis hypogea	25 per cent had growth promotive effect better than control by 4.7 percent	Kumar et al. [59]
Groundnut	Effluent at 50 per cent observed 95 per cent germination in TMV-10 and 92 per cent in JL-24.	Saravanamoorthy and Ranjitha Kumari, [60]
Fertilizer factory efflue	nts	
Groundnut.	5 per cent recorded higher seed germination and seedling quality	Sundaramoorthy et al. [23]
Tomato cv. PED, Pusa Ruby and Rupal-I.	25 per cent recorded higher seed germination and seedling quality	Sharma et al. [26]
Surgical effluent		
Raphanus sativus var. Pusa Chetki and Hibiscus esculentus versha uphar	The germination per cent was maximum with 25 per cent surgical effluent dilution.	Yadav and Meenakshi, [35]

Giovacchino et al. [61] revealed that the grain yield and biomass yield of maize was significantly higher due to spent wash application at 25 per cent concentration as it increased the N, P, K, Ca, Mg and Na content in all the parts of the maize crop. Studies also revealed that at low concentrations the seedling vigour and field performance were improved due to the diluted concentration of organic and inorganic salt of the effluent and the benefit also has been prolonged upto productivity. Even on practicing irrigation, these type of dilution before irrigation would help in proper and efficient utilization of waste material as blessing.

2. MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR INDUSTRIAL EFFLUENT AND ITS AFFECTED AREAS

2.1 Selection of Tolerant Crops in the Industrial Effluent Area

Choice of crop and variety within the crop has been expressed as management practice to get rid of the ill effects of effluents irrespective of its type. Industrial effluents have higher level of salt content and heavy metals hence, selection of salt and heavy metal tolerant crops will ensure better germination, growth and yield of crops in affected areas.

Sundaramoorthy et al. [23] also reported VRI 2 as tolerant variety to withstand the illeffects of effluents. Ramana et al. [24], based on the influence of distillery effluent, categorized the tolerant levels of the crops as: cucumber>chilli>onion> bottle gourd > tomato.

2.2 Dilution of Effluents

The effluents could be diluted in conjunction with earlier results to tolerable concentration and can be used either for irrigation or for seed soaking to enhance the beneficial effects of effluents.

2.3 Wastewater Treatment

There are conventional and non-conventional methods of wastewater treatment which been proven and efficient in treatment of wastewater. But require skilled labour for operation and maintenance of the system.

2.4 Conventional Methods

Conventional wastewater treatment methods are activated sludge, trickling filter, rotating biological

contactor methods. Trickling filters and Rotating Biological Contactors are temperature sensitive, remove less BOD, and trickling filters cost more to build than activated sludge systems. Activated sludge systems are much more expensive to operate because energy is needed to run pumps and blowers (National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL).

2.5 Non-Conventional Methods

These are low-cost, low-technology, less sophisticated in operation and maintenance biological treatment systems for municipal wastewater. Although these systems are land intensive by comparison with the conventional high-rate biological processes, they are often more effective in removing pathogens and do so reliably and continuously if system is properly designed and not overloaded [62]. Some of the non-conventional methods include stabilization ponds, constructed wetlands, oxidation ditch, soil aquifer treatment.

Different crops and varieties for their tolerance to tannery effluent polluted soil and found Maize (Co. 1), finger millet (Co. 13), sugarcane (CoC 771), fodder grass (BN 2), Desmanthus and Korai grass tolerate the tannery effluent pollution to some extent higher yield [63].

Trees	Shrubs			
Acacia, Sweet (Acacia farnesiana)	Bahama Cassia (Cassia bahan	niensis)		
Black Olive (<i>Bucida buceras</i>)	Cocoplum (Chrysobalanus icad	co)		
Cassia (Cassia spp.)	Crown of Thorns (Euphorbia m	ilii)		
Oleander (<i>Nerium oleander</i>)	Dwarf Oleander (Nerium olean	der)		
Autograph Tree/Pitch Apple (Clusia rosa)	Eleagnus/Silverthorn (Eleagnus	s pungens)		
Buttonwood (Conocarpus erectus)	Firecraker Plant (Russelia equi	Firecraker Plant (Russelia equisetiformis)		
Gumbo Limbo (<i>Bursera simaurubra)</i>	Hibiscus (Hibiscus rosa-sinens	is)		
Orange Geiger Tree (Cordia sebestena)	Jamaican Caper (Capparis cynophallophora)			
Paradise Tree (<i>Simaruba glauca</i>)	Jatropha (<i>Jatropha hastata</i>)			
Tropical Almond (Terminalia catappa)	Eucalyptus (<i>Eucalyptus spp.)</i>			
Thornless Acacia (Acacia choriophyll)	Ficus (all varieties) (Ficus spp.)			
Fruit	Flowers	Field crops		
Loquat (<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>)	Aster (<u>Aster Ipinus</u>)	Barley (Hordeum vulgare)		
Natal Plum (<i>Carissa macrocarpa</i>)	Marigold (Tagetes erecta)	Ragi(Co. 13) (Eleusine		
Noni (<i>Morinda citrifolia)</i>	Chrysanthemums	coracana)		
Prickly Pear Cactus (Opuntia spp.)	(<u>Chrysanthemum indicum</u>)	Sunflower (Helianthus		
Tamarind (<i>Tamrindus indica)</i>	Petunia (<u><i>P. axillaris</i></u>)	annuus)		
Canistel/Eggfruit (Pouteria campechiana)	Phlox(<i>Phlox longifolia</i>)	Maize (Co. 1) (<i>Zea mays)</i>		
Cashew Tree (Anacardium occidentale)	Celosia (<u>Celosia cristata</u>)	Sugarcane (CoC 771)		
Cattley/Strawberry Guava (Psidium cattleianum)	Petunia (<u><i>P. axillaris</i></u>)	<u>(Saccharum officinarum)</u>		
Cherry of the Rio Grande (Eugenia aggregate)	Zinnia (<u>Zinnia peruviana</u>)			
Citrus (Citrus spp.)				
Custard Apple (Annona reticulate)				
Fig (<i>Ficus carica)</i>				
Guava (<i>Psidium guajava</i>)				

Table 3. Tolerant crops in the industrial effluent area

3. CONCLUSION

As the saying "Nothing is waste under god's creation", almost all the wastes generated can be reused after proper treatment. In the same way, the effluents and solid wastes let out from industries after undergoing primary and secondary treatments can be used to improve the productivity of the crops. But the seed production of food crops by using effluents should be avoided because accumulation of heavy metals in the seed and its transfer on further multiplication through food chain can cause increase in phototoxic concentrations and generates adverse effects not only on plants but also poses risks to human health. But with escalating situations of water scarcity industrial effluents could be well used for growing flower, ornamental and tree plantation. However, at diluted concentration of effluents also could be used for seed management technique, based on its growth stimulating property and based on the type of effluent either organic or inorganic.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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