



## RESPONSE OF TREATED DISTILLERY EFFLUENT ON SOIL MICROBIAL GROWTH AND ENZYME ACTIVITIES IN MAIZE (*Zea mays* L.) GROWN UNDER VERTISOLS

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### ABSTRACT

A field experiment was conducted to investigate the soil microbial growth and enzymatic activity of Treated Distillery Effluent (TDE) and Bio-compost (BC) applied in Vertisols having clay loam texture grown with Maize crop (*Zea mays*). Under split plot design with five main and sub plots with addition of organics viz., No organics; application of TDE @ 0.5 lakh litres ha<sup>-1</sup>; TDE @ 1.0 lakh litres ha<sup>-1</sup>; BC@ 5 t ha<sup>-1</sup> and FYM @ 12.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup> + biofertilizers. subplot treatments viz., addition of inorganic fertilizers at different levels of recommended dose of NP fertilizers (0 %, 50 %, 75 % and 100 %) compared with 100% recommended dose of NPK @ 150 : 75 : 75 of kg N, P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and K<sub>2</sub>O ha<sup>-1</sup>. Application of TDE 1.0 lakh litres ha<sup>-1</sup> resulted higher bacterial, fungal and actinomycetes population over control at all stages. The soil enzyme activities as phosphatase, dehydrogenase and urease recorded the highest values with the application of TDE @ 1.0 lakh litres ha<sup>-1</sup> over control. The soil microbial population and enzyme activities increased with the application of TDE over control. Soil microbial activity had a direct impact on the plant nutrient availability as well as other favorable properties associated with soil productivity.