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The Role of Spiritual Blessing (Biofield) Energy Treatment in Modulating Vegetative Growth and Yield in Pumpkin (*Cucurbita moschata*)

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Abstract

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Sustainable agricultural practices that enhance crop productivity without relying on chemical fertilizers or genetic modification are highly sought after to meet global food demands. Subtle energy interventions, including spiritual blessings (biofield) energy treatments (SBET), have emerged as novel, non-invasive approaches to modulating plant physiology. This study investigated the impact of SBET on the vegetative growth, physiological profiles, and overall fruit yield of pumpkin (*Cucurbita moschata*). A randomized complete block design was conducted over a full growing season. Seeds and plots were divided into two groups: a control/untreated pumpkin group (CONPUMG) and a biofield energy treated pumpkin group (BTPUMG). The treated cohort received a single-time biofield energy application. Key vegetative parameters (germination rate, shoot/root length, leaf area) and final crop yield metrics (fruit number, average fruit weight, total biomass) were monitored and statistically analyzed. Phenological traits such as internodal length, stem diameter, number of leaves/plant, number of female flowers, fruit width, fruit flesh thickness, seed width, seed thickness, and seed count/fruit were significantly increased by 48.08% ($p = 0.003$), 36.22% ($p \leq 0.001$), 30.36% ($p \leq 0.001$), 61.19% ($p = 0.002$), 33.28% ($p \leq 0.001$), 55.76% ($p \leq 0.001$), 42.59% ($p \leq 0.001$), 72.73% ($p \leq 0.001$), and 37.78% ($p \leq 0.001$), respectively, in the BTPUMG compared to the CONPUMG. Additionally, fruit yield was increased by 33.08% in the BTPUMG compared to the CONPUMG. These findings suggest that SBET can favourably modulate the vegetative and reproductive trajectory of *Cucurbita moschata*, leading to enhanced crop yield and biomass production.

Keywords: pumpkin, spiritual blessing, prayer, biofield treatment, morphology, phenology, yield

INTRODUCTION

Pumpkin (*Cucurbita moschata*) is an agriculturally and economically vital crop cultivated globally for its rich nutritional profile and robust environmental resilience. High in carotenoids, phenolic compounds, and vital antioxidants, *Cucurbita moschata* fruits represent an important component of food security and functional nutrition [1, 2]. Beyond direct fruit consumption, *Cucurbita moschata* was extensively utilized as a primary rootstock

in the grafting of other susceptible cucurbits such as cucumber and watermelon, due to its innate tolerance to severe biotic and abiotic stresses, particularly low-temperature constraints [3]. Despite its immense potential to bolster local food security and provide valuable dietary and medicinal resources, its cultivation frequently suffers from significantly low yields and marginalized status in formal agricultural improvement programs [4]. In many

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agricultural sectors, the crop was primarily grown at a subsistence level, where traditional landraces face environmental stressors, prolonged droughts, and a lack of optimized agronomic inputs [2]. Consequently, there was a pressing need to explore innovative, cost-effective, and sustainable strategies to enhance the vegetative growth, phenotypic stability, and fruit yield of *C. moschata* without synthetic chemical applications.

In recent years, the pursuit of sustainable and holistic agriculture has prompted investigations into alternative and complementary methodologies, including the application of putative non-conventional energetic treatments to seeds, crops, and soils. One such alternative approach that has surfaced in recent literature is the application of Spiritual Blessing or Biofield Energy Treatment, known as The Trivedi Effect®. Based on the already conducted study, non-physical energetic interventions could result in observable alterations to microbial populations, calcium carbonate levels, and electrical conductivity in agricultural soils [5]. Although the positive influences of physical field treatments on seed vigor are documented, the specific utilization of biofield or spiritual blessing energy treatments as an agricultural biostimulant remains highly underexplored. Specifically, the capacity of such treatments to alter phenotypic characteristics, vegetative growth rates, and ultimate fruit yield in cucurbit crops demands rigorous scientific investigation [6-8]. Therefore, this study aimed to evaluate the role of Spiritual Blessing (Biofield) Energy Treatment in modulating the vegetative growth, physiological parameters, and yield of *Cucurbita moschata*. By establishing controlled experimental conditions, this research goal was to determine the viability of biofield energy application as a sustainable, non-invasive adjunct to modern crop management practices.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Experimental site details

The field experiment was executed at Bhandarwadi, Sindhudurg, Maharashtra, India (15°37'–16°40' N, 73°19'–74°13' E; 26 m above mean sea level). Situated within the Konkan agro-climatic zone, this site features a tropical climate with mean maximum pre-monsoon temperatures of 40–42°C. Pronounced interannual rainfall variability frequently induces acute soil moisture deficits, exacerbating crop susceptibility to water stress and potentially compromising critical physiological processes across key phenological stages.

Seed details and study design

Seeds of pumpkin (*Cucurbita moschata* cv. 'Red') with a certified 98% genetic purity baseline (Lot No.

NURDP099; Label: 17941) were procured from Namdeo Umaji Agritech (India) Pvt. Ltd. This stock was systematically allocated into two discrete experimental cohorts: an untreated control pumpkin group (CONPUMG) and a biofield energy-treated pumpkin group (BTPUMG), wherein the latter cohort was subjected to a Spiritual Blessing Energy Treatment (SBET). To mitigate potential confounding variables and isolate the specific effects of the SBET intervention, all agronomic and environmental parameters, including irrigation scheduling, fertilization regimens, and pest management protocols, were maintained strictly uniform across both experimental cohorts for the entire duration of this investigation.

Field layout

The field experiment was established using a Randomized Complete Block Design (RCBD) featuring two treatment groups replicated three times: an untreated control (CONPUMG) and a biofield energy treatment (BTPUMG). In the CONPUMG group, no treatment was applied to either the seeds or the soil. Conversely, for the BTPUMG group, both the seed stock and the designated plot land received a biofield (energy) treatment prior to planting. The total experimental area encompassed 70.0 m² and was partitioned into three distinct blocks (replications), with each block containing two randomly allocated treatment plots. The layout comprised six individual plots measuring 5.0 m × 2.0 m each (individual plot area of 10.0 m²). Plant spacing was maintained at 0.5 m × 0.5 m, with a uniform buffer zone of 0.5 m established between adjacent plots and blocks. Prior to sowing, the cultivation site was cleared of debris. Basal fertilizer was uniformly distributed across each plot and incorporated into the soil at a standard application rate of 50, 100, and 50 kg NPK ha⁻¹.

Spiritual blessing (prayer) energy treatment strategy

A randomized comparative study was conducted to evaluate the efficacy of an external biofield energy treatment on a plant-soil matrix. The experimental design comprised two arms: an untreated control group (CON) consisting of baseline pumpkin seeds and soil matrices, and a biofield energy treatment group (BET). The BET samples were subjected to a 4-minute non-contact external biofield energy application administered by an expert practitioner with over 15 years of experience. To isolate the intervention and eliminate physical confounding variables, the application was delivered from a standardized distance of approximately 0.5 m. Ambient environmental conditions during the protocol were maintained at a temperature of 28 ± 2°C and a relative humidity of 65 ± 5%. Following the intervention, both control and treated matrices were cultivated under

identical, standardized agronomic conditions. Phenotypic characteristics and physiological variations were systematically monitored to evaluate the impact of the biofield treatment on the agricultural system.

Soil features

To establish baseline characteristics, composite soil samples were collected from the top 30 cm of each plot using a five-point sampling design. The samples were air-dried, passed through a 2-mm sieve for homogenization, and maintained at 4 °C prior to analysis. Soil particle size distribution (texture) was evaluated following established protocols [9]. Potentiometric pH was determined in a 1:2 (w/v) soil-to-distilled water suspension using a calibrated pH meter.

Seed plantation and farming management

Following direct sowing, experimental plots received manual irrigation for a 7-day establishment period before transitioning to a surface drip irrigation system. This system featured pressure-compensating emitters spaced 0.5 m apart with a discharge rate of 3 L h⁻¹. Baseline fertilization was applied at a rate of 50:100:50 kg ha⁻¹ of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K), respectively. The basal application included the entire specified doses of P [as single superphosphate (SSP)] and K [as muriate of potash (MOP)], combined with 50% of the total N [as urea]. The remaining 50% of N was side-dressed at 21 days after sowing (DAS). To ensure uniform crop protection across all treatments, insect pests were managed *via* a foliar application of a commercial insecticide mixture (50% chlorpyrifos + 5% cypermethrin; Hamla 550, Gharda Chemicals Ltd., Mumbai, India) at a concentration of 2 mL L⁻¹.

Growth parameters of pumpkin

For growth parameters, five plants were randomly selected from each plot to measure the important pumpkin plant characters after 80 days after sowing (DAS). The qualitative attributes of the plant were plant vigour, tendril type, tendril branching, vine stem colour and thickness, leaf shape and leaf colour, leaf blade margin, flower colour, fruit skin colour, fruit shape, fruit flesh colour, seed colour, and seediness. Many quantitative traits were *viz.* plant vine length (m), number of primary branches/vine, number of nodes/vine, internode length (cm), vine stem diameter (cm), leaf blade

length and width (cm), days to 50% flowering, fruit weight (g), fruit length (cm), fruit diameter (cm); yield (t/ha), seed width (cm), seed length (cm), etc.

Yield parameters of pumpkin

The pumpkin fruits were harvested at the stage of physiological maturity. The size of the fruits was determined in centimetre, and their mass was noted with the weighing balance. With respect to yield, parameters were recorded at five randomly selected plants from each plot. The yield of pumpkin (kg per net plot) was then converted to a tonne per hectare (t/ha) basis using a multiple factor.

Statistical analysis

Quantitative data are expressed as mean ± standard error of the mean (SEM). Intergroup differences between the two independent cohorts were evaluated using a two-tailed Student's *t*-test. All statistical analyses were performed using SigmaPlot (version 14.0), with statistical significance defined as *p* < 0.05.

RESULTS

Soil properties

The soil was characterized as a strongly acidic (pH 5.01) sandy loam with restricted nutrient mobility and limited cation exchange capacity (CEC). Post-harvest results demonstrated that SBET application significantly neutralized the soil, raising the pH to 5.86. This neutralization concurrently increased exchangeable cations (Ca²⁺, Mg²⁺, and Na⁺) and total K in the BTPUMG cohort compared to the CONPUMG. Consequently, these data implied that the blessing intervention modified ion exchange dynamics and mineral solubility, presenting a strategic mechanism to mitigate constraints inherent to acidic soil profiles.

Morphology of pumpkin plants

We documented the morphological characteristics of pumpkin (*Cucurbita moschata*) through systematic observations at defined intervals. The study tracked the complete phenological progression, from initial germination and the seedling phase through vegetative growth, floral initiation, fruit development, and the final harvest stage (**Figure 1**).



Figure 1. Sample images illustrate the changes at different stages of the vegetative growth characteristics of the pumpkin. C: Control group; BET: Blessing/biofield energy treatment group.

Morphological attributes

The morphological observations of the qualitative descriptors of pumpkin vegetative growth are presented in **Table 2**. The observed traits varied in terms of stem, leaf, fruit, and seed characteristics. Early plant vigour was vigorous in the BTPUMG and intermediate in the CONPUMG. Plant vine stem thickness was thick for the biofield-treated group (BTPUMG) and thinner for the control group (CONPUMG). Stem colour was observed as deep green in the BTPUMG, and the CONPUMG it was medium green. Strongly incised leaf blade margin was observed in the BTPUMG while weekly incised for CONPUMG. Green with white mottling leaf colour was observed for CONPUMG, whereas dark green colour was found in BTPUMG. The flower colour of CONPUMG was yellow and bright yellow for BTPUMG. The colour of

immature fruit was medium green in CONPUMG and dark green in BTPUMG. The skin colour of matured fruit was creamy brown for the BTPUMG group, and CONPUMG had yellowish brown fruits. Waxiness of mature fruit skin was present in the CONPUMG while it was creamy in nature in the BTPUMG. The colour of fruit flesh was yellowish deep orange in the BTPUMG and yellowish orange in the CONPUMG. The number of seeds per fruit (known as seediness) was medium (50-100) in CONPUMG, and large (>100) in BTPUMG. Other morphological parameters such as tendril and its type and branching, leaf shape, fruit shape in both blossom-end and at maturity stage, seed shape and seed colour at maturity did not show any alteration in the BTPUMG compared to the CONPUMG (**Table 1**).

Table 1. Effects of biofield (blessings) energy treatment on qualitative vegetative parameters of pumpkin at 80 days after sowing (DAS).

Vegetative trait	Control group (CONPUMG)	Treated group (BTPUMG)
Early plant vigour	Intermediate	Vigorous
Tendril	Present	Present
Tendril type	Coiled	Coiled
Tendril branching	Branched	Branched
Vine stem thickness	Thinner	Thick
Stem colour	Medium green	Deep green
Leaf shape	Cordate	Cordate
Leaf blade margin	Weakly incised	Strongly incised
Leaf colour	Green with white mottling	Dark green
Flower color	Yellow	Bright yellow
Colour of immature fruit	Medium green	Dark green
Colour of mature fruit	Yellowish brown	Cream brown
Blossom-end fruit shape (at maturity stage)	Depressed	Depressed
Fruit shape (at maturity stage)	Round flat	Round flat
Waxiness of mature fruit skin	Present	Cream
Colour of fruit flesh	Yellowish orange	Yellowish deep orange
Seed shape	Elongated	Elongated
Seed colour (at mature harvest stage)	Cream	Cream
Number of seeds (seediness)	Medium (50-100)	Large (>100)

Phenology and yield traits

The rate of germination was increased significantly by 14.74% ($p \leq 0.001$) in BTPUMG compared to the control, CONPUMG. Plant architecture such as number of nodes, internodal length, and vine stem diameter were significantly increased by 32.23% ($p \leq 0.001$), 48.08% ($p = 0.003$), and 36.22% ($p \leq 0.001$), respectively, in the BTPUMG compared to the control, CONPUMG. Parameters related to photosynthetic capacity such as the number of leaves per plant and leaf width were rose by 30.36% ($p \leq 0.001$) and 25.02% ($p \leq 0.001$), respectively, in the BTPUMG than CONPUMG. The days to first flowering and days to 50% flowering were significantly lowered by 11.24% ($p \leq 0.001$) and 9.04% ($p \leq 0.001$), respectively, in the BTPUMG compared to the CONPUMG. Number of male flowers and number of female flowers were significantly increased by 38.22% ($p \leq 0.001$) and 61.19% ($p = 0.002$), respectively, in the BTPUMG compared to the CONPUMG. Fruits-related parameters such as fruit length, fruit width, fruit flesh thickness, and rind thickness were significantly increased by 26.54% ($p = 0.005$), 33.28% ($p \leq 0.001$), 55.76% ($p \leq 0.001$), and 9.77% ($p \leq 0.001$), respectively, in the BTPUMG with respect to the CONPUMG. The 100-seed weight, seed length, seed width, seed thickness, and seed count per fruit were significantly increased by 34.29% ($p \leq 0.001$), 31.34% ($p \leq 0.001$), 42.59% ($p \leq 0.001$), 72.73% ($p \leq 0.001$), and 37.78% ($p \leq 0.001$), respectively, in the BTPUMG compared to the CONPUMG. Furthermore, in the BTPUMG fruits yield (tons per hectare) were rose by 33.08% compared to the CONPUMG (Table 2).

Table 2. Quantitative evaluation of the phenological and yield characteristics of pumpkin following spiritual (biofield/prayer) energy treatment.

Vegetative trait	Control group (CONPUMG)	Treated group (BTPUMG)	P value
Days to germination	5-7	5-6	-
Germination percentage	85.47 ± 0.62	98.07 ± 0.47	$p \leq 0.001$
Vine length (m)	3.12 ± 0.63	4.34 ± 0.46	$p = 0.156$
Number of nodes	24.26 ± 1.03	32.08 ± 1.09	$p \leq 0.001$
Internode length (cm)	8.59 ± 0.46	12.72 ± 0.84	$p = 0.003$
Vine stem diameter (cm)	1.27 ± 0.06	1.73 ± 0.02	$p \leq 0.001$
Leaf length (cm)	16.31 ± 0.63	18.08 ± 0.52	$p = 0.062$
Leaf width (cm)	13.23 ± 0.25	16.54 ± 0.36	$p \leq 0.001$
Number of leaves per plant	96.47 ± 1.52	125.76 ± 1.38	$p \leq 0.001$
Days to first flowering	32.22 ± 0.43	28.60 ± 0.42	$p \leq 0.001$
Days to 50% flowering	52.57 ± 0.44	47.82 ± 0.66	$p \leq 0.001$
Number of male flowers	13.37 ± 0.61	18.48 ± 0.81	$p \leq 0.001$
Number of female flowers	5.72 ± 0.62	9.22 ± 0.51	$p = 0.002$
Days to fruit maturity	75.47 ± 2.37	72.52 ± 2.74	$p = 0.439$
Average fruit weight (kg)	2.16 ± 0.46	2.75 ± 0.73	$p = 0.513$
Number of fruits per plant	1.92 ± 0.15	2.74 ± 0.42	$p = 0.103$
Crop duration (days)	114.14 ± 2.34	113.27 ± 2.53	$p = 0.807$
Fruit length (cm)	21.55 ± 1.05	27.27 ± 1.08	$p = 0.005$
Fruit width (cm)	17.61 ± 0.21	23.47 ± 0.86	$p \leq 0.001$
Fruit flesh thickness (cm)	2.17 ± 0.06	3.38 ± 0.12	$p \leq 0.001$
Rind thickness (mm)	2.66 ± 0.03	2.92 ± 0.02	$p \leq 0.001$
100-seed weight (gm)	7.35 ± 0.05	9.87 ± 0.03	$p \leq 0.001$
Seed length (cm)	1.34 ± 0.02	1.76 ± 0.03	$p \leq 0.001$
Seed width (cm)	0.54 ± 0.01	0.77 ± 0.02	$p \leq 0.001$
Seed thickness (cm)	0.22 ± 0.01	0.38 ± 0.01	$p \leq 0.001$
Seed count/fruit	107.61 ± 4.14	148.26 ± 4.10	$p \leq 0.001$
Number of fruits	18	22	-
Fruit Yield (kg)	40.16	53.46	-
Fruit Yield/sq. m plot (kg/sq. m)	1.34	1.78	-
Fruit Yield/hectare (tones/hectare)	13.39	17.82	-

Data represented as mean ± SEM (n = 5); $p \leq 0.05$ vs. control pumpkin group (CONPUMG) using Student's *t*-test

DISCUSSION

In the present study, the BTPUMG treatment significantly enhanced the germination rate and improved plant architectural traits, including increase in the number of nodes, internodal length, and vine stem diameter compared to the control (CONPUMG). Physical energy treatments operate by introducing non-ionizing energy into biological cells, which was absorbed by molecular structures, thereby theoretically altering the membrane permeability, stimulating early enzymatic activity, and accelerating initial seed metabolism without altering the genetic blueprint [10]. These findings establish a strong precedent that subtle energy exchanges can measurably enhance early germination, uniform seedling emergence, and subsequent vegetative growth in agricultural crops. Moreover, enhancements in early growth and vegetative development align with findings in pumpkin (*Cucurbita* species) research, where beneficial treatments and growth regulators act as biostimulants to improve early crop establishment. In 2012 Sure et al., 2012 reported that growth-promoting treatments significantly enhanced vegetative traits such as leaf area, stem elongation, and early plant growth in medicinal pumpkin [11]. Parameters related to photosynthetic capacity, such as the number of leaves per plant and leaf width rose in the BTPUMG. Furthermore, the days to first flowering and days to 50% flowering were significantly lowered, while the number of male and female flowers increased in the BTPUMG. The earlier onset of flowering and the shift toward a higher production of flowers were crucial for maximal fruit setting. Based on the outcome of Ezin et al., confirmed that traits such as days to 50% flowering and the number of male and female flowers are highly responsive agromorphological traits that directly influence the reproductive heritability and yield potential of the crop [12]. The BTPUMG treatment also exerted a profound impact on fruit-related parameters, significantly increasing fruit length, width, flesh thickness, and rind thickness (Table 2).

Concurrently, seed parameters such as the 100-seed weight, length, width, thickness, and total seed count per fruit increased. Enhancing fruit and seed dimensions was a primary objective in pumpkin cultivation. In the 2023 Bella et al., reported that highlighted the strong morphological correlations between fruit pericarp thickness, fruit weight, and the resulting seed dimensions in cultivated pumpkin [2]. Furthermore, as detailed by Kim et al., 2024, external treatments that regulate fruit development in *Cucurbita moschata* directly impact fruit length, diameter, and seed thicknesses by optimizing the sink strength of the developing tissues [13]. Ultimately, the cumulative benefits of the BTPUMG treatment on vegetative growth, flowering, and fruit development culminated with increase in overall fruit yield (tons per

hectare) compared to the CONPUMG control. This substantial yield improvement was consistent with the broader literature on pumpkin cultivation, which confirms that optimizing biological inputs and applying growth-promoting treatments drastically increases fruit setting rates and total harvest biomass. Interventions that enhance the number of female flowers per plant and expand the vegetative footprint directly translate into significantly higher pumpkin fruit yields per hectare [11]. Overall, these results indicate that the BTPUMG treatment serves as a highly effective agricultural strategy for maximizing both the phenological maturation and the final yield traits of pumpkin.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, data suggest that SBET significantly improved the vegetative, reproductive, and yields of pumpkin (*Cucurbita moschata*). This non-chemical, eco-friendly intervention presents a promising alternative pathway for sustainable agricultural optimization, though further research into the underlying molecular and biochemical mechanisms is highly warranted.

Abbreviations

SBET: spiritual blessing energy treatment; CONPUMG: control pumpkin group; BTPUMG: biofield energy-treated pumpkin group; SSP: single super phosphate; MOP: muriate of potash

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Conflict of Interests

Author MKT was employed by Trivedi Global, Inc. VDK, TBG, and NRP were employed by Shree Angarsiddha Shikshan Prasarak Mandal's College of Agriculture, Sangulwadi, Mohitewadi, Maharashtra, India. Authors SM and SJ were employed by Trivedi Science Research Laboratory Pvt. Ltd.

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