
Growth performance of fourteen potato varieties as affected by arsenic contamination

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Abstract: The different levels of arsenic (As) had significant effect on growth contributing parameters of potato varieties. All parameters studied in this experiment were decreased with the increasing As levels. The results showed that though most of the growth parameters decreased with the increasing As levels but remained statistically similar up to 25 mg As kg⁻¹ soil and thereafter drastically decreased. Among the potato varieties, Felsina gave the maximum number of stems hill⁻¹, stem diameter, leaf area plant⁻¹ and also chlorophyll content (SPAD value) of leaves, irrespective of As levels. Among the treatment combinations, 'Felsina' cultivated with 0 mg As kg⁻¹ soil performed the best results and the same variety with 25 mg As kg⁻¹ soil also showed the statistical similar results in terms of growth parameters.

Keywords: Arsenic contamination, Chlorophyll content, Phytotoxicity, Potato variety

1. Introduction

Arsenic (As) is a widespread natural element, which is not a bioorganic element to plants [1]. High As contamination of surface and groundwater occurs worldwide and has become a sociopolitical issue in several parts of the globe [2]. Among the countries facing As contamination problems, Bangladesh is the most affected [3]. Irrigation with As-enriched groundwater is therefore the main pathway for As to enter the human food chain [4, 5] and this has led to a number of studies on transfer of As through the water-soil-crop-food system. Recent research suggests that a number of crops and vegetable plant species are reported to accumulate significant amount of As [6-15]. Considering plants, Marin *et al.* [16] stated that, at higher concentration, arsenic was toxic to most plants. It interfered with metabolic processes and inhibited plant growth and development through arsenic induced phytotoxicity [17]. In case of vegetables, the highest As accumulation was observed in potato, arum, amaranth, radish, lady's finger, cauliflower, brinjal where as lower level of As accumulation was observed in beans, green chilli, tomato, bitter guard, lemon, turmeric etc. due to the As-contaminated irrigation water [18]. As contents of vegetables

varied; those exceeding the food hygiene concentration limit of 1.0 mg kg⁻¹ as described by Abedin *et al.* [19] included kachu sak (*Colocasia antiquorum*) (0.09-3.99 mg kg⁻¹), potatoes (*Solanum tuberosum*) (0.07-1.36 mg kg⁻¹) and kalmi sak (*Ipomoea reptans*) (0.1-1.53 mg kg⁻¹). As is generally considered phytotoxic and is expected to negatively affect plant growth [20]. It was reported that As concentrations in agricultural plants varied from 0.007 to about 7.50 mg kg⁻¹ [7, 11, 21].

Potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L.) is the 4th world crop after wheat, rice and maize. Bangladesh is the 7th potato production country in the world [22]. The statistics available for the As contamination in ground water indicate that 59 districts (around 85% of the total area of Bangladesh) and about 75 million people are at risk [23]. People of As affected areas are consuming contaminated potatoes and creating serious problem of health. Several research have been examined the sources and behavior of As in different plants, but toxicity in potatoes and its impact on sustainable potato production are not established. Under this circumstance, the proposed study was undertaken to observe the effect of As on potato production.

2. Materials and Methods

A pot experiment was conducted during the period from November 10, 2012 to February 18, 2013 in Rabi season. The experimental area was situated at 23°07'N latitude and 90°33'E longitude at an altitude of 8.6m above the sea level. Fourteen potato varieties *viz.*, Diamant (V₁), Cardinal (V₂), Asterix (V₃), Granola (V₄), Lady Rosetta (V₅), Courage (V₆), BARI TPS-1 (V₇), Meridian (V₈), Felsina (V₉), Laura (V₁₀), Quincy (V₁₁), Sagitta (V₁₂), Rumana (V₁₃), Jam Alu (V₁₄) and three arsenic levels namely 0 mg As kg⁻¹ soil (As₀), 25 mg As kg⁻¹ soil (As₁), 50 mg As kg⁻¹ soil (As₂) were selected for this experiment. The experiment was laid out in a Randomized Complete Block Design (RCBD) with three replications thus comprised 126 baskets. The size of each basket was 25 cm in diameter and 30 cm in height. For the Arsenic treatment in soil, sodium meta arsenate (Na₂HAsO₄·7H₂O) was used as the source of As. Leaf area plant⁻¹ was measured by non-destructive method using CL-202 Leaf Area Meter (USA). Three mature plant of each pot were measured by using portable Chlorophyll Meter (SPAD-502, Minolta, Japan) and then calculated an average SPAD value for each pot at each sampling time. The data obtained for different characters were statistically analyzed following the analysis of variance (ANOVA) techniques by using MSTAT-C computer package programme. The significant differences among the treatment means were compared by Duncan's Multiple Range Test (DMRT) at 5% level of probability [24].

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Days to Emergence (Visual Observation)

Days to emergence was significantly influenced by the different potato varieties and/or As levels (Table 1 and 2). Table 1 exhibited that the variety 'Jam Alu' took the maximum duration (17.78 days) for emergence whereas, the minimum (10.22 days) was taken by 'Quincy'. This result showed that 'Quincy' was the early emergence variety whereas, 'Jam Alu' was the late one. It is may be due to varietal characters. On the other hand, duration of emergence increased with increasing As levels but As₀ and As₁ exhibited similar result. Similar trend of result was also found by Talukdar [25], who observed that the mean value of germination percentage, germination index and relative germination rate of *Trigonella foenum-graecum* L. and *Lathyrus sativus* L. decreased with concomitant increase of As levels. When plants were exposed to excess As either in soil or in solution culture, they exhibit toxicity symptoms such as inhibition of seed germination [17]. In case of treatment combinations the minimum duration for emergence (8.67 days) was recorded from the combination of 'Quincy' and As₀ treatment which was statistically similar (9.33, 9.67 and 10.33 days, respectively) with V₁₁As₁, V₈As₀, V₈As₁ whereas, the maximum duration (21.00 days) was recorded from the combination of 'Jam Alu' and 50 mg As kg⁻¹ soil which was statistically similar (19.67 days) with V₂As₂ (Table 2).

Table 1. Effect of varieties and As levels on days to emergence and plant height of potato.

Treatment	Days to emergence	Plant height (cm) at				
		30 DAP	45 DAP	60 DAP	75 DAP	90 DAP
Variety						
V ₁	13.11 d-f	19.56 d	25.71 h	29.94 h	32.60 j	33.97 j
V ₂	16.33 ab	15.47 f	29.47 g	36.34 f	39.40 gh	41.24 gh
V ₃	13.44 c-e	23.48 c	36.93 d	43.60 d	47.36 d	49.10 e
V ₄	14.22 c-e	18.03 de	28.14 g	33.18 g	36.31 hi	37.77 i
V ₅	15.33 bc	15.90 ef	25.49 h	30.22 h	33.40 ij	34.99 j
V ₆	15.44 bc	17.58 d-f	30.43 fg	36.50 f	38.60 gh	40.41 h
V ₇	13.67 c-e	26.27 b	46.68 a	57.57 a	61.63 a	64.28 a
V ₈	11.11 fg	23.66 c	32.61 ef	38.80 ef	41.59 fg	43.10 fg
V ₉	12.56 ef	28.54 ab	44.02 bc	51.79 bc	55.07 bc	56.17 c
V ₁₀	15.11 b-d	28.91 a	44.66 ab	54.38 b	57.23 b	58.51 b
V ₁₁	10.22 g	17.74 d-f	32.43 ef	40.67 de	43.16 ef	45.40 f
V ₁₂	12.67 ef	26.97 ab	42.26 c	48.77 c	51.94 c	53.56 d
V ₁₃	13.44 c-e	19.89 d	34.38 e	42.21 d	45.90 de	48.21 e
V ₁₄	17.78 a	11.80 g	30.33 fg	49.28 c	58.43 ab	63.36 a
SE value	0.6626	0.7763	0.8010	1.044	1.140	0.8246
As level						
As ₀	12.19 b	23.22 a	38.25 a	47.09 a	50.29 a	52.25 a
As ₁	12.83 b	22.21 a	37.26 a	45.86 a	49.30 a	51.40 a
As ₂	16.64 a	17.52 b	28.10 b	34.17 b	38.12 b	39.93 b
SE value	0.3057	0.3594	0.3708	0.4834	0.5275	0.3817
CV (%)	8.26	6.41	4.02	4.27	4.30	2.98

In a column means having similar letter (s) are statistically similar and those having dissimilar letter (s) differ significantly by DMRT at 0.05 level of probability

Table 2. Interaction effect of varieties and As levels on days to emergence and plant height of potato.

Variety× As level	Days to emergence	Plant height (cm) at				
		30 DAP	45 DAP	60 DAP	75 DAP	90 DAP
V ₁ AS ₀	11.67 m-p	23.80 i-k	29.60 mn	33.80 rs	36.47 tu	37.93 uv
V ₁ AS ₁	12.00 l-o	22.87 j-l	28.87 no	32.70 r-t	35.73 t-v	37.20 v
V ₁ AS ₂	15.67 f-i	12.00 rs	18.67 s	23.33 w	25.60 x	26.77 y
V ₂ AS ₀	14.33 g-k	18.10 n-p	33.50 g-j	41.50 m-o	44.33 m-p	45.50 o-q
V ₂ AS ₁	15.00 f-j	17.27 p	32.27 i-l	40.53 no	43.23 n-q	44.43 pq
V ₂ AS ₂	19.67 ab	11.03 st	22.63 r	27.00 v	30.63 w	33.80 w
V ₃ AS ₀	12.00 l-o	25.43 f-i	41.63 d	48.80 hi	52.03 f-i	53.60 g-i
V ₃ AS ₁	12.33 k-o	24.30 h-j	40.53 d	47.80 h-j	51.17 g-j	52.90 g-j
V ₃ AS ₂	16.00 e-h	20.70 l-n	28.63 n-p	34.20 q-s	38.87 r-t	40.80 st
V ₄ AS ₀	12.67 k-n	20.03 m-o	31.77 j-m	37.27 pq	40.20 q-s	41.77 rs
V ₄ AS ₁	13.33 i-m	19.47 m-p	30.87 k-n	35.87 qr	39.00 r-t	40.73 st
V ₄ AS ₂	16.67 c-f	14.60 q	21.80 r	26.40 v	29.73 w	30.80 x
V ₅ AS ₀	13.33 j-m	18.50 n-p	29.80 l-n	34.67 qr	38.17 s-u	39.67 s-v
V ₅ AS ₁	14.00 h-l	17.53 op	28.90 no	33.80 rs	37.17 s-u	38.67 t-v
V ₅ AS ₂	18.67 bc	11.67 rs	17.77 s	22.20 w	24.87 x	26.63 y
V ₆ AS ₀	13.67 i-m	19.40 m-p	34.77 f-i	41.30 m-o	43.10 o-q	44.60 pq
V ₆ AS ₁	14.33 g-k	18.57 n-p	33.87 g-j	39.90 op	41.90 p-r	44.00 qr
V ₆ AS ₂	18.33 b-d	14.77 q	22.67 r	28.30 uv	30.80 w	32.63 wx
V ₇ AS ₀	12.00 l-o	28.07 b-e	49.60 a	62.57 a	66.03 a	69.43 a
V ₇ AS ₁	12.67 k-n	27.03 d-g	48.60 a	60.93 ab	65.07 ab	68.77 ab
V ₇ AS ₂	16.33 d-g	23.70 i-k	41.83 d	49.20 g-i	53.80 e-g	54.63 f-h
V ₈ AS ₀	9.67 pr	25.80 e-i	36.80 ef	43.60 k-n	46.47 k-o	47.73 m-o
V ₈ AS ₁	10.33 o-r	24.63 g-j	35.23 e-h	42.47 l-o	45.57 l-o	46.90 n-p
V ₈ AS ₂	13.33 j-m	20.53 l-n	25.80 q	30.33 tu	32.73 vw	34.67 w
V ₉ AS ₀	11.00 n-q	31.00 a	48.27 ab	57.73 cd	59.83 c	60.73 cd
V ₉ AS ₁	11.67 m-p	30.57 a	47.07 a-c	55.80 de	58.80 cd	59.87 d
V ₉ AS ₂	15.00 f-j	24.07 h-k	36.73 ef	41.83 l-o	46.57 k-o	47.90 m-o
V ₁₀ AS ₀	13.33 j-m	30.43 ab	48.53 a	60.00 a-c	61.83 c	63.00 c
V ₁₀ AS ₁	14.00 h-l	29.73 a-c	47.70 ab	58.80 b-d	61.10 c	62.07 cd
V ₁₀ AS ₂	18.00 b-e	26.57 e-h	37.73 e	44.33 k-m	48.77 i-l	50.47 j-l
V ₁₁ AS ₀	8.67 r	19.80 m-p	35.70 e-g	46.00 i-k	47.93 j-m	49.63 k-m
V ₁₁ AS ₁	9.33 qr	18.87 n-p	34.90 f-h	44.97 j-l	46.83 k-n	48.77 l-n
V ₁₁ AS ₂	12.67 k-n	14.57 q	26.70 o-q	31.03 s-u	34.70 uv	37.80 v
V ₁₂ AS ₀	11.00 n-q	29.00 a-d	46.00 bc	53.67 ef	56.00 de	57.50 e
V ₁₂ AS ₁	11.67 m-p	27.40 c-f	45.13 c	52.63 f	54.97 ef	56.87 ef
V ₁₂ AS ₂	15.33 f-j	24.50 h-j	35.63 e-g	40.00 op	44.87 m-p	46.30 n-q
V ₁₃ AS ₀	11.67 m-p	21.77 k-m	36.80 ef	46.27 i-k	49.97 h-k	52.63 h-j
V ₁₃ AS ₁	12.33 k-o	20.33 mn	35.80 e-g	45.00 j-l	48.93 i-l	51.57 i-k
V ₁₃ AS ₂	16.33 d-g	17.57 op	30.53 k-n	35.37 qr	38.80 r-t	40.43 s-u
V ₁₄ AS ₀	15.67 f-i	13.97 qr	32.80 h-k	52.03 fg	61.73 bc	67.80 ab
V ₁₄ AS ₁	16.67 c-f	12.37 q-s	31.87 j-m	50.90 f-h	60.67 c	66.87 b
V ₁₄ AS ₂	21.00 a	9.07 t	26.33 pq	44.90 j-l	52.90 e-h	55.40 e-g
SE value	0.6603	0.7763	0.8010	1.044	1.140	0.8246
CV (%)	8.26	6.41	4.02	4.27	4.30	2.98

In a column means having similar letter (s) are statistically similar and those having dissimilar letter (s) differ significantly by DMRT at 0.05 level of probability

3.2. Plant Height

The plant height of potato was significantly influenced by varieties and/or As levels at 15, 30, 45, 60, 75 and 90 (at harvest) DAP (Table 1 and 2). It was observed that plant height increased with advancing growing period irrespective of varieties. Plant height increased rapidly at the early stages of growth; however, rate of progression in height was slow at the later stages except 'Jam Alu'. The variations in the plant height among the varieties also recorded by Rabbani [26] and Bashar [27] in their experimental results. On the other hand, plant height decreased with increasing As levels but As₀ and As₁ statistically similar results. The phytotoxicity at lower soil As concentrations was not significant. Stimulation of growth by As additions has been reported to increase growth of potatoes [28]. It is possible that displacement of soil phosphate by arsenate increased the availability of phosphate to the plant, which results in the increase of plant growth [28, 29]. Thus, Kabata-Pendias and Pendias [30] recommended the safe level of As in agricultural soil as 20 mg As kg⁻¹. At higher concentration, As is toxic to most plants. It interferes with metabolic processes and inhibits plant growth and development through As induced phytotoxicity [16]. When plants are exposed to excess As either in soil or in solution culture, they exhibit toxicity symptoms such as decrease in plant height [31-34]. In case of treatment combinations Table 2 exhibited that, the highest plant height (69.43 cm) was observed from the 'BARI TPS-1' with As₀ treatment combination which was statistically similar (68.77 cm and 67.80 cm, respectively) with V₇As₁ and V₁₄As₀ whereas, the lowest plant (26.63 cm) was obtained from the 'Lady Rosetta' with 50 mg As kg⁻¹ that was statistically at par (26.77 cm) with V₁As₂ at harvesting stage. Such type of discontinuity in increasing plant height might have been caused by the variation between varieties in response to As or might be due to differences in crop growth pattern. The study disclosed that 'BARI TPS-1' variety treated with As₀ performed the best result in terms of plant height.

3.3. Number of Leaves Plant⁻¹

Different varieties and/or As levels exhibited significant variation in respect to number of leaves plant⁻¹ at 30, 45, 60, 75 and 90 DAP (Figure 1, 2 and Table 3). It is observed from figure 1 that number of leaves plant⁻¹ increased with advancing growing period up to 75 DAP irrespective of varieties and thereafter decreased due to senescence of leaves. The study referred that 'Jam Alu' produced maximum number of leaf. On the other hand, from figure 2 it is also found that number of leaves plant⁻¹ increased with advancing growing period up to 75 DAP irrespective of As levels and thereafter decreased due to senescence of leaves. Present study showed that number of leaves plant⁻¹ was not statistically affected up to 25 mg As kg⁻¹ soil treatment

compared to control but at higher concentration (50 mg As kg⁻¹ soil) leaves number significantly decreased. In case of treatment combinations (Table 3), number of leaves plant⁻¹ increased with advancing growing period upto 75 DAP irrespective of varieties and As levels and thereafter decreased. At harvest, the maximum leaves number plant⁻¹ (167.3) was obtained from the 'Jam Alu' with As₀ combination treatment which was statistically similar (166.3) with V₁₄As₁ whereas, the minimum (26.67) was recorded from the combination of 'Courage' with 50 mg As kg⁻¹ soil which was statistically at par (30.33) with V₄As₂.

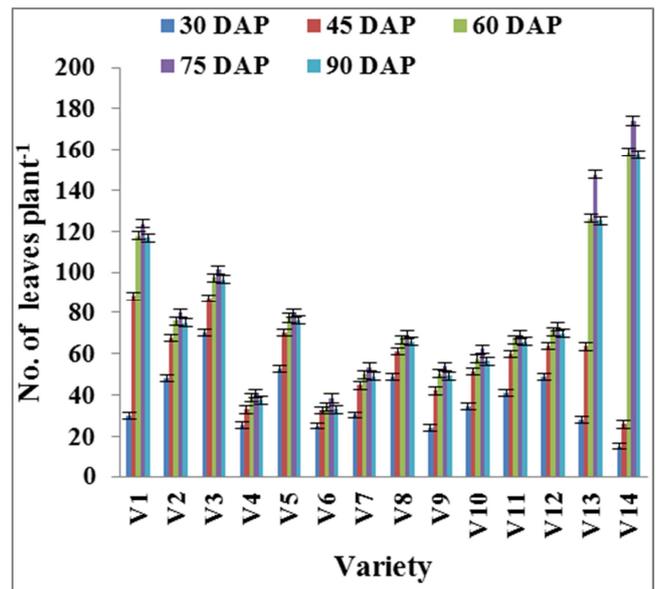


Figure 1. Effect of varieties on number of leaves plant⁻¹ at different growth stages of potato (Vertical bar represents SE value).

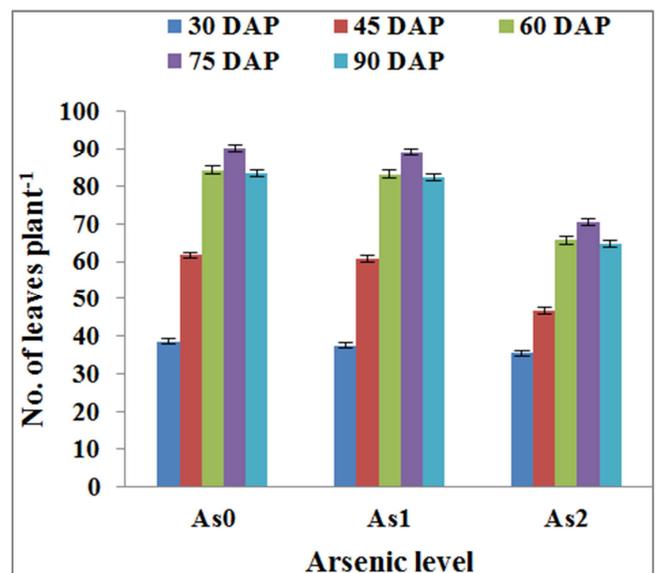


Figure 2. Effect of As levels on number of leaves plant⁻¹ at different growth stages of potato (Vertical bar represents SE value).

Table 3. Interaction effect of varieties and As levels on number of leaves plant⁻¹ at different DAP of potato.

Variety× As level	Number of leaves plant ⁻¹ at				
	30 DAP	45 DAP	60 DAP	75 DAP	90 DAP
V ₁ AS ₀	31.33 h-l	96.33 a	125.7 d	130.7 d	124.7 d
V ₁ AS ₁	30.33 i-n	95.33 ab	123.7 d	129.7 d	122.7 d
V ₁ AS ₂	28.33 j-q	72.67 d-g	104.0 f	110.7 e	103.0 f
V ₂ AS ₀	49.33 b-d	73.33 d-f	82.67 gh	85.67 fg	81.67 gh
V ₂ AS ₁	48.33 cd	72.33 d-g	81.67 g-i	84.67 f-h	80.67 g-i
V ₂ AS ₂	46.33 de	57.00 j	63.33 l	68.67 jk	62.33 l
V ₃ AS ₀	71.67 a	91.33 ab	103.7 f	107.3 e	102.7 f
V ₃ AS ₁	70.67 a	90.33 b	102.7 f	106.3 e	101.7 f
V ₃ AS ₂	68.33 a	79.33 c	86.00 g	89.67 f	85.00 g
V ₄ AS ₀	26.67 k-r	36.00 p	42.67 n-p	44.67 n-p	41.67 n-p
V ₄ AS ₁	25.67 m-r	35.00 pq	41.67 n-p	43.67 o-q	40.67 n-p
V ₄ AS ₂	23.67 p-r	27.67 s	31.33 qr	33.00 s	30.33 qr
V ₅ AS ₀	54.00 b	76.67 cd	85.33 g	87.33 f	84.33 g
V ₅ AS ₁	53.00 bc	75.67 c-e	84.33 g	86.33 f	83.33 g
V ₅ AS ₂	50.33 b-d	58.00 j	62.33 l	64.67 kl	61.33 l
V ₆ AS ₀	26.33 l-r	34.67 pq	37.67 op	41.00 pq	36.67 op
V ₆ AS ₁	25.33 n-r	33.67 p-r	36.67 pq	40.00 p-r	35.67 pq
V ₆ AS ₂	23.33 qr	29.00 rs	27.67 r	34.33 rs	26.67 r
V ₇ AS ₀	31.67 h-k	50.67 k-m	57.00 lm	61.67 lm	56.00 lm
V ₇ AS ₁	30.67 i-m	49.33 l-n	56.00 m	60.67 lm	55.00 m
V ₇ AS ₂	28.67 j-p	33.67 p-r	37.00 o-q	38.33 q-s	36.00 o-q
V ₈ AS ₀	50.33 b-d	64.67 hi	71.00 jk	73.33 ij	70.00 jk
V ₈ AS ₁	49.00 b-d	63.67 i	70.00 k	72.33 j	69.00 k
V ₈ AS ₂	47.00 de	54.67 j-l	59.33 lm	61.67 lm	58.33 lm
V ₉ AS ₀	25.00 o-r	46.00 m-o	54.33 m	57.33 m	53.33 m
V ₉ AS ₁	24.00 p-r	45.00 no	53.33 m	56.33 m	52.33 m
V ₉ AS ₂	22.67 r	35.00 pq	43.00 no	47.67 no	42.00 no
V ₁₀ AS ₀	36.00 gh	57.00 j	63.33 l	69.00 jk	62.33 l
V ₁₀ AS ₁	35.00 g-i	56.00 jk	62.33 l	68.00 jk	61.33 l
V ₁₀ AS ₂	32.67 h-j	41.33 o	46.67 n	50.00 n	45.67 n
V ₁₁ AS ₀	42.33 ef	68.33 f-i	77.00 h-j	80.00 gh	76.00 h-j
V ₁₁ AS ₁	41.33 f	67.33 g-i	76.00 ij	79.00 hi	75.00 ij
V ₁₁ AS ₂	39.33 fg	43.67 o	47.33 n	48.67 no	46.33 n
V ₁₂ AS ₀	50.00 b-d	68.67 f-i	77.33 hi	80.00 gh	76.33 hi
V ₁₂ AS ₁	49.00 cd	67.67 f-i	76.33 ij	79.00 hi	75.33 ij
V ₁₂ AS ₂	47.00 de	54.33 j-l	58.33 lm	59.67 lm	57.33 lm
V ₁₃ AS ₀	29.33 j-o	70.33 e-g	134.0 c	156.3 b	133.0 c
V ₁₃ AS ₁	28.33 j-q	69.33 f-h	133.0 c	155.3 b	132.0 c
V ₁₃ AS ₂	26.33 l-r	50.67 k-m	111.7 e	131.0 d	110.7 e
V ₁₄ AS ₀	16.33 s	30.00 q-s	168.3 a	187.7 a	167.3 a
V ₁₄ AS ₁	15.33 s	29.00 rs	167.3 a	186.7 a	166.3 a
V ₁₄ AS ₂	13.67 s	18.33 t	140.7 b	147.7 c	139.7 b
SE value	1.54	1.75	1.97	2.01	1.97
CV (%)	7.17	5.38	4.40	4.18	4.46

In a column means having similar letter (s) are statistically similar and those having dissimilar letter (s) differ significantly by DMRT at 0.05 level of probability

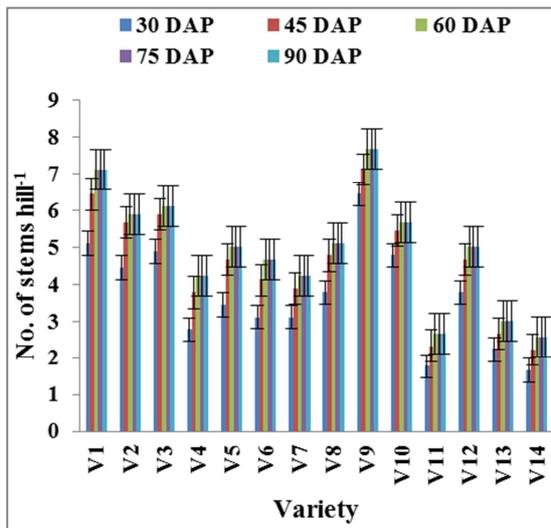


Figure 3. Effect of varieties on number of stems hill⁻¹ at different growth stages of potato (Vertical bar represents SE value).

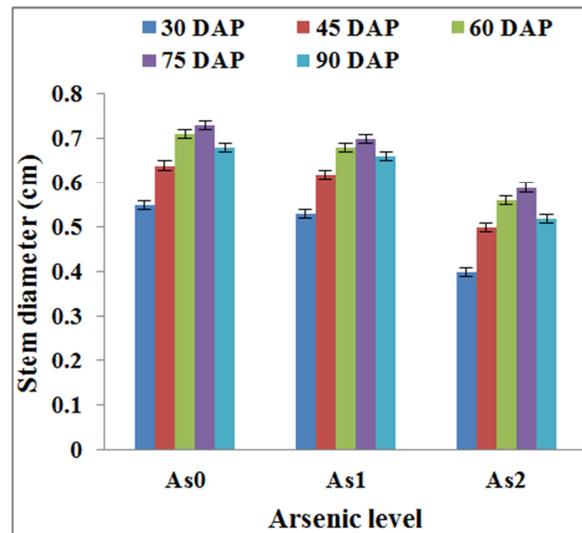


Figure 6. Effect of As levels on stem diameter at different growth stages of potato (Vertical bar represents SE value).

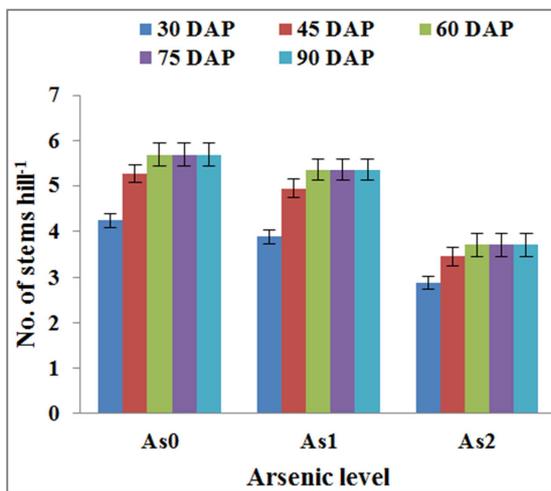


Figure 4. Effect of As levels on number of stems hill⁻¹ at different growth stages of potato (Vertical bar represents SE value).

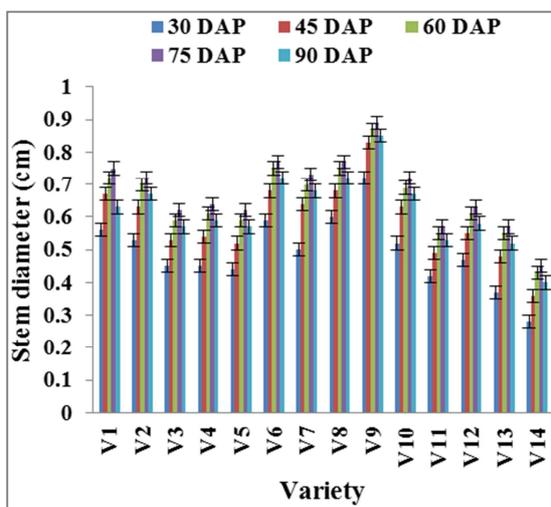


Figure 5. Effect of varieties on stem diameter at different growth stages of potato (Vertical bar represents SE value).

3.4. Number of Stems Hill⁻¹

The number of stems hill⁻¹ was significantly varied between the varieties and/or As levels at different growing stages (Figure 3, 4 and Table 4). It was found that number of stems hill⁻¹ increased with advancing growing period up to 60 DAP irrespective of varieties and thereafter remained constant (Figure 3). The study referred that ‘Felsina’ variety produced maximum number of stems hill⁻¹; it might be due to varietal characters. On the other hand, from figure 4 it is observed that number of stems hill⁻¹ increased with advancing growing period upto 60 DAP irrespective of As levels and thereafter remained constant. Present study showed that number of stems plant⁻¹ was not statistically affected upto 25 mg As kg⁻¹ soil treatment compared to control but at higher concentration (50 mg As kg⁻¹ soil) number of stems hill⁻¹ significantly decreased. In case of treatment combinations the maximum number of stems hill⁻¹ (8.33) was obtained from the combination of ‘Felsina’ with As₀ treatment which was statistically similar (8.00, 8.00, 7.67, 7.33, 7.00, 6.67, 6.67 and 6.67, respectively) with V₁As₀, V₉As₁, V₁As₁, V₃As₀, V₃As₁, V₂As₀, V₁₀As₀, V₉As₂ and the minimum (1.67) was recorded from the combination of ‘Quincy’ with 50 mg As kg⁻¹ soil which was statistically at par (2.00, 2.00, 2.67, 3.00, 3.00, 3.00, 3.00, 3.33 and 3.33, respectively) with V₁₄As₂, V₁₃As₂, V₁₄As₁, V₄As₂, V₇As₂, V₁₄As₀, V₁₁As₀, V₁₃As₁ and V₁₁As₀ at harvesting stage (Table 4).

3.5. Stem Diameter

Significant variation was recorded for stem diameter due to different varieties and/or As levels of potato at 30, 45, 60, 75 and 90 DAP (Figure 5, 6 and Table 5). It is revealed that stem diameter increased with advancing growing period upto 75 DAP irrespective of varieties and thereafter decreased (Figure 5). In vegetative stage, potato stems were fleshy and succulent and at later (harvesting) stage it becomes hard and

slender due to senescence of plant. On the other hand, figure 6 exhibited that stem diameter increased with increasing different growing stages upto 75 DAP irrespective of As levels and thereafter decreased. In vegetative stage potato stems were fleshy and succulent and at later (harvesting) stage it becomes hard and slender due to senescence of plant. In present study 25 mg As kg⁻¹ soil (As₁) showed wider and

in control (As₀) performed widest result in terms of diameter of stem. In case of treatment combinations, the widest stem diameter (0.92 cm) was recorded from the combination of 'Felsina' with As₀ which was statistically similar (0.89 cm) with V₉As₁ and the narrowest (0.31 cm) was recorded from the combination of 'Jam Alu' with 50 mg As kg⁻¹ soil at harvesting stage (Table 5).

Table 4. Interaction effect of varieties and As levels on number of stems hill⁻¹ at different DAP of potato.

Variety× As level	Number of stems hill ⁻¹ at				
	30 DAP	45 DAP	60 DAP	75 DAP	90 DAP
V ₁ As ₀	5.67 b	7.33 ab	8.00 ab	8.00 ab	8.00 ab
V ₁ As ₁	5.33 bc	7.00 a-c	7.67 a-c	7.67 a-c	7.67 a-c
V ₁ As ₂	4.33 c-f	5.00 e-i	5.67 d-h	5.67 d-h	5.67 d-h
V ₂ As ₀	5.00 b-d	6.33 a-e	6.67 a-f	6.67 a-f	6.67 a-f
V ₂ As ₁	4.67 b-e	6.00 b-f	6.33 b-g	6.33 b-g	6.33 b-g
V ₂ As ₂	3.67 e-h	4.67 f-j	4.67 g-k	4.67 g-k	4.67 g-k
V ₃ As ₀	5.67 b	7.00 a-c	7.33 a-d	7.33 a-d	7.33 a-d
V ₃ As ₁	5.00 b-d	6.67 a-d	7.00 a-e	7.00 a-e	7.00 a-e
V ₃ As ₂	4.00 d-g	4.00 h-l	4.00 h-l	4.00 h-l	4.00 h-l
V ₄ As ₀	3.33 f-i	4.33 g-k	5.00 f-j	5.00 f-j	5.00 f-j
V ₄ As ₁	3.00 g-j	4.00 h-l	4.67 g-k	4.67 g-k	4.67 g-k
V ₄ As ₂	2.00 j-l	3.00 k-n	3.00 k-n	3.00 k-n	3.00 k-n
V ₅ As ₀	4.00 d-g	5.33 d-h	5.67 d-h	5.67 d-h	5.67 d-h
V ₅ As ₁	3.67 e-h	5.00 e-i	5.33 e-i	5.33 e-i	5.33 e-i
V ₅ As ₂	2.67 h-j	3.67 i-m	4.00 h-l	4.00 h-l	4.00 h-l
V ₆ As ₀	3.67 e-h	4.67 f-j	5.33 e-i	5.33 e-i	5.33 e-i
V ₆ As ₁	3.33 f-i	4.33 g-k	5.00 f-j	5.00 f-j	5.00 f-j
V ₆ As ₂	2.33 i-k	3.33 j-m	3.67 i-m	3.67 i-m	3.67 i-m
V ₇ As ₀	3.67 e-h	4.67 f-j	5.00 f-j	5.00 f-j	5.00 f-j
V ₇ As ₁	3.33 f-i	4.33 g-k	4.67 g-k	4.67 g-k	4.67 g-k
V ₇ As ₂	2.33 i-k	2.67 l-o	3.00 k-n	3.00 k-n	3.00 k-n
V ₈ As ₀	4.33 c-f	5.67 c-g	6.00 c-g	6.00 c-g	6.00 c-g
V ₈ As ₁	4.00 d-g	5.33 d-h	5.67 d-h	5.67 d-h	5.67 d-h
V ₈ As ₂	3.00 g-j	3.33 j-m	3.67 i-m	3.67 i-m	3.67 i-m
V ₉ As ₀	7.00 a	7.67 a	8.33 a	8.33 a	8.33 a
V ₉ As ₁	6.67 a	7.33 ab	8.00 ab	8.00 ab	8.00 ab
V ₉ As ₂	5.67 b	6.33 a-e	6.67 a-f	6.67 a-f	6.67 a-f
V ₁₀ As ₀	5.33 bc	6.33 a-e	6.67 a-f	6.67 a-f	6.67 a-f
V ₁₀ As ₁	5.00 b-d	6.00 b-f	6.33 b-g	6.33 b-g	6.33 b-g
V ₁₀ As ₂	4.00 d-g	4.00 h-l	4.00 h-l	4.00 h-l	4.00 h-l
V ₁₁ As ₀	2.33 i-k	3.00 k-n	3.33 j-n	3.33 j-n	3.33 j-n
V ₁₁ As ₁	2.00 j-l	2.67 l-o	3.00 k-n	3.00 k-n	3.00 k-n
V ₁₁ As ₂	1.00 l	1.33 o	1.67 n	1.67 n	1.67 n
V ₁₂ As ₀	4.33 c-f	5.33 d-h	5.67 d-h	5.67 d-h	5.67 d-h
V ₁₂ As ₁	4.00 d-g	5.00 e-i	5.33 e-i	5.33 e-i	5.33 e-i
V ₁₂ As ₂	3.00 g-j	3.67 i-m	4.00 h-l	4.00 h-l	4.00 h-l
V ₁₃ As ₀	3.00 g-j	3.33 j-m	3.67 i-m	3.67 i-m	3.67 i-m
V ₁₃ As ₁	2.33 i-k	3.00 k-n	3.33 j-n	3.33 j-n	3.33 j-n
V ₁₃ As ₂	1.33 kl	1.67 no	2.00 mn	2.00 mn	2.00 mn
V ₁₄ As ₀	2.00 j-l	2.67 l-o	3.00 k-n	3.00 k-n	3.00 k-n
V ₁₄ As ₁	2.00 j-l	2.33 m-o	2.67 l-n	2.67 l-n	2.67 l-n
V ₁₄ As ₂	1.00 l	1.67 no	2.00 mn	2.00 mn	2.00 mn
SE value	0.32	0.43	0.55	0.55	0.55
CV (%)	15.06	16.32	19.33	19.33	19.33

In a column means having similar letter (s) are statistically similar and those having dissimilar letter (s) differ significantly by DMRT at 0.05 level of probability

Table 5. Interaction effect of varieties and As levels on stem diameter at different DAP of potato.

Variety× As level	Stem diameter (cm) at				
	30 DAP	45 DAP	60 DAP	75 DAP	90 DAP
V ₁ As ₀	0.62 b-e	0.73 b-d	0.78 bc	0.80 b-d	0.69 e-h
V ₁ As ₁	0.60 c-e	0.71 b-e	0.76 bc	0.78 b-d	0.67 f-i
V ₁ As ₂	0.45 l-o	0.56 g-l	0.64 e-g	0.67 g-i	0.54 pq
V ₂ As ₀	0.59 c-f	0.70 b-e	0.74 bc	0.76 b-d	0.72 c-f
V ₂ As ₁	0.57 d-g	0.67 de	0.72 cd	0.74 d-f	0.70 d-g
V ₂ As ₂	0.43 m-p	0.54 i-l	0.62 e-g	0.65 g-k	0.59 j-p
V ₃ As ₀	0.51 h-l	0.60 g-i	0.65 ef	0.67 g-i	0.63 i-m
V ₃ As ₁	0.48 i-m	0.58 g-k	0.63 e-g	0.65 g-k	0.61 i-o
V ₃ As ₂	0.35 r-t	0.43 no	0.50 h	0.53 m-o	0.47 rs
V ₄ As ₀	0.51 i-l	0.61 fg	0.67 de	0.69 f-h	0.65 g-j
V ₄ As ₁	0.49 i-m	0.58 g-j	0.65 ef	0.67 g-i	0.63 i-m
V ₄ As ₂	0.35 q-s	0.44 no	0.52 h	0.55 lm	0.49 qr
V ₅ As ₀	0.50 i-l	0.58 g-j	0.65 ef	0.67 g-i	0.63 i-m
V ₅ As ₁	0.47 j-n	0.56 g-l	0.63 e-g	0.65 g-k	0.61 j-o
V ₅ As ₂	0.34 r-t	0.43 no	0.51 h	0.54 mn	0.48 rs
V ₆ As ₀	0.65 bc	0.74 bc	0.80 b	0.82 bc	0.78 bc
V ₆ As ₁	0.63 b-d	0.72 b-e	0.77 bc	0.79 b-d	0.75 b-d
V ₆ As ₂	0.49 i-l	0.58 g-k	0.67 de	0.70 e-g	0.64 h-l
V ₇ As ₀	0.54 f-i	0.69 b-e	0.76 bc	0.78 b-d	0.74 b-e
V ₇ As ₁	0.52 g-k	0.67 de	0.73 c	0.76 cd	0.71 d-f
V ₇ As ₂	0.46 k-o	0.56 g-l	0.61 e-g	0.64 g-k	0.58 k-p
V ₈ As ₀	0.67 b	0.73 bc	0.80 b	0.82 b	0.78 b
V ₈ As ₁	0.65 bc	0.71 b-e	0.78 bc	0.80 b-d	0.76 b-d
V ₈ As ₂	0.48 i-n	0.61 fg	0.65 ef	0.68 gh	0.62 i-m
V ₉ As ₀	0.78 a	0.88 a	0.94 a	0.96 a	0.92 a
V ₉ As ₁	0.76 a	0.86 a	0.91 a	0.93 a	0.89 a
V ₉ As ₂	0.62 b-e	0.75 b	0.76 bc	0.79 b-d	0.73 b-e
V ₁₀ As ₀	0.59 d-f	0.68 c-e	0.75 bc	0.77 b-d	0.73 b-e
V ₁₀ As ₁	0.57 e-h	0.66 ef	0.73 c	0.75 de	0.71 d-f
V ₁₀ As ₂	0.42 n-p	0.54 h-l	0.60 fg	0.63 h-k	0.57 m-p
V ₁₁ As ₀	0.48 i-n	0.54 h-l	0.60 fg	0.62 i-k	0.58 l-p
V ₁₁ As ₁	0.46 k-o	0.52 k-m	0.58 g	0.60 j-l	0.56 n-p
V ₁₁ As ₂	0.33 r-t	0.41 o	0.47 h	0.49 m-o	0.44 rs
V ₁₂ As ₀	0.53 g-j	0.60 gh	0.66 e	0.68 gh	0.64 g-k
V ₁₂ As ₁	0.51 i-l	0.58 g-k	0.64 e-g	0.66 g-j	0.62 i-n
V ₁₂ As ₂	0.38 p-r	0.47 mn	0.52 h	0.55 l-n	0.49 rs
V ₁₃ As ₀	0.43 m-p	0.53 j-l	0.61 e-g	0.62 i-k	0.58 l-p
V ₁₃ As ₁	0.40 o-q	0.51 lm	0.58 g	0.60 kl	0.56 op
V ₁₃ As ₂	0.29 t	0.40 o	0.46 h	0.49 no	0.43 s
V ₁₄ As ₀	0.33 r-t	0.41 no	0.48 h	0.50 m-o	0.46 rs
V ₁₄ As ₁	0.30 st	0.39 o	0.46 h	0.48 o	0.44 rs
V ₁₄ As ₂	0.20 u	0.28 p	0.34 i	0.37 p	0.31 t
SE value	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018
CV (%)	7.45	4.30	4.54	4.54	3.94

In a column means having similar letter (s) are statistically similar and those having dissimilar letter (s) differ significantly by DMRT at 0.05 level of probability

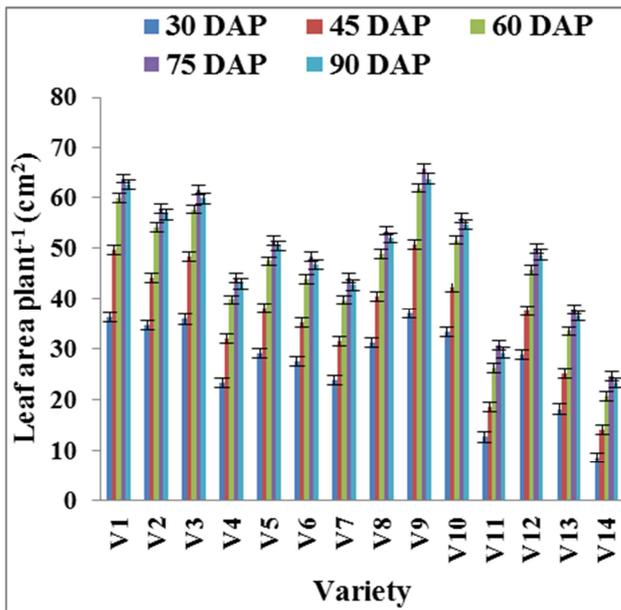


Figure 7. Effect of varieties on leaf area plant⁻¹ at different growth stages of potato (Vertical bar represents SE value).

3.6. Leaf Area Plant⁻¹

Varieties and/or As levels significantly influenced the leaf area of potato at 30, 45, 60, 75 and 90 DAP (Figure 7, 8 and Table 6). Figure 7 showed that leaf area increased with advancing growing period upto 75 DAP irrespective of varieties and thereafter decreased due to senescence of plant. This study referred that the potato variety ‘Felsina’ exposed best result in terms of leaf area. On the contrary, leaf area increased with advancing growing period upto 75 DAP irrespective of As levels and thereafter decreased due to senescence of plant (Figure 8). Juzl and Stefl [35] reported that leaf area index of potato plants decreased significantly with the increasing levels of As in irrigated water and soil but

the present study showed that leaf area was not statistically affected up to 25 mg As kg⁻¹ soil compared to control but at higher concentration (50 mg As kg⁻¹ soil) treatment significantly decreased leaf area. In case of treatment combinations Table 6 exhibited that, the highest leaf area plant⁻¹ (67.11 cm²) was obtained from the combination of ‘Felsina’ with As₀ treatment which was statistically at par (66.95, 66.03 and 65.89 cm², respectively) with V₉As₁, V₁As₀, V₁As₁ and the lowest (18.12 cm²) was recorded from the combination of ‘Jam Alu’ with 50 mg As kg⁻¹ soil at harvesting stage. Finally, in this study it was found that ‘Felsina’ cultivated with 25 mg As kg⁻¹ (As₁) soil showed better and with control (As₀) performed best result in terms of leaf area plant⁻¹.

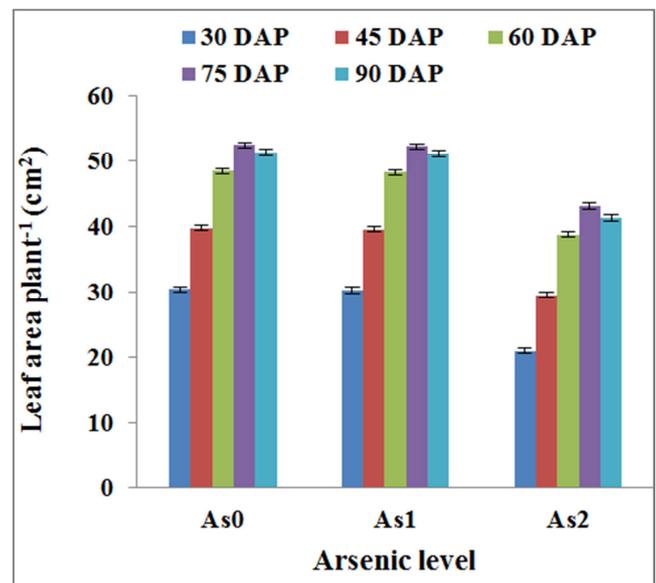


Figure 8. Effect of As levels on leaf area plant⁻¹ at different growth stages of potato (Vertical bar represents SE value).

Table 6. Interaction effect of varieties and As levels on leaf area plant⁻¹ at different DAP of potato.

Variety× As level	Leaf area plant ⁻¹ (cm ²) at				
	30 DAP	45 DAP	60 DAP	75 DAP	90 DAP
V ₁ As ₀	39.25 a-c	53.24 a	63.03 ab	67.25 ab	66.03 ab
V ₁ As ₁	39.14 a-c	53.02 a	62.80 ab	67.07 ab	65.89 a-c
V ₁ As ₂	30.17 f-h	43.17 de	53.99 d-f	57.04 de	55.97 fg
V ₂ As ₀	37.81 a-c	47.68 b	57.29 c	61.27 c	60.17 de
V ₂ As ₁	37.64 a-c	47.48 b	57.06 c	61.06 c	59.97 de
V ₂ As ₂	28.64 g-j	37.42 gh	48.19 ij	51.13 gh	50.07 ij
V ₃ As ₀	38.97 a-c	51.94 a	60.94 b	65.04 b	63.14 bc
V ₃ As ₁	38.80 a-c	51.73 a	60.63 b	64.87 b	62.93 cd
V ₃ As ₂	29.87 f-i	41.72 ef	51.65 f-h	54.68 ef	53.64 gh
V ₄ As ₀	27.05 i-k	34.99 hi	42.88 l-n	46.91 j	45.91 kl
V ₄ As ₁	26.91 i-k	34.76 hi	42.66 l-n	46.74 j	45.74 kl
V ₄ As ₂	16.20 m	26.14 mn	33.97 q	39.06 lm	37.34 op
V ₅ As ₀	32.83 ef	41.59 ef	50.57 g-i	54.33 f	53.72 gh
V ₅ As ₁	32.56 ef	41.41 ef	50.35 hi	54.14 f	53.52 gh
V ₅ As ₂	21.84 l	31.62 jk	41.52 mn	46.12 j	44.13 lm

Variety× As level	Leaf area plant ⁻¹ (cm ²) at				
	30 DAP	45 DAP	60 DAP	75 DAP	90 DAP
V ₆ As ₀	31.25 fg	39.18 fg	47.40 jk	51.34 gh	50.21 ij
V ₆ As ₁	31.12 fg	38.99 fg	47.20 jk	51.20 gh	50.04 ij
V ₆ As ₂	20.31 l	27.11 lm	37.27 p	42.45 k	40.16 no
V ₇ As ₀	27.87 h-j	35.64 hi	43.53 lm	47.52 ij	46.53 kl
V ₇ As ₁	27.39 h-k	35.47 hi	43.36 lm	47.33 ij	46.43 kl
V ₇ As ₂	16.73 m	23.63 no	32.55 q	37.41 m	35.39 p
V ₈ As ₀	34.72 de	44.27 c-e	53.14 ef	57.29 de	56.12 fg
V ₈ As ₁	34.58 de	44.04 c-e	52.97 e-g	57.13 de	55.93 fg
V ₈ As ₂	24.63 k	33.24 ij	40.68 no	46.14 j	44.16 lm
V ₉ As ₀	40.19 a	54.22 a	65.01 a	69.24 a	67.11 a
V ₉ As ₁	40.00 ab	54.05 a	64.80 a	69.08 a	66.95 a
V ₉ As ₂	31.08 fg	44.14 c-e	55.98 cd	58.98 cd	57.34 ef
V ₁₀ As ₀	36.92 b-d	46.13 bc	55.10 c-e	59.19 cd	57.95 ef
V ₁₀ As ₁	36.77 cd	45.94 b-d	54.94 c-e	59.05 cd	57.81 ef
V ₁₀ As ₂	26.74 jk	34.88 hi	44.96 kl	49.90 hi	48.26 jk
V ₁₁ As ₀	14.98 m	21.07 o	29.07 r	33.17 n	32.05 q
V ₁₁ As ₁	14.93 n	20.90 o	28.89 r	33.00 n	31.92 q
V ₁₁ As ₂	8.18 op	13.88 q	20.86 t	25.74 o	23.86 s
V ₁₂ As ₀	32.52 ef	41.48 ef	49.54 h-j	53.43 fg	52.50 hi
V ₁₂ As ₁	32.38 ef	41.26 ef	49.32 h-j	53.24 fg	52.41 hi
V ₁₂ As ₂	21.70 l	29.87 kl	38.42 op	43.29 k	41.41 mn
V ₁₃ As ₀	21.62 l	29.22 kl	37.27 p	41.37 kl	40.34 no
V ₁₃ As ₁	21.54 l	29.06 kl	37.12 p	41.21 kl	40.27 no
V ₁₃ As ₂	11.49 n	17.30 p	26.30 s	31.09 n	29.02 r
V ₁₄ As ₀	10.16 no	16.20 pq	23.02 t	27.04 o	26.04 s
V ₁₄ As ₁	10.11 no	16.09 pq	22.90 t	26.86 o	25.91 s
V ₁₄ As ₂	5.58 p	10.14 r	16.31 u	20.19 p	18.12 t
SE value	0.94	0.92	0.84	0.90	1.00
CV (%)	5.99	4.41	3.21	3.16	3.62

In a column means having similar letter (s) are statistically similar and those having dissimilar letter (s) differ significantly by DMRT at 0.05 level of probability

3.7. Chlorophyll Content of Leaves

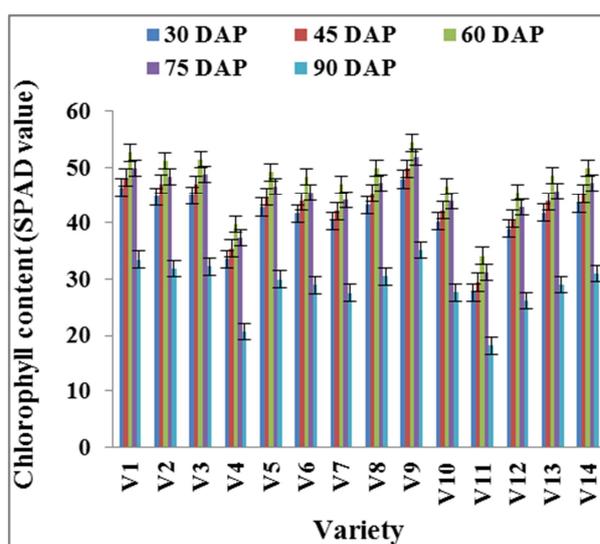


Figure 9. Effect of varieties on chlorophyll content of leaves at different growth stages of potato leaf (Vertical bar represents SE value)

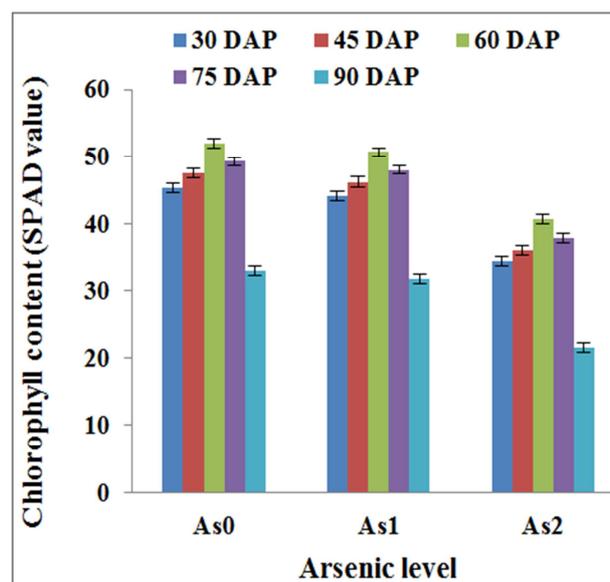


Figure 10. Effect of As levels on chlorophyll content of leaves at different growth stages of potato leaf (Vertical bar represents SE value)

Chlorophyll content (SPAD value) of potato leaves were significantly affected by the varieties and/or As levels at different growing stages (Figure 9, 10 and Table 7). Figure 9 showed that chlorophyll content (SPAD value) increased with advancing growing period upto 60 DAP irrespective of varieties and thereafter decreased due to yellowing of leaves. Potato varieties used in the study differed in chlorophyll content reading, like observed by many other workers [36, 37]. On the other hand, Figure 10 showed that chlorophyll content (SPAD value) increased with increasing growing period upto 60 DAP irrespective of As levels and thereafter decreased due to yellowing of leaves. Nitrogen is the core component of chlorophyll molecule and thus, its content in leaf is directly correlated with chlorophyll content. It is revealed that higher soil As concentrations decrease the nitrogen content in garden pea [38] and silver bet [39]. Miteva and Merakchiyska [40] reported that As concentrations of 25 mg kg⁻¹ soil did not have negative effect on the photosynthetic process in bean plants (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.), while the higher doses (50 and 100 mg As kg⁻¹ soil) inhibit the photosynthesis by 42 and 32%, respectively. Increased As concentrations caused an alternation of the chloroplast shape, manifested in its rounding and shortening

of the longitudinal axis of plant cell. Other manifestations are concaving membrane, bending and partial destruction as well as changes in the accumulation and flow of assimilates which results in the decrease of chlorophyll content in potato leaf. Thus, it was expected that the higher soil As concentrations may also decrease nitrogen content in potato plant which may also cause the decrease of chlorophyll content. The results of the present experiment revealed that chlorophyll content of potato leaves were not statistically affected upto 25 mg As kg⁻¹ soil treatment compared to control but at higher concentration (50 mg As kg⁻¹ soil) treatment chlorophyll content significantly decreased. In case of treatment combinations, the maximum chlorophyll content (39.48 SPAD value) was recorded from the 'Felsina' with As₀ treatment which was statistically similar (38.24, 37.73, 36.50, 36.42, 36.13, 35.19, 35.06, 34.90 and 34.80 SPAD value, respectively) with V₉As₁, V₁As₀, V₁As₁, V₃As₀, V₂As₀, V₃As₁, V₁₄As₀, V₂As₁, V₈As₀ and the minimum (18.21 SPAD value) was recorded from the combination of 'Quincy' with 50 mg As kg⁻¹ soil at harvesting stage (Table 7). The variation in total chlorophyll content may be a good indicator of stress in plants that have been caused by environmental factors [41, 42].

Table 7. Interaction effect of varieties and As levels on chlorophyll content of leaf at different DAP and above ground stem dry matter content of potato

Variety× As level	Chlorophyll content (SPAD value) of leaves at					Above ground stem dry matter content (%)
	30 DAP	45 DAP	60 DAP	75 DAP	90 DAP	
V ₁ As ₀	50.27 ab	52.38 ab	56.84 a-c	54.18 a-c	37.73 a-c	17.16 e-h
V ₁ As ₁	49.03 a-c	51.14 a-c	55.60 a-d	52.94 a-d	36.50 a-d	16.75 f-j
V ₁ As ₂	39.82 g-k	40.92 g-j	45.41 h-k	42.55 h-k	26.33 h-k	11.14 no
V ₂ As ₀	48.67 a-c	50.78 a-c	55.24 a-d	52.58 a-d	36.13 a-d	20.87 b
V ₂ As ₁	47.44 a-d	49.55 a-d	54.01 a-e	51.35 a-e	34.90 a-e	20.77 b
V ₂ As ₂	38.24 h-l	40.66 g-j	44.48 i-l	40.95 j-m	24.40 j-l	13.98 m
V ₃ As ₀	48.96 a-c	51.07 a-c	55.53 a-d	52.87 a-d	36.42 a-d	16.43 h-k
V ₃ As ₁	47.72 a-d	49.83 a-d	54.29 a-e	51.63 a-e	35.19 a-e	15.99 i-l
V ₃ As ₂	38.18 h-l	39.95 h-k	44.44 i-l	41.57 i-k	25.02 i-l	9.49 p
V ₄ As ₀	37.58 i-l	39.69 h-k	44.15 i-l	41.49 i-l	25.04 i-l	15.60 kl
V ₄ As ₁	36.35 j-m	38.46 i-l	42.92 j-m	40.26 j-n	23.81 j-l	15.17 l
V ₄ As ₂	26.80 o	28.24 n	32.06 p	30.19 p	13.31 n	8.90 p
V ₅ As ₀	46.87 a-e	48.98 a-e	53.44 b-e	50.78 b-e	34.33 b-e	22.10 a
V ₅ As ₁	45.63 b-f	47.74 b-e	52.20 c-f	49.54 c-f	33.10 c-f	21.65 ab
V ₅ As ₂	36.09 j-m	37.21 i-m	41.68 k-o	39.48 k-n	22.59 k-m	15.87 j-l
V ₆ As ₀	45.81 b-f	47.92 b-e	52.38 c-f	49.72 c-f	33.27 b-f	21.16 ab
V ₆ As ₁	44.57 c-g	46.68 c-f	51.14 d-g	48.48 d-g	32.04 d-g	20.71 b
V ₆ As ₂	34.70 k-n	37.13 j-m	41.62 k-o	38.09 k-o	21.53 k-m	15.14 l
V ₇ As ₀	44.46 c-g	46.57 c-f	51.03 d-g	48.37 d-g	31.92 d-g	18.23 c-e
V ₇ As ₁	43.22 d-h	45.33 d-g	49.79 e-h	47.13 e-h	30.69 e-h	17.78 d-f
V ₇ As ₂	33.35 l-n	34.45 lm	39.94 l-o	36.74 l-o	20.18 lm	11.69 no
V ₈ As ₀	47.34 a-d	49.45 a-d	53.91 a-e	51.25 a-e	34.80 a-e	18.14 c-e
V ₈ As ₁	46.10 b-f	48.21 b-e	52.67 b-f	50.01 b-f	33.57 b-f	17.72 d-g
V ₈ As ₂	36.23 j-m	38.33 i-l	43.15 j-m	40.28 j-n	23.06 j-m	11.89 n
V ₉ As ₀	52.01 a	54.12 a	58.58 a	55.92 a	39.48 a	19.09 c
V ₉ As ₁	50.78 ab	52.89 ab	57.35 ab	54.69 ab	38.24 ab	18.61 cd
V ₉ As ₂	40.90 f-j	42.34 f-i	47.16 g-j	44.63 g-j	27.74 g-j	12.18 n
V ₁₀ As ₀	44.37 c-g	46.48 c-f	50.94 d-g	48.28 d-g	31.83 d-g	16.61 g-k
V ₁₀ As ₁	43.13 d-h	45.24 d-g	49.70 e-h	47.04 e-h	30.60 e-h	16.17 h-l
V ₁₀ As ₂	33.26 l-n	35.02 k-m	39.18 m-o	36.65 m-o	20.43 lm	9.62 p
V ₁₁ As ₀	31.70 mn	33.81 lm	38.27 no	35.61 no	22.43 k-m	18.09 c-e

V ₁₁ As ₁	30.46 no	32.57 mn	37.03 o	34.37 o	21.19 lm	17.67 d-g
V ₁₁ As ₂	20.92 p	22.02 o	27.18 q	23.64 q	11.02 n	10.61 o
V ₁₂ As ₀	43.04 d-h	45.15 d-g	49.61 e-h	46.95 e-h	30.51 e-h	19.01 c
V ₁₂ As ₁	41.81 e-i	43.92 e-h	48.38 f-i	45.72 f-i	29.27 f-i	18.53 cd
V ₁₂ As ₂	31.93 mn	33.03 m	38.52 m-o	35.66 no	18.77 m	11.42 no
V ₁₃ As ₀	45.89 b-f	48.00 b-e	52.46 b-f	49.80 b-f	33.35 b-f	19.07 c
V ₁₃ As ₁	44.66 c-g	46.77 c-f	51.23 d-g	48.57 d-g	32.12 d-g	18.57 cd
V ₁₃ As ₂	34.78 k-n	36.88 j-m	41.70 k-o	38.50 k-o	21.62 k-m	11.44 no
V ₁₄ As ₀	47.60 a-d	49.71 a-d	54.17 a-e	51.51 a-e	35.06 a-e	17.56 d-g
V ₁₄ As ₁	46.37 b-e	48.48 b-e	52.94 b-f	50.28 b-f	33.83 b-f	17.10 e-i
V ₁₄ As ₂	36.49 j-m	37.59 i-m	42.41 k-n	39.88 j-n	23.99 j-l	10.68 o
SE value	1.56	1.55	1.45	1.45	1.46	0.3502
CV (%)	6.56	6.23	5.26	5.59	8.82	3.77

In a column means having similar letter (s) are statistically similar and those having dissimilar letter (s) differ significantly by DMRT at 0.05 level of probability

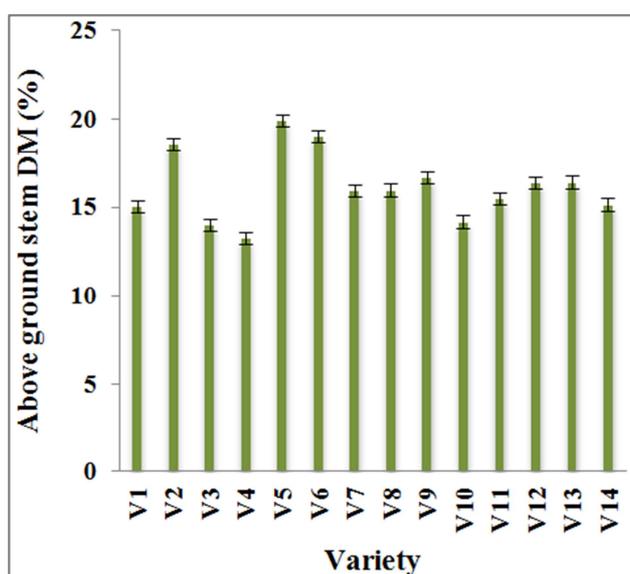


Figure 11. Effect of varieties on above ground stem dry matter content of potato (Vertical bar represents SE value)

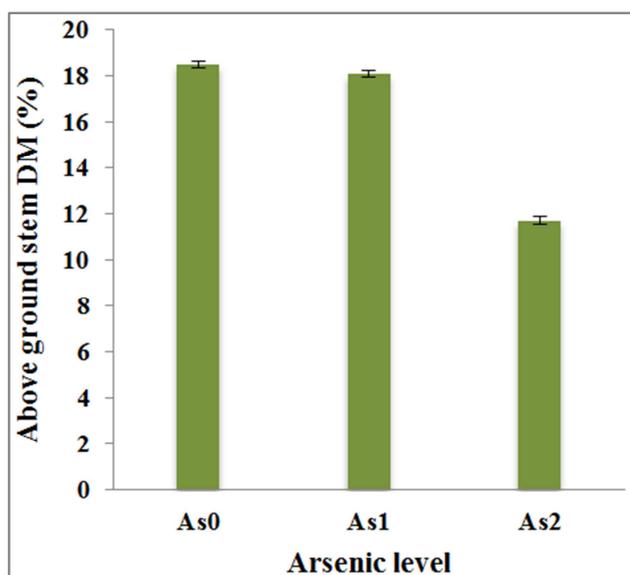


Figure 12. Effect of As levels on above ground stem dry matter content of potato (Vertical bar represents SE value)

3.8. Above Ground Stem Dry Matter Content

Above ground stem dry matter content (%) significantly influenced by the varieties and/or As levels (Figure 11, 12 and Table 7). ‘Lady Rosetta’ produced higher dry matter content of above ground stem (19.87 %) whereas, the minimum (13.22 %) was recorded from the variety ‘Granola’ (Figure 11). It may be due to varietal characters. On the other hand, Figure 12 showed that, above ground stem dry matter content (%) decreased with increasing As levels though As₀ and As₁ showed similar results. Carbonell-Barrachina *et al.* [43] stated that root, stem and leaf dry biomass production of tomato and bean plants were increased with increasing As (III) levels in the nutrient solution. Present experiment showed that shoot dry matter content (%) of potato stem was not statistically affected upto 25 mg As kg⁻¹ soil compared to control but at higher concentration (50 mg As kg⁻¹ soil) treatment significantly decreased. In case of treatment combinations, the maximum (22.10%) dry matter content of above ground stem was obtained from the combination of ‘Lady Rosetta’ with As₀ which was statistically similar (21.65 and 21.16 %, respectively) with V₅As₁ and V₆As₀ whereas, the minimum (8.90%) was recorded from the V₄As₂ which was statistically at par (9.49 and 9.62 %, respectively) with V₃As₂ and V₁₀As₂ (Table 7).

4. Conclusion

Considering the results of the present experiment, it may be concluded that growth of potato slowly decreased upto 25 mg As kg⁻¹ soil and thereafter drastically decreased by increased As level. Among the potato varieties, ‘Felsina’ showed better performance irrespective of As levels. ‘Felsina’ combination with 0 mg As kg⁻¹ soil gave maximum growth performance. However, upto 25 mg As kg⁻¹ soil also showed the statistical similar results in terms of growth parameters.

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