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Agronomic Evaluation of Yellow Zucchini (*Cucurbita pepo* L.) Subjected to Spiritual Blessings Energy Treatment

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Abstract

Sustainable agronomy is increasingly examining non-chemical and subtle energy interventions to enhance crop vigor and overall biological potential. This study aimed to evaluate the morphological characteristics and fruit yield of Yellow Zucchini (*Cucurbita pepo* L.) subjected to Spiritual Blessings Energy Treatment (SBET) compared to an untreated control. A comparative field experiment was conducted using treated and untreated yellow zucchini seed sets cultivated under same soil composition and irrigation regimes. Vegetative growth indicators including plant height, stem diameter, number of leaves per plant, and days to 50% flowering were recorded at set physiological intervals. Harvest parameters, including total number of fruits per plant, mean individual fruit mass, average fruit length and diameter, and cumulative yield per plot, were evaluated at maturity. Plants exposed to the SBET exhibited pronounced enhancements in vegetative architecture compared to the control group. Treated zucchini plants demonstrated a significant increase of number of nodes, leaf length, and leaf width by 37.28% ($p \leq 0.001$), 27.66% ($p \leq 0.001$), and 20.59% ($p \leq 0.001$), respectively, compared to the untreated group. Harvest data indicated a statistically notable increase in overall crop performance, characterized by higher fruit weight, fruit diameter, seed length, seed width, and overall increase in total fruit yield per hectare by 28.57%, $p = 0.010$), (30.85%, $p \leq 0.001$), (29.09%, $p \leq 0.001$), (34.78%, $p = 0.002$), and 14.30%, respectively, compared to the control. The application of SBET (The Trivedi Effect®) positively influenced both vegetative growth parameters and cumulative crop yield in Yellow Zucchini (*Cucurbita pepo* L.). These findings suggest the potential utility of blessing energy treatment-based approaches as complementary, non-invasive strategies for crop performance optimization.

Keywords: *Cucurbita pepo*; yellow zucchini; spiritual blessing; crop yield; biofield energy treatment; agronomic productivity

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INTRODUCTION

Yellow zucchini (*Cucurbita pepo* L.) is a high-value horticultural crop renowned worldwide for its lucrative visual appearance, ease of harvest and exceptional nutritional properties. The biochemical profile of this vegetable was rich in health-promoting bioactive compounds such as lutein and beta-carotene, which possess anti-proliferative activities [1]. Agronomically, due to this unique golden yellow fruit colour it was harvested very faster than green zucchini and simultaneously labour cost also less in the fields [2]. Understanding its growth habit, leaf area, and fruit development which was the main fundamental to maximizing commercial yield and crop health [3]. Beyond conventional cultivation, *Cucurbita pepo* fruits and seeds contain a rich profile of bioactive constituents, antioxidants, and essential nutritional compounds that make the evaluation of yield quality as crucial as raw biomass production [4]. From a genetic and breeding perspective, the brilliant yellow peel of this *Cucurbita pepo* variety was a primary driver of consumer preference and commodity quality. This yellow colour peel was control by a single genetic factor that related to chlorophyll biosynthesis leads to reduce chlorophyll but reach in carotenoids [5].

While traditional research on yellow zucchini (*Cucurbita pepo*) strictly focuses on established genetics, nutritional yield, and harvest efficiency, emerging exploratory paradigms occasionally seek to evaluate unconventional agronomic treatments. Achieving superior marketable yields, uniform fruit weight, and optimized morphological quality attributes in yellow zucchini (*Cucurbita pepo* L.) remains a primary goal for growers aiming to minimize crop loss and enhance postharvest commercial value [6]. In response to the demand for sustainable and non-chemical biostimulatory interventions in modern horticulture, subtle energy modalities such as biofield energy treatment have emerged as viable approaches to alter plant germination, growth behavior, and productivity. Bridging the gap between standard agronomic baselines and alternative biofield methodologies, the current manuscript introduced the investigation of yellow zucchini (*Cucurbita pepo* L.) subjected to Spiritual Blessing/Biofield Energy Treatment (SBET). By measuring the morphological and yield responses of this well-characterized yellow crop, this evaluation aimed to document the potential impacts of energy treatment on the standard growth parameters of yellow zucchini.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study site

The research site in Bhandarwadi (Sindhudurg, Maharashtra, India; 15°37′–16°40′ N, 73°19′–74°13′ E) sits at an elevation of 26 m above mean sea level. The local microclimate exhibits pronounced thermal extremes, with summer maxima reaching 40 °C (April–May) and winter temperatures ranging between 8 °C and 25 °C (December–February). Highly variable rainfall dynamics pose a significant environmental challenge, causing episodic soil moisture deficits during critical phenological stages of crop development.

Seed source and experimental design

Hybrid yellow zucchini seeds (*Cucurbita pepo* L., 95% purity, Lot No. 19471359, Label: A4-2706; Syngenta India Pvt. Ltd.) were assigned to an untreated control (CONYZUG) or biofield energy treatment (BTYZUG) group in a randomized complete block design (RCBD, n = 3). All experimental units were maintained under identical agronomic practices, including standardized watering, fertilization, and pest control regimens.

Study plot design

Prior to planting, the 60.0 m² experimental site was cleared, prepared, and structured into a randomized block design across three blocks. Each block comprised six 4.0 m × 2.0 m plots (8.0 m² each) with a 1.0 m × 1.0 m planting grid. To prevent inter-treatment interference and border effects, adjacent plots were separated by a 0.5 m alleyway, and replications were separated by a 1.0 m buffer zone.

Spiritual blessing (biofield/prayer) energy treatment (SBET) strategy

The experimental group, designated BTYZUG (*Cucurbita pepo* seeds and soil), was subjected to a single 4-minute non-contact spiritual blessing energy treatment (SBET) administered from a distance of 0.5 m by an experienced (more than 14 years) practitioner, Mrs. Dahryn Trivedi to eliminate mechanical confounding. A parallel control group (CONYZUG) received no intervention. Both cohorts were maintained under controlled environmental conditions (28 ± 2 °C and 65 ± 5% relative humidity) throughout the trial.

Soil characterization and sample preparation

Baseline soil properties were evaluated from a composite of random samples retrieved from the 30 cm profile across the trial site. The sample was air-dried at ambient temperature and passed through a 2-mm sieve. Particle size distribution was analyzed as described in [7], and pH was measured in a 1:2 (w/v) soil:deionized water slurry using a benchtop pH meter.

Agronomic management and plant protection

Seeds were direct-sown into experimental plots and manually irrigated for the initial 9 days to ensure uniform germination. Irrigation was subsequently supplied *via* a surface drip system with pressure-compensating emitters (0.5 m spacing, 3.0 L h^{-1} discharge rate). All plots received a uniform fertilization rate of 50:100:50 kg ha^{-1} (N:P:K). The basal application supplied the full requirements of phosphorus (as single superphosphate) and potassium (as muriate of potash), along with 50% of total nitrogen (as urea); the remaining nitrogen was side-dressed at 21 days after sowing (DAS). Crop protection was maintained across all treatments using a foliar spray of Hamla 550, Gharda Chemicals Ltd., Mumbai, India; 2 mL L^{-1}.

Growth and morphological parameters

To evaluate vegetative and reproductive growth dynamics, five representative plants were randomly selected per plot at 50 days after sowing (DAS). Qualitative traits recorded included leaf morphology (blade size, shape, margin, color, and lobe count), floral color, fruit attributes (shape, epicarp color, and mesocarp color), and seed physical characteristics (size, shape, and color). Quantitative phenotyping comprised vegetative metrics [plant height (cm), canopy spread (cm), primary branch count, node count, total leaf count, and leaf blade dimensions (length and width, cm)], phenology (days to 50% flowering), yield components at harvest [fruit weight (g), fruit length and diameter (cm), fruits per plant, and seed dimensions (length and width, cm)], and total fruit yield (t ha^{-1}).

Yield parameters

Yield was evaluated at physiological maturity by randomly sampling five plants per experimental plot. Harvested yellow zucchini (*Cucurbita pepo*) fruits were measured for morphometric dimensions (length and diameter, cm) and individual fresh mass (kg) using a digital balance. Cumulative fruit yield per plot was subsequently extrapolated to tonnes per hectare (t ha^{-1}).

Statistical analysis

Continuous data are expressed as mean ± SEM. Comparisons between two independent cohorts were evaluated using an unpaired, two-tailed Student's *t*-test. All statistical analyses were performed using SigmaPlot (version 14.0), with statistical significance defined at $p < 0.05$.

RESULTS

Soil properties

The baseline soil was characterized as a strongly acidic (pH 5.01) sandy loam with low effective cation exchange capacity and high susceptibility to nutrient leaching. Post-harvest, SBET application substantially ameliorated soil acidity, increasing pH by 0.89 units to 5.90.

Phenological progression and morphology of *Cucurbita pepo*

Phenological progression and yield parameters of yellow zucchini (*Cucurbita pepo* L.) were systematically recorded throughout the cultivation period. **Figure 1** depicts the complete developmental trajectory, spanning germination, seedling establishment, vegetative growth, anthesis, fruit set, and harvest maturity.

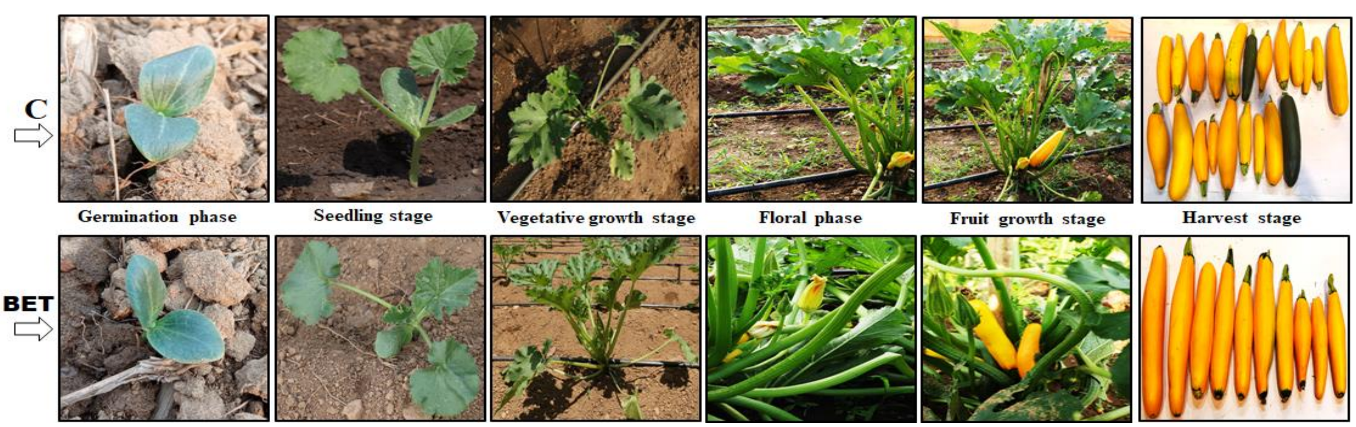

Figure 1. Representative photographs depicting the vegetative development of yellow zucchini across various growth stages. C: Control group; BET: Blessing/biofield energy treatment group.

Morphological characteristics

Blessing (Biofield) energy treatment induced distinct phenotypic alterations in both vegetative and reproductive morphology of yellow zucchini (BTYZUG) relative to the untreated control (CONYZUG; **Table 1**). Treated plants exhibited darker green leaf blades, though leaf dimensions, margins, and lobation remained unchanged. Reproductive modifications were evident across floral, fruit, and seed traits: BTYZUG flowers and mature fruits displayed a bright yellow coloration compared to the standard yellow hues of CONYZUG. Furthermore, BTYZUG fruits exhibited superior physical and organoleptic properties, featuring a uniform cylindrical shape, smooth glossy skin, less spongy white flesh, and a mildly sweet, creamy flavor, contrasting with the non-uniform shape, duller skin, spongy off-white flesh, and mild earthy, nutty taste of control fruits. Seed morphology also shifted from small, light-cream seeds in CONYZUG to medium-sized, cream-colored seeds in BTYZUG.

Table 1. Fifty days post-sowing (DAS), blessing (biofield) energy-treated yellow zucchini (*Cucurbita pepo*) demonstrated significant enhancements in vegetative growth parameters relative to control plants.

Vegetative trait	Control group (CONYZUG)	Treated group (BTYZUG)
Leaf size and shape	Large and palmately lobed	Large and palmately lobed
Leaf blade margin	Dentate (pointed teeth)	Dentate (pointed teeth)
Leaf blade colour	Mild green	Deep green
Number of lobes in leaf blade	5 lobes	5 lobes
Flower colour	Yellow	Bright yellow
Colour of mature fruit (at harvesting)	Yellow	Bright yellow
Fruit freshness	Smooth and less glossy skin	Smooth and glossy skin
Fruit shape	Non-uniform cylindrical	Uniformly cylindrical
Fruit flesh flavour and taste	Mild earthy and nutty	Mild sweet and creamy
Fruit flesh texture	Spongy	Less spongy
Fruit flesh colour	Off white	White
Seed colour	Light cream	Cream
Seed size and shape	Small and oval	Medium and oval

Phenology and yield traits

Application of SBET in BTYZUG significantly enhanced plant performance across all evaluated physiological, phenological, and yield traits relative to CONYZUG (**Table 2**). Seed germination rate increased by 13.17% ($p \leq 0.001$). SBET promoted vegetative growth, driving substantial increases in plant height (18.23%, $p \leq 0.001$), leaf spread (15.97%, $p \leq 0.001$), node count (37.28%, $p \leq 0.001$), leaf length (27.66%, $p \leq 0.001$), and leaf width (20.59%, $p \leq 0.001$). Phenologically, SBET accelerated plant development, reducing time to initial bud initiation (9.91%, $p = 0.005$), male flower emergence (9.43%, $p = 0.008$), female flower emergence (5.47%, $p = 0.033$), and 50% flowering (7.28%, $p \leq 0.001$). Reproductive capacity also improved through higher male flower counts (11.26%, $p = 0.031$). Consequently, fruit physical characteristics expanded, including fruit weight (28.57%, $p = 0.010$), fruit length (24.73%, $p \leq 0.001$), fruit diameter (30.85%, $p \leq 0.001$), and fruit count per plant (24.94%, $p = 0.002$). Seed traits exhibited parallel gains, with significant increases in seed count per fruit (17.69%, $p \leq 0.001$), seed length (29.09%, $p \leq 0.001$), seed width (34.78%, $p = 0.002$), and 100-seed weight (12.79%, $p \leq 0.001$). Together, these enhancements culminated in a 14.30% increase in total fruit yield per hectare.

Table 2: Evaluation of the phenological and yield characteristics of yellow zucchini following spiritual (biofield/prayer) blessing energy treatment (SBET).

Vegetative trait	Control group (CONYZUG)	Treated group (BTYZUG)	P value
Days to germination	7-9	7-8	-
Germination percentage	86.54 ± 1.76	97.94 ± 1.15	$p \leq 0.001$
Plant height (cm)	49.31 ± 1.24	58.30 ± 1.20	$p \leq 0.001$
Spreading of leaves (cm)	78.14 ± 1.64	90.62 ± 1.22	$p \leq 0.001$
Number of primary branches per plant	3.87 ± 0.48	4.98 ± 0.12	$p = 0.055$
Number of nodes per plant	10.46 ± 0.48	14.36 ± 0.18	$p \leq 0.001$
Number of leaves per plant	17.04 ± 1.05	19.11 ± 1.05	$p = 0.201$
Leaf length (cm)	19.27 ± 0.35	24.60 ± 0.18	$p \leq 0.001$
Leaf width (cm)	16.27 ± 0.47	19.62 ± 0.37	$p \leq 0.001$
Days to first bud initiation	24.31 ± 0.35	21.90 ± 0.53	$p = 0.005$
Days to first male flower appearance	28.64 ± 0.38	25.94 ± 0.66	$p = 0.008$
Days to first female flower appearance	32.57 ± 0.67	30.79 ± 0.17	$p = 0.033$
Days to 50% flowering	43.26 ± 0.24	40.11 ± 0.33	$p \leq 0.001$
Number of male flowers	15.81 ± 0.67	17.59 ± 0.13	$p = 0.031$
Number of female flowers	8.01 ± 0.57	9.06 ± 0.18	$p = 0.117$
Days to fruit harvest	46.57 ± 0.36	47.86 ± 0.24	$p = 0.018$
Fruit weight (kg)	0.42 ± 0.03	0.54 ± 0.02	$p = 0.010$
Crop duration (days)	66.58 ± 1.14	64.95 ± 1.08	$p = 0.330$
Fruit length (cm)	18.36 ± 0.57	22.90 ± 0.14	$p \leq 0.001$
Fruit diameter (cm)	8.04 ± 0.27	10.52 ± 0.19	$p \leq 0.001$
100-seed weight (gm)	8.68 ± 0.04	9.79 ± 0.02	$p \leq 0.001$
Seed length (cm)	1.10 ± 0.02	1.42 ± 0.02	$p \leq 0.001$
Seed width (cm)	0.46 ± 0.03	0.62 ± 0.02	$p = 0.002$
Seed count/fruit	78.34 ± 1.20	92.20 ± 1.27	$p \leq 0.001$
Number of fruits per plant	4.53 ± 0.21	5.66 ± 0.14	$p = 0.002$
Fruit yield/plant (kg/plant)	2.36 ± 0.04	3.08 ± 0.05	$p \leq 0.001$
Fruit yield (kg)	21.30	24.37	-
Fruit yield/sq. m plot (kg/sq. m)	0.89	1.02	-
Fruit yield/hectare (ton/ha)	8.88	10.15	-

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

DISCUSSION

The comparative morpho-phenotypic analysis revealed distinct variations between CONYZUG and BTYZUG genotypes across vegetative and floral structures. BTYZUG exhibited a dark green leaf blade and bright yellow flowers, whereas CONYZUG demonstrated a green leaf blade and standard yellow flower coloration. Enhanced chlorophyll density in dark green vegetative tissue often provides superior photosynthetic capacity, driving greater bio-accumulation of carotenoid precursors responsible for rich floral pigmentation in yellow zucchini cultivars [8]. These distinct phenotypic variations align with standard germplasm evaluation methodologies used to establish genetic purity and agronomic vigor across *Cucurbita* selections [9]. The internal fruit parameters showed that BTYZUG possessed a mild sweet and creamy taste with white, less spongy flesh, whereas

CONYZUG displayed a mild earthy and nutty flavor paired with off-white, spongy flesh. Reduced flesh sponginess in yellow zucchini corresponds to higher structural pectin retention and denser cellular packing, which preserves tissue crispness and mitigates rapid postharvest softening [10]. Furthermore, the shift from earthy notes to a sweet, creamy profile indicates a favorable balance of soluble sugars over volatile aldehydes in refined yellow zucchini lines.

Seed traits varied distinctly, with BTYZUG producing medium-sized, cream-colored oval seeds, while CONYZUG yielded small, light cream oval seeds. Seed dimensions, coat pigmentation, and dry weight accumulation are established indicators of seed maturity and embryo vigor in yellow zucchini, influencing seed yield and oil reserve deposition [11]. Consequently, BTYZUG demonstrates superior reproductive trait development alongside its enhanced fruit quality characteristics. The observed an increase in seed germination rate in BTYZUG compared to CONYZUG highlights the efficacy of the treatment in stimulating early metabolic and enzymatic activities in *Cucurbita pepo*. Enhanced germination kinetics in specialty squash varieties, particularly yellow zucchini, are critical for establishing uniform crop stands [1]. Furthermore, improvements in seed vigor and early physiological performance mirror broader plant-growth-promoting mechanisms where enhanced nutrient assimilation and microbiome interactions optimize reserve mobilization during imbibition [12]. Vegetative development in BTYZUG plants exhibited marked enhancements, reflected in substantial increases in plant height, leaf spread, and node count relative to CONYZUG. Additionally, leaf expansion characterized by significant gains in length and width underscores an expanded photosynthetic surface area. In *Cucurbita pepo* cultivars, robust vegetative expansion was closely tied to improved cellular division and expansion rates driven by optimal metabolic support and nutrient availability [1]. These structural adaptations facilitate greater light interception and carbon assimilation, which are essential for supporting subsequent reproductive sinks [12]. Phenological analysis revealed that BTYZUG accelerated crop development, significantly reducing the days required for initial bud initiation, first male and female flower emergence, and 50% flowering. Such synchronization and early transition to reproductive stages were advantageous for maximizing thermal time efficiency in summer squash production.

The combined enhancements in vegetative and reproductive stages culminated in superior fruit physical characteristics and seed traits. Significant increases in fruit weight, fruit length, fruit diameter, and fruit count per plant directly contributed to overall increase in total fruit yield per hectare. Moreover, parallel upward trajectories in seed traits such as seed count per fruit, seed length, seed width, and 100-seed weight indicate robust assimilate partitioning toward sink organs. High-quality fruit and seed yields in yellow zucchini cultivars depend heavily on coordinated source-sink relationships and efficient nutrient translocation [1, 13, 14]. Ultimately, these multi-tier physiological and agronomic improvements confirm the robust utility of BTYZUG treatment in advancing commercial cucurbit productivity.

Conclusion

Spiritual Blessing Energy Treatment (SBET) was shown to be an effective growth promoter and biostimulant that drove statistically significant improvements in both the vegetative architecture and reproductive output of zucchini plants (*Cucurbita pepo*). The data demonstrated that SBET enhanced initial vegetative capacity, which directly translated into superior yield and seed metrics.

Abbreviations

SBET: spiritual blessing energy treatment; CONYZUG: control yellow zucchini group; BTYZUG: biofield energy-treated yellow zucchini group

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Conflict of Interests

Author DT was employed by Trivedi Global, Inc. TBG, VDK, 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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