EFFECT OF MINERAL FERTILIZATION AND FOLIAR FEEDING WITH MICRONUTRIENTS APPLICATION ON GROWTH, YIELD AND ELEMENTAL COMPOSITION OF WHEAT PLANTS IN SANDY SOILS

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Two field experiments were conducted at Ismailia Agricultural Experimental Station throughout two seasons of 2001/2002 and 2002/2003 to study the effect of N, P, K fertilization combined with some micronutrients foliar sprayed (Fe, Mn and Zn) on growth, yield and mineral composition of wheat plants in sandy soils under the sprinker irrigation involving 8 treatments in each season. Each treatment was replicated three times.

#### The obtained results could be summarized as follows:

- 1- The mineral fertilizer recommended dose (N, P and K) combined with micronutrients foliary feeded (Fe, Mn and Zn) gaven highly significant increase for each of plant height, leaf areas, spike length, weight of 100-grain, grain and straw yields comparisonable with control and also treatment of NPK fertilization recommended. Thus the NPK fertilization recommended combined with micronutrients foliary (Fe, Mn and Zn) was the best treatment for the previous parameters over all the studied treatments.
- 2- The fertilizer recommended combined with some micronutrients foliar sprayed of Fe, Mn and Zn were gave significantly increases for N, P and K uptake in grain and straw over the control and also over the NPK fertilization dose. However, the superiority was achieved as a result of NPK fertilization recommended combined with micronutrients foliary application of Fe, Mn and Zn treatment as compared to the other treatments.
- 3- The % total recovery of N, P and K uptake was increased as a result of NPK fertilization recommended combined with foliar sprayed of Fe, Mn and Zn while, the low % total recovery was recorded using NPK fertilization recommended individually.
- 4- The treatments of N, P and K combined with micronutnents foliar feeded Fe, Mn and Zn gave a significant increase for Fe, Mn and Zn uptake in grain and straw over control and also over the mineral fertilizer treatment individually. The superiority was for NPK fertilization recommended combined with foliar sprayed micronutrients of Fe, Mn and Zn treatment over the other treatments.
- 5- This study under the experimental conditions suggested that the NPK fertilization recommended combined with micronutrients foliar sprayed of Fe, Mn and Zn treatment for wheat plant be the best for gaining the maximum growth and yield.

# INTRODUCTION

Wheat (*Triticum aestivum*, L.) is one of the main cereal crops, all over the world and one of the most important winter crop in Egypt. Wheat yield could be increased under the optimal seeding, NPK fertilizations and using the improved high yield varieties. Many problems can face the production of wheat in newly cultivated sand soil like unfilling spikes, fertility of sandy soil, high loss of elements by leaching and its low field capacity.

Nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium are the major nutrient elements which play an essential role in increasing wheat production (Pradkan et al., 1995). The level of each element differs from one location to another according to the soil fertility (Chougule et al., 1993). The balance between these elements is critical for crop production because every element affects the uptake of others, since Grune (1959) reported that phosphorus absorption is a common consequence of adding nitrogen fertilizer. Also, the balance between these nutrient elements can change the physiology of the plant.

Foliar feeding is a technique as a practical way to supply rapidly micronutrients absorption. Othman (1989) found that foliar applications of micronutrients under NPK levels fertilization, significantly reduced dry matter stems and leaves at flowering stage of broad bean plants. Kamh et al. (1996) working on wheat fertilized with N, P, K and different micronutrients reported that, the grain at Ei-Khataba was highest with N, P and K fertilizers, with no significant difference between the two nitrogen rates. In Sinai, the highest yields were given by 60 kg N fed<sup>-1</sup> with P, K and Mn applied either by soil or foliar application.

The objective of these research is to study the effect of mineral fertilization and foliar application of some micronutrients on growth, yield and mineral composition of wheat plants in sandy soil under sprinker irrigation system.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

A field experiment was established to fulfill the objectives of the present work as follows:

Location: At Ismailia Agricultural Experimental Station.

Soil: Representative surface soil samples (0:30 cm) were taken before performance of the experiment where some characteristics of the investigated soil samples were determined according to Black (1965) and Page (1982) as indicated in Table 1.

Table 1: Particle size distribution (%) and chemical properties of the soil in the experimental site.

		THE OXPO	rmienta	. 31	·c·						
рН <sup>(1)</sup>	E.C <sup>(2</sup>		Catio	ns r	nel <sup>-1</sup>				Anions	mei <sup>-1</sup>	
bu.	(d\$.m	<sup>-1</sup> ) Ca <sup>++</sup>	Mg <sup>++</sup>		la*	K <sup>*</sup>	CO <sub>3</sub> -	- 1	HCO <sub>3</sub> "	CI	SO <sub>4</sub>
7.8	1.62	4.56	2.60	_3	.07	0.36			6.6	12.83	1.16
Av. N		Av. P <sup>(4)</sup> (ppm)	Av. K		1	Zn <sup>(6)</sup> pm)	Av. M (ppm		Av. I	-	Av. Cu (ppm)
12.	0	4.0	34.0	ı		.63	1.60		4.0	0	0.26
Coar	se Fii	ne sand	Silt	С	lay	0:	M	C	CaCO <sub>3</sub>		ioil
sand	%	%	%		%	9,	6		%	tex	cture
80		16	2		2	0.2	23		1.50	San	dy soil

<sup>1-1:25</sup> suspension

Studied crop: Wheat (*Triticum aestivum*, L.) "Sakha 69" was obtained from Agric. Res. Center. The planting date was 20<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of November in the two seasons 2001/2002 and 2002/2003, respectively.

<sup>2-1: 5</sup> Extract

<sup>3-</sup> extracted by 1 % K<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> 4

<sup>4-</sup> extracted by 1M sodium bicarbonate.

<sup>5-</sup> extracted by 1M ammonlum acetate. 6- extracted by DTPA.

Experimental treatments: The experiment was carried out in a randomized complete block design involving 8 treatments. Each treatment was replicated three times. The detailed experimental treatments were as follows:

- 1- Control treatment without any additions.
- 2- Recommended dose of nitrogen only.
- 3- Recommended dose of nitrogen and phosphorus.
- 4- Recommended dose of N, P and K.
- 5- Recommended dose of N, P, K and Zn foliary.
- 6- Recommended dose of N, P, K and Mn foliary.
- 7- Recommended dose of N, P, K and Fe foliary.
- 8- Recommended dose of N, P, K with Zn, Mn and Fe foliary.

The nitrogen was added with 120 kg N fed on five doses as ammonium sulfate (20.6 % N), the phosphorus with 30 kg  $P_2O_5$  fed as one dose in the form of calcium superphosphate (15 %  $P_2O_5$ ) and 50 kg  $K_2O$  fed none dose as potassium sulphate (48 %  $K_2O$ ), while, foliar feeding with the micronutrients was performed after 30 and 60 days from planting as Mn and zinc sulphate, whereas Fe as chelated (Fe EDTA) with 0.5 g/litre. Foliar application were done after 45 days from sowing, the foliary replicated 4 times with intervals 15 days.

At harvest was estimated the following characters:

- 1- Plant height (cm).
- 2- Leaf area (cm²).
- 3- Spike length (cm).
- 4- Weight of 1000-grain (g).
- 5- Weight of grains (kg fed-1)
- 6- Weight of straw (kg fed<sup>-1</sup>).
- 7- N, P and K uptake (kg fed 1).
- 8- Zn, Mn and Fe uptake (g fed<sup>-1</sup>).
- 9- Total recovery percentage for elements was calculated according to Mikkelson (1987) in grain and straw

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element uptake (fertilizer plant) – element uptake (control)
= ------ x 10
applied element - rate
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Samples of grain and straw were oven dried, weighed and ground. N, P, K, Zn, Mn and Fe contents in plant materials were determined according to the methods mentioned by Jackson (1973).

Statistical analysis: the randomized complete block design was adopted and analyzed according to Gomez and Gomez (1984).

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Growth and yield components:

The data in Table 2 show significant differences among the studied parameters (plant height, leaf area, spike length, weight of 1000-grain, grain and straw yields). The results revealed that, the superiority was for (NPK Recom. + Fe, Zn and Mn) treatment over the other treatments and gave the greater percentages over the control by (23.95, 58.64, 43.35, 64.01,162.61 and 90.44) respectively for the previous parameters, calculated as an average in both seasons. Meanwhile, this treatment shows percent increasing over

(NPK Rec.) treatment, by 14.24, 30.57, 16.24, 46.18, 96.36 and 43.06 %) respectively for the studied parameters, calculated as an average in both seasons. The NPK Rec. treatment showing increases percentage over the control for the previous studied parameters were 8.53, 21.50, 23.33, 12.27, 33.75 and 33.07%. These results reveal that, fertilization with (NPK Rec. combined with foliar spray with Fe, Zn Mn) treatment helps the plants to develop, giving more growth and more yield and was encourage micronutrient uptaking directly through foliages due to difficulties of uptaking from soil. This finding is consistent with Arafa and Abdel-Nour (1986) and also Sharshar et al. (2000).

### Macronutrients uptake & % of total recovery:

Data in Table 3 show significant increases among studied parameters (N, K, P uptake and % of total recovery).

It is clear that, the (NPK Rec. combined with Fe, Zn and Mn) treatment show the superiority over the other treatments and the percent increases over control were (236.49, 574.17, 441.98, 535.95, 161.77 and 433.58 %) for N, P and K uptake in straw and grain respectively, calculated as an average in both seasons. While this (N, P, K Recom.+ Zn, Mn,Fe) treatment shows higher percentage over (NPK Rec.) treatment by (89.91, 319.17, 327.60, 282.57, 61.62 and 180.45 %) for the previous parameters in straw and grain, respectively calculated as an average in the two seasons.

The NPK Rec. treatment showing increases percentage over the control for the previous studied parameters were (77.27, 60.84, 26.77, 66.27, 67.04 and 90.25 %) respectively in straw and grain, calculated as an average in both seasons.

The results in the same table show that the highest percentage of N, P and K uptake recovery was obtained with NPK Rec + Fe, Zn and Mn treatment and calculated as 30.26, 48.23, 76.33 %, respectively for N, P and K uptake recovery as a mean in both seasons. While the low efficiency of N, P and K uptake recovery was obtained with NP Rec. alone treatment. These results are in harmony with those obtained by Badawi *et al.* (1990) and also El-Mancy *et al.* (1997).

These results may confirm that due to the balance between these elements is critical for crop production because each element affects the uptake of others and also, can change the physiology of the plant nutrients uptake. The result is similar to that obtained by Harmati, 1991 and Chougule et al., 1993).

#### Micronutrients uptake:

The data in Table 4 indicated that, Zn, Mn and Fe uptake by wheat plants was significantly increased as affected with treatment application. It is obvious that the (NPK Rec. combined with Fe, Mn and Zn) treatment gave the highest percentage over control by 182.04, 782.81, 816.08, 406.93, 94.10 and 194.06%, respectively in straw and grain for the previous parameters, calculated as an average in both seasons. The same treatment gave the highest percentage over NPK Rec. treatment by (166.48, 137.81, 372.57, 262.90, 81.13 and 116.16 %) for the pervious parameters in straw and grain, respectively, calculated as an average in both seasons.

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	Plant	nt height	Leaf area (cm²)	ea (cm²)	Spike	Spike length	Weight	Weight of 100-	Grain yield (kg	ield (kg	Straw yield (kg	ield (kg
	(cm)	(E			5)	(cm)	grain	grain (g)	fed <sup>-1</sup> )		fed-	
	1.5t	2nd	1.1	2 <sup>nd</sup>	181	2 <sup>nd</sup>	184	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1 st	2 <sup>nd</sup>	181	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Treatments	season	season	season	season	season	season	season	season	season	season	season	season
Control	49.90	49.80	15.40	15.30	9.01	9.12	30.00	31.60	557.30	556.00	634.00	632.80
N Rec.*	53.10	53.00	18.40	18.15	10.03	10.08	32.70	32.30	00.999	463.70	791.30	799.70
NP Rec.	54.10	54.10	18.70	18.60	11.10	11.26	44.80	34.30	750.30	738.70	839.00	847.30
NPK Rec.	55.30	55.330	19.80	19.90	11.80	12.23	46.70	36.30	841.30	829.00	932.70	921.00
NPK Rec. + Zn	58.40	58.60	23.30	23.00	12.03	12.16	45.40	46.00	1338.3	1347.3	1179.7	1181.6
NPK Rec. + Mn	57.30	57.20	22.00	22.40	12.40	12.81	41.20	40.30	1157.0	1164.0	1150.3	1139.7
NPK Rec. + Fe	56.50	56.70	20.90	21.00	12.00	12.30	38.30	39.00	1070.0	1058.3	1166.7	1170.7
NPK Rec. + Zn, Mn, Fe	61.70	61.90	24.30	24.40	12.88	13.11	50.30	50.70	1468.3	1455.3	1200.3	1212.1
LSD at 5%	1.28	1,23	0.63	0.61	1.00	1.01	2.79	3.44	32.18	31.13	35.51	36.40

lable 3: Effect of mineral NPK	rai NPK	tertiliz.	ation ar	id micr	onutriei	nts folia	ır spray	ed on !	V, Pan⊻	\tertilization and micronutrients foliar sprayed on N, P and K contents of wheat plants.	tents of	wheat	plants.		
	Ż	N-uptake (kg fed 1	(kg fed	-1		ď	uptake	P-uptake (kg fed	<u> </u>		۲.	K-uptake (kg fed	(kg fed	٦) _	
	Str	raw	5	Grain	% total	Straw	a×	Grain	nie	% total	Straw	WE	Grain	in	% total
	181	2"d	184	200	recovery	121	2 <sup>nd</sup>	151	2nd	recovery	3.	244		2nd	recovery
Treatments	season	season	season season	season		season	season	season season	Season		season	season	season season	Season	
Control	7.15	7.78	3.22	3.24	1	1.78	1.77	1.16	1.12	1	6.95	6.91	1.65	1.63	;
N Rec.*	14.90	1485	7.15	7.02	9.42	2.98	2.97	2.14	2.11	10.26 11.96		11.85	3.43	3.37	28.08
NP Rec.	13.31	13.10	5.25	5.14	6.44	2.23	2.27	1.90	1.89	7.19	11.30	11.15	3.12	3.12	24.08
NPK Rec.	18.80	18.54	8.66	8.54	13.87	3.85	3.78	2.29	2.86	14.42	17.19 17.00	17.00	5.25	5.27	57.46
NPK Rec. + Zn	20.23	20.12	16.14	16.23	21.48	8.09	7.94	6.16	6.20	39.61 19.38	19.38	19.40	7.19	7.76	76.25
NPK Rec. + Mn	19.69	19.52	13.06	12.94	18.34	6.05	5.91	5.40	5.30	30.35	18.35	18.34	6.04	5.98	65.79
NPK Rec. + Fe	18.49	18 33	9.77	9.51	14.52	4.21	4.21	3.67	3.60	19.13 14.34	14.34	14.36	4.25	4.17	41.63
NPK Rec. + Zn, Mn, Fe	25.06	25.09	21 94   21 61	21.61	30 26	9.63	9.61	7.39	7.11	48.23	18.10	18.18	8.70	8.80	76.33
LSD at 5%	0.93	0.94	0.92	0.91	1	0.90	0.84	0.29	0.27	,	0.86	0.89	0.42	0.40	
* Rec. = Recommended dose	ose														

Table 4: Effect of mineral NPK fertilization and micronutrients foliar sprayed on Fe, Mn and Zn contents of wheat plants.

	 	Fe-uptake (mg fed"	(ma fed	٠,١	Z	Mn-uptake (mg fed <sup>71</sup>	(mg fed	٠١)	Zn	Zn-uptake (mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	(ma fed	1
	Str	Straw	ğ	Grain	Straw	a≽	Grain	Ē	Str	Straw	Grain	ië.
	186	2 <sup>nd</sup>	151	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1 st	2 <sup>nd</sup>	15[	2 <sup>nd</sup>	184	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1 st	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Treatments	season	season	season	season	season	season	season	season	season	season	season	season
Control	1.59	1.68	7.82	7.97	2.16	2.20	7.57	7.05	27.65	27.78	17.90	17.95
N Rec.*	1.56	1.64	20.16	20.13	7.73	7.71	11.65	11.75	40.39	40.63	25.44	5.60
NP Rec.	1.73	1.73	29.32	29.29	4.35	4.11	10.28	10.12	29.67	29.73	24.31	24.46
NPK Rec.	2.76	2.73	30.56	30.53	7.72	7.79	15.04	14.87	46.43	46.48	40.60	40.76
NPK Rec. + Zn	3.57	3.46	60.61	60.40	22.96	23.04	44.93	44.78	92.34	89.08	70.81	68.82
NPK Rec. + Mn	2.35	2.36	30.84	30.65	19.14	20.03	29.85	29.87	57.37	56.23	67.49	70.94
NPK Rec. + Fe	2.98	3.25	33.87	34.35	8.30	8.13	16.45	16.45	54.29	54.35	38.93	39.47
NPK Rec. + Zn, Mn, Fe	4.53	4.69	69.82	69.56	19.85	20.09	37.18	36.85	53.67	53.92	52.64	52.78
LSD at 5%	0.62	0.33	4.77	4.76	2.67	2.39	4.73	4.72	4.89	5.04	9.57	9.91
* Rec. = Recommended dose	a											

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Meanwhile, the NPK Rec. treatment shows the highest percentage over control by 5.91, 271.22, 94.11, 39.368, 7.17 and 36.04%) in straw and grain respectively for the studied parameters calculated as an average in both seasons.

These results indicating that, the use of micronutrients by means of foliar application was preferred to avoid not only nutrients fixation in the soil, but also their leaching by irrigation water and accordingly can encourage the uptake of mineral composition of wheat plant. The similar results were confirmed by Anton et al. (2001), Balland et al. (2000) and also Abd El-Hameed et al. (2003). It was concluded that the use of NPK Rec combined with Fe, Mn and Zn foliar applied on wheat plants was recommended as necessary for reaching the highest possible yields.

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تأثير التسميد المعدنى والتغذية الورقية (نتروجين، فوسفور، بوتاسيوم) والعناصر الصغرى على النمو والإنتاجية والمحتوى العنصرى لنباتات القمح النامية فى الأراضى الرملية مصطفى عبد العاطى ناصف ــ أمل فتحى عبد الحميد ــ محمد عفيفى الإمام قسم بحوث تغذية النبات ــ معهد بحوث المياه والأراضى والبيئة حمركز البحوث الزراعيــة ــ

أجريت تجربتان حقليتان بمحطة التجارب الزراعية بالإسماعيلية خلال موسمى (٢٠٠٢/٢٠٠١ و أجريت تجربتان حقليتان بمحطة التجارب الزراعية بالإسماعيلية خلال موسمى (٢٠٠٢/٢٠٠٢) ودلك بهدف دراء تمثير التمار المعالس النيتروجين ، فوسفور ، بوتاسميوم) مسع العناصر الصغرى رشا على الأوراق (حديد ، منجنيز ، زنك) على النمو والإنتاجية والتركيب العنصرى لنباتات القمح في أرض رملية تحت نظام الرى المحورى. صممت التجربة أن قطاعهات كاملة عشوانية وشملت ٨ معاملات وكررت كل معاملة ٣ مرات.

وقد أوضحت النتائج المتحصل عليها كالتالي:

- آل التسميد المعدنى الموصى به (نيتروجين ، فوسفور ، بوتاسيوم) مع الرش ببعض العناصر الصلغرى (الحديد ، المنجنيز ، الزنك) قد أدى إلى زيادة معنوية في اطلوال النبات ، مساحة الأوراق ، طلول السنابل، وزن ١٠٠٠ حبة ، محصول الحبوب والقش بالمقارنة بالكنترول ومن ذلك يتضلح أن أفضل المعاملات تأثيرا على القياسات النباتية تحت الدراسة قد حققت نتيجة الإضلاقة النشروجين، الفوسلفور، البوتاسيوم الموصى به + الرش بالعناصر الصفرى (الحديد ، المنجنيز ، الزنك) كانت هلى الأفضل للصفات السابقة عن باقى المعاملات.
- ٢- أن التسميد المعدنى الموصى به من النيتروجين ، الغوسفور ، البوتاسيوم مع الرش يالعناصر الصسغرى (الحديد ، المنظيز ، الزنك) أدى إلى زيادة معنوية فى النيتروجين ، الفوسفور ، البوتاسيوم الممتص لكل من الحبوب، والقش عن الكنترول.
- سادى التسميد المعدنى الموصى به من النيتروجين ، الفوسفور ، البوتاسيوم مع الرش يالعناصر الصغرى (الحديد ، المنجنيز ، الزنك) إلى زيادة نمية الاستفادة الكلية من النتروجين والبوتاسيوم الممستص بينما نمية الإستفادة الكلية كانت أقل مع المعاملة التسميد المعدنى الموصسى بـــه (نيتــروجين ، فوسفور ، بوتاسيوم) منفردا.
- أحدى التسميد المعدني الموصى به من النيتروجين ، الفوسفور ، البوتاسيوم مع الرش بالعناصر الصغرى (الحديد ، المنجنيز ، الزنك) إلى زيادة معنوية مع الحديد ، المنجنيز والزنك الممتص لكل من الحبوب والقش عن الكنترول ومعاملات الرش يالعناصر الصغرى منفردا.
- ٥ ــ لذا توصى الدراسة إلى إجراء التسميد المعنني الموصى به من (النيتروجين ، الفوسفور ، البوتاسيوم) مع الرش بالعناصر الصغرى (الحديد ، المنجنيز ، الزنك) لنباتات القمح للحصول على أقصى نمو والإنتاجية لمثل هذه الأراضي.