EFFECT OF SOME ORGANIC AND INORGANIC NITROGEN FERTILIZERS ON ONION PLANTS GROWN ON A SANDY CALCAREOUS SOIL.

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Abstract: A field experiment was conducted in two successive seasons 2001/2002 and 2002/2003 in a sandy calcareous soil at west Samalout, EL-Minia Governorate, to study the effect of applying organic and inorganic nitrogen fertilizers as chicken manure (18.5% N and 30% water content), ammonium sulfate (20.6% N) and their combination on growth parameters (plant height, bulb diameter, total fresh and dry weight of onion bulb after 100 days of transplanting), bulb total yield of onion (Allium cepa L) and its N, P and K content. The two single sources nitrogen fertilizer and their combination were application at five levels that are equal of nitrogen value.

- 1- Chicken manure was applied at levels of 0.0 , 5.0 , 10.0, 15.0 and $20.0m^3\,/$ fed ., that equal of 0.0 , 2.0 , 4.0, 6.0 and 8.0 ton / fed., respectively .
- 2- Ammonium sulfate was applied at levels of 0.0, 37.0 , 74.0 , 111.0 and $148.0\ kg\ N\ /$ fed .
- 3- Their combination at levels of nitrogen value:-
- 1 ton of chicken manure +18.5 kg N of ammonium sulfate / fed.
- 2 ton of chicken manure+ 37.0 kg N of ammonium sulfate / fed
- 3 ton of chicken manure+55.5 kg N of ammonium sulfate/fed.

4 ton of chicken manure+ 74 kg N of ammonium sulfate/ fed.

The results indicated that the application of organic, inorganic nitrogen fertilizer and their combination. at different levels significantly increased some growth parameters (plant height, and fresh and dry bulb weight) after 100 days of transplanting. The total yield and average weight of 10 bulbs significantly increased with applying different levels of chicken manure and N fertilizer compared with control treatment.

The application of chicken manure, ammonium sulfate and their combination at different levels significantly increased N, P and K concentration and uptake by onion plants at harvest.

Moreover, the increases in the nutrient concentration and uptake by onion due to the application of these sources of nitrogen fertilizers followed the trend of ammonium sulfate + chicken manure > ammonium sulfate alone > chicken manure alone).

Generally the results showed that the addition of 6 to 8 ton of chicken manure with 60 to 70 kg N / fed. as ammonium sulfate recommend to increase the yield of onion and the uptake of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium by onion

plants and to improve of physical, chemical and microbiological properties

of the treated soils to give reasonable crop productivity.

Key words: onion, sandy calcareous, organic manure, transplantation.

Introduction

In Egypt, Onion is , planted in both old and new lands. It is usually planted in less fertile soils and desert areas. It is one of the most important Egyptian vegetable crops . Nitrogen fertilization is known to affect plant growth and yield .

Application of organic matter to soils improves soil properties and consequently, the growth of plants. Farmyard manure could be one of the most economical wavs increase organic matter and nitrogen of the soil. Several content investigators indicated that the application of farmyard manure increased plant growth, dry matter and bulb yield of onion (Galbiotti and Castellance, 1990 and Fatma et al. 2002).

The soil application of nitrogen markedly increased number of onion leaves (Pande and Mundra, 1971; El-Neklawy et al., 1985; and Dacquel, 1986), bulbs yields (Hegde, 1988 and Badr et al., 1996) and weight of the whole plants (El-Habbasha and Behairy, 1976; and El-Gamili and Abd El-Hadi, 1996). On the ather hand, (Dawquel (1986); Al- Rajabi (1987) and Mohamed and Hemida (2004) showed that length and dry weight

percentage of onion bulb were not markedly affected by N levels.

Many investigators tried to use and inorganic nitrogen organic fertilization for growing onion (Sharma and Ajit, 1994; Fatma et al., 2002) . Al-Rajabi,(1987); and Hegde,(1988) indicated that the application of nitrogen led to increasing nitrogen concentration and uptake by onion bulb, while P and K concentrations decreased with high levels of nitrogen application. Morever, El-Sherif and El- Habbasha (1977); El-Neklawy et al. (1985), Patil and Patil (1995); Sharma and Ajit (1994); El-Gamil and Abd El-Hadi (1996) and Fatma et al. (2002) reported an increase in total uptake of N P K at different parts of onion plants as a result of increasing the organic or inorganic nitrogen fertilizer levels. El-Gizawy et al.,(1993) and Zahran and Abdoh (1998), found that the response of onion plants to nitrogen fertilizers as inorganic source alone combination with organic manure, significantly increased plant height, number of leaves, fresh and dry weights (total yield) and nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium uptake of onion plant after 100 days from sowing.

This study aims to investigate the effect of organic and inorganic

nitrogen fertilizers on the growth parameters , bulb yield and quality of onions .

Materials and Methods

A field experiment was carried out west Samalout EL- Minia Governorate during two successive seasons (2001/2002 and 2002/2003) in a newly reclaimed soil (a sandy calcareous soil) to study the effect of two sources of nitrogen fertilizers, i.e.(1) chicken manure (18.5 % N and 30% water content), ammonium sulfate (20.6% N) as single fertilizer and in combination on growth parameters, yield, nutrient concentration and uptake of onion plants (Allium cepa L. CV. Gize 6) . Chicken manure was added at levels of 0.0., 5.0,

10.0, 15.0 and 20.0 m^3 / fed. that are equal to 0.0 , 2.0 , 4.0 , 6.0 and 8.0 ton / fed .It was broadcasted during soil preparation. Ammonium sulfate was applied at levels of 0.0 , 37.0 , 74.0 , 111.0 and 148.0 kg N/ fed . in three equal doses (30 , 60 and 90 days after transplanting).

The application of their combination at levels of nitrogen value:-

1 ton of chicken manure + 18.5 kg N of ammonium sulfate.

2 ton of chicken manure + 37.0 kg N of ammonium sulfate.

3 ton of chicken manure + 55.5 kg N of ammonium sulfate.

4 ton of chicken manure + 74.0 kg N of ammonium sulfate.

Table(1): Some physical and chemical properties of the studied soil during the successive two seasons of 2001/2002 and 2002/2003.

Property	2001/2002	2002/2003	Property	2001/2002	2002/2003
Particle size			Soluble ions		
distribution,			(meq/100g soil)		
Coarse sand (%)	61.49	62.89	Ca ²⁺	18.7	18.20
Fine sand (%)	34.97	33.24	${ m Mg}^{\ 2+}$	10.8	12.3
Silt (%)	3.18	3.70	Na^+	11.9	10.3
Clay (%)	0.36	0.17	K^{+}	1.4	1.1
Texture grade	sandy	sandy	Cl ⁻	4.5	3.7
CaCO ₃ %	28.51	30.85	$CO_3^{-2} + HCO_3^{-}$	28.8	28.8
Organic matter (%)	0.13	0.18	SO ₄ ⁻²	9.5	8.8
pН			Available N ppm	11.3	10.5
(1:2.5 soil to water	7.25	7.30	Available P ppm	2.5	1.8
suspension)			Available K ppm	20.7	21.9
EC (dS/m, 1:5 soil to water extetact)	4.28	4.18			

Table(2): some chemical properties	of the chicken manure, that was used in
the two seasons.	

Properties	Value				
Organic matter (%)	58.25				
Total organic carbon (%)	33.79				
Total nitrogen (%)	1.85				
C / N ratio	18.26:1				
Mass of one m ³ (Kg)	400				
Water content (%)	30				
pH (1:2.5)	7.10				
EC (dS / m , 1 :5)	2.19				
Available P (ppm)	8.85				
Available K (ppm)	155.28				

A randomized complete block design with four replications were used . The plot area was 1/400 fed. Onion plants were transplanted in raws of 20 cm apart and 7 cm between plants .

Phosphorus fertilization as super phosphate ($15.5\%~P_2O_5$)at the level of 45 kg P_2O_5 / fed. and potassium fertilization as potassium sulfate ($48-52\%~K_2O$) at the level 48 Kg K_2O / fed. was applied to all plots. Super phosphate and potassium sulfate fertilizers were broadcaster during soil preparation .

Some physical and chemical properties of the experimental soil in two seasons (2001/2002 and 2002/2003) before transplanting

were determined according to Black (1965) and are shown in Table (1). The chemical composition of the chicken manure is also present in Table (2).

100 days from transplanting, random samples of ten were taken from each treatment. Plant height, number of leaves, fresh and dry weight of both leaves bulbs and total dry weight were recorded for each sample . Plant material from each sample were dried at 70°C for 72 hours, digested and analyzed for N, P and K. The concentration and uptake (mg/ plant) of these nutrients ware determined.

At maturity (after 150 days from transplanting), the total yield in each plot was taken, weighed and recorded (ton / fed). In addition, a random sample of 10 bulbs was chosen from each plot to determine the average weight of bulb, diameter and the percentage of dry matter content. Samples of ten bulbs were also taken from each treatment to determined dry weight and content and uptake of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. All samples were digested using H₂SO₄ and H₂O₂ method as described in Chapman and Pratt (1961).

The proper statistical analysis of all data was carried out according to Gomez and Gomez (1984). The differences between treatments means were compared using the least significant difference (LSD) at 1 and 5% level of probability.

Results and Discussion

1: Growth parameters of onion:

Data presented in Table (3) showed that the application of chicken manure, ammonium sulfate and their combination significantly increased plant height, fresh and dry weight of leaves after 100 days from transplanting compared with the control treatment. This result may be due to increasing root surface per unit of soil volume as a result of organic adding manure and ammonium sulfate fertilizers .In addition, organic manure contains humic substances, which improve physical and chemical properties of

the soil and releases nutrient such as N in the soil and hence increasing their availability to the growing plants . Asiegbu and UZO (1984); El- Gamili and Abd El- Hadi (1996) ; Zahran and Abdoh (1998) and Fatma et al (2002), showed that the growth parameters and total dry matter of onion plants markedly affected by organic or inorganic nitrogen fertilizers added to soils. The results clearly showed that application of ammonium sulfate + chicken manure ammonium sulfate alone > chicken manure alone, regarding their effects on growth parameters of onion.

2. Onion yield:

The presented data in Table (4) showed that applying organic manure and ammonium sulfate fertilizer increased the marketable bulb yield and its quality. This increase may be due to the positive effect of organic manure ammonium sulfate on the contained macronutrients, such as N . P and K as a result of its important role in the plant metabolism. Also, the results showed highly significant increases in the yield (fresh and dry) of onion and average weight of ten bulbs in the two growing seasons. These finding are in accordance with those reported by EL-Neklawy et al (1985); Bader et al (1996); El-Sheekh and Hegazy (1998) and Fatma et al. (2002).

Table(3): Some growth parameters of onion plants at 100 days from transplanting as affected by applying chicken manure and ammonium sulfate during the two growth seasons (2001/2002 & 2002/2003).

Trantment		Plant height,	Number leaves,	Bulb diameter	Fresh weight/plant.		Dry weight		Total dray
Treatment		(cm)	of plant	(cm)	weight	piant.	/plant		weight,
		(CIII)	or plant	(CIII)	Leaves	Bulb	Leaves	Bulb	(g/plant)
First season									(g/piunt)
Control		40.96	4.21	3.50	17.26	15.72	0.57	0.91	1.48
	a_1	59.61	4.51	3.70	39.92	31.79	3.37	3.80	7.17
	\mathbf{a}_2	67.47	4.83	4.20	41.83	35.27	3.77	4.05	7.82
Α	a_3	70.21	5.27	4.50	45.57	39.58	4.03	4.14	8.17
	a_4	81.15	5.89	4.90	51.33	45.13	4.38	4.95	9.33
	b_1	68.50	4.73	4.10	37.16	35.50	3.40	3.81	7.21
В	b_2	71.29	4.81	4.50	40.39	38.54	3.95	4.28	8.23
В	b_3	78.90	5.90	4.90	44.26	40.56	4.63	4.37	9.00
	b_4	85.11	6.10	5.30	56.33	50.15	5.62	5.16	10.78
	a_1b_1	72.90	4.89	3.90	42.54	39.98	4.30	4.23	8.81
AB	a_2b_2	81.22	5.10	4.50	46.72	44.54	4.93	4.95	9.88
	a_3b_3	89.27	5.91	4.80	50.43	47.72	5.76	5.53	11.29
	a_4b_4	98.76	6.43	5.50	63.14	51.43	6.81	5.62	12.43
	5%	1.850	N.S	N.S	1.145	2.015	0.762	0.762	1.26
L.SD	1%	2.520	N.S	N.S	1.558	2.749	1.039	1.039	1.720
				Second	season				
Control		40.17	4.10	3.30	16.41	14.56	0.56	0.89	1.45
	a_1	58.21	4.55	3.50	32.24	30.78	3.12	3.75	6.87
Α	a_2	63.45	4.71	3.60	37.08	33.57	3.25	3.91	7.16
A	a_3	69.15	5.10	4.00	40.16	37.41	3.89	4.16	8.05
	a_4	71.28	5.38	4.02	51.53	41.65	4.59	4.20	8.79
	b_1	65.83	4.65	3.90	36.69	33.41	3.35	3.80	7.15
В	b_2	69.49	4.85	4.10	39.51	35.78	3.60	3.98	7.58
В	b_3	76.63	5.75	4.60	42.97	38.45	4.48	4.28	8.76
	b_4	85.63	5.83	4.90	58.38	45.79	4.41	4.61	10.02
	alb1	71.45	4.88	3.60	41.15	39.28	4.06	4.18	8.24
1/ ₂ AB	a_2b_2	78.23	5.11	3.90	45.69	43.15	4.79	4.88	9.67
	a_3b_3	85.76	5.98	4.30	49.28	46.57	5.43	5.76	11.19
	a_4b_4	93.16	6.53	4.90	60.28	52.58	5.96	5.80	11.76
L.S.D	5%	1.826	N.S	N.S	0.852	2.639	0.660	0.762	0.930
	1%	2.491	N.S	N.S	1.611	3.599	0.900	1.039	1.270

A : Chicken manure $-a_1$, a_2 , a_3 and a_4 represent 2.4.6 and 8 ton / fed ., respectively .

B : Ammonium sulfate $-\,b_1$, b_2 , b_3 and b_4 represent 37 , $74,\,111$ and 148 kg $\,N/$ fed ., respectively .

 $^{1\!\!/2}AB$: - $a_1b_1,\,a_2\,b_1,\,a_3\,b_3$ and $a_4\,b_4$ represent 1 ton + 18.5 kg N , 2 ton + 37 kg N , 3 ton + 55.5 kg N and 4 ton + 74 kg N / fed ., respectively .

Table(4): Yield, bulb diameter and average weight of 10 bulbs at harvest of onion plants as affected by applying chicken manure and ammonium sulfate during the two growth seasons (2001/2002 & 2002/2003).

Treatment		Yield (ton/fed)		Average weight	Bulb	Yield (ton/fed)		Average weight	Bulls	
		Fresh	Dry	of 10 bulbs, (Kg)	diameter (Cm.)	Fresh	Dry	of 10 bulbs (kg)	diameter (cm)	
First season							Second season			
Control		3.39	0.29	0.642	3.50	3.15	0.28	0.602	3.40	
	a_1	8.59	0.78	1.162	3.70	8.85	0.81	0.997	3.50	
A	\mathbf{a}_2	9.95	0.90	1.337	4.30	9.67	0.96	1.192	3.80	
A	\mathbf{a}_3	11.82	1.23	1.514	4.60	11.37	1.21	1.318	4.10	
	a_4	14.76	1.52	1.821	5.00	14.22	1.58	1.682	4.40	
	b ₁	9.93	0.83	1.018	4.30	9.48	0.92	1.132	4.20	
В	b_2	12.37	1.10	1.074	4.50	11.87	1.09	1.345	4.40	
	b ₃	15.05	1.35	1.353	4.90	14.68	1.32	1.518	5.50	
	b_4	19.23	1.78	1.459	5.50	18.73	1.73	1.530	5.40	
	a_1b_1	12.95	1.20	1.342	4.20	12.81	1.08	1.293	3.90	
1/2	a_2b_2	16.13	1.50	1.506	4.80	15.69	1.41	1.397	4.30	
AB	a_3b_3	18.62	1.57	1.805	5.60	17.85	1.56	1.804	4.80	
	a ₄ b ₄	22.13	1.89	2.112	5.90	21.53	1.93	1.982	5.30	
L.S.D	5%	1.008	0.148	0.179	N.S	0.668	0.179	0.048	N.S	
	1%	1.374	0.201	0.683	N.S	0.900	0.238	0.066	N.S	
	1 1						216	1.0 .	/ C 1	

A : Chicken manure $-\,a_1,\; ,a_2-a_3$ and a_4 represent 2.4.6 and 8 ton / fed ., respectively

 $^1\!\!/_2AB$: - $a_1b_1,\,a_2\,b_2,\,a_3\,b_3$ and $a_4\,b_4$ represent 1 ton + 18.5 kg N , 2 ton + 37 kg N, 3 ton + 55.5 kg N and 4 ton + 74 kg N / fed ., respectively .

B : Ammonium sulfate $-\ b_1$, b_2 , b_3 , and b_4 represent 37 , $74,\ 111$ and 148 kg N/ fed ., respectively .

3. Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium contents of onion bulbs:

The available froms of nutrients in the soil is an important factor for the absorption of these nutrients by plants, such as onion plants, and it is reflected on the nutrient content of the plants. Therefore, N, P and K contents were determined in the leaves and bulbs of onion during the growth period and at the harvest.

Data in Table(5) indicated that addition of the nitrogen source as organic and inorganic fertilizer and their combination gave significant N. P and increases in concentration and uptake by bulbs after 100 days from transplanting compared with control treatment .These results may be attributed to the increases in the dry matter of onion as a result of an increase in the nutrient uptake. These results are in agreement with those obtained by Al-Rajabi (1987) and Fatma et al (2002).

At harvest, data recorded in Table (6) showed that the N.P and K concentration and uptake its of leaves and bulbs were onion significantly increased with the application of chicken manure and sulfate ammonium and their combination levels .Generally, the increases in uptake of N, P and K may be attributed to the high contents of these nutrients in the chicken manure or when it was combined with ammonium sulfate fertilizer.

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تأثير بعض الاسمدة النيتروجية العضوية والغير عضوية على نباتات البصل النامية في تربة رملية – جيرية

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معهد بحوث الأراضي والمياه والبيئة ـمركز البحوث الزراعية - جيزة ـ مصر

تم تنفيذ تجربة حقلية بمنطقة غرب سمالوط – محافظة المنيا – مصر – وفي الأراضي الرملية الجيرية على مدار موسمين متتاليين (2001 / 2002 / 2002 / 2003) وذلك لدارسة تأثير بعض المصادر المختلفة للاسمدة النيتروجية في صورة سماد عضوى زرق الطيور (2.81% بغض المصادر المختلفة للاسمدة النيتروجين) وسماد سلفات النشادر (2.0.6 نيتروجين) على مؤشرات النمو (ارتفاع النبات ، قطر البصلة ، الوزن الطازج والجاف لعدد عشرة نباتات بعد على من الشتل) والوزن الكلى للمحصول لنباتات البصل واحتوائها على عناصر النيتروجين والفوسفور والبوتاسيوم . وأضيفت هذه الاسمدة في خمس مستويات متكافئة في كمية النيتروجين وكانت على هذا النمو :-

1- سماد زرق الطيور منفرد (صفر -2، 4، 6، 8 طن) فدان بما يعادل صفر -5-10-10 - 10 - 20 مدان .

2- سماد سلفات النشادر ومنفرد بمستويات صفر - 37- 74- 111- 148كم نيتروجين / فدان

3- أضيفت الاسمدة في هذه المعاملة ، وبنصف كمية النيتروجين من زرق الطيور والنصف الأخر سماد سلفات النشادر .

1طن زرق طيور + 18.5 كجم من سلفات النشادر / فدان

2طن زرق طيور + - ، 37 كجم سلفات النشادر / فدان

3طن زرق طيور + 55.5 كجم سلفات النشادر / فدان

4طن زرق طيور + -،74 كجم سلفات النشادر / فدان

وقد أوضحت النتائج المتحصل عليها من الدراسة بعد 100 يوم من الشتل أن هناك زيادة واضحة في جميع صفات النمو تحت الدراسة مثل ارتفاع النبات عدد الأوراق الوزن الجاف ومعدلات امتصاص النباتات لعناصر النيتروجين والفوسفور والبوتاسيوم نتيجة للمعاملات بالمقارنة بمعاملة الكنترول (أرض غير معاملة وغير مسمدة) وذلك بعد 100 يوم من الشتل .

كذلك أكدت النتائج المأخوذة بعد النضج وعند الحصاد النتائج السابقة المأخوذة بعد 100 يوم من الشتل حيث ازداد المحصول مع ارتفاع في تركيز وامتصاص عناصر النيتروجين والفوسفور والبوتاسيوم وذلك في جميع معاملات التسميد وكان هناك فروق واضحة بين المعاملات في كلا مصدري النيتروجين ، وكان ترتيب مصدري النتروجين تبعاً للزيادات المتحصل عليها على هذا النحو : زرق الطيور + سلفات النشادر > سلفات النشادر منفردة > زرق الطيور منفرداً

ومن النتائج السابقة يتضح أنه يمكن إضافة من 6-8 طن زرق طيور/ لكل فدان كمصدر للتسميد العضوي مع إضافة 00-70 كجم نيتروجين/ لكل فدان في صورة سلفات نشادر كمصدر غير عضوي لزيادة محصول البصل وزيادة تركيز وامتصاص عناصر النيتروجين والفوسفور والبوتاسيوم كما أنها تعمل على زيادة تحسين صفات التربة الطبيعية والكيماوية والبيولوجية مما ينعكس ذلك على زيادة الإنتاج المحصولي .