

## Effect of Farmyard Manure and Foliar Application of Micronutrients on Yield Characteristics of Wheat Grown on Salt Affected Soil

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**Abstract:** Two field experiments were carried out in 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 seasons at the experimental farm, Tag El-Ezz Research Station, Dakhlia Governorate, Egypt, (+7 m altitude, 31° 36' latitude and 30° 57' longitude) to study the effect of adding FYM at rates of 0 and 20 Mg ha<sup>-1</sup> and some micronutrients as foliar application on growth, yield and nutrients content of wheat. The most important finding could be summarized as follows: Application of FYM gave a significant increase in all quantitative yield characteristics as compared with the control treatment. The mixed foliar application treatment (B, Mo and Zn) gave the highest mean values of all studied yield characteristics, whereas, Mo-treatment gave the lowest mean values in all studied characteristics. The interaction effect between FYM addition and foliar application of micronutrients on quantitative yield characteristics of wheat plants recorded a significant increase in all studied yield parameters as compared with control treatment. The concentrations of macro and micronutrients in grain and straw yield of wheat were affected by FYM and foliar application of micro nutrients and this effect was significant. There was significant effect of the interaction between FYM addition and foliar application of micronutrients and the treatment of adding FYM with foliar application of the mixed micronutrients (B, Mo and Zn) was the superior.

**Key words:** Farmyard manure % Micronutrients % Wheat % Salt affected soil

### INTRODUCTION

Wheat is the dominant grain crop of the world commerce. It is occupying an important part of the daily diet of millions of people. In Egypt, increasing productivity of wheat becomes a most to overcome unusual increase in population.

Nitrogen application is considered one of the key factors for obtaining higher grain yield. The shortage of locally produced nitrogen fertilizers, high cost of the nitrogen unit and low nitrogen use efficiency encourage investigators to develop more agronomic practices to improve the efficiency of nitrogen fertilizers. Using farmyard manure considered one of many ways to reduce the applied quantities of mineral nitrogen fertilizers.

In literatures several workers showed the importance of farmyard manure on increasing cereal grain yield. Application of either chemical nitrogen or organic manure significantly increased grain yield compared with the control [1, 2]. Also, grain yield of wheat were significantly increased as the organic manure increased up to

30 ton/ha, while 20 ton/ha was adequate for the highest values of panicle length, number of panicles/m<sup>2</sup> and number of grains/panicle [3]. Addition of 5 tons crop residues/ha significantly increased number of panicles/m<sup>2</sup>, panicle length, number of grains/panicle and grain and straw yields [4]. Addition of 50 m<sup>3</sup> farmyard manure/ha significantly increased flag leaf area, plant height, number of panicles/m<sup>2</sup>, panicle length, panicle weight number of filled grains/panicle, 1000-grain weight and grain and straw yields [5].

Micronutrient deficiency is widespread in plants, animals and humans, especially in many arid countries, due to the calcareous nature of soils, high pH, low organic matter, salt stress, continual drought, high bicarbonate content in irrigation water and imbalanced application of fertilizers [6].

Boron (B), molybdenum (Mo) and zinc (Zn) are three essential micronutrients required for the growth and development of higher plants. Boron plays important roles in cell wall synthesis and structure and possibly membrane stability [7-11].

Table 1: Some physical and chemical properties of the experimental soil

Ec dSmG <sup>1</sup> (soil Paste)	PH (1:2.5)	Available nutrients (mg/ L)										
		N	P	K	Fe	Mn	Zn	B	Mo	ESP %	Soil type	Texture
7.1	8.2	30	11	300	5.8	4.7	0.9	0.3	0.06	10.1	Saline	Clayey

Table 2: Some chemical analyses of farmyard manure

pH	EC	C%	N%	C/N ratio	Total P%	Total K%	OM%
6.90	4.30	17.60	1.18	14.92	0.41	1.07	26.38

Boron deficiency causes abnormal development of reproductive organs [12, 13] and reduces plant yield [14, 15]. Molybdenum deficiency decreases the activity of nitrogenase and nitrate reductase, damages chloroplast structure and reduces carbohydrate synthesis, which can lead to impaired pollen development in plant [16, 17]. Zinc is a structural component of several enzymes and it is required for enzyme activation; thus, Zn deficiency also affects carbohydrate metabolism, damages pollen structure and decreases the yield [18-21].

The objective of this study was to investigate the effect of foliar application of some micronutrients with or without farmyard manure application on quantitative and qualitative yield characteristics of wheat under salt affected soils.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Two successive field experiments were established in winter seasons of 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 at the experimental farm, Tag El-Ezz Research Station, Dakhlia Governorate, Egypt, (+7 m altitude, 31° 36' latitude and 30° 57' longitude). Wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) "Sakha 93" was obtained from the Agric. Res. Center. The sowing dates were 20<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of November in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> seasons, respectively.

The experimental design was split plot with 4 replicates. Main treatments were assigned to FYM application which added at rates of 0 and 20 Mg haG<sup>1</sup>. Foliar application of micronutrients treatments were presented in subplots which were:

- C Distilled water (as the control treatment).
- C Boron (50 mg LG<sup>1</sup>) in form of borax.
- C Molybdenum (25 mg LG<sup>1</sup>) in form of sodium molybdate.
- C Boron and molybdenum (50 and 25 mg LG<sup>1</sup>, respectively).
- C Zinc (250 mg LG<sup>1</sup>) in form of zinc sulfate.
- C Boron and molybdenum and zinc (50, 25 and 250 mg LG<sup>1</sup>, respectively)

At the beginning of the experiment, surface soil samples were collected and analyzed according to Black [22]. Some physical and chemical characteristics of the experimental soil are shown in Table 1. Chemical analysis of FYM were carried out according to Black [22] and listed in Table 2.

Foliar application treatments were applied at three times using 600 L haG<sup>1</sup>. The 1<sup>st</sup> one was after 45 days from sowing (before tillering stage), the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the third times were sprayed separately after 15 days for each. Agricultural practices such as mineral fertilization, irrigation, hilling, weed, pest and disease control on all plots were done following the guidelines given by Ministry of Agriculture.

Wheat plants were harvested after 6 months from sowing. Plant samples were collected from each plot using a frame of 1 m<sup>2</sup> and the yield for each grain and straw were calculated as Mg haG<sup>1</sup>. Plant samples were oven dried at 70°C, grounded and 0.4 g from each sample was wet-digested using the mixture of H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>-HClO<sub>4</sub> according to Peterburgsiki [23]. Contents of macro and micronutrient (N, P, K, Fe, Mn and Zn) were determined in grain and straw yields according to Black [22].

The statistical analysis was done according to the methods described by CoStat [24] using the technique of variance analysis [25]. Duncan's Multiple Range Test was used to compare the treatment means [26].

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Effect of FYM and Foliar Application of Micronutrients on Growth and Yield Characteristics in Wheat Grains:

Data in Table 3 show main treatments effect on quantitative yield characteristics of wheat. It is clear that FYM application gave a significant increase in all quantitative yield characteristics as compared with the control treatment.

Concerning the effect of foliar application of micronutrients, it is obvious that the mixed foliar application treatment (B, Mo and Zn) gave the highest

Table 3: Effect of FYM and foliar application of micronutrients on growth and yield characteristics in wheat grains

Treatments	Plant height (cm)	Leaf area (cm <sup>2</sup> )	Spike length (cm)	Yield (Mg / ha)		
				Grain	Straw	
FYM treatments						
Without FYM	93.44	20.75	11.65	5.28	5.14	
With FYM	102.84	25.23	13.58	5.31	6.24	
F Test	*	*	*	*	*	
Foliar application of micronutrients						
Control	93.14f	20.29f	10.06e	4.38e	4.55e	
B	97.58d	22.64d	11.92d	4.68c	5.71c	
Mo	96.78e	21.79e	11.75d	4.44d	4.95d	
B+Mo	99.67b	24.53b	13.16c	4.91b	6.10b	
Zn	98.50c	23.53c	13.52b	4.69c	5.95bc	
B + Mo+Zn	103.15a	25.15a	15.29a	5.69a	6.93a	
Interaction effect						
Without FYM	Control	90.11e	18.30i	9.24g	3.91h	3.88g
	B	93.02fg	20.78gh	10.90f	4.31f	5.02ef
	Mo	92.43g	20.18h	10.79f	3.95g	4.95f
	B+Mo	94.01f	21.76fg	11.28e	4.36f	5.40d
	Zn	93.94f	21.36g	12.99d	3.96g	5.24de
	B + Mo+Zn	97.11e	22.11f	14.67bc	5.19cd	6.36c
With FYM application	Control	96.17e	22.27f	10.87f	4.85e	5.19e
	B	102.14cd	24.50d	12.94d	5.04de	6.38c
	Mo	101.12d	23.40e	12.70d	4.94e	4.95f
	B+Mo	105.33b	27.30b	15.04b	5.46b	6.79b
	Zn	103.06c	25.70c	14.04c	5.40bc	6.67bc
	B + Mo+Zn	109.19a	28.19a	15.91a	6.19a	7.50a

Mean values followed by the same letter within the treatments are not significantly different (  $p < 0.05$ ) according to Duncan's multiple range test

Table 4: Effect of FYM and foliar application of micronutrients on N, P, K, Fe, Mn and Zn concentration in wheat grain yield

Treatments	Macronutrients (%)			Micronutrients (mg / Kg)			
	N	P	K	Fe	Mn	Zn	
FYM treatments							
Without FYM	1.65	0.35	0.22	88.70	37.93	34.64	
With FYM	1.99	0.41	0.26	101.10	45.08	45.20	
F test	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Foliar application of micronutrients							
Control	1.64d	0.31e	0.23d	80.90c	37.50b	36b	
B	1.78c	0.36d	0.24cd	89.15b	41.20ab	39b	
Mo	1.75c	0.33e	0.27b	88.35b	45.89a	37.81b	
B+Mo	1.84b	0.43b	0.25c	103.80a	38.00b	42.13a	
Zn	1.78c	0.39c	0.25c	100.99a	38.95b	47.03a	
B + Mo+Zn	2.14a	0.46a	0.29a	106.20a	47.50a	44.28a	
Interaction effect							
Without FYM	Control	1.46e	0.27f	0.26c	71.40e	40.80b	32.18e
	B	1.55f	0.32e	0.22f	82.70d	37.80c	31.63e
	Mo	1.56f	0.31e	0.24e	83.90d	42.80b	31.42e
	B+Mo	1.68d	0.39c	0.22f	98.20b	34.00c	36.15d
	Zn	1.62d	0.36d	0.19g	95.97b	35.00c	48.03a
	B + Mo+Zn	2.02b	0.43b	0.25ce	100.00b	34.20c	40.43c
With FYM application	Control	1.81c	0.36d	0.26c	90.40c	43.80b	42.60c
	B	2.00b	0.39c	0.31ab	95.60b	44.60ab	44.17b
	Mo	1.94bc	0.34	0.30b	92.80bc	48.97a	44.19b
	B+Mo	1.99b	0.47a	0.27c	109.40a	42.00b	44.03b
	Zn	1.93bc	0.42b	0.32a	106.00ab	42.90b	48.10a
	B + Mo+Zn	2.25a	0.49a	0.20 g	112.40a	51.20a	46.12a

Mean values followed by the same letter within the treatments are not significantly different (  $p < 0.05$ ) according to Duncan's multiple range test

Table 5: Effect of FYM and foliar application of micronutrients on N, P, K, Fe, Mn and Zn concentration in wheat straw yield

Treatments	Macronutrients (%)			Micronutrients (mg / Kg)			
	N	P	K	Fe	Mn	Zn	
FYM treatments							
Without FYM	0.44	0.21	0.99	5.07	13.66	114.88	
With FYM	0.51	0.26	1.24	5.95	17.20	145.39	
F test	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Foliar application of micronutrients							
Control	0.42d	0.17e	0.90d	4.05e	13.45d	112.19d	
B	0.46c	0.22c	1.19bc	5.29c	15.99b	126.42c	
Mo	0.42d	0.20d	1.33a	5.13d	15.00c	124.29c	
B+Mo	0.52b	0.29a	1.23b	6.23a	15.20c	133.59b	
Zn	0.50b	0.26b	1.06c	5.99b	15.58bc	144.82a	
B + Mo+Zn	0.54a	0.29a	1.35a	6.37a	17.36a	139.51b	
Interaction effect							
Without FYM	Control	0.38f	0.15g	0.76j	3.29e	11.41i	95.72i
	B	0.41e	0.18ed	0.84i	4.83d	14.12g	107.55h
	Mo	0.40e	0.17f	1.12e	4.80d	15.12f	106.82h
	B+Mo	0.49c	0.26c	1.07 fg	5.89b	13.60h	126.09f
	Zn	0.46d	0.24d	0.92h	5.59c	14.00gh	119.03g
	B + Mo+Zn	0.50c	0.28b	1.20c	6.00b	13.68h	134.09e
With FYM application	Control	0.45d	0.19e	1.04g	4.81d	15.48ef	128.65f
	B	0.50c	0.26c	1.31b	5.74b	17.86b	145.29cd
	Mo	0.44d	0.22	1.34b	5.45a	16.31de	141.76d
	B+Mo	0.55ab	0.30a	1.07f	6.56a	16.80cd	148.15bc
	Zn	0.53b	0.28b	1.19d	6.39	17.16bc	155.54a
	B + Mo+Zn	0.57a	0.31a	1.46a	6.74a	19.60a	152.92ab

Mean values followed by the same letter within the treatments are not significantly different ( $p < 0.05$ ) according to Duncan's multiple range test

values of all studied yield characteristics. Meanwhile, Mo-treatment gave the lowest mean values in all studied characteristics. These results are in agreement with Mei *et al.*, [27] who found that the effect of B fertilizer on the seed yield was attributed to the increase in the number of seeds per plant. The combined application of B, Mo and Zn resulted in the highest seed yield compared with the application of B, Mo or Zn alone.

The interaction effect between FYM addition and foliar application of micronutrients on quantitative yield characteristics of wheat plants recorded a significant increase in all studied yield parameters as compared with the control treatment.

This could be due to the favorite effect of adding FYM as a good source of plant nutrients. Furthermore, FYM acts as a natural soil conditioner which improved soil properties and consequently soil productivity. These results are in accordance with those obtained by More [28].

**Effect of FYM and Foliar Application of Micronutrients on N, P, K, Fe, Mn and Zn Concentration in Grain and Straw Yield of Wheat Plant:** Data in Tables 4 and 5 illustrated that concentrations of macro and micronutrients in grain and straw yield of wheat were

affected significantly by FYM and foliar application of micronutrients.

A glance on Table 4, it is clear that the mixed foliar application treatment (B, Mo and Zn) jointly with FYM application gave the highest values of all studied nutrients except for K% and Zn (mg kg<sup>-1</sup>) in grain wheat as compared to the check treatment. Meanwhile, data in Table 5 reveal that the highest values of the aforementioned nutrients except for Zn (mg kg<sup>-1</sup>) in straw occurred with the mixed foliar application treatment (B, Mo and Zn) in combination with FYM application as compared to the check treatment. It is well known that, during the decomposition of organic matter, macro and micronutrients are incorporated into the soil matrix, allowing the soil to act as a reservoir of these nutrients. These nutrients will be released, to become available for uptake by plants. Otherwise, humus which is the final component of organic matter decomposition, accumulate in the environmental systems to increase moisture retention and nutrient supply potentials of soils [29].

The obtained data are confirmed with the results found by Tolba *et al.*, [30] and Khater *et al.*, [31], who mentioned that FYM plays an important role for supplying plants by some required nutrients.

Foliar application of micronutrients led to an increase in concentrations of macro and micronutrients in both of grain and straw yield and this is mainly due to the vital physiological roles in plant cells which promote the uptake of plant nutrients [32, 33].

### CONCLUSIONS

Application of FYM in combination with foliar application of micronutrients had the highest effect on all quantitative yield characteristics. Foliar application treatment (B, Mo and Zn) with FYM gave the highest values, whereas, Mo-treatment without FYM gave the lowest values in all studied yield characteristics compared with the other micronutrients. Foliar application of micronutrients led to an increase in concentrations of macro and micronutrients in both of wheat grain and straw yield and this effect may be attributed mainly to the vital physiological roles in plant cells which promote the uptake of plant nutrients.

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