

Response of two wheat cultivars (*triticum aestivum* L) to amended nitrogen fertilizer on yield and grain quality in halfa elgadidah area

Abstract

A field experiment was conducted for two consecutive seasons during 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 on the Demonstration Farm of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Kassala at New Halfa. The objective of the study was to investigate the interactive effects of cultivars and chicken manure with nitrogen fertilizer on yield and grain protein content of wheat cultivars (*Triticum aestivum* L). The wheat cultivars (Nepta and Bohein) were used, and the nitrogen fertilizer levels were 0, 43, 86kgN ha⁻¹ corresponding to N0, N1 and N2 without or with 2 tons of chicken manure ha⁻¹(M). The experiment was laid out according to split-plot design. Both cultivar, fertilizer treatments and their interactions showed significant increases in total leaf area duration and dry matter production. Also, Nepta cultivar out yielded Bohein by more than 20%. Moreover, addition of organic manure with high N level significantly increased grain yield by more than 88% and 50% relative to N0 treatment for Nepta and Bohein, respectively. The increase in grain yield was associated with significant increases in yield components (number of grains plant⁻¹and 1000-grain weight) and grain protein content.

Keywords: wheat; nitrogen, organic manure, cultivar, yield, water stress, correlation

Volume 1 Issue 5 - 2017

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Received: July 25, 2017 | **Published:** August 24, 2017

Introduction

Although, Sudan is considered as a marginal area of wheat production, the wheat crop ranks second after sorghum and now has become a strategic crop due to the shortage of food in the world and to the drastic change in the consumption habit of the people in Sudan.^{1,2} Wheat is the main crop that provides protein and carbohydrates for many people.³ After cultivars, nitrogenous fertilizer is the second most important input for wheat crop growth and development.⁴ Although significant achievements have been made in production of wheat yield over the past several decades, requirements for higher-quality wheat have also increased as life styles have improved.⁵ Wheat production in Sudan is restricted by soil deficiencies in plant nutrients (especially nitrogen). Consequently adequate levels of nitrogen (N) fertilizer are needed.⁶ Different studies have showed that decreasing N levels decreased grains yield per unit area in wheat. The importance of N fertilization in increasing wheat production has been well documented by many workers^{7,8} but still it is difficult to determine the quantities to apply with organic manure. On the other hand, application of organic manure has become an important tool used to increase crop yields and grain quality in intensive agricultural systems.⁹ Thus combined application of organic manure and nitrogen fertilizer can increase crop productivity through improving the chemical, physical and biological properties and nutrient status of the soil. The quantity and quality of cereal yields depend on the interacting numerous factors. One of these factors is the yield potential, which is manifested different areas under various growing conditions, depending on the adaptability of variety to unfavorable climatic conditions. Therefore, the best option for wheat production, yield improvement and yield stability under favorable fertilization is to use specific high yielding wheat cultivars. In view of the above reasons it was imperative to conduct experiment involving

different wheat cultivars with regard to their response to low and high N nitrogen levels with or without chicken manure in order to obtain the potential grain yield of these cultivars. These factors interrelate providing an important insight to the study of their interaction on wheat production. Keeping these in view, an experiment was planned to study the effects of cultivars and nitrogen levels with or without chicken manure on yield and grain protein content of wheat.

Materials and methods

The proposed study was conducted on the Demonstration Farm of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Kassala at New Halfa, Sudan (Latitude 15°19'N. Longitude 35°36'E and Altitude 45m *asl*). The experiment was laid out according to split-plot design with three replications. The main plots were allotted for cultivars treatments and the subplots for fertilizers treatments. The wheat cultivars used were Nepta (V1) and Bohein (V2), respectively. The nitrogen fertilizer (urea) levels were zero, 43, 86 kgN ha⁻¹ corresponding to N0, N1 and N2 without or with 2 tons of chicken manure ha⁻¹(M). However, the total numbers of treatments were 18 in each replicate. The sub-plot size was 4x4m². Chicken manure was obtained from Dairy Farm at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Kassala. The chemical composition of the manure was determined for the two seasons using Matrix Spiking Technique.¹⁰ All cultural practices done as recommended by Agricultural Research Corporation (ARC). Seeds were sown manually at a rate of 120kg/ha, in three lines 15cm apart, on the second week of November during both seasons. During the growth stage, the characters measured were Plant height (cm), Shoot dry weight (g plant⁻¹) and Leaf area duration (dm²days). Leaf area duration (LAD) was worked out according to the formula of.¹¹ as follows:

$$\text{LAD: } (A_2 - A_1) (t_2 - t_1) / (\ln A_2 - \ln A_1)$$

Where: A_1 : Leaf area at sampling time t_1 , A_2 : Leaf area at sampling time t_2

t_2, t_1 : time intervals in days between two stages.

At maturity, the characters measured were Number of grains plant⁻¹, 1000-grain weight (g) and Grains yield (Kg ha⁻¹). Also, protein content for grain estimated by using the improved Kjeldahl- method and crude protein percentage was calculated by multiplying the total nitrogen of the grain by 5.7.

Statistical analysis

Data were statistically analyzed according to the analysis of variance (ANOVA) and mean comparisons at 5% level of probability for split plot experiment using MStat-C computer software package.¹²

Results and discussion

Generally, it is quite visible from the data obtained in this study that cultivars exhibited a remarkable difference in their performance for growth parameters and yield components. Data shown in (Table 1) represented means of plant height, dry mater and leaf area duration (LAD) traits. From the obtained results, Nebta (V1) had a significantly greater plant height, dry matter and longer LAD than Bohein (V2). The significant increases in aforementioned characters in Nebta cultivar resulting in increases of yield and its attributes for such cultivar. In this regard, Nebta cultivar out yielded Bohein by more than 20% (Table 1). The differences in grain yield between the cultivars are mainly due to differences in dry matter production and LAD. Supporting evidences were reported by^{13,14} who reported significant variations among the cultivars for number of grains and grain yield in wheat. On the other hand, application of high N level solely or amended with chicken manure showed significant differences in both seasons (Table 1). In this regard, the tallest plants, high dry matter weight and longer LAD were recorded in plots fertilized with high N level mixed with chicken manure. Thus, the increase in these characters may be due to favorable effect of N on promoting vigorous plant growth and to the fact that chicken manure supplies direct available nutrients (i.e., N) to the plants and improvement of soil physical properties particularly

in heavy clay soils as reported by.¹⁵ Moreover^{16,17} concluded that, application of nitrogen and organic manure hastened the dry matter accumulation which resulted in maximum LAD. This may support the findings of the present study where the addition of organic manure with high N level resulted in significant increase in aforementioned characters. In the present investigation, addition of chicken manure with high level of N resulted in an increase in number of grains per plant and 1000-grain weight of the two cultivars, the increase was substantial with Nebta cultivar (Table 2). Similarly addition of organic manure with high N level significantly increased grain yield by more than 65%, 50% and 39 relative to N0, N2 and MN0 treatments, respectively (Table 2). Regarding interaction cultivar x fertilizers treatments, addition organic manure with high N level to Nebta cultivar significantly increased the grain yield by more than (72, 55 and 50)% relative to N0, N2 and MN0 treatments, respectively (Table 2). Also, addition organic manure with high N level to Bohein cultivar significantly increased the grain yield by more than (45, 37 and 15)% relative to N0, N2 and MN0 treatments, respectively (Table2). However, the increase in grains yield was double through addition of MN2 to Nebta cultivar compared to none fertilized Bohein cultivar (Table 2). The increasing in growth characters resulting from applying high N level with organic manure may lead to the superiority in yield and its components. The increase in yield might be attributed to increase in number of grains plant⁻¹ and 1000-grain weight observed from these treatments. Moreover¹⁸ concluded that, application of organic manure with nitrogen increased grain yield by increasing dry matter production and LAD that resulted in maximum grain weight. This may support the findings of this study where addition of high N level with organic manure resulted in a significant increase of yield and its related characters. Furthermore, the substantial increase in grain protein content due to combination of organic manure with high nitrogen level was more clear in Nebta cultivar (Table2). This might be due to the increase in grain yield under such treatments as reported by.^{19,20} From the above results it is worthy to note that application of N and organic manure in combination has more advantages than applying alone i.e. when organic manure applied in combination helps in good crop growth, yield and good quality of grains compared to applying N or organic manure alone.

Table 1 Interactive effects of cultivar and organic manure with or without nitrogen fertilizer on mean of some growth characters during 2011/012 and 2012/013 seasons

treatments	2011/2012			2012/2013		
	pngh1	dwt1	LAD1	pngh2	dwt2	LAD2
V1	53.56	4.31	52.79	56.79	4.51	44.41
V2	48.81	2.42	36.46	50.52	3.42	37.72
SE	0.59	0.04	0.52	0.52	0.03	0.7
LSD	3.61	0.28	3.18	3.18	0.16	4.25
N0	44.53	2.13	37.02	48.9	2.78	32.27
N1	47.83	2.72	38.83	50.48	3.02	34
N2	50.2	3.39	42.45	53.93	3.78	38.67
MN0	51.67	3.55	43.91	52.62	4.15	39.39
MN1	54.27	3.58	48.27	55.8	4.69	45.79
MN2	58.6	4.8	57.27	60.18	5.41	56.29
SE	0.88	0.11	1.61	0.73	0.14	1.15

Table Continued...

2011/2012		2012/2013					
treatments	pnght1	dwt1	LAD1	pnght2	dwt2	LAD2	
LSD	2.58	0.33	4.74	2.15	0.2	3.39	
CV%	4.2	8.29	8.83	3.32	8.87	6.86	
VI	N0	44.4	2.48	43.79	49.6	2.92	33.42
	N1	50	3.4	45.33	52.33	3.27	36
	N2	52.67	4.62	52.67	56	4.65	40.67
	MN0	53.6	4.85	55.26	57.23	5.24	43.31
	MN1	59.07	4.51	58.67	60.07	5.11	54.2
	MN2	61.6	5.97	61.02	65.5	5.88	58.88
V2	N0	44.67	1.78	30.24	48.2	2.64	31.12
	N1	45.67	2.03	32.33	48.63	2.77	32
	N2	47.73	2.17	32.23	51.87	2.92	36.67
	MN0	49.73	2.25	32.57	48	3.05	35.47
	MN1	49.47	2.65	37.87	51.53	4.26	37.38
	MN2	55.6	3.64	53.51	54.87	4.94	53.7
SE	1.24	0.16	2.27	1.02	0.2	1.63	
LSD0.05	4.63	0.5	6.71	3.97	0.57	5.78	
CV%	4.2	8.29	8.83	3.32	8.87	6.86	

Table 2 Interactive effects of cultivar and organic manure with or without nitrogen fertilizer on mean of some wheat yield and its related characters during 2011/012 and 2012/013 seasons

2011/2012					2012/2013			
treatments	No.of grains plant-1	1000-grain (g)	yield(Kg ha-1)	Grain protein%	No. of grains plant-1	1000-grain (g)	yield (Kg ha-1)	Grain protein%
VI	44.52	33.58	4567	13.17	47.22	34.86	4704.6	13.51
V2	33.17	31.33	3641.6	12.4	41.22	33.48	3940.4	12.61
SE	0.4	0.42	125	0.1	0.38	0.16	60.3	0.2
LSD	0.28	2.56	750.8	0.66	2.32	0.97	366.9	1.25
N0	33.47	29.16	3196.39	11.29	37.28	30.93	3546.21	11.9
N1	34.5	30.75	3441.08	12.11	40.18	32.64	3623.57	12.23
N2	36	31.67	3663.91	13.06	41.82	33.31	3857.72	13.26
MN0	36.72	31.59	3910.85	12.61	42.83	34.13	4243.76	12.71
MN1	43.85	35.38	4785.2	12.78	48.97	35.14	4971.47	13.24
MN2	50.7	36.19	5628.17	14.68	54.23	38.87	5692.27	15.04
SE	1.27	0.4	139.3	0.18	0.47	0.46	137.7	0.14
LSD	3.75	1.18	410.8	0.54	1.38	1.36	406.2	0.41
CV%	8.02	3.3	8.31	3.54	2.58	3.01	7.8	2.63

Conclusion

When cultivar is not limited factor, combined application of organic manure with N fertilizer for wheat is a key factor to obtaining high biomass yields in the semi-arid environment, which translates to higher grain yield with greater protein content.

Acknowledgements

None.

Conflict of interest

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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