

**EVALUATION OF ORGANIC AND CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS
EFFECT ON RHIZOSPHERE MICROFLORA AND
POTATOES (*SOLANUM TUBEROSUM*.L) YIELD IN
LOAMY SAND SOIL**

[39]

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ABSTRACT

A field experiment was carried out in a newly cultivated soil at Falouga, El-Tahrir province, Behira governorate during the summer season (Spring plantation) of 2003 to investigate the effect of different organic manures (i.e. compost, F Y M or town refuse) each at rate of 20 ton/fed combined with the half recommended dose of mineral fertilizer (NPK) or 2 tons of chicken manure compared with the addition of the recommended dose of N P K at rate of 900, 400 and 200 Kg/fed ammonium sulphate, calcium superphosphate and potassium sulphate respectively. Application of organic manures, i.e. compost, FYM or town refuse each at the rate of 20 tons/fed combined with half amount of mineral fertilizer or 2 tons of chicken manure, increased total microbial count in soil at 60 days after planting compared to both uncultivated soil and chemical fertilized treatments. In this regard, the highest bacterial count was noticed in case of using FYM + chicken manure, while the highest count for total fungi and actinomycetes were recorded in the treatment of 20 tons compost + half amount of chemical fertilizer (NPK). In addition, using 20 ton compost + 2 tons of chicken manures/fed, reflected the highest dry matter yield, total nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium content in plant foliage as well as total tuber yield of potatoes compared with other tested treatments.

Keywords: NPK, Compost, Farmyard manure, Town refuse, Chicken manure

INTRODUCTION

The addition of organic manures to the soil under favourable conditions resulted an increase in the number of various groups of soil microorganisms i.e. fungi, actinomycetes and bacteria. In this respect, **Shady (1970)**, mentioned that the

addition of organic matter to the soil of Kharga Oasis greatly stimulated the total microflora. Regarding the effect on soil properties, **FAO (1977)** reported that organic materials influenced the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of soil which in turn, influenced the development of plants. **Omran (1979)** men-

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tioned that numbers of bacteria and actinomycetes were increased in soil amended with different animal manures depending on the type of manure used as well as microorganisms under study. In addition, **Hashem (1980)** indicated that higher counts of bacteria and actinomycetes were detected when higher doses of organic matter were added to the soil. The densities of total bacteria were higher in calcareous than those in sandy soil, while the counts of actinomycetes were affected by time, type and amount of organic matter but not by the type of soil.

On the other hand, **El-Huseiny et al (1984)**, concluded that organic manuring stimulated the proliferation of bacteria but the stimulation was more pronounced in sandy than in calcareous soil. **El-Huseiny et al (1988)** found that the application of organic manures as farmyard manure, town refuse, compost or sewage sludge at the rate of 2 % w/w enhanced the total microbial flora. The sewage sludge was the most effective in this respect.

Potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L.) is one of the most important and favorite vegetable crops grown in Egypt. Fertilization either with mineral or organic fertilizers considered the most important agricultural practices, which affects the growing period of plant foliage and tuber formation as well as the quality of produced yield. In this regard, **Abou-Hussein (1995)**; **Abdel-Ati (1998)**; **Arisha and Bardisi (1999)** and **Hassandokhat and Kashi (2000)**. Mentioned that application of organic manure either in the form of chicken manure or farmyard manure at different studied levels, affected greatly the vegetative growth, K content for plant foliage and produced tubers. As for the effect of nitrogen fertilization, many re-

searchers found that nitrogen levels and frequent of application, affected significantly the vegetative growth of potato plants, [**El-Gamal (1985a & b)**; **Arisha (1994)** and **Gabr et al (2001)**], total tuber yield and its quality [**Shehata & Abo-Sedera (1994)**; **Joern & Vitosh (1995)**, **Kumar et al (1996)**; **Belanger et al (2002)**; **Singh et al (2002)** and **Bekhit et al (2005)**]. The present study aims to investigate the effect of organic and chemical fertilizers mixtures on rhizosphere microflora and potatoes plant grown in loamy sand soil.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Experiment

A field experiment was carried out in a newly cultivated loamy sand soil at Falouga, El-Tahrir province, Behira governorate during the summer season (Spring plantation) of 2003, to investigate the effect of organic manures (i.e., compost, farmyard manure, chicken manure and town refuse) in addition to mineral fertilizers, on rhizosphere microflora as well as potato growth and tubers yield. According to **Jackson (1958)** the soil of the experimental field was loamy sand in texture with pH 7.8. Data of the physical and chemical analyses of the experimental field are shown in **Table (1)**. A complete randomized block design with four replicates was adopted and the studied treatments were as follows

- 1- 900 kg ammonium sulphate+400 kg superphosphate+200 kg potassium sulphate/fed (control).
- 2- 20 tons compost +1/2 (N.P.K)/fed.
- 3- 20 tons farmyard manure (FYM) + 1/2 (NPK)/fed.

Table 1. Some physical, chemical and microbiological properties of the experimental soil

Soil properties	
A. Physical	
Sand %	87.39
Clay %	11.36
Silt %	1.25
Soil texture	Loamy sand
B. Chemical	
Organic matter %	18.0
Total N %	.014
NH ₄ N mg Kg	14
NO ₃ -N mg /Kg	8
P available mg/Kg	6
E.C (mmhos)	1.03
PH	7.8
C. Microbiological x 10 ⁴	
Total bacterial count	140.1
Total fungal count	2.1
Actinomycetes count	1.1

4- 20 tons town refuse +1/2 (NPK) fed.

5- 20 tons compost + 2 tons chicken manure/fed.

6- 20 tons (F.Y.M) + 2 tons chicken manure/fed.

7- 20 tons town refuse + 2 tons chicken manure/fed.

The compost was prepared from sugar beet haulms by using highly effective cellulose decomposers, namely *Streptomyces aureofaciens* as described previously by **Abo-Sedera (1995)** and **Badr EL-Din & Abo-Sedera (2001)**. Farmyard manure used was a commercial available manure produced in special farm at Gharbia. Town refuse and chicken ma-

nure were obtained, from Factory of town refuse compost at Gharbia Governorate. The chemical analysis of tested organic manure fertilizers was shown in **Table (2)**. Potato tubers cv. Alpha were planted on February 23rd 2003. The area of the experimental plot was 45 m², it included three rows each 20m length and 75 cm width. Organic manures and half of superphosphate amounts were added at soil preparation. The second half of superphosphate fertilizer was added with nitrogenous and potassium fertilizers. It was added in three equal doses at complete germination and every two weeks intervals. Other agricultural practices

Table 2. Some chemical analyses of organic manures

Constituents %	Compost	F.Y.M	Town refuse	Chicken manure
Organic matter	26.20	16.20	22.4	67.10
Organic C	15.20	9.40	13.0	38.90
Total N	1.20	0.48	1.10	3.50
Total P	1.10	0.52	1.10	1.30
Total K	0.90	0.72	0.90	3.10
C/N ratio	12.66	19.58	11.8	11.11

required for potato production, were carried out as commonly followed in the district.

Microbiological analysis

Microbiological analysis in the rhizosphere samples was estimated according to the technique described by **Louw and Webley (1959)**. At the start of the flowering stage i.e. after 60 days from sowing, a random samples consisted of 5 plants were collected from each plot and divided into roots and foliage parts. The roots were gently shaken to remove adhering loosely soil particles and were used for estimation of rhizosphere micro flora, in potato rhizosphere. The serial dilution plate method was used for counting total bacteria on modified soil extract yeast agar medium (**Mahmoud et al 1964**), fungi on Martin medium (**Allen, 1966**) and actinomycetes on glucose asparagine agar medium (**Szabo 1974**).

Agronomic Parameters

Dry matter yield

The foliage parts of the random 5 plants sample, were oven dried for determination of the dry matter yield.

Chemical analysis

Organic matter content of organic manures was determined by ignition in a muffle furnace at 550 C^o for 5h. Total nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium contents in plant foliage were assayed according to the methods described by **Hesse (1971); Murphy and Riely (1962) and Brown and Lilleland (1946)** for N, P and K, respectively.

Tuber fresh yield

At harvest (120 days after planting) all plants in each experimental plot were pulled and tubers were collected and weighed to calculate total tuber yield /Feddan.

All the collected data were subjected to statistical analysis according to **Gomez and Gomez (1984)**.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Microbiological counts

It is of interest to mention that the microbial densities in the experimental soil before planting were 140.1; 2.1 and 1.1×10^4 for total bacteria; total fungi and total actinomycetes respectively (**Table 1**). Data presented in **Table 3** show the effect of mineral fertilizer (NPK) and different organic manures (i.e., compost, farmyard manure and chicken manure) on total microbial count at 60 days after sowing. Such data reveal that application of organic manures either in combination with 2 tons chicken manure or with half amount of mineral fertilizer, stimulated the growth of soil microorganisms and increased their counts in the rhizosphere compared with using mineral fertilizer alone (check treatment). In this respect, the highest total bacterial count was noticed in case of FYM + chicken manure application, meanwhile, the highest count for total fungi and actinomycetes were recorded in case of the application of compost manure combined with half of the amounts of mineral fertilizer. Such inhaling effect of organic fertilizers especially Farmyard manure and compost on growth and number of microorganism was also reported by **Mahamoud *et al* (1964)**, **Hashem (1980)**, **El-Huseiney *et al* (1984)**, **Neweigy *et al* (1984)** and **El-Huseiney *et al* (1988)**. They reported that both farmyard manure and town refuse compost stimulated the growth of soil microorganism, and increased their count progressively after application.

Plant Growth

Data recorded in **Table 4** show the effect of mineral and organic manure fertilizers application on growth of potato plants expressed as dry weight of plant foliage. In this regard, application of organic manure mixture i.e., compost + chicken manure, farmyard + chicken manure and town refuse + chicken manure significantly increased the dry weight of plant foliage compared with application of mineral fertilizer (NPK) in a single form or organic fertilizer amount combined with half rate of mineral fertilizer.

In this respect, the highest value of dry matter content for plant foliage was obtained as a result of using chicken manure at a rate of 2 tons/fed combined with either 20 tons compost or 20 tons farmyard manure/fed. Increasing plant dry weight as the result of the application of organic fertilizer may be due to the main role of such organic manure on improving physical and biological conditions of sandy soil as well as their role as a source for macro and micro-nutrients, which in turn increase plant growth. As well as the increase in plant foliage yield could be attributed to the increasing activity of rhizosphere microflora which was enhanced by the application of different organic manures. In this concern, **Abou-Husein (1995)**, **Abdel-Ati (1998)**, **Arisha and Bardisi (1999)**, **Hassandokht and Kashi (2000)** and **Bekhit *et al* (2005)** mentioned that application of organic manure either in the form of chicken manure or farm yard manure at different studied levels, affected greatly the vegetative growth for plant foliage.

Table 3. Effect of different organic manures on total bacterial, actinomycetes and total fungal counts ($\times 10^5$) in rhizosphere of potato plants after 60 days of sowing

Treatment	Total count	Total fungi	Actinomycetes
N P K	160.	2.5	1.8
20 tons Compost+1/2 NPK	326.	8.5	9.5
20 tons Tons Farmyard +1/2 NPK	352.	7.9	8.9
20 tons Town refuse + 1/2 NPK	310.	6.7	8.7
20 tons Compost + 2 tons Chicken	365.	7.3	6.9
20 tons FYM + 2 tons Chick manure	386.	6.9	6.4
20 tons Town refuse +2 tons Chicken	356.	7.6	6.7

Table 4. Effect of different fertilizers on dry weight of plant foliage and its nutrients content as a percentages and mg/plant (after 60 days of sowing)

Treatments	Dry weight g/plant	N		P		K	
		N%	mg/plant	P%	mg/plant	K%	mg/plant
N.P.K	12.63	1.22	154	0.165	20.38	1.62	205
20 tons compost + 1/2 NPK	17.6	1.24	291	0.17	30.25	1.42	253
20 tons FYM +1/2 NPK	17.27	1.18	204	0.16	27.63	1.48	256
20 tons Town refuse + 1/2 NPK	16.70	1.18	197	0.17	28.40	1.49	249
20 tons compost + 2 ton chicken manure	18.77	1.18	221	0.18	33.75	1.40	263
20 tons FYM + 2 ton chicken manure	18.10	1.20	217	0.17	30.77	1.42	254
20 tons Town refuse + 2 ton chicken manure	17.92	1.18	211	0.16	28.67	1.45	260
L.S.D at 0.05	1.01	N.S	11.7	N.S	2.43	0.10	12

N.S. : insignificant differences

Chemical composition of plant foliage

Data presented in **Table (4)** show that nitrogen percentages in plant foliage were not affected due to application of the tested organic fertilizers. On the other hand, nitrogen uptake as mg/plant showed highly significant differences due to the applied treatments. The highest amount of N- uptake was recorded in the treatment received 20 tons compost in combination with half dose of mineral fertilizer. In this regard, organic manuring in combination with mineral fertilizer increased N- uptake compared to mineral fertilizers only. With regard to phosphorus percentages in plant foliage, no significant differences were noticed due to the different treatments, while P-uptake showed significant differences between the treatments. The highest P-uptake was recorded in treatment of 20 tons compost in combination with 2 tons chicken manure. The same trend was recorded in K uptake. The stimulative effect of compost on plant uptake of the studied nutrients could be attributed to the microbial populations content in the compost compared to other manures.

Such increment in total N, P and K uptake due to the application of the studied organic fertilizers, compared to mineral fertilizer could be attributed to the slow release of available amount of such macro-nutrients in root zone due to the increasing activity of the microbial population in such sandy soil, which stimulates the plant absorption of such nutrients and hence increases their content in plant foliage. Obtained results are in the same line with those reported by **Abdel-Ati (1998)**; **Arisha and Bardisi (1999)**; **Nadia et al (2000)**; **Gabr et al (2001)** and **Bekhit et al (2005)** on potato,

who found that increasing the used levels of fertilizer, significantly increased N, P and K content in plant foliage.

Total tuber yield

Data recorded in **Table (5)** show the effect of organic manures and mineral fertilizers on total tuber yield per fed. From such data it is clear that using organic fertilizers as compost, FYM or town refuse either combined with half of recommend rate of NPK or with 2 tons of chicken manure, significantly increased the produced tuber yield /fed, compared with using mineral fertilizer alone (NPK). In this regard, application of 20 tons compost combined with 2 tons chicken manure instead of using half of the amount of chemical fertilizer, reflected the highest value of total tuber yield compared with using the full dose of NPK chemical fertilizer, or 20 tons of other tested organic manure +2 tons of chicken manure, or plus the half dose of NPK fertilizer. Such significant increase in tuber yield due to addition of compost + chicken manure may be due to the high quality of compost and its role in biological control of soil born disease (**Badr Eldin and Abo Sedera 2001**), in addition may be due to the role of organic fertilizers as amendment for improving physical and chemical characteristics of the soil, which in turn was reflected on plant growth (**Table 4**) and tuber yield (**Table 5**). Obtained results are in agreement with those indicated by **Abou-Hussein (1995)** **Roy and Jaiswal (1998)** **Singh et al (2002)** and **Bekhit et al (2005)**, all working on potatoes and reported that total yield of potato was increased with the highest used level of cattle manure combined with chicken manure or nitrogen fertilizer.

Table 5. Effect of mineral fertilizers and different organic manures on potato tubers yield (tons /fed).

Treatments	Tons /fed
NPK	10.400
20 tons compost +1/2 NPK	16.800
20 tons FYM + 1/2 NPK	14.800
20 tons Town refuse + 1/2 NPK	14.500
20 tons compost + 2 ton chicken manure	16.300
20 tons FYM + 2 ton chicken manure	15.200
20 tons town refuse + 2 ton chicken manure	15.100
L.S.D at 0.05	0.870

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تقييم أثر الاسمدة العضوية والكيماوية على ميكروبات منطقة الريزوسفير

ومحصول البطاطس في الاراضي الطميية الرملية

[39]

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1- قسم الميكروبيولوجيا الزراعية - المركز القومي للبحوث - الدقى - القاهرة- مصر

مقارنة بالمع دل الموصى به من الاسمدة الكيماويه (900 و400 و200 كجم/فدان كبريتات امونيوم وسويرفوسفات الكالسوم وكبريتات بوتاسيوم على التوالي) .
وصممت التجربه بنظام القطاعات تامة العشوائيه واشتملت على اربعة مكررات وتم اخذ عينات نباتية بعد مرور 60 يوما من تاريخ الزراعة ، وذلك لتقدير اعداد الميكروبات في منطقة الجذور ، وكذلك تقدير

أجريت تجربة حقلية في تربة طميية رملية في منطقة الفالوجا بمد يية التحرير بمحافظة البحيرة على محصول البطاطس (صنف الفا) ، واستخدم فيها اسمدة عضويه مختلفه ، هى السماد العضوى الصناعى المحضر من عرش نبات بنجر السكر والسماد البلدى وسماد القمامه بمعدل 20 طن /فدان مضافا اليها سماد زرق الدواجن بمعدل 2طن /فدان اونصف الاسمدة الكيماويه

2 طن سماد زرق الدواجن اعلي ز يديه في الاعداد الكلية للبكتريا ، كما كانت اعلي زيادة في اعداد كل من الفطريات الكلية والاكثينوميسيتات في معامل ة الكومبوست المخلوط بنصف المع دل الموصي به من الاسمدة الكيماوية ، ووضحت النتائج ان اضافة الاسمدة العضوية المختلفة مختلطة ب2 طن سماد زرق الدواجن اعطي اعلى زيادة معنويه فى كل من المادة الجافه للنبات ومعدل امتصاص النبات للعناصر الغذائية (N, P, K) ومحصول درنات البطاطس عن المعاملات الاخرى.

المادة الجافه والتحليل الكيماوى لكل من الازوت والفوسفور والبوتاسيوم في سيقان واوراق النبات ، كما تم تقدير محصول درنات البطاطس لكل معاملة فى نهاية التجربة(120 يوما).
واوضحت النتائج المتحصل عليها أن التسميد بالاسمدة العضوية المختلفه - السماد العضوى الصناعى (الكومبوست) والسماد البلدى وسماد القمامة - مع نصف الاسمدة الكيماوية ادي الى زيادة اعداد الميكروبات الكلية في منطقة الجذور بالمقارنة بالتربة المعاملة بالاسمدة الكيماويه فقط ، بينما اعطت معاملة سماد الكومبوست المخلوط ب

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أ.د سعيد محمود بدر الدين