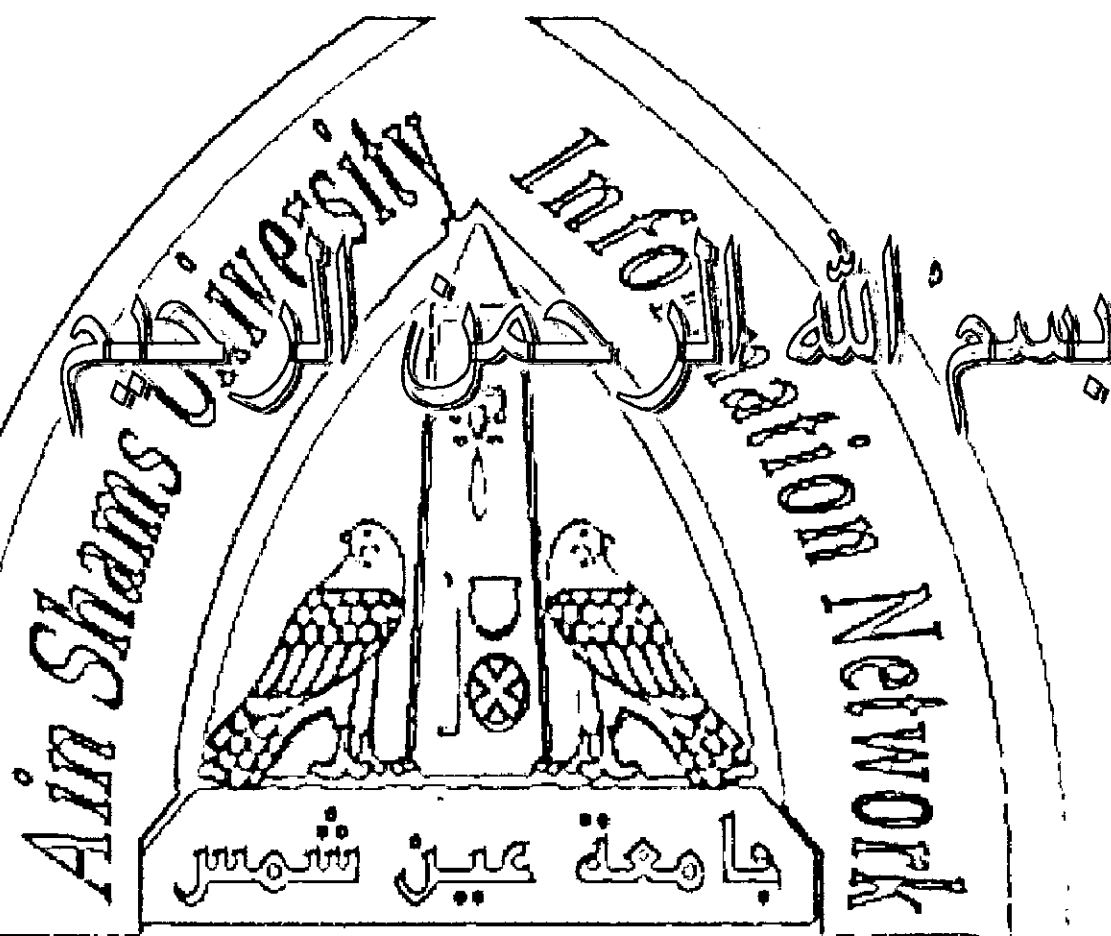




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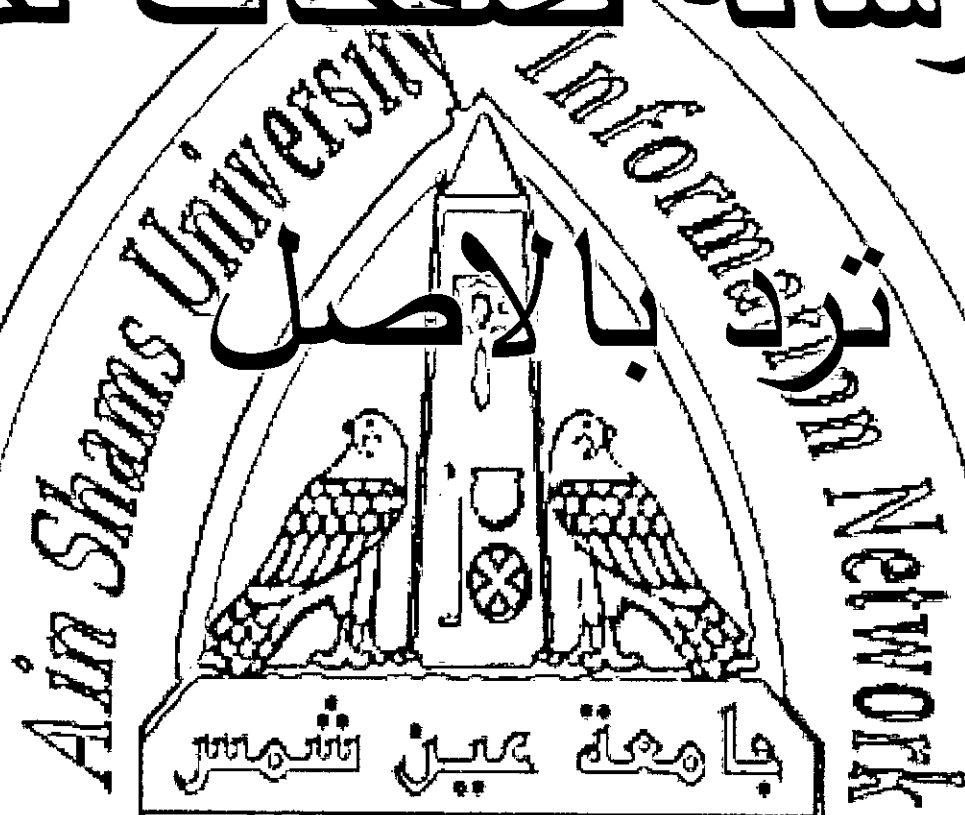
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**Breeding for drought tolerance in some grain
sorghum genotypes and their hybrids.**

By

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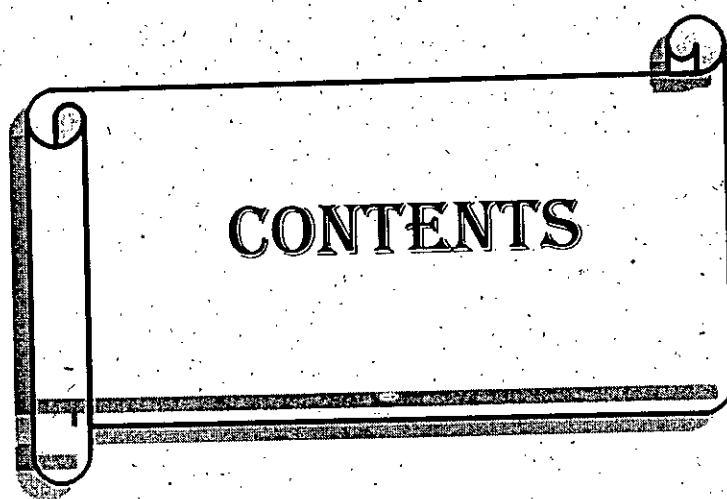
Committee in charge

Date : 27 / 5 / 2004.

" بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ "

وعلمك ما لم تكن تعلم
وكان فضل الله عليك عظيما

صلى الله عليه
والآله



CONTENTS

Subject	Page
Introduction	1
Review of Literature	3
Materials and Methods	28
Results and Discussion	37
A- Evaluation of grain sorghum lines under water stress conditions:	37
I- Mean Performance	37
1- Days to 50% heading	37
2- Plant height	41
3- Panicle length	42
4- Panicle width	45
5- Number of green leaves / plant	46
6- 1000-grain weight	49
7- Grain yield / plant	50
B- Lines x Tester analysis :	56
I- Means and variances	56
1- Days to 50% heading	56
2- Plant height	63
3- Panicle length	67
4- Panicle width	70
5- Number of green leaves / plant	74
6- 1000-grain weight	77
7- Grain yield / plant	81
II- Combining ability analysis	91
1- Days to 50% heading	91

Subject	Page
2- Plant height	96
3- Panicle length	99
4- Panicle width	104
5- Number of green leaves / plant	107
6- 1000-grain weight	111
7- Grain yield / plant	115
III- Heterosis	120
1- Days to 50% heading	120
2- Plant height	122
3- Panicle length	124
4- Panicle width	126
5- Number of green leaves / plant	128
6- 1000-grain weight	130
7- Grain yield / plant	132
IV- Phenotypic correlation	135
Summary	140
References	154
Arabic Summary	--



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INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

Sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor* L. Moench) is commonly grown in the semiarid areas where production is almost limited by severe water stress. Therefore, grain sorghum becomes an important cereal particularly in the semi-arid tropic areas where it has become a vital source of food for millions of people around the world. It is used for feeding animals, as an industrial raw material in addition to complementing other cereals as a primary food grain for human beings. Improving drought tolerance in sorghum would be a major contribution toward increasing and stabilizing grain sorghum yield as a food production in harsh environmental areas world wide where increasing populations and food demands are big problems that are likely to worsen with time. The small farmer is the first who feels the dual pressures of increased demand and limited supply of production resources. Therefore, improving sorghum yields and increasing its production efficiency at the same times are especially vital to him.

The water deficiency problem is the most important production limitation in Egypt, where has both agricultural and living area are concentrated in the Nile valley. Nile water is not sufficient to satisfy increasing water demands. All these sources of water are still not enough to meet increasing demands. Although, the water demand has increased yet agreement between the Nile valley nations gives Egypt, the same quantity of water since 1920. The expectation in the future is fighting for water. Therefore, water has to be used more efficiently and wisely. Emphasis must be placed on a staple cereal, which can attain high yield under stress conditions.

Sorghum ability to survive and tolerate water stress condition make it the most promising crop for improving water use efficiency among other cereal crops. It is decisive to develop and adapt new technologies to expose variability among sorghum genotypes for stress resistance and to identify