

STUDIES ON IMPROVING NITROGEN USE EFFICIENCY FOR WHEAT PLANTS

By

MONA FAWZY ABD EL-GHANY IBRAHIM

B. Sc. Agric.Sci. (Soil. Sciences), Fac. Agric., Cairo Univ., Egypt, 1998

M. Sc. Agric.Sci. (Soil. Sciences), Fac. Agric., Cairo Univ., Egypt, 2003

THESIS

**Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree of**

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

In

**Agricultural Sciences
(Soil Sciences)**

**Department of Soil Sciences
Faculty of Agriculture
Cairo University
EGYPT**

2009

APPROVAL SHEET

STUDIES ON IMPROVING NITROGEN USE EFFICIENCY FOR WHEAT PLANTS

**Ph.D. Thesis
In Agric. Sci.(Soil Sciences)**

By

MONA FAWZY ABD EL-GHANY IBRAHIM

B. Sc. Agric.Sci. (Soil. Sciences), Fac. Agric., Cairo Univ., Egypt, 1998

M. Sc. Agric.Sci. (Soil. Sciences), Fac. Agric., Cairo Univ., Egypt, 2003

Approval Committee

Dr. Mahmoud Ahmed Morsy.....
Professor of Soils, Fac. Agric., Minia University

Dr. Shawky Shebl Holah
Professor of Soils, Fac. Agric., Cairo University

Dr. Mohamedy Ibrahim El-Kherbawy.....
Professor of Soils, Fac. Agric., Cairo University

Dr. Youssif Ali Abdel-Aal.....
Professor of Soils, Fac. Agric., Cairo University

Date: / /

SUPERVISION SHEET

**STUDIES ON IMPROVING NITROGEN USE
EFFICIENCY FOR WHEAT PLANTS**

**Ph.D. Thesis
In Agric. Sci.(Soil Sciences)**

By

MONA FAWZY ABD EL-GHANY IBRAHIM
B. Sc. Agric.Sci. (Soil. Sciences),Fac. Agric., Cairo Univ., Egypt, 1998
M. Sc. Agric.Sci. (Soil. Sciences),Fac. Agric., Cairo Univ., Egypt, 2003

SUPERVISION COMMITTEE

Dr. Mohamedy Ibrahim El-Kherbawy
Professor of Soils, Fac. Agric., Cairo University

Dr. Youssif Ali Abdel-Aal
Professor of Soils, Fac. Agric., Cairo University

Name of Candidate: Mona Fawzy Abd El-Ghany Ibrahim **Degree:** Ph.D.
Title of Thesis: Studies on improving nitrogen use efficiency for wheat plants.

Supervisors Dr. Mohamedy Ibrahim El-Kherbawy.
Dr. Youssif Ali Abdel-Aal

Department: Soil Sciences

Branch:

Approval: 19 / ١١ / 2009

ABSTRACT

Three experiments were carried out. The first experiment (a field experiment) was carried out at Agric. Exp. Sta., Fac. Agric., Cairo Univ., Giza, Egypt in 2005/2006 growing season to evaluate the yield and nitrogen use efficiency (NUE) of nine different wheat cultivars using 3 nitrogen levels (0, 50 and 75 Kg N / fed) in the form of urea. At harvest wheat cultivars differed significantly in all characters studied, where Beni-Suif 1 recorded the highest values of grain and straw yield, nitrogen content of grain and straw, harvest index (HI) and NUE while, Sakha 93 recorded the lowest values. Significant differences among characters studied were found also as a result of N-levels tested.

The second experiment was carried out in pots to elucidate some possible adaptive mechanisms governing NUE of wheat cultivars. Two wheat cultivars differing in NUE were selected based on the results of the first experiment, one represents the highest efficient cultivars (Beni-Suif 1) and the other represents the lowest efficient cultivars (Sakha 93). Nitrogen applied at three levels, zero (control), 50 and 75 kg fed⁻¹. Plant samples were collected at 30, 45 and 60 days after sowing. Beni-Suif 1 (the highest efficient cultivar) produced higher shoot and root dry weights, root:shoot ratio, leaf area, shoot N content and root length than Sakha 93 (the lowest efficient cultivar) at all N levels and during the three growth stages.

The third experiment was conducted at the field to study the effect of N levels (50 and 75 Kg N/fed), sources (urea and ammonium nitrate) and split N fertilizer (split and non-split N application) on improving NUE of two wheat cultivars differing in NUE. The highest grain and straw yield and N-content of grain and straw values were obtained when Beni-Suif 1 supplied with high N level (75 Kg N fed⁻¹) in the form of urea which applied as split application. Where the highest NUE, HI and NHI recorded with Beni-Suif 1 which supplied with low N level (50 Kg N fed⁻¹).

Key words: Wheat, Cultivars, Nitrogen use efficiency, Split N fertilizer, N-sources.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*First of all, I express my profound thanks to **ALLAH** who supported me providing strength and patience to complete this work.*

*I wish to express my sincere thanks, deepest gratitude and appreciation to **Dr. M. I. El-Kherbawy** and **Dr. Y. A. Abdel-Aal** Professors of Soils, Faculty of Agriculture, Cairo University for suggesting the problem, supervision and revision the manuscript of this thesis.*

Grateful appreciation is also extended to all staff members of Soils Department, Faculty of Agriculture, Cairo University.

*Special deep appreciation is given to my father, my mother, my brother, my sisters, my daughter **Nada** and my friends.*

CONTENTS

	Page
INTRODUCTION	1
REVIEW OF LITERATURE	3
1. Nitrogen use efficiency (NUE)	4
2. Why are nitrogen use efficiency so low	5
3. Improving nitrogen use efficiency	13
a. Cultivars.....	14
b. Matching nitrogen supply with demand.....	18
c. Nitrogen sources	23
d. Slow-release fertilizers	25
e. In-season and foliar applied N.....	26
f. Rotations.....	29
g. Conservation tillage.....	31
MATERIALS AND METHODS	33
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	40
1. The first experiment (nitrogen use efficiency of some wheat cultivars)	40
a. Effect of different N levels on grain and straw yield of various wheat cultivars.....	40
b. Effect of different N levels on harvest index (HI) of various wheat cultivars.....	43
c. Effect of different N levels on grain and straw N content of various wheat cultivars.....	46
d. Effect of different N levels on nitrogen use efficiency (NUE) of various wheat cultivars.....	49
2. The second experiment (some possible adaptive mechanisms governing NUE of wheat cultivars)	52
a. Shoot and root dry weights.....	52
b. Root:shoot ratio.....	55
c. Leaf area.....	57
d. Shoot nitrogen content.....	59
e. Root length.....	61

3. The third experiment (Improving NUE of two wheat cultivars differing in NUE through N fertilizer management.....	64
a. Effect of different N levels, sources and split of N fertilizer on grain and straw yield of the two selected wheat cultivars.....	64
b. Effect of different N levels, sources and split of N fertilizer on grain and straw nitrogen content of the two selected wheat cultivars.....	68
c. Effect of different N levels, sources and split of N fertilizer on harvest index (HI) and nitrogen harvest index (NHI) of the two selected wheat cultivars.....	72
d. Effect of different N levels, sources and split of N fertilizer on nitrogen use efficiency (NUE) , nitrogen uptake efficiency (NUPE) and nitrogen utilization efficiency (NUE) of the two selected wheat cultivars.....	75
SUMMARY.....	80
REFERENCES.....	85
ARABIC SUMMARY.....	

LISTT OF TABLES

No	Title	Page
1.	Physical and chemical properties of the used soil in the first experiment.....	33
2.	Physical and chemical properties of the used soil in the second experiment.....	35
3.	Physical and chemical properties of the used soil in the third experiment.....	37
4.	Effect of different N levels on grain and straw yield of various wheat cultivars.....	41
5.	Effect of different N levels on harvest index (HI) of various wheat cultivars.....	44
6.	Effect of different N levels on grain and straw N content of various wheat cultivars.....	47
7.	Effect of different N levels on nitrogen use efficiency (NUE) of various wheat cultivars.....	50
8.	Effect of different N levels on shoot and root dry weights of the two selected wheat cultivars differing in NUE....	53
9.	Effect of different N levels on root/shoot ratio of the two selected wheat cultivars differing in NUE.....	56
10.	Effect of different N levels on leaf area of the two selected wheat cultivars differing in NUE.....	58
11.	Effect of different N levels on shoot nitrogen content of the two selected wheat cultivars differing in NUE	60
12.	Effect of different N levels on root length of the two selected wheat cultivars differing in NUE.....	62
13.	Effect of different N levels, sources and split of N fertilizer on grain and straw yield of the two selected wheat cultivars.....	65
14.	Effect of different N levels, sources and split of N fertilizer on grain and straw nitrogen content of the two selected wheat cultivars.....	69
15.	Effect of different N levels, sources and split of N fertilizer on harvest index (HI) and nitrogen harvest index (NHI) of the two selected wheat cultivars.....	73
16.	Effect of different N levels, sources and split of N fertilizer on NUE, NUPE and NUTE of the two selected wheat cultivars.....	76

LIST OF FIGURES

No	Title	Page
1.	Effect of different N levels on grain and straw yield of various wheat cultivars.....	42
2.	Effect of different N levels on harvest index (HI) of various wheat cultivars.....	44
3.	Effect of different N levels on grain and straw N content of various wheat cultivars.....	48
4.	Effect of different N levels on nitrogen use efficiency (NUE) of various wheat cultivars.....	50
5.	Effect of different N levels on shoot and root dry weights of the two selected wheat cultivars differing in NUE	54
6.	Effect of different N levels on root/shoot ratio of the two selected wheat cultivars differing in NUE.....	56
7.	Effect of different N levels on leaf area of the two selected wheat cultivars differing in NUE	58
8.	Effect of different N levels on shoot nitrogen content of the two selected wheat cultivars differing in NUE	60
9.	Effect of different N levels on root length of the two selected wheat cultivars differing in NUE.....	62
10.	Effect of different N levels, sources and split of N fertilizer on grain and straw yield of the two selected wheat cultivars.....	66
11.	Effect of different N levels, sources and split of N fertilizer on grain and straw nitrogen content of the two selected wheat cultivars.....	70
12.	Effect of different N levels, sources and split of N fertilizer on harvest index (HI) and nitrogen harvest index (NHI) of the two selected wheat cultivars.....	74
13.	Effect of different N levels, sources and split of N fertilizer on NUE, NUPE and NUTE of the two selected wheat cultivars.....	77

استمارة معلومات الرسائل التى تمت مناقشتها

الكلية / المعهد : الزراعة القسم : الأراضى

١ - الدرجة العلمية : ماجستير دكتوراه $\sqrt{\quad}$
٢ - بيانات الرسالة :

عنوان الرسالة باللغة العربية : دراسات عن تحسين كفاءة إستخدام النيتروجين فى نباتات القمح.

عنوان الرسالة باللغة الأجنبية :

**Studies On Improving Nitrogen Use Efficiency For
Wheat Plants.**

التخصص الدقيق :

تاريخ المناقشة : ٢٠٠٩ / ١١ / ١٩

٣ - بيانات الطالب :

الاسم : منى فوزى عبد الغنى ابراهيم الجنسية : مصريه النوع : انثى
العنوان : ٥٠ ش حموده - حدائق حلوان - حلوان رقم التليفون : ٠١٠١٢٥٢٨٨٥
جهة العمل : قسم الأراضى - كليه الزراعة - جامعه القاهرة رقم الفاكس :
البريد الإلكتروني : monafawzy2006@ yahoo.com

٤ - المشرفون على الرسالة :

الاسم	القسم	الكلية	الجامعة
١- أ.د. / محمدى ابراهيم الخرباوى	الأراضى	الزراعة	القاهرة
٢- أ.د. / يوسف على عبد العال	الأراضى	الزراعة	القاهرة

٥ - مستخلص الرسالة (Abstract)

٥ - ١ باللغة العربية : بشرط ألا يزيد عن ٧ أسطر

نفذت ثلاث تجارب بهدف تحسين كفاءة استخدام النيتروجين في نباتات القمح ودلت نتائج التجربه الأولى على ان صنف القمح بنى سوفى كان اكثر الاصناف فى كفاءة استخدام النيتروجين بينما كان صنف سخا ٩٣ الأقل فى كفاءة استخدام النيتروجين ووضحت نتائج التجربه الثانيه أن صنف بنى سوفى ١ يتميز بزيادة الوزن الجاف للأجزاء الخضريه والجذور وارتفاع نسبه الوزن الجاف للجذور الى الوزن الجاف للأجزاء الخضريه وزياده مساحه سطح الأوراق وكذلك زياده الطول الكلى للجذور ، فى حين اظهرت نتائج التجربه الثالثه أن تجزئه السماد النيتروجينى حسنت من محصول الحبوب وكذلك من كفاءة استخدام اصناف القمح للنيتروجين وكانت نسب التحسين فى محصول الحبوب وكفاءة استخدام النيتروجين أعلى فى الصنف سخا ٩٣ (الأقل فى الكفاءة) عن صنف بنى سوفى ١ (الأعلى فى الكفاءة).

(الكلمات الدالة : القمح، الأصناف، كفاءة استخدام النيتروجين، تجزئة السماد النيتروجينى، مصادر النيتروجين)

Three experiments were carried out to improving nitrogen use efficiency. The results of the first experiment indicated that Beni-Suif 1 was the highest efficient cultivar for NUE while Sakha 93 recorded the lowest value. In the second experiment, Beni-Suif 1 recorded higher shoot and root dry weights, root/shoot ratio, leaf area and total root length than Sakha 93. The results of third experiment showed that split application of nitrogen improved grain yield and NUE of wheat cultivars. The improving percentage of grain yield and NUE was greater for Sakha 93 than Beni-suif 1.

(Key Words: Wheat, Cultivars, Nitrogen use efficiency, Split N fertilizer, N-sources).

٦ - أهم النتائج التطبيقية التي تم التوصل إليها :

(لا تزيد عن سطرين لكل منها)

٦ - ١ سجل الصنف بنى سويف ١ أعلى محصول للحبوب و القش عن الصنف سخا ٩٣ .

٦ - ٢ أدت تجزئة النيتروجين الى إنتاج المحصول الأعلى من الحبوب و محتوى الحبوب من النيتروجين و كذلك زيادة كفاءة إستخدام النيتروجين عن معاملة الأضافة بدون تجزئة.

٦ - ٣ ينصح بزراعة صنف بنى سويف ١ تحت ظروف الأمداد المنخفض أو فى الأراضى ذات المحتوى المنخفض من النيتروجين.

٧ - ما هي الجهات التي يمكن أن تستفيد من هذا البحث :

(اذكر هذه الجهات مع شرح أهمية البحث لهذه الجهة بما لا يزيد عن أربعة سطور لكل جهة)

٧ - ١ الجهات الإرشادية بوزارة الزراعة.

(ترشيد المزارعين بأهمية استخدام الأصناف ذات الكفاءة العالية في استخدام النيتروجين تحت ظروف الأمداد المنخفض من النيتروجين).

٧ - ٢ الجهات المسؤولة عن تربية النباتات.

(للاستفادة من صفات هذه الأصناف و العمل على نقلها الى أصناف اخرى للتغلب على بعض مشاكل التسميد).

٧ - ٣

٧ - ٤

٨ - هل توجد علاقة قائمة بإحدى هذا الجهات : نعم ☐ لا ☐ ☐ √

فى حالة نعم اذكر هذه الجهات :

٨ - ١

٨ - ٢

٨ - ٣

ما هي طبيعة العلاقة :

مشروع بحثى ☐

تعاون أكاديمى ☐

مشروع ممول من جهة ثالثة ☐ (اذكر ما هي :

أخرى ☐ (تذكر

٩ - هل توافق على التعاون مع جهات مستفيدة من خلال الجامعة :

لا (لماذا) ☐

نعم ☒

(I) لتطبيق البحث : ☒

(II) لاستكمال البحث : ☐

(ج) أخرى (تذكر) ☐ (

١٠ - هل تم نشر بحوث مستخرجة من الرسالة في مجلات أو مؤتمرات علمية

(تذكر مع جهة النشر و المكان و التاريخ)

١٠ - ١

استجابه بعض أصناف القمح لمستويات مختلفه من النيتروجين

كلييه الزراعة - جامعه المنصوره - مجلة العلوم الزراعية - مجلد ٣٤ - العدد (٥) مايو ٢٠٠٩

١١ - هل سبق التقدم لتسجيل براءات اختراع (تذكر مع الجهة و المكان و التاريخ)

لا

١٢ - هل توافق على إعطاء البيانات المذكورة في هذه الاستمارة لجهات أخرى

☒

لا

☐

نعم

توقيع المشرفين:-

- أ.د. / محمدى ابراهيم الخرباوى

توقيع الطالب :-

- منى فوزى عبد الغنى ابراهيم

- أ.د/ يوسف على عبد العال

التاريخ

وكيل الكلية (المعهد) للدراسات العليا و البحوث :