



بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

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تم عمل المسح الضوئي لهذه الرسالة بواسطة / سامية زكى يوسف

بقسم التوثيق الإلكتروني بمركز الشبكات وتكنولوجيا المعلومات دون أدنى

مسئولية عن محتوى هذه الرسالة.

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**"EFFECT OF MECHANICAL PLANTING ON PRODUCTION
OF SUGAR BEET YIELD"**

**A STUDY ON THE PERFORMANCE OF TWO SUGAR-BEET
PLANTERS ONE OF THEM MANUFACTURED AND
DEVELOPED TO SUIT SMALL HOLDINGS**

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Thesis

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



In

AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION

**Agricultural Mechanization Department
Faculty of Agriculture,
Kafr El-Sheikh
Tanta University**

2000

APPROVAL SHEET

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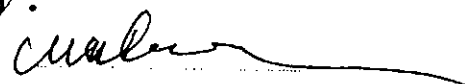
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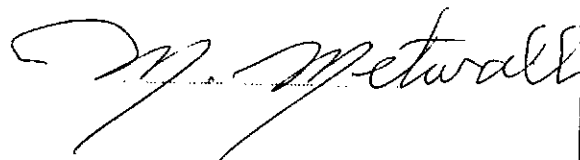
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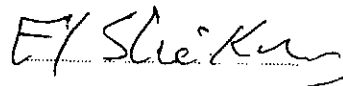
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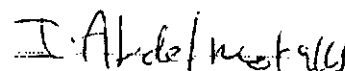
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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Thanks to *Allah (God)* for giving me the power to complete this work.

The author would like to express his deepest appreciation and sincere thanks to *Prof. Dr. Metwalli Metwalli Mohamed*, Professor and head of the Agriculture Mechanization Department, Faculty of Agriculture, Kafr El-Sheikh, Tanta University for encouragement and support.

The author gratefully *acknowledge Prof. Dr. Mubarak M. mostafa* Professor and head of the Agriculture Mechanization Department, Faculty of Agriculture, Ain Shams University, for his supervision, suggesting the problem and continuous scientific help.

The author also wishes to express his deep and sincere thanks to *Prof. Dr. Ibrahim Hanafy El-Geddawy* head of the Agronomy Department, Sugar Crops Research Institute, Agricultural Research Center, for his supervision, suggesting the problem and continuous scientific help.

The author also wishes to express his deep and sincere thanks to *Dr. Ismail Ahmed Abdelmotalb* Associate Prof., Agriculture Mechanization Department, Faculty of Agriculture, Kafr El-Sheikh, Tanta University, for his supervision, suggesting the problem and continuous scientific help.

The author also wishes to express his deep and sincere thanks to *Dr. El-Said Mohamed Kalifa* Lecturer, Agriculture Mechanization Department, Faculty of Agriculture, Kafr El-Sheikh, Tanta University, for his supervision, suggesting the problem and continuous scientific help.

The author wishes also to convey his greetings to *Dr. Abed El-Wahab I. Allam*, Director of Sugar Crops Research Institute, Agricultural Research Center, for this continuous help and encourage during the progress of the work.

The writer also wishes to express his sincere thanks to *Dr. Ahmed M. Bassuony*, Head of Sugar Crops Research Section, Sakha, Agricultural Research Station, and all Staff members for their Facilities provided during the progress of these investigation.

Also deep thanks and gratitude to *Dr. Zakaria Mohamed Imara* Researcher in Agric., Eng. Res. Institute, and *Mr. Samir Kader Genidy* Agricultural Engineering in Agric., Eng. Res. Institute, Rice Mech. Center, Meet El-Deba, Kafr El-Sheika, for their valuable assistance and helpful comments during this work.

Special gratitude to my *mother*, my *brothers*, my *wife*, my daughter (*Esraa*) and my son (*Mohamed*) for their concern, encouragement, continuous support and invaluable assistance throughout my study for the Ph. D. Thesis.

I would like to express my sincere and deep thanks to all the staff members of Agriculture Mechanization Department, Faculty of Agriculture, Kafr El-Sheikh, Tanta University, for their help full comments and encouragement.

I would like to express my deep thanks and appreciation to all who assist me in any way during carrying out the research.

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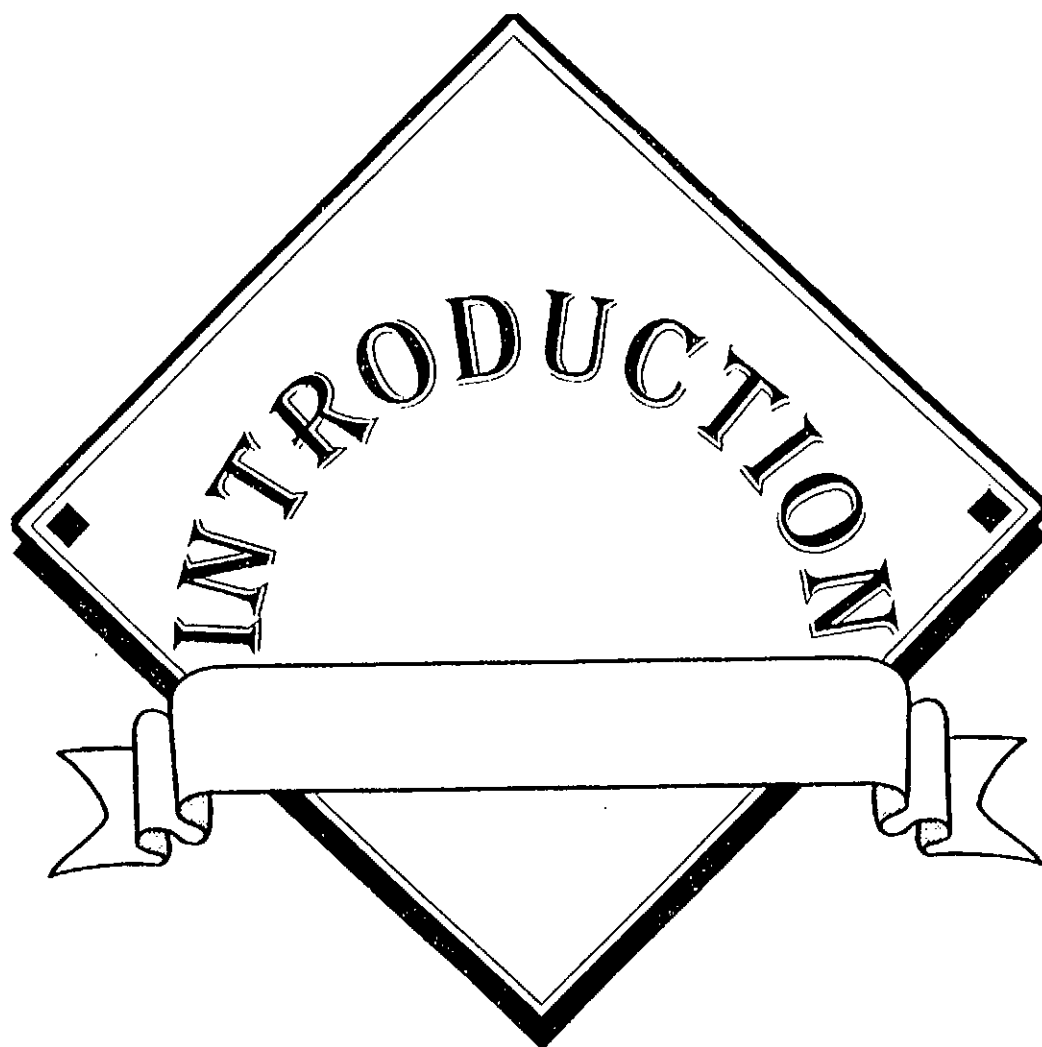
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1-INTRODUCTION

Sugar beet is considered as one of the most important crops, not only for sugar production, but also for producing fodder and organic matter for the soil. It extends to the use of its products in producing untraditional animal feed.

The production of sugar beet increased from 16943 fed. in 81/1982 to 70000 fed in 98/1999* in Kafr El-Sheikh. It is cultivated in a three year rotations during winter season from September till middle of November. It remains in the field from six to seven months. Its harvesting time depends on the cultivated varieties and planting time (sowing dates). There are some varieties recommended by the Research Institute of sugar crops for planting Egypt's local conditions namely, multigerm varieties and monogerm varieties.

Egyptian government has been aware to the high benefit of mechanizing its planting operation with the purpose of saving seed rate, less time and plant uniformity.

Up to now planting of seed is done manually in Egypt as most of local farmers own small land-holdings. Planting by machine is very important in saving hand labour, improving production, and allowing further mechanization. Uniformity of plant distribution with sufficient plant density is called upon for good beet quality. The main problem of sugar beet planting stage is that the randomizing in planting depth especially in planting on leveled land surfaces than make in the ridges. This problem could be solved in this work by developing a planter unit to plant the seed on ridged land directly.

Sugar beet became an important crop in Egypt as a source of sugar [sucrose]. The Egyptian government is encouraging the growers to increase the growing area of sugar beet. Until now the planing operation of sugar beet does not completely mechanized, although the manual planting is costly. The manual planting is needs too many labors and high quantity of seeds.

Planting methods considered as one of the most common problems for many crops. Consequently, mechanization of planting should be evaluated and studied to solve the problem which face the grower. The planter is very important to save labour, favorable seed distribution over the area, and allowing further mechanization.

* Source Ministry of Agricultural the central council for sugar crops 1999.

On the other hand design considerations of this machine must meet the following:

- a) Low cost so that small farmer can use it;
- b) Suitable for different grains and small seeds;
- c) Simplicity in construction;
- d) Easy operation, adjustment, repairs and maintenance;
- e) Uniform placement of seed;
- f) Arrangement for adjusting seed rate, and
- g) Suitable depth control mechanism.

The current study was devoted to:

- a) Determine the effect of mechanical planters performance on the different tillage depths;
- b) Determine the effect of mechanical planting on seed placement and root characteristics, and
- c) Evaluate the field performance and planting cost.

The objectives of the present study were to develop and to manufacture two rows of locally hand operated planting machine and to evaluate its performance compared with one row hand operated planting machine made in Germany.

