

YIELD AND SEED QUALITY RESPONSES OF CHICKPEA TO INOCULATION WITH PHOSPHOREIN , PHOSPHOURUS FERTILIZER AND SPRAYING WITH IRON.

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ABSTRACT

Two filed experiments on chickpea were carried out during the two winter seasons of 2001/02 and 2002/03 at the Experimental Center, Faculty of Agriculture at Moshtohor, Zagazig University. Each experimental included 12 treatments which were the combination of two treatments of phosphate dissolving bacteria (*B. megatherium*) inoculation i.e. "phosphorein" (with or without), three phosphorus fertilizer levels (0, 15 and 30 kg P₂O₅/fed.) and two spraying treatments with Fe (tap water and 0.5 g/L as chelated iron, 14 % Fe-EDTA).

Results showed that phosphorein treatments, inoculating chickpea seeds with phosphate dissolving bacteria (*Bacillus megatherium*) significantly surpassed the uninoculated in plant height, pods weight/plant, seed index, seed yield/plant, yields of seed, straw, biological as well as seed protein yields/fed, N and P uptake/fed. in the combined analysis of both growing seasons.

Plant height, number of branches and pods/plant, pods and seeds weight/plant, 100-seed weight, seed yield/fed., seed protein % as well as of yield/fed., N and P uptake/fed were improved by phosphorus fertilization, while the lowest values for forenamed traits were obtained in the unfertilized plots.

Foliar spraying with Fe had significant effected on most studied traits in the 1st and the 2nd seasons as well as combined analysis

The studied simple correlation indicated that there were positive and high significant coefficients between each pair of plant height, pods number and weight/plant seed yield/plant, straw, biological yields/fed and seed yield/fed.

INTRODUCTION

Chickpea (*Cicer arietinum*,L.) is one of the important grain Legumes cultivated in Egypt many year ago. It is grown as winter crop and cultivated successfully in traditional area where clay soil prevalence and in new reclaimed area having sandy soil. The need for phosphorus fertilization and inoculation with phosphate attracts the attention of agronomists under Egyptian condition especially for Legume crops. It is necessary to supply Legume crops in their early stages of growth with pass the amount is the soil in not completely available for plants. Moreover, it was noticed that the Legume crops responded positively to Fe application. However, the effect of inoculation with phosphate on yield, yield components and seed quality had been studied by several investigations. Seeds or soil inoculation with phosphate dissolving bacteria had increasing seed yield and most its components of Chickpea (**Prasad and Sanoria, 1984 and Pal, 1986**). **Mehasen and El-Ghozoli (2003)** who reported that all growth characters, yield and yield components as well as chemical composition of

soybean seeds in both seasons were significantly increased by application of rock-phosphate (RP)+phosphate dissolving bacteria (PDB) or inoculation with PDB alone except number of branches/plant and oil percentage in the second season only. **Hamed (2003)** found that inoculating faba bean seeds with phosphate dissolving bacteria (phosphorein) surpassed the uninoculated in plant height, pods and seeds weight/plant, 100-seed weight, seed and protein yields/fed. Also, positive response to addition of phosphorus is extensively reported in the literature. These responses ranged from 15 to 50 kg P₂O₅/ha was reported by **Javiya et al. (1989)** and **Sarawgi and Singh (1989)**. Higher responses ranging from 50 to 120 kg P₂O₅/ha were reported by **Kumpawat et al. (1990)**, **Abd El-Gawad et al. (1991)**, **Zeiton (1992)** and **Enania and Vyas (1995)** who indicated that all seed yield components, as well as, seed, straw and biological yields were significantly increased due to addition of P up to 45 kg P₂O₅ /fed. However, adding phosphorus fertilizer at a rate of 23.25 kg P₂O₅ /fed to chickpea plants increased significantly number of pods/plant, weight of pods/plant, seed yield/plant, seed and straw yields/fed over those fertilized by 15.5 and 31 kg P₂O₅/fed. On the other hand, number of seeds/pod and seed index were not affected by increasing P rate from 15.5 to 31 kg P₂O₅/fed (**Sawires, 2001**).

Adding Fe at a rate 15 or 30 ppm caused an increase in seed and straw yields/fed of chickpea compared with the untreated (control) were obtained by (**Sawires, 2001**). **Mehasen and El-Ghozli (2003)** who demonstrated that application of Fe statistically increased number of pods/plant, weight of pods and seeds/plant, seed and protein yields/fed of soybean as compared with control treatment in the two growing seasons. This work was raised to determine the influence of inoculation with phosphate, phosphorus fertilization and spraying of Fe on yield, yield components and chemical content of chickpea.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Two field experiments on chickpea were carried out during the two winter seasons of 2001/02 and 2002/03 at the Agric. Res. and Exper. Cent. of the Fac. of Agric., Moshtohor, Zagazig Univ., Egypt. Each experiment included 12 treatments which were the combinations of:

- Two levels of phosphate dissolving bacteria (*B. megatherium*) inoculation, with and without. Bacteria was used in the product from of "phosphorein" seeds were inoculated by phosphorein just before sowing.
- Three phosphorus fertilizer levels (zero, 15 and 30 kg P₂O₅/fed). Phosphorus levels were added before sowing as Calcium super phosphate 15 % P₂O₅.
- Two Fe levels (tap water and spraying with Fe at a rate 0.5 g/L as chelated iron, 14 % Fe-EDTA) Fe was sprayed twice, the first when plants aged 30 days and the second at 45 days from planting (*using hand sprayer* 1 L.). Spray solution was 400 L / fed.

The treatments were arranged in a split-plot design with four replications, in which phosphate dissolving bacteria treatments were allocated in the main plots and the combination between phosphorus fertilizer levels and Fe treatments occupied the sub plots. The experimental unit area contained 5 ridges each of 3.5 m length and 0.60 m

width (10.5 m²). Chickpea seeds "Giza 3" cultivar were inoculated with the specific *Rhizobium* strain just before sowing. Seeds were planted on the two ridge sides with hills separated 20 cm, on 19 and 11 Nov., in the 1st and 2nd seasons, respectively. The preceding crop was maize in both seasons. Before the first irrigation, chickpea plants were thinned to secure two plants/hill and added 20 kg N/fed as a starter dose in the form of ammonium nitrate (33.5 % N). Soil of the experiment was clay loam in texture with pH 8.01 and contained available P 11.20 mg/kg (NaHCO₃-extractable), 2.0 % organic matter and 3.6 ppm available Fe average of both seasons.

At harvest, ten guarded plants from each experimental unit were chosen and the following criteria were estimated: plant height (cm), number of branches/plant, number of pods/plant, number of seeds/pod, number of seeds/plant, weight of pods/plant (g), 100-seed weight (g) and seed yield/plant (g). Seed, straw and biological yields/fed were estimated from the whole sub-plot. Moreover, samples of chickpea seeds were dried at 70 C⁰ for 24 hours ground wet ashed using sulphuric and perchloric acids mixture and nitrogen content (N%) in seeds was determined by micro kjeldahl method according to **A.O.A.C. (1990)**. Phosphorus content (P%) in seeds was determined as reported by **Frei et al. (1964)** using colorimetric determination with ascorbic acid. Protein content was calculated by multiplying percent of N by 6.25 and Protein yield (kg/fed) was calculated by multiplying protein % in seeds by seed yield/fed. While, N and P uptake in seeds (kg/fed) were calculated by multiplying N and P percentage in seeds by seed yield/fed.

All possible coefficients of the simple correlation were estimated between the following chickpea traits according to **Snedecor and Cochran (1967)**. Data were statistically analyzed according to **Gomez and Gomez (1983)**. Test of homogeneity of the data was applied, then combined analysis of variance was performed over the first and second seasons. For comparison between means **Duncan's** multiple range test was used (**1955**), using the MSTAT-C Statistical Software package (**Michigan State University, 1983**)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A- Effect of growing seasons:-

Data in Table (1) showed that there were not significant seasonal effects existed for all characters studied except number of pods/plant, weight of pods/plant, seed index, seed yield/plant, straw and biological yields/fed. Higher mean values for these traits were detected in the second season and it may be due to earlier planting date.

Table 1. Mean values of seasonal effect.

Traits	Growing seasons		F test
	2001 /2002	2002 / 2003	
Plant height (cm)	71.6	71.0	n.s
No. of branches / plant	3.96	4.30	n.s
No. of pods / plant	48.7	46.3	**
No. seeds / pod	1.35	1.26	n.s
No. of seeds / plant	67.4	60.1	n.s
Weight of pods/ plant	12.02	13.27	**
Seed index (g)	16.90	16.45	**
Seed yield / plant (g)	9.06	10.02	**
Seed yield kg/fed	778.0	781.9	n.s
Straw yield ton/fed	1.041	1.067	**
Biological yield ton/fed	1.819	1.849	*
Seed N content %	2.94	2.97	n.s
Seed protein content %	18.32	18.59	n.s
Protein yield kg/fed	143.4	147.8	n.s
N uptake kg/fed	22.95	23.65	n.s
Seed P content %	0.307	0.314	n.s
P uptake kg/fed	2.41	2.49	n.s

*,** indicates significant at $P<0.05$ and 0.01 , respectively ; n.s = non significant

B- Effect of phosphorein.

The presented results in Table (2) showed that the performance of Chickpea yield, yield components and seed quality under phosphorein treatments, inoculating chickpea seeds with phosphate dissolving bacteria i.e. "phosphorein" surpassed the uninoculated in plant height, number of pods/plant, weight of pods/plant, seed index, seed, straw, biological and protein yields/fed, seed N % , protein content, N and P uptake/fed in the second season and combined analysis. Also, seed index, seed yield/fed, seed P content and P uptake/fed in both seasons as well as combined analysis. On the other hand, number of branches/plant, number of seeds/pod and number of seeds/plant had no significant affected by phosphorein treatments in both seasons as well as combined analysis. The improvements in plant height, pods and seeds weight/plant and seed index may be attributed to the benefit effect of inoculation with phosphate dissolving bacteria on chickpea growth, so, pod, seed, straw, biological and protein yields/fed increased. Similar results were obtained by (Prasad and Sanoria, 1984 and pal, 1986 on chickpea; Mehasen and El-Ghozoli,2003 on soybean and Hamed, 2003 on faba bean).

Table 2 . Yield and its components and seed quality as affected by Phosphorein inoculation.

Characters	Phosphorein inoculation								
	2001 / 02 season			2002 / 03 season			Combined analysis		
	Non.	Inoc.	F test	Non.	Inoc.	F test	Non.	Inoc.	F test
Plant height (cm)	70.6	72.5	n.s	69.1	72.8	**	69.8	72.7	**
No. of branches / plant	3.66	4.27	n.s	4.16	4.43	n.s	3.91	4.35	n.s
No. of pods / plant	48.25	49.2	n.s	43.8	48.8	**	46.0	49.0	**
No. seeds / pod	1.30	1.40	n.s	1.21	1.31	n.s	1.25	1.35	n.s
No. of seeds / plant	63.9	70.9	n.s	54.2	66.0	n.s	59.0	68.5	n.s
Weight of pods/ plant	11.7	12.3	n.s	12.16	14.38	**	11.94	13.36	**
Seed index (g)	16.7	17.1	**	15.8	17.0	**	16.2	17.0	**
Seed yield / plant (g)	8.76	9.35	n.s	9.30	10.74	*	9.03	10.05	*
Seed yield kg/fed	758.4	797.5	**	729.1	834.7	**	743.8	816.1	**
Straw yield ton/fed	1.034	1.049	n.s	1.033	1.101	**	1.033	1.075	*
Biological yield ton/fed	1.793	1.846	n.s	1.762	1.935	**	1.777	1.891	**
Seed N content %	2.88	3.00	n.s	2.69	3.25	**	2.78	3.12	**
Seed protein content %	18.02	18.75	n.s	16.84	20.34	**	17.43	19.54	**
Protein yield kg/fed	137.1	149.8	n.s	124.4	171.2	**	130.7	160.5	*
N uptake kg/fed	21.93	23.98	n.s	19.9	27.3	**	20.9	25.6	*
Seed P content %	0.293	0.321	**	0.283	0.344	**	0.288	0.333	**
P uptake kg/fed	2.24	2.59	**	2.09	2.89	**	2.17	2.74	**

*, ** indicates significant at $P < 0.05$ and 0.01 , respectively ; n.s = non significant

C- Effect of phosphorus fertilizer.

Data in Table (3) indicated clearly that there were significant increase in yield, yield components and seed quality of chickpea by increasing level of phosphorus in both seasons as well as combined analysis. Supplying chickpea plants with P_2O_5 at the rate of 30 kg/fed, gave the highest for all studied traits of yield, yield components and seed quality as compared with those of zero and 15 kg P_2O_5 /fed. While, the lowest values for forenamed traits were obtained in the unfertilized plots. The increase in seed yield/ fed was 19.88, 19.67 and 19.77 % in the 1st, 2nd seasons and combined, respectively, at the rate of 30 kg P_2O_5 /fed as compared with zero level (control). The increase in pods and seeds numbers and weight/plant may be responsible for the achieved increments in seed, straw and biological yields/fed. Protein yield may be increased due to increasing seed yield/fed and protein percentage in chickpea seeds. It is known that phosphorus is essential for cell division, development of root nodules and stimulation of nitrogen fixation (Marschner, 1995). The results are in accordance with those of Javiya *et al.*(1989); Sarawgi and Singh (1989); Kumpawat *et al.*(1990); Abd El-Gawad *et al.*(1991); Zeiton (1992); Enania and Vyas (1995) and Sawires (2001).

Table 3 . Yield and its components and seed quality as affected by Phosphorus fertilizer.

Characters	Phosphorus fertilizer rates (kg / fed)								
	2001 / 02 season			2002 / 03 season			Combined analysis		
	control	15	30	control	15	30	control	15	30
Plant height (cm)	62.2 c	74.0 b	78.5 a	58.7c	74.3 b	79.9 a	60.5 c	74.1 b	79.2 a
No. of branches / plant	2.74 c	4.09 b	5.06 a	3.05c	4.50 b	5.35 a	2.90 c	4.29 b	5.20 a
No. of pods / plant	37.6 c	49.5 b	59.0 a	33.7c	49.8 b	55.4 a	35.7 c	49.7 b	57.2 a
No. seeds / pod	1.10 c	1.41 a	1.53 a	1.03b	1.23 b	1.51 a	1.06 b	1.32 b	1.52 a
No. of seeds / plant	41.4 c	70.1 b	90.7 a	34.9c	61.4 b	84.0 a	38.1 c	65.8 b	87.3 a
Weight of pods/ plant	10.7 c	12.1 b	13.2 a	11.5c	13.5 b	14.8 a	11.12c	12.79b	14.04a
Seed index (g)	15.5 c	16.9 b	18.2 a	14.5c	16.8 b	18.0 a	15.0 c	16.8 b	18.1 a
Seed yield / plant (g)	7.63 c	8.80 b	10.75a	8.88b	9.60 b	11.58a	8.25 b	9.20 b	11.16a
Seed yield kg/fed	702.4c	789.5b	842.1a	700.5c	807.0b	838.3a	701.5c	798.2b	840.2a
Straw yield ton/fed	0.961c	1.037b	1.126a	0.964c	1.066b	1.171a	0.962c	1.051b	1.149a
Biological yield ton/fed	1.663c	1.826b	1.969a	1.664c	1.873b	2.009a	1.664c	1.850b	1.989a
Seed N content %	2.80 a	2.96 a	3.05 a	2.45 c	2.90 b	3.56 a	2.62 b	2.93ab	3.30 a
Seed protein content %	17.55a	18.54a	19.06a	15.31c	18.17b	22.29a	16.4 c	18.3 b	20.6 a
Protein yield kg/fed	123.3c	146.4b	160.6a	108.3c	147.6b	187.4a	115.8c	147.0b	174.0a
N uptake kg/fed	19.74c	23.43b	25.70a	17.3c	23.6 b	29.9 a	18.5 c	23.5 b	27.8 a
Seed P content %	0.258c	0.310b	0.353a	0.258c	0.298b	0.384a	0.258c	0.304b	0.369a
P uptake kg/fed	1.82 c	2.44 b	2.98 a	1.82c	2.42 b	3.23 a	1.82 c	2.43 b	3.10 a

D- Effect of Fe application.

Data in Table (4) indicated clearly that there were no significant differences in seed N content, seed protein content, protein yield/fed and N uptake/fed in the first season between Fe application treatments. Spraying chickpea plants with Fe surpassed the tap water (control) in plant height, number of seeds/plant, weight of pods/plant, seed index, seed yield/plant, seed, straw, biological and protein yields/fed, seed P content and P uptake/fed in both seasons as well as combined analysis. The effect of Fe is more clearly in both seasons. It is attitude to the improvement nitrogen fixing activity of the root nodules (Marschner, 1995). Available Fe in the soil experiment was 3.6 ppm. The soil is considered poor in available Fe, so, chickpea plants responded to Fe treatment. Confirming results were reported by Sawires (2001) on chickpea and Mehasen and El-Ghozoli (2003) on soybean.

Table 4 . Yield and its components and seed quality as affected by spraying Fe .

Characters	Fe foliar application								
	2001 / 02 season			2002 / 03 season			Combined analysis		
	Tap w.	Fe	F test	Tap w.	Fe	F test	Tap w.	Fe	F test
Plant height (cm)	70.2	72.9	**	69.7	72.2	*	70.0	72.6	**
No. of branches / plant	3.72	4.21	**	4.13	4.46	*	3.93	4.33	**
No. of pods / plant	47.8	49.8	**	45.8	46.8	n.s	46.7	48.3	*
No. seed / pod	1.24	1.45	*	1.16	1.35	n.s	1.20	1.40	**
No. of seed / plant	59.9	74.9	**	54.8	65.4	*	57.4	70.1	**
Weight of pods/ plant	11.6	12.4	*	12.88	13.66	*	12.25	13.05	**
Seed index (g)	16.6	17.1	*	16.1	16.7	*	16.3	16.9	**
Seed yield / plant (g)	8.60	9.52	**	9.58	10.45	*	9.09	9.98	**
Seed yield kg/fed	764.8	791.1	**	769.0	794.8	*	766.9	793.0	**
Straw yield ton/fed	1.025	1.058	**	1.048	1.086	**	1.036	1.072	**
Biological yield ton/fed	1.790	1.849	**	1.817	1.880	**	1.803	1.865	**
Seed N content %	2.90	2.97	n.s	2.86	3.08	*	2.88	3.03	*
Seed protein content %	18.16	18.61	n.s	17.88	19.30	*	18.0	18.9	*
Protein yield (kg/fed)	139.4	147.5	n.s	140.1	155.5	*	139.7	151.5	*
N uptake (kg/fed)	22.31	23.60	n.s	22.4	24.8	*	22.3	24.2	*
Seed P content %	0.292	0.322	**	0.301	0.326	**	0.297	0.324	**
P uptake kg/fed	2.25	2.57	**	2.35	2.63	**	2.30	2.60	**

*, ** indicates significant at $P < 0.05$ and 0.01 , respectively ; n.s = non significant

E-Interaction effects:

Significant interaction effects were found between phosphorein and phosphorus fertilizer rates on plant height, seed, straw and biological yields/fed and P uptake/fed in combined analysis (Table 5). Also, in combined analysis interaction were found between phosphorein and spraying with Fe on straw yield/fed (Table 6).

Data illustrated in Table (5) indicated that the highest plant height, seed, straw and biological yields/fed and P uptake/fed were obtained from inoculated with phosphorein when fertilized with P at rate 30 kg P₂O₅/fed. These increase represented 34.2, 33.8, 23.0, 27.4 and 123.2 % for the previously mentioned traits, respectively, as compared to control (without phosphorein and P fertilizer).

Data illustrated in Table (6) indicated that maximum straw yield/fed was obtained from inoculated with phosphorein at spraying with Fe . This increase represented 7.5 % as compared to the control (without phosphorein and Fe).

Table 5. chickpea criteria as affected by the interaction between phosphorein and phosphorus fertilizer rates (in combined analysis).

phosphorein	Phosphorus rates	Plant height (cm)	Seed yield kg/fed	Straw yield ton/fed	Biological yield ton/fed	P uptake kg/fed
noninoculated	Control	59.6 D	652.1 E	0.968 E	1.620 E	1.55 D
	15	71.6 C	771.7 C	1.027 D	1.799 C	2.21 C
	30	78.3 AB	807.5 B	1.106 B	1.914 B	2.74 B
Inoculated	Control	61.4 D	750.9 D	0.957 E	1.708 D	2.09 C
	15	76.7 B	824.7 B	1.076 C	1.900 B	2.66 B
	30	80.0 A	872.8 A	1.191 A	2.064 A	3.46 A

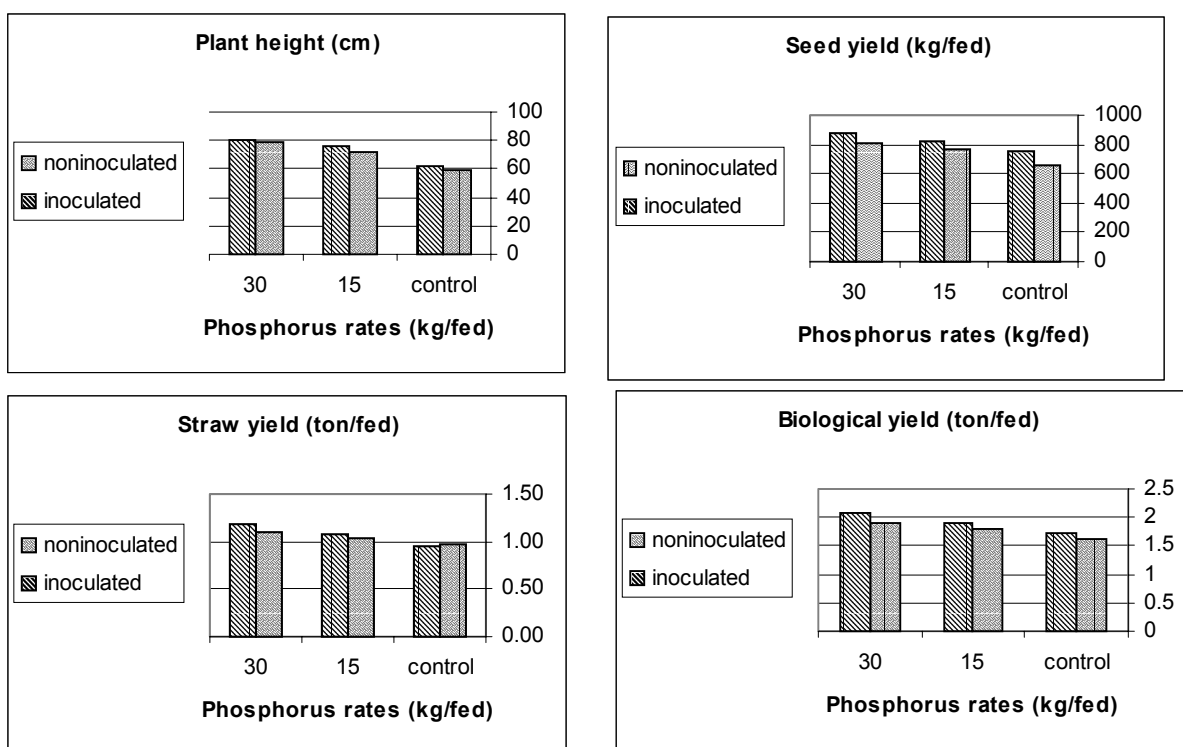
Table 6. Straw yield (ton/fed) of chickpea as affected by the interaction between phosphorein and spraying Fe (in combined analysis).

Treatments	Noninoculated	Inoculated
Tap water	1.023 C	1.044 B
Spraying Fe	1.050 B	1.100 A

F- Simple correlation study:

The interrelationships between seed yield of chickpea and its components in combined analysis are shown in Table (7). Seed yield/fed showed positive and highly significant correlation with all studied chickpea traits i.e., plant height, number of branches and pods/plant , number of seeds/pod, number of seeds/plant, pods weight/plant, seed yield/plant, seed index, straw and biological yields/fed. Also, highly significant and positive correlation coefficients values between biological yield/fed and each of plant height, number of branches and pods/plant, number of seeds/pod and per plant, pods and seed weight/ plant , 100-seed weight and straw yield/fed. Straw yield/fed showed positive and highly significant correlation coefficients with seed index , seed weight/plant, pods weight/plant, number of seeds/pod and per plant, number of branches/plant and plant height. Such results indicated that selection for these traits would lead to the increase in seed yield of chickpea.

Chickpea criteria as affected by the interaction between phosphorein and phosphorus fertilizer rates (combined analysis)



Straw yield (ton/fed) of chickpea as affected by the interaction between phosphorein and spraying with Fe. (combined analysis)

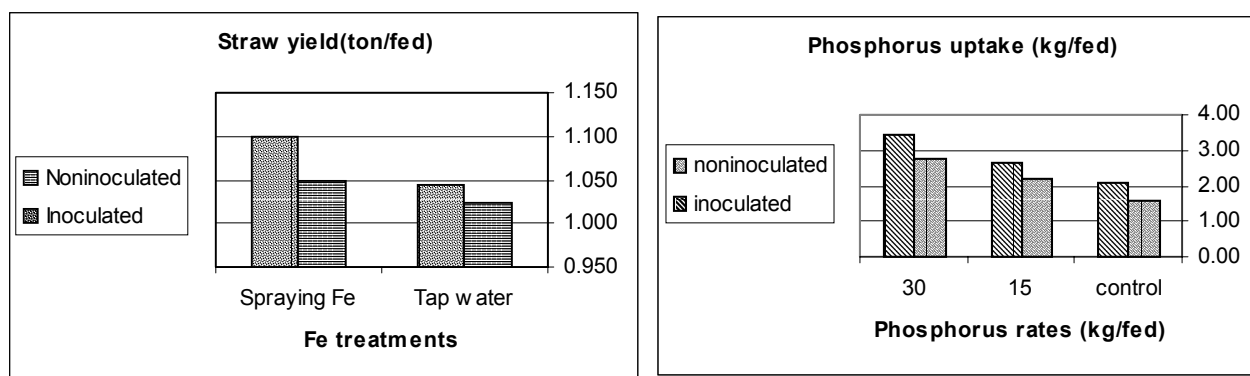


Table 7. Simple correlation coefficients between seed yield and yield components (combined analysis).

Traits	Correlation matrix									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1-Plant height (cm)										
2-Number of branches/ plant	0.971									
3-Number of pods / plant	0.870	0.902								
4-Number of seeds / pod	0.871	0.884	0.890							
5-Number of seeds/plant	0.944	0.954	0.922	0.976						
6-Pods weight / plant (g)	0.884	0.922	0.843	0.873	0.912					
7-Seed yield / plant (g)	0.849	0.929	0.918	0.905	0.934	0.915				
8-Seed index (g)	0.963	0.977	0.911	0.934	0.984	0.951	0.934			
9-Straw yield/fed	0.921	0.953	0.938	0.933	0.973	0.928	0.948	0.971		
10-Biological yield/fed	0.945	0.975	0.922	0.920	0.969	0.961	0.956	0.992	0.972	
Y-Seed yield / fed. (kg)	0.903	0.930	0.835	0.836	0.893	0.929	0.895	0.943	0.867	0.960

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