

## Effect of magnetic water on growth, yield and quality of groundnut infected with root-knot nematode (*Meloidogyne arenaria*) in sandy soil

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### Abstract

Magnetic treatment is considered one of uncommon factor which has positive effects on yield of many crops. Two field trials using ground nut (var. Giza-6) were conducted at National Research Centre Experimental Station, Alimam Malek village, Al Nubaria district, Al Behaira Governorate, Egypt in 2014 and 2015 summer seasons to study and evaluate the effects of magnetizing irrigation water on growth, yield and quality of groundnut naturally infected with root-knot nematode (*Meloidogyne arenaria*) in sandy soil. Results indicated that, irrigation peanut plants with water passed through magnetic device (4 inch, production by Magnetic Technologies L.C.C., Russia, branch United Arab Emirates) induced positive significant effect on the most of studied parameters. The percentage improvement ranged between 5.10 to 43.05% in yield components. As well as, the increases reached to 30.38 and 29.46% in pods and seeds yield per hectare. Results also indicated that the nematode infection (root galling) was not significantly affected by magnetic water, while the number of the juveniles ( $J_2$ ) in soil at harvest (first nematode generation ) significantly increased in magnetic water treatment compared with that in normal water.

**Keywords:** Groundnut, magnetized water, root-knot nematode, yield.

### Introduction

Groundnut, *Arachis hypogaea* L. is cultivated in all six continents especially in subtropical and tropical countries. It is ranked 13<sup>th</sup> among edible crop plants (Minton, 1984) and listed as one of 12 crop plants stand between man and starvation (Witter, 1981) as well as it is a high value cash crop. Its seeds are rich in calorie (5.6 cal/g) containing about 25% protein and have many utilization, may be used boiled, broiled, roasted, fried, ground into peanut butter or crushed for oil (Minton and Baujard, 1990). In Egypt cultivated area of ground nut has increased especially in the new reclaimed sandy soil, as the area increased from 20000 hectares in 2000 year to about 70000 ha in 2013 (Anon, 2015). Groundnut root-knot nematode, *Meloidogyne arenaria* is considered one of the most serious

nematode pathogens of ground nut in many parts of the world attacking ground nut roots, pegs and pods causing substantial yield losses in severely infested fields (**Minton and Baujard, 1990**). Losses in peanut yield due to root-knot nematodes were varied according to plant cultivar, nematode population density and environmental conditions. It was ranged from 0.5 % to 81.0 % in the southern USA (**Anon, 1987; Abdel Momen and Starr, 1997**) about 15% in west Africa and Southern Asia (**Sasser, 1979**), 70% in subtropical and tropical regions (**Lamberti, 1979**), and about 20% in Egypt (**Korayen and Osman, 1994; Korayen and Bondok, 2013**). Thus, many growers have applied many chemical nematicides for controlling nematode pathogens of groundnut. Many of these chemicals were found to be possible carcinogenic, incite male sterility and have many bad effects to the environment (**Write, 1981; Johnson and Feldmesser, 1987; Thomason, 1987; Rich et al., 2004**).

New approaches for nematode management are to maintain nematode population density at level that do not cause economic damage and/or to increase the plant tolerance to nematode infection, in same time increase yield. Use of magnetic water in agriculture is a new approach for increasing the yield of many crops especially in sandy soil. Several studies reported that magnetic irrigation water treatments have been a positive effect on seed germination, plant growth and development, the ripening, yield and quality of many different tested crops (**Aladjadjiyan A., 2010; Hozayn et al., 2013, 2014, 2015**). The improving in germination, growth and yield of tested crops were accompanied with improvement in photosynthetic pigments (**Hozayn and Amira, 2010 a & b; Amira and Hozayn, 2010 a & b; Hozayn et al., 2014**), activates protein formation and enzymes activity (**Atak et al., 2007; Çelik et al., 2009**), induces cell metabolism and mitosis meristematic cells of pea, lentil, onion and flax (**Belyavskaya, 2001; Hozayn et al., 2015**).

Increasing in economic yield regarding application of magnetic water treatments under field condition reached to 144,8% in potato, (**Marinkovic et al., 2002**); pepper by 64,9% (**Takac et al., 2002**), soybean from 5 to 25%, with a higher quantity of oil and protein and at sunflower from 13,2 to 17,3% (**Crnobarac et al., 2002**), wheat by 6.3 – 10.6% (**Kordas, 2002**), broad bean and pea by 10 and 15%, respectively (**Podlesny et al., 2005**), rice by 13-23% (**Tian et al., 1991**). Also, the root mass, leaf surface and yield of sugar beet treated with magnetized water increased by 94.0%, 52.0% and 12.88%, respectively (**Vasilevski, 2003**). Similar positive trends were obtained under Egyptian condition by **Hozayn et al. (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017)**, they reported that the percent of increase in economic yield (ton ha<sup>-1</sup>) in response to magnetized water application reached to 13.71% at wheat, 8.25% at faba bean, 21.8% at chick pea, 36.02% at canola, 22.37% at flax and 19.05% at sugar beet crop as compared to irrigation with ordinary water application.

In this work we study the impact of irrigation with magnetic water on yield and

quality of ground nut naturally infected with root- knot nematode *Meloidogyne arenaria* in sandy soil.

## Materials and Methods

Two field experiments were conducted during 2014-2015 summer seasons in sandy soil naturally infected with root knot nematode, *Meloidogyne arenaria* at National Research Centre Experimental Station, El-Nobaria region, El-Beheira governorate, Egypt to study the effect of irrigation with magnetized water on growth, yield and quality of peanut and on the root knot nematode infection and reproduction.

**Soil analysis:** Physical and chemical properties of soil in which experiment was done were analyzed according to method of **Chapman and Pratt (1978)**.

**Nematode extraction and bioassay:** At harvest peanut plants were removed by hands, then random samples (soil and roots) of 20 plants (replicates) were taken from each plot (treatment). The second stage juveniles ( $J_2$ ) were extracted from soil samples by sieving method (**Cobb, 1918**). The root knot nematode infection (gall index, GI) of each plant root was estimated as follows: 1=no galls, 2=1-25 % root galling, 3=26-50%, 4=51-75% and 5=more than 75%, root galling (**Barker, 1985**).

Table (1): Soil physical and chemical analysis.

Parameters	Soil depth		Average
	0-15	15-30	
<b>Particle size distribution</b>			
Coarse sand	48.2	54.75	51.5
Fine sand	49.11	41.43	45.3
Clay + Silt	2.69	3.82	3.2
Texture	Sandy	Sandy	sandy
PH (1:2.5)	8.22	7.94	8.08
EC(dSm <sup>-1</sup> )(1:5)	0.2	0.15	0.175
Organic matter (%)	0.67	0.43	0.55
<b>Soluble cations (mq/l)</b>			
Ca <sup>++</sup>	0.6	0.5	0.55
Mg <sup>++</sup>	0.5	0.3	0.40
Na <sup>++</sup>	0.9	0.8	0.85
K <sup>+</sup>	0.2	0.1	0.15
<b>Soluble anions (mq/l)</b>			
CO <sup>-3</sup>	-	-	
HCO <sup>-3</sup>	0.6	0.4	0.50
Cl <sup>-</sup>	0.75	0.7	0.73
SO <sup>-4</sup>	0.85	0.6	0.73

**Cultivation method and layout of experiment:** Seeds of the groundnut(cv.Giza - 6) were obtained from Legume Research Department, Field Crop Research Institute, Agriculture Research Centre, Giza, Egypt. Recommended rates of ground nut seeds were planted in plots (10 length<sup>m</sup> × 10 width<sup>m</sup>) at the first week of May in both seasons. The seeds were coated just before sowing with the bacterial inoculants, using Arabic gum (40%) as adhesive agent and were sown in hills 10 cm apart. Control treatment was irrigated with normal water, while the other treatment (magnetized water) was irrigated with water after magnetization through passing a four inch Magnetic device [produced by Magnetic Technologies LLC PO Box 27559, Dubai, UAE]. Four replications were used in each treatment. The recommended NPK fertilizers for ground nut crop were applied through the period of experiment.

Phosphorus (720 kgP<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup> as calcium superphosphate; 15% P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) and potassium (58kg K<sub>2</sub>O ha<sup>-1</sup>; as potassium sulfate 48 % K<sub>2</sub>O) were added during seed bed preparation and after one month from sowing, respectively. While, nitrogen fertilizer (144 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup> as ammonium sulfate 20.60 % N) was added in four equal doses weekly starting from 15 days after sowing. Sprinkler irrigation was applied as plants needed. The layout of experiment was shown in (Fig. 1). Groundnut was manually harvested on September 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> in the first and second season, respectively.

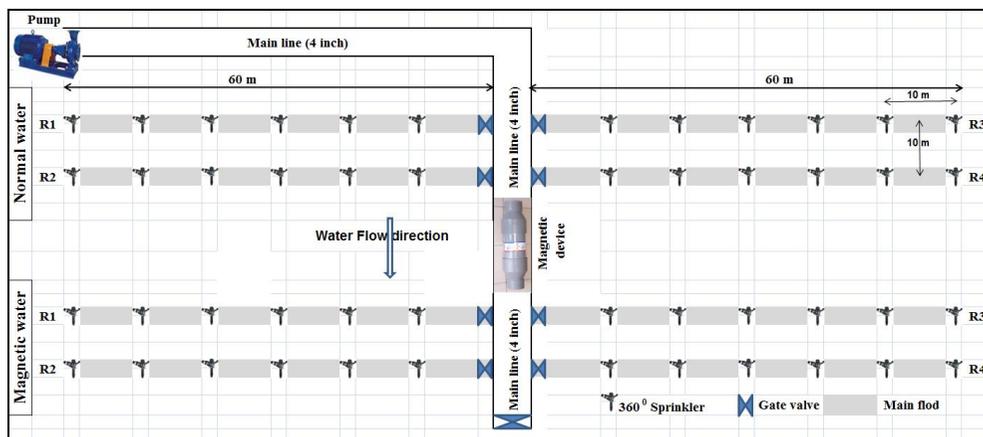


Fig. (1): Layout of experiment design under solid set sprinkler system.

**Yield and yield component:** At harvest, a random sample of 10 plants was taken from each plot to determine plant height (cm), branches no. plant<sup>-1</sup>, number and weight of pods and seeds plant<sup>-1</sup>, 100-pods and seeds weight (g). Plants in the whole plots were harvested and their pods were air dried and threshed to calculate seed yield/ha. Shelling percentage was calculated as following equation: Shelling (%) = (Seeds weight/ Pods weight) × 100.

**Seeds chemical analysis:** The moisture content of the seed samples was determined by oven-drying to a constant weight at 105 °C. Oil %, N, crude fiber and

ash content were determined accordance with the standard methods of AOAC (2000). Carbohydrates (nitrogen free extract) were determined by difference. Seed protein content was calculated by multiplying total nitrogen concentration by 6.25. Oil and protein yields/ha were calculated by multiplying seed yield by seed oil and protein percentage.

**Statistical analysis:** Statistical analysis was carried out using SPSS program Version 16. A student Independent *t*-test was carried out to find the significant differences between magnetic and nonmagnetic water treatments.

## Results and Discussion

**Soil analysis:** Physical and chemical analysis of experimental soil is presented in Table (1). Data indicated that soil was sandy and slightly alkaline (pH=8.08), with relatively low organic matter (0.55%) and low electric conductivity( $E_c = 0.175$ ).

**Effect of magnetic water on groundnut growth and yield:** Data presented in Table (2) indicated that irrigation peanut with magnetic water significantly increased its growth and yield compared with those of peanut irrigated with normal water. As plant height (cm), number of branches and pods per plant, fresh and dry weight (g), no. seed per plant, 100-seed and pod weight (g) and shelling % increased in magnetic water treatment by 14.3 %, 16.8%, 24.9%, 43.1%, 30.6%, 37.9%, 33.8%, 3.7%, 49.9% and 5.1% respectively, compared to those in normal water one. Thus pod and seed yield ( $\text{ton ha}^{-1}$ ) increased by 30.4% and 29.5%, respectively.

Table (2): Effect of irrigation with magnetized and normal water on peanut growth and yield (Average of 2014 and 2015 seasons).

Character	Mean $\pm$ SE		<i>p</i> -value	Increase or decrease % over control	
	Normal water (control)	Magnetic water			
Plant height (cm)	38.58 $\pm$ 0.79	44.10 $\pm$ 0.98	0.000	14.29	
Branches (no plant <sup>-1</sup> )	8.53 $\pm$ 0.32	9.96 $\pm$ 0.34	0.004	16.80	
Pod plant <sup>-1</sup>	Numbers	16.81 $\pm$ 0.28	21.01 $\pm$ 0.57	0.000	24.98
	Fresh weight (g)	40.45 $\pm$ 4.09	57.86 $\pm$ 7.99	0.063	43.05
	Dry weight (g)	20.88 $\pm$ 0.91	27.28 $\pm$ 1.59	0.002	30.63
Seeds plant <sup>-1</sup>	Numbers	16.55 $\pm$ 0.38	22.83 $\pm$ 0.39	0.000	37.91
	Dry weight (g)	12.09 $\pm$ 0.22	16.18 $\pm$ 0.33	0.000	33.76
	Shelling %	59.97 $\pm$ 2.73	63.03 $\pm$ 3.79	0.517	5.10
Indexes	100-Seed wt. (g)	55.04 $\pm$ 0.27	57.06 $\pm$ 0.26	0.000	3.68
	100-Pod wt. (kg)	2.08 $\pm$ 0.10	3.12 $\pm$ 0.16	0.000	49.78
Yield (ton ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Pods	3.37 $\pm$ 0.05	4.42 $\pm$ 0.06	0.000	30.38
	Seeds	1.66 $\pm$ 0.03	2.15 $\pm$ 0.04	0.000	29.46

*P*-value <0.05 level is significant and *P*-value > 0.05 is not significant according to Independent *t*-test.

**Effect of magnetic water on nematode infection and reproduction:** Data presented in Table (3) indicated that nematode root galling (nematode infection) was slightly high (3.3) in magnetic water treatment compared to (2.9) in normal water one, still no significant differences ( $p=0.05$ ) between them was obtained. While number of scorned stage juveniles ( $J_2$ ) in soil at peanut harvest (first nematode generation) was significantly increased in magnetic treatment (202) compared to (134) in normal water, as increasing over control was 50.7%

Table (3): Effect of peanut irrigation with magnetized water on root knot nematode infestation and reproduction (Average of 2014 and 2015 seasons).

Nematode data	Mean $\pm$ SE		p-value	Increase % over control
	Normal water (control)	Magnetic water		
Root gall index (GI)	2.90 $\pm$ 0.16	3.30 $\pm$ 0.18	0.105	13.79
Stage <sup>2-nd</sup> juveniles (J2)	134. $\pm$ 24.08	202. $\pm$ 41.52	0.004	50.74

GI (root gall index) is average of 20 replicates, J2 in 200g soil.

P-value <0.05 level is significant and P-value > 0.05 is not significant according to Independent t-test.

#### **Chemical constituents in yielded seed:**

Dry samples of groundnut seeds were examined in percentage for moisture, dry and organic matter, crude protein, crude fiber, oil content, total carbohydrate and ash under irrigation with magnetic and ordinary water (Table 4). Data indicated that moisture, crude protein and crude fiber significantly increased in seeds of magnetic water compared to those of normal water. Increasing reached to 5.6%, 2.24% and 11.0%, respectively. While dry and organic matter, oil, carbohydrates and ash were not significantly effected.

Table (4): Effect of irrigation with magnetized water on chemical constitute of ground nut dry yielded seeds.

Character	Mean $\pm$ SE		p-value	Increase or decrease % over control	
	Normal water (control)	Magnetic water			
Chemical constitute in dry seed (%)	Moisture	4.68 $\pm$ 0.01	4.94 $\pm$ 0.07	0.004*	5.63
	Dry matter	95.27 $\pm$ 0.03	95.29 $\pm$ 0.10	0.866	0.02
	Organic mater	97.59 $\pm$ 0.03	97.64 $\pm$ 0.04	0.328	0.05
	Crude protein	26.69 $\pm$ 0.05	27.29 $\pm$ 0.03	0.000*	2.24
	Crude fiber	4.27 $\pm$ 0.06	4.75 $\pm$ 0.07	0.000*	11.41
	Oil	52.72 $\pm$ 0.06	51.99 $\pm$ 0.20	0.016	-1.38
	Carbohydrates	13.85 $\pm$ 0.03	13.83 $\pm$ 0.05	0.736	-0.14
	Ash	2.41 $\pm$ 0.03	2.47 $\pm$ 0.05	0.297	2.63

P-value <0.05 level is significant and P-value > 0.05 is not significant according to Independent t-test.

The present results suggested that irrigation of peanut with magnetic water increased its growth and yield and improved seed quality (Crude protein and fiber). These results are in harmony with those obtained by studies done on wheat, faba bean, canola, lentil and chick pea (**Hozayen et al., 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017**). A similar trend was obtained by **Vashisth and Nogarajan (2008)**, **Shabrangi and Majd (2009)** on chick pea and lentil, respectively. Increasing peanut yield may be attributed to the stimulatory effect of magnetic water on photosynthetic pigment and on growth promoters. Adding magnetic water to soil may also influence soil PH changing it from slightly alkaline to slightly acidic, thus solubility of micronutrients be increased around peanut roots improving its nutritional status. Results also indicated that yield of peanut infected with nematodes increased in magnetic water treatment compared to that of peanut infected with nematodes and irrigated with normal water. In other word, yield of peanut increased in magnetic water regardless of nematode infection. This may be attributed to improve the nutritional status of peanut at magnetic water, thus increasing tolerance of peanut to nematode infection. Increasing the nematode juveniles ( $J_2$ ) at harvest in the soil of magnetic water treatment may be also due to improve the nutritional status of plants supplying nematodes with more food, thus nematode females (parents) lay more eggs and progeny.

## Conclusion

Data obtained in the present work indicated that irrigation of peanut plants with magnetic water increased peanut growth and yield, regardless of root –knot nematode infection. Also the effect of magnetic water on the nematode infection was not significant.

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## الملخص العربي

### تأثير المياه الممغنطة على نمو وإنتاج وجودة الفول السوداني المصاب بنيماتودا تعقد الجذور في التربة الرملية

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أجريت هذه الدراسة بمحطة النوبارية بالإمام مالك محافظة البحيرة لمعرفة تأثير المياه الممغنطة على إنتاجية الفول السوداني، وتأثيرها على نيماتودا تعقد الجذور (*Meloidogyne arenaria*) خلال موسمي الصيف ٢٠١٤/٢٠١٥ لدراسة تأثير وتقييم الري الممغنط، وقد أوضحت النتائج ما يلي:

- ري الفول السوداني بالمياه الممغنطة وجد أن هناك علاقة معنوية في المعاملة التي رويت بالمياه الممغنطة وكانت بين ٥.١٠ إلى ٤٣.٠٥% في الإنتاج.
- زاد عدد القرون وبذور الفول السوداني ما بين ٢٩.٤٦ إلى ٣٠.٣٨.
- أيضاً أوضحت النتائج أن نيماتودا تعقد الجذور لم تتأثر تأثيراً معنوياً بالمياه الممغنطة بينما الكثافة العددية في التربة الطور اليرقي الثاني تأثر معنوياً مقارنة بالمياه الطبيعية.
- الكلمات الدالة: فول سوداني - نيماتودا تعقد الجذور - مياه طبيعية - مياه ممغنطة.