

## Effect of Organic and Potassium Fertilization on Productivity and Quality of Sugar Beet in Sandy Soil

\*Yussef, H. I., \*F. I. Radwan, \*\* M. A. Gomaa and \*\*M. M. Abdel- Rahman

\* Nubaria Agriculture Research Station. Institute of sugar crops.

\*\* Plant Production Department. Faculty of Agriculture (Saba- Basha). Univ. Alexandria

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**ABSTRACT:** Two field experiments were carried out at the Experimental Farm of El-Nubaria Agriculture Research station, Alexandria, Egypt, at the Kilometer 71 North west to study the effect of potassium fertilizers and organic manure (Farmyard manure) on yield and quality of sugar beet (var. Kumara) during the winter seasons of 2014/2015 and 2015/2016. The experimental design was split plot design with three replicates. The main results could be summarized as follows: (1) All characters for yield and quality was significantly affected by potassium fertilization. Application of 60 kg K<sub>2</sub>O/fed, gave the greatest values of root length, top yield/fed, root yield/fed biological yield/fed and sugar yield/fed as well as sucrose% and TSS% in the both seasons except purity% in the two seasons. (2) All characters increased by increasing rate of organic manure up to 10 m<sup>3</sup>/fed, except purity% in the two seasons. (3) The interaction indicated that the highest all yield sucrose% and TSS% was obtained by application 60 kg K<sub>2</sub>O/fed, with rate of 10 m<sup>3</sup>/fed farmyard manure in both seasons. The farmyard manure plays a major role in crop production in deserts soils sence it inirriazant the use of chemical fertilizer and decreases environmental pollution.

**Key words:** Sugar beet, Potassium levels, Organic manure, yields Quality.

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## INTRODUCTION

Sugar beet (*Beta vulgaris*, L.) is one of the two crops (the older being sugar cane) which represent the important source of sucrose product. The importance of sugar beet crop to agriculture is not only confined to sugar production, but also it well known to be adapted to poor, saline, alkaline and calcareous soil.

The economic maybe increasing sugar productivity could be achieved through development appropriate new technology package for sugar beet crop that includes agronomic management to the yield and quality of sugar beet (Mokadem, 1993, Kandil *et al.*, 2002 and Esmail and Abo El- Hamd, 2007).

Potassium plays a fundamental role in sucrose synthesis and storage. The influence of potassium not only on carbohydrate assimilation but also in nitrogen metabolism (Abdel Rahiman, 1996, El- Maghraby *et al.*, 1998) mentioned that plant length, root diameter, root, top and sugar yield/fed, as well as sucrose and T.S.S. percentage significantly increased by increasing potassium level up to 48 kg K<sub>2</sub>O/fed. On the other hand, Hegazy *et al.* (1992), found that there was significant decrease in top and sugar yields by increasing potassium level from 0 up 45 kg K<sub>2</sub>O/fed and added that sucrose and purity percentage were not significantly affected by potassium rates.

The organic manure is known by enhancing soil physical properties by increasing the moisture holding capacity. In addition, it can change the chemical properties of soil through lowering pH and extensively their beneficial effects are known for long time. Application of organic matter provides many essential nutrients needed by plants. The increase in crop yield due to using of animal

manure have been imperative many times as resulted mainly from the nitrogen, phosphorus or potassium on the combination of the three mentioned elements (Negm *et al.*, 2003). Zalat and Nemeat Allah (2001) reported that farmyard manure (FYM) increased sucrose% and T.S.S%.

Therefore, the investigation was designed to study the effect of potassium fertilization and organic manure on yield and quality of sugar beet crop.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Two field experiments were carried out through two successive seasons of 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 at the Experimental farm Station Research, El-Nubaria, Buhyra, Egypt at the 71<sup>th</sup> Km West Alexandria- Cairo desert road. To investigate the effect of potassium fertilizer and organic manure levels and their interaction of yield and quality on sugar beet (*Beta vulgaris*, L.) var. kumara.

Maize (*Zea mays*, L.) was the preceding for the two seasons. The experimental design was split plot design with three replicates. Potassium fertilization (zero, 20, 40 and 60 kg K<sub>2</sub>O/fed) occupied the main plots. The sub-plots were assigned to three organic manure (sheep cattle manure) (Untreated, 5 and 10 m<sup>3</sup>/fed). Some physical and chemical properties of the experimental field soil and organic matter (farm yard manure) during the two seasons were done and the data are shown in Tables (1 and 2).

Potassium sulfate (48% K<sub>2</sub>O) was applied at how many rates. Nitrogen fertilizer was added in the form of ammonium nitrate (33.5%N) as a side dressing at the rate of 60 kg N/fed, in two equal parts, one after thinning (before the first irrigation and the other before the second irrigation). Calcium super phosphate (15.5% P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>), was applied during tillage operation at the rate of 100 kg/fed. Seeds ball were hand sown at the usual dry sowing on one side of the ridge in hills 25 cm apart at the rate of 4-5 seed ball per hill on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> September in 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 seasons, respectively. The experimental basic unit area was 10.5 m<sup>2</sup> (1/400 feddan) and includes 6 ridges each of which 50 cm width and 3 meter length.

At harvest (200 days after sowing) five plants were chosen at random from the inner ridges of each sub-plot to estimate yield components and quality characters as follows:

**Table (1). some physical and chemical properties of the experimental soil in 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 seasons**

Soil properties	2014/2015	2015/2016
<b>A- Mechanical analysis</b>		
Sand%	85.70	88.23
Clay%	6.30	4.80
Silt%	8.00	6.97
Soil texture	sandy	sandy
<b>B- Chemical analysis</b>		
pH (1:1)	8.50	7.35
EC (dS/m)	1.20	1.14
<b>1- Soluble cations (1:2) (cmol/kg soil)</b>		
K <sup>+</sup>	0.82	1.20
Ca <sup>++</sup>	2.76	3.10
Mg <sup>++</sup>	1.90	2.30
Na <sup>++</sup>	4.35	4.65
<b>2- Soluble anions (1:2) (cmol/kg soil)</b>		
CO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> + HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	2.72	2.72
CL <sup>-</sup>	7.90	7.09
SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup>	1.15	0.98
Calcium carbonate (%)	6.12	6.72
Total nitrogen (mg/kg)	33.00	23.00
Available Phosphorus (mg/kg)	3.17	3.14
Organic matter (%)	0.37	0.83

**Table (2). Some chemical properties of farmyard manure**

Analysis	Values
Moisture %	27.00
O.M. %	26.00
pH (1:1)	7.20
N%	2.06
P%	3.13
K%	1.48
C:N raito	7.32:1

- 1- Top yield (ton/fed).
- 2- Root yield (ton/fed)
- 3- Biological yield (ton/fed).
- 4- Sugar yield (ton/fed).
- 5- Sucrose%: it was determining according to Mc Ginu (1971).
- 6- Juice purity%: It was calculated according to Le – Decte (1927)

$$\text{Juice purity \%} = \frac{\text{Sucrose\%}}{\text{T.S.S.\%}} \times 100$$

$$7- \text{ Total soluble solids (T.S.S.\%)} \\ = \frac{\text{Sucrose \%}}{\text{Purity\%}}$$

**Statistical analysis:**

All collected data here subjected to the statistical and analysis following the procedure described by Gomez and Gomez (1984). The least significantly differences test (L.S.D.) at 0.05 was used to compare between means of the different treatments.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION****A- Effect of potassium fertilization on yield and quality:**

Data presented in Tables (3 and 4) revealed that all character of yield and quality were significantly affected by potassium levels in both seasons. A gradual increase to root length, top yield/fed, root yield/fed, biological yield, sugar yield/fed, sucrose%, purity% and T.S.S.% increased as K- levels raised from 0 to 60 kg K<sub>2</sub>O/fed, in the both seasons. Such increase in root yield/fed, mounted by 28.13, 35.50 and 60.83% in the first season, being 20.56, 32.29 and 67.15% in the second season, as K- levels raised from 0 to 20 and 60 kg K<sub>2</sub>O/fed. Similar significant increase in sugar yield/fed, amounted to 45.83, 48.74% and 80% in the first season, being 29.24, 37.28 and 78.39% compared to control in the second season. These results could be attributed to the important role of potassium in physiological process in plant such as translocation of sugar and carbohydrates of assimilates from the top to the root (Ibrahim *et al.*, 2002). Also, its role in nutritional balance, which increased organic compounds through photosynthesis (El- Howary, 1999). Similar results were obtained by Mekki and El- Gazzar (1999), Omar *et al.* (2002) and Esmail and Abo El- Hamd (2007).

Data presented in Tables (3 and 4) showed that, root length, top yield/fed, root yield/fed, biological yield, sugar yield/fed, sucrose% purity% and T.S.S.% were affected significantly by tested organic manure during the two growing seasons. Application of 10 m<sup>3</sup>/fed, organic manure gave the tallest roots (32.75 and 35.33 cm) heaviest top yield/fed (9.70 and 7.75 ton), heaviest root yield (26.96 and 24.46 ton), heaviest biological yield/fed (35.8 and 32.26 ton), highest sugar yield (4.85 and 4.35 ton), highest sucrose% (18.25 and 17.59%) purity% (86.22 and 84.90%) and highest T.S.S.% (21.17 and 21.50%) in the first and second seasons, it could be concludes that treated of traits with organic fertilizer levels on increase yield and quality characters. This may be due to the role of microorganisms activity, phytohormones formation and translocation of the plant especially (IAA, Gas and CKs). Also, it has important role in increasing photosynthesis rate. These results are similar to those of Bassal *et al* (2001), Ali (2003) and Ibrahim (2007).

The interaction between potassium levels and organic manure levels had significant effect on all yield and quality character except purity% in both seasons. Application of 60 kg K<sub>2</sub>O/fed, gave the highest values for this traits except purity % treated with 10 m<sup>3</sup>/fed, resulted the maximum mean in both seasons Tables (4 and 6). Finally it could be concluded that under condition of this study the highest root and sugar yield/fed produced by application of 60 kg K<sub>2</sub>O/fed treated with 10 m<sup>3</sup>/fed

**Table (3). Yield and its components as affected by potassium fertilizer and organic manure in 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 seasons**

Treatments	Root length (cm)		Top yield (ton/fed)		Root yield (ton/fed)		Biological yield (ton/fed)		Sugar yield (ton/fed)	
	2014/2015	2015/2016	2014/2015	2015/2016	2014/2015	2015/2016	2014/2015	2015/2016	2014/2015	2015/2016
<b>A) K- fertilizer</b>										
0	25.56 <sup>d</sup>	28.45 <sup>c</sup>	6.14 <sup>c</sup>	5.36 <sup>d</sup>	14.68 <sup>c</sup>	14.40 <sup>d</sup>	20.92 <sup>d</sup>	19.71 <sup>d</sup>	2.40 <sup>c</sup>	2.36 <sup>c</sup>
20	30.22 <sup>c</sup>	31.11 <sup>b</sup>	7.83 <sup>b</sup>	5.91 <sup>c</sup>	18.81 <sup>b</sup>	17.36 <sup>c</sup>	26.61 <sup>c</sup>	23.25 <sup>c</sup>	3.50 <sup>b</sup>	3.05 <sup>b</sup>
40	32.33 <sup>b</sup>	32.00 <sup>b</sup>	8.25 <sup>b</sup>	6.67 <sup>b</sup>	19.82 <sup>b</sup>	19.05 <sup>b</sup>	28.13 <sup>b</sup>	25.81 <sup>b</sup>	3.57 <sup>b</sup>	3.24 <sup>b</sup>
60	34.49 <sup>a</sup>	35.00 <sup>a</sup>	9.41 <sup>a</sup>	7.98 <sup>a</sup>	23.61 <sup>a</sup>	24.07 <sup>a</sup>	32.78 <sup>a</sup>	32.05 <sup>a</sup>	4.32 <sup>a</sup>	4.21 <sup>a</sup>
<b>L0.S.D. (0.05)</b>	<b>1.50</b>	<b>1.60</b>	<b>0.50</b>	<b>0.54</b>	<b>1.20</b>	<b>1.50</b>	<b>1.39</b>	<b>2.05</b>	<b>0.50</b>	<b>0.55</b>
<b>B) Organic manure</b>										
Control	26.42 <sup>c</sup>	27.25 <sup>c</sup>	7.12 <sup>b</sup>	5.60 <sup>b</sup>	12.31 <sup>c</sup>	12.53 <sup>c</sup>	19.40 <sup>c</sup>	18.03 <sup>c</sup>	2.02 <sup>c</sup>	22.03 <sup>c</sup>
5 m <sup>3</sup> /fed	30.75 <sup>b</sup>	32.34 <sup>b</sup>	6.91 <sup>b</sup>	6.12 <sup>b</sup>	18.43 <sup>b</sup>	19.18 <sup>b</sup>	25.13 <sup>b</sup>	25.26 <sup>b</sup>	3.24 <sup>b</sup>	3.23 <sup>b</sup>
10m <sup>3</sup> /fed	33.75 <sup>a</sup>	35.33 <sup>a</sup>	9.70 <sup>a</sup>	7.72 <sup>a</sup>	26.96 <sup>a</sup>	24.46 <sup>a</sup>	36.80 <sup>a</sup>	32.26 <sup>a</sup>	4.95 <sup>a</sup>	4.39 <sup>a</sup>
<b>L.S.D. (0.05)</b>	<b>2.20*</b>	<b>2.40*</b>	<b>0.72*</b>	<b>0.65*</b>	<b>2.40*</b>	<b>2.70*</b>	<b>4.80*</b>	<b>4.40*</b>	<b>0.80*</b>	<b>0.65*</b>
<b>Interations</b>										
<b>AxB</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

Means of each designated by the same letter not significantly different at 5% using least significant difference L.S.D.

\* Significant at 0.05 levels of probability

**Table (4). Interaction between potassium fertilizer and organic manure in 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 seasons on yield and components**

Treatments		Root length (cm)		Top yield (ton/fed)		Root yield (ton/fed)		Biological yield (ton/fed)		Sugar yield (ton/fed)	
Org. manure	K-levels	2014/2015	2015/2016	2014/2015	2015/2016	2014/2015	2015/2016	2014/2015	2015/2016	2014/2015	2015/2016
Control	control	25.00	25.00	5.73	5.38	10.28	9.14	16.01	14.18	1.51	1.43
	20	25.00	25.67	7.40	5.33	10.76	10.76	18.10	16.10	1.72	1.76
	40	28.33	28.33	7.63	4.70	12.58	13.52	20.53	18.20	2.13	2.23
	60	29.33	30.00	7.70	6.98	15.64	16.64	22.95	23.62	2.17	2.71
5 m <sup>3</sup> /fed	control	25.00	26.67	5.76	5.43	12.30	13.95	18.04	19.38	2.01	2.23
	20	31.00	32.67	6.84	6.18	17.82	17.82	24.67	23.86	3.21	3.09
	40	33.33	33.33	6.44	6.44	18.18	18.86	34.61	25.30	3.21	3.14
	60	33.67	36.67	8.09	6.43	25.08	26.09	33.21	32.51	4.53	4.44
10m <sup>3</sup> /fed	control	26.67	33.67	6.93	5.26	21.12	20.12	28.11	25.38	3.67	3.41
	20	34.67	35.00	9.24	6.23	27.85	23.51	37.05	29.74	4.98	4.29
	40	35.33	34.33	10.19	8.86	28.72	24.72	39.25	33.92	5.36	4.36
	60	40.33	38.33	12.45	10.54	30.47	29.47	42.18	40.01	5.71	5.48
<b>L.S.D. 0.05</b>		<b>2.30*</b>	<b>2.50*</b>	<b>0.80*</b>	<b>0.85*</b>	<b>2.50*</b>	<b>2.75*</b>	<b>3.70*</b>	<b>4.20*</b>	<b>0.95*</b>	<b>0.70*</b>

**Table (5). Sugar beet quality as affect by potassium fertilizer and organic manure in 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 seasons**

Treatments	Sucrose %		Purity %		T.S.S. %	
	2014/2015	2015/2016	2014/2015	2015/2016	2014/2015	2015/2016
<b>A) K- fertilizer</b>						
0	16.00 <sup>c</sup>	16.45 <sup>c</sup>	81.12 <sup>d</sup>	80.03 <sup>d</sup>	19.89 <sup>b</sup>	19.89 <sup>c</sup>
20	17.33 <sup>b</sup>	16.89 <sup>b</sup>	83.20 <sup>b</sup>	81.20 <sup>c</sup>	20.78 <sup>a</sup>	21.00 <sup>a</sup>
40	17.78 <sup>b</sup>	17.22 <sup>c</sup>	82.70 <sup>c</sup>	81.70 <sup>b</sup>	20.55 <sup>a</sup>	20.55 <sup>b</sup>
60	18.11 <sup>a</sup>	17.33 <sup>a</sup>	83.80 <sup>a</sup>	82.40 <sup>a</sup>	20.86	21.33 <sup>a</sup>
<b>L.O.S.D. (0.05)</b>	<b>0.38</b>	<b>0.35</b>	<b>0.40</b>	<b>0.42</b>	<b>0.50</b>	<b>0.45</b>
<b>B) Organicmanure</b>						
Control	16.25 <sup>c</sup>	16.25 <sup>c</sup>	84.20 <sup>b</sup>	82.60 <sup>c</sup>	20.09 <sup>b</sup>	20.20 <sup>c</sup>
5 m <sup>3</sup> /fed	17.42 <sup>b</sup>	17.08 <sup>b</sup>	85.16 <sup>ab</sup>	83.40 <sup>b</sup>	20.08 <sup>b</sup>	20.58 <sup>b</sup>
10m <sup>3</sup> /fed	18.25 <sup>a</sup>	17.59 <sup>a</sup>	86.22 <sup>a</sup>	84.90 <sup>a</sup>	21.17 <sup>a</sup>	21.50 <sup>a</sup>
<b>L.S.D. (0.05)</b>	<b>0.60*</b>	<b>0.45*</b>	<b>0.65*</b>	<b>0.50*</b>	<b>0.60*</b>	<b>0.52*</b>
<b>Interations</b>						
<b>AxB</b>	*	*	ns	ns	*	*

Means of each designated by the same letter not significantly different at 5% using least significant difference L.S.D. \* Significant at 0.05 levels of probability

**Table (6). Interaction between potassium fertilizer and organic manure on quality of sugar beet in 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 seasons**

Treatments		Sucrose %		Total soluble soild (T.S.S.%)	
Org. manure	K- levels	2014/2015	2015/2016	2014/2015	2015/2016
Control	control	14.67	15.67	20.00	19.33
	20	16.00	16.33	20.67	20.33
	40	17.00	16.67	20.00	20.00
	60	17.33	16.33	19.67	20.33
5 m <sup>3</sup> /fed	control	16.00	16.67	19.33	20.00
	20	18.00	17.33	20.33	21.00
	40	17.67	17.33	20.33	20.33
	60	18.00	17.00	20.33	21.00
10m <sup>3</sup> /fed	control	17.33	17.00	20.33	20.33
	20	18.00	17.67	21.33	21.67
	40	18.67	17.67	21.00	21.33
	60	19.00	18.67	22.00	22.67
<b>L.S.D. 0.05</b>		<b>0.70*</b>	<b>0.50*</b>	<b>0.70*</b>	<b>0.60*</b>

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الملخص العربي  
تأثير التسميد العضوي والبوتاسي على الإنتاجية وجودة بنجر السكر في  
الأرض الرملية

\* حسن يوسف إبراهيم يوسف \* فتحي إبراهيم رضوان \* محمود عبد العزيز جمعة

\* محمد مصطفى عبد الرحمن

\* مركز بحوث بالنوبارية - معهد المحاصيل السكرية

\*\* قسم الإنتاج النباتي - كلية الزراعة سابا باشا - جامعة الإسكندرية - مصر

أجريت تجربتان حقليتان بالمزرعة البحثية بمركز البحوث الزراعية بالنوبارية - البحيرة - عند الكيلو ٧١ غرب الطريق الصحراوي - إسكندرية - القاهرة - لدراسة تأثير التسميد البوتاسي والعضوي على المحصول وجودة بنجر السكر لصنف كواجير أثناء موسمي ٢٠١٤/٢٠١٥، ٢٠١٥/٢٠١٦. التجربة صممت بنظام القطع الشقية مرة واحدة مع ثلاث مكررات.

ويمكن تلخيص أهم النتائج فيما يلي:

- جميع الصفات للمحصول والجودة كانت متأثرة معنوياً بواسطة التسميد البوتاسي عند إضافة ٦٠ كجم بو<sub>٢</sub>/فدان أعطت أفضل قيم لطول الجذر محصول العروش/فدان، محصول الجذور/فدان والمحصول البيولوجي/فدان، محصول السكر/فدان وأيضاً النسبة المئوية للسكر والنسبة المئوية للمواد الصلبة في كلا الموسمين ماعدا النسبة المئوية للنقاوة في الموسمين.
- جميع الصفات زادت بواسطة زيادة السماد العضوي عند ٣١٠/فدان ماعدا النسبة المئوية للنقاوة في كلا الموسمين.
- أدى التداخل إلى ارتفاع كل صفات المحصول والنسبة المئوية للسكر والنسبة المئوية للمواد الصلبة الذائبة الكلية وكانت أفضل النتائج المتحصل عليها عند إضافة ٦٠ كجم بو<sub>٢</sub>/فدان مع التسميد العضوي ٣١٠/فدان (سماد بلدي) في كلا الموسمين.
- السماد البلدي تحت الدراسة له تأثير كبير في زيادة إنتاج المحصول خصوصاً في الأراضي الصحراوية نظراً لتحسين الصفات والخواص الفيزيائية للتربة وتقليل التلوث البيئي حيث أنها تخفض من معدلات السماد الكيماوي بطريقة تسميد صديقة للبيئة).

