SESAME VARIETAL RESPONSE TO MICROELEMENTS FOLIAR APPLICATION AND SOIL N FERTILIZATION IN LOAMY SAND SOIL

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ABSTRACT

Two field experiments were carried out at the experimental farm of the Faculty of Agriculture, Favoum University, Egypt during 2013 and 2014 summer seasons to study the effect of microelements foliar application and nitrogen fertilization levels on growth, yield and yield components of two sesame (Sesamum indicum L.) verities, i.e., V1: Shandaweel 3 and V2: Sohag 1. A split split-plot arrangement in complete block design with four replications was used in both seasons. Two nitrogen fertilization levels, i.e., N₁: 40 and N₂: 60 kg N fed⁻¹ allocated in the sub-plots and with three microelement rates, i.e., M_1 : 200, M_2 : 300 and M_3 : 400 g fed⁻¹ (were dissolved in 200L water fed⁻¹) distributed in the sub sub-plot, while varieties occupied the main plots. The microelement were added in form of EDTA (Fe 7.5%, Mn 3.5%, Zn 0.70%, Cu 0.28%, B 0.65% and Mo 0.30% w/w). The obtained results showed that Sohag 1 significantly surpassed Shandaweel 3 in growth parameters (i.e., plant height, stem diameter and number of capsules plant¹) as well as yield and yield components (i.e., capsules weight plant¹, seed yield plant¹, seed, oil and biological yields fed⁻¹, harvest index and oil %. The N rate of 60 kg fed⁻¹ significantly exceed the rate of 40 kg fed⁻¹ over the two seasons. Microelement foliar application at 400 g fed⁻¹ gave significantly the highest values for all traits over the two seasons as compared to 200 and 300 g fed⁻¹.

Key words: Sesame, Verities, N levels, Microelements.

INTRODUCTION

Sesame (Sesamum indicum L.), otherwise known as sesamum or benniseed, member of the family Pedaliaceae, is one of the most ancient oilseeds crop known to mankind. It is an important oil seed crop of the warm region of the tropics and sub-tropics. Sesame plays an important role in human nutrition. Most of the sesame seeds is used for oil extraction and the rest is used for edible purposes (El Khier *et al.*, 2008). The moisture, crude protein, ash, fat, fiber, total carbohydrate, Ca, Zn and Fe were ranged: 3.17-3.96, 22.58-24.27, 4.46-6.19, 50.88-52.67, 5.60-6.26, 8.3-11.69, 1172.08-1225.71 mg/100g, 4.23- 4.45 mg/100g and 10.2-10.75 mg/100g, respectively (Zebib *et al.*, 2015).

Sesame is grown in many parts of the world on over 5 million acres $(20,000 \text{ km}^2)$. The largest producers of the crop in 2007 was India, China, Myanmar, Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda and Nigeria. The sesame cultivated area all over the world in 2013 was 9416368.86 ha. Africa occupies the first place among the continents in the cultivated area by 4793131 ha and Asia have the next place by 4341601.25 ha. Also, Africa have 54.66% from total world seed yield (FAO, 2015).

In Egypt, sesame is considering a food rather than oilseed crop, because most of its seeds are directly consumed. Total area under sesame production in Egypt has decreased from 41214, in 2011 to 24639, by 2013 while, the productivity increased from 578 kg fed⁻¹ in 2011 to 586 kg fed⁻¹ in 2013 (**Bulletin Agricultural Statistics, 2013 and 2014**). Low cultivated area and production of sesame is attributed to the fact that the crop is usually grown in less fertile soils. Further, lack of proper nutrient management is one of the major causes for low yield (**Purushottam, 2005**).

Improved and high yielding cultivars of sesame can give more yield than traditional ones. Chen et al. (1994) mentioned that sesame cultivar Zhong Zhi 9 outyielded the control cultivar Wulinghei by 32.9% but showed yield potential and adaptability similar to cv. Zhong Zhi 7. Similarly, Shinde et al., (1994) found that new sesame cultivar Padma gave 14, 28 and 34% more seed yields than those of Tapi, TC-25 and Phule Til-1, respectively. Iorlamen et al., (2014) showed that varieties had no significant effect on plant height, stem diameter and number of capsules plant⁻¹. On the other hand, in Egypt, Osman (1993) reported that sesame genotypes varied in yield and yield components as well as in response to nitrogen application. El-Habbasha et al.(2007) found that the varietal differences between the two varieties of sesame (Giza 32 and Shandaweel 3) in plant height, number of capsules plant⁻¹, seed weight plant⁻¹ and 1000-seed weight were not significant except plant height where, Shandawel 3 surpassed Giza 32. While, Giza 32 variety surpassed in 1000-seed weight. However, Kassab et al. (2012) stated that shandweel 3 variety gave the highest plant height, number of capsules plant⁻¹ and weight of capsules plant⁻¹ as compared to Giza 32 and Toshky1 varieties.

Nitrogen is a component of protoplasm, proteins, nucleic acids, chlorophyll and plays a vital role both in vegetative and reproductive phase of crop growth. Sesame has been recognized as a heavy feeder and uses more nitrogen than any other nutrient element. The N fertilizer is considered one of the most important factors to increase crop yields per unit area. N application to sesame has been reported to increase plant height, stem diameter, number of capsules plant⁻¹, 1000-seed weight, biological, seed and oil yields, (Malik et al., 1990; Sinharoy et al., 1990; Jadhav et al., 1992; Pawar et al., 1993; Ishwar et al., 1994; Mankar et al., 1995; Sharar et al., 2000; El-Habbasha et al., 2007; El-Nakhlawy and Shaheen 2009; Shehu et al., 2010; Noorka et al., 2011; Boghdady et al., 2012; Jouyban and Moosavi 2012 and Blal et al., 2013). On the other hand, seed oil content was reduced by increasing N application (Sharar et al., 2000; El-Habbasha et al., 2007; Noorka et al., 2011). While, Boghdady et al. (2012) mentioned that the treatment of 100% from the recommended dose of mineral fertilizers NP did not statistically differ from that of 50% of the recommended dose of NP plus biofertilizers in their effect. Blal et al. (2013) found that increasing N fertilization up to 40 kg/feddan+servalin significantly increased 1000-seed weight, number of capsules plant¹, capsules weight, seed yield plant⁻¹ and Oil %. However, increasing N application to 60 kg/feddan+servalin reduced all these traits.

Foliar application of nutrients has became an efficient way to increase yield and quality of crops (Romemheld and El-Fouly, 1999). Spraying sesame plants with boron (B) solutions improved their growth and yields (Hamideldin and Hussein 2014). Heidari *et al.*(2011) found that iron fertilizer had significant effect on sesame seed yield. Abid *et al.* (2006) mentioned that 1000grain weight and grain yield of rice increased significantly with the application of Zn, Fe and Mn alone or in various combinations. Results obtained by Zeidan *et al.* (2010) on wheat, indicated that grain yield, straw yield and 1000-grain weight were significantly increased by foliar application of Fe, Mn and Zn. Using of micronutrients, foliar application, caused yield improvement of safflower (Kohnaward *et al.*, 2012).

Therefore, the present research was designed to study the effect of mineral nitrogen rates and microelements foliar application on growth, yield and yield components as well as seed oil percentage of two sesame varieties in loamy sand soils.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Two field experiments were carried out at the experimental farm of the Faculty of Agriculture, Fayoum University, south east Fayoum (29° 17'N; 30° 53'E) Egypt, during 2013 and 2014 summer seasons. It aimed to study the effect of nitrogen fertilization levels and microelements rates on plant growth, yield components, seed yield and seed oil content percentage of two sesame varieties, i.e., V1: Shandaweel 3 and V2: Sohag 1. Two nitrogen fertilization levels, i.e., N₁: 40 and N₂: 60 kg N fed⁻¹ (as ammonium nitrate 33.5% N) were combined with three microelement rates, i.e., M₁: 200, M₂: 300 and M₃: 400 g fed⁻¹ (dissolved in 200L water fed⁻¹) were tested. The microelement were added in form of EDTA (Fe 7.5%, Mn 3.5%, Zn 0.70%, Cu 0.28%, B 0.65% and Mo 0.30% w/w) in three equal doses with the first, second and third irrigation. The split split-plot arrangement in complete block design with four replicates was used, where sesame varieties occupied the main plots, nitrogen fertilization levels treatments allocated to the sub-plots and microelements rates were distributed in sub sub-plots. The sub sub-plots area was 10.5 m^2 (3 x 3.5 m equal 1/400 feddan) consisted of five rows. Varieties were obtained from the Oil Crops Research Section, Field Crop Research Institute, Agricultural Research Centre, Giza, Egypt. Sesame seeds (Shandaweel 3 and Sohag 1 cvs.) at the rate of 4 kg fed⁻¹ were sown on June 3rd and 5th in the first and second seasons, respectively. Seeds were sown at hills 10 cm apart. At the 1st irrigation, the plants were thinned to be one plants hill^{-I}. Calcium super phosphate (15.5 P₂O₅) at rate of 200 kg fed⁻¹ was added during soil preparation and 50 kg fed⁻¹ potassium sulphate (48% K_2O) with the second irrigation were added. Nitrogen fertilization was applied in three equal doses at the 1st, 2nd and 3rd irrigations. All other recommended agricultural practices for sesame production were adopted throughout the growing seasons; 2013 and 2014 according to the bulletin of Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture (1018/2006). Soil physical and chemical properties of the experimental site were determined according to Wilde et al. (1985) and presented in Table (1).

At harvesting time, random sample of 10 guarded plants was taken from each sub sub-plot to determine the growth traits, i.e., Plant height (cm), stem diameter (cm) and number of capsules plant⁻¹. The weight of capsules plant⁻¹(g), seed yield plant⁻¹(g), 1000- seed weight (g), biological yield (kg) fed⁻¹, seed yield (kg) fed⁻¹, oil yield (kg) fed⁻¹, harvest index were recorded from each sub plot. In addition, Seed oil content (%) that determined by using Soxhelt extraction apparatus using petroleum ether as a solvent and then the seed oil percentage was calculated on dry weight basis according to A.O.A.C (1990). All the measurements and collected data were subjected to the statistical analysis as described by **Snedecor and Cochran (1990)**.

Properties	2013	2014		
Physical properties:				
Sand %	75.64	76.46		
Silt %	12.43	11.87		
Clay %	11.93	11.67		
Texture class	Loamy sand	Loamy sand		
Chemical properties:				
$Ec_e dS m^{-1}$	3.56	3.64		
рН	7.34	7.52		
Organic matter %	0.83	0.76		
Total N (%)	0.078	0.071		
Available P (ppm)	6.54	5.86		
Available K (ppm)	_146	143		

Table (1): Physical and chemical properties of the experimental soil in the
two growing summer seasons 2013 and 2014.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

I- Growth parameters:

The effect of N levels and micronutrient on sesame varieties and the interactions among them on some growth parameters are presented in Table (2).

The results cleared that Sohag 1 cv significantly surpassed Shandaweel 3 cv. Averages of Sohag 1 variety for plant height, stem diameter and number of capsules plnat⁻¹ were higher by 28.68, 20.22 and 44.10 % than Shandaweel 3 variety, respectively in the first season. The same trend was observed in the second season for plant height. While, stem diameter and number of capsules plant⁻¹ were non significantly differed between the two cultivars. These results support those obtained by Sharar *et al.*, 2000 and Noorka *et al.*, 2011. On the other hand, El-Habbasha *et al.* (2007) mentioned that the differences between Shandaweel 3 and Giza 32 were non significant for number of capsules plant⁻¹.

Data recorded in Table (2) indicate that increasing the level of nitrogen fertilization significantly affected plant height and stem diameter. Number of

Treatments		Plant height (cm)	Stem diameter (cm)	No. of capsules Plant ⁻¹	Plant height (cm)	Stem diameter (cm)	No. of capsules Plant ⁻¹	
		2013 season			2014 season			
Varieties	Shandaweel 3	120.68	0.89	58.86	118.50	0.84	55.94	
(A)	Sohag 1	155.22	1.07	84.82	153.58	0.99	75.50	
LSD _a		10.22**	0.05**	24.18*	1.50**	NS	NS	
N levels (B)	40 kg fed ⁻¹	131.54	0.93	65.47	126.47	0.84	59.42	
	60 kg fed ⁻¹	144.36	1.04	78.21	145.61	0.99	72.03	
L	LSDb		0.04**	NS	4.10**	0.07**	NS	
Micro	200 g fed ⁻¹	127.64	0.85	52.25	124.08	0.77	50.20	
Elements	300 g fed ⁻¹	137.21	0.99	70.29	134.71	0.93	67.38	
(c)	400 g fed ⁻¹	149.00	1.10	92.98	149.33	1.05	79.58	
LSDc		2.12*	0.02**	7.39**	2.62**	0.04**	5.90**	
	AB	NS	NS	NS	**	NS	NS	
T 4 4	AC	**	NS	**	*	NS	*	
Interactions	BC BC	**	**	NS	**	NS	NS	
	ABC	NS	NS	NS	**	NS	NS	

Table (2): Effect of microelement foliar application and N levels on some growth parameters of two sesame varieties in the two seasons.

Results in Table (2) revealed that applying 400 g fed⁻¹ gave the highest averages of all growth parameters in both seasons. Increasing microelements rate from 200 to 400 g fed⁻¹ led to increase the plant height, stem diameter and number of capsules plant⁻¹ by 16.73, 29.41 and 77.95%, respectively in 2013 season, and by 20.35, 36.36 and 58.53%, respectively in 2014 season. Such finding can be attributed to the positive role of these nutrients in the metabolic processes that take place inside the plant and its importance in the formation and multiplying meristem cells and stimulate growth buds and form new branches. Besides that the role of foliar fertilization by zinc and iron on the

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activity of reproductive cells. Adding of these nutrients will lead to the activity of the vaccinatum tubes and then increase the number of fertile flowers that result in more number of capsules formed. These results are in agreement with those obtained by Romemheld and El-Fouly (1999); Abid *et al.* (2006); Zeidan *et al.* (2010); Heidari *et al.* (2011); Kohnaward *et al.* (2012); Hamideldin and Hussein (2014) and Mahdi (2014).

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Results in Table (2) show that the interaction between the tested treatment on growth parameters was differed according to specific interact treatments. The interact between varieties and nitrogen levels was not significant in the both seasons except its effects on plant height in 2014 season. On the other hands, the interaction between varieties and microelements foliar application rates had a significant effect on plant height and number of capsules plant⁻¹ in both seasons, whereas, there was insignificant effect on stem diameter in the two successive seasons. Likewise, the interaction between nitrogen fertilization levels and the rates of microelements foliar application had insignificant effect on growth parameters in the 1st and 2nd seasons except plant height in the two successive seasons and stem diameter in first one. Results revealed that insignificant effect by the triple interaction among the treatments (ABC) in first and second seasons except plant height in the second season. El-Habbasha et al. (2007) found no significant effect between varieties and fertilization on plant height and number of capsules plant⁻¹, while El-Nakhlawy and Shaheen (2009) stated that interaction between varieties and N fertilizer was significant on the same parameters. The same trend was observed by Amanullah et al., (2014) and Iarlamen et al. (2014).

II-Yield and yield components.

Results in Table (3) indicate that the variety Sohag 1 gave the highest averages and significant for all yield and its components traits compared with Shandawel 3 cv in both seasons. Whereas, there were no significant differences between the two varieties in biological yield fed⁻¹ in the first season and seed index in both successive seasons. These results confirm the findings of Osman *et al.* (1993), Shinde *et al.* (1994), El-Habbasha *et al.* (2007), Kassab *et al.* (2012), Amanullah *et al.* (2014) and Iarlamen *et al.* (2014).

Regarding the effect of N fertilization levels, data presented in Table (3) show that increasing the N fertilization levels from 40 to 60 kg N fed⁻¹ hadn't significant effect on biological yield in first season as well as capsules weight plant⁻¹, seed yield plant⁻¹ and harvest index in the second one. Conversely, the increasing of N fertilization levels from 40 to 60 kg N fed⁻¹, significantly increased capsules weight, seed yield plant⁻¹, seed yield fed⁻¹, oil yield fed⁻¹, harvest index and seed index by 22.55, 19.34. 10.72, 8.50, 5.87 and 9.27%, respectively in 2013 season. In 2014 season, the significant increases percentage in seed yield fed⁻¹, biological yield fed⁻¹, oil yield fed⁻¹ and seed index were 8.65, 7.08, 6.45 and 9.64 %, respectively. On other hand, increasing the N fertilization levels had the reverse effect on oil %, as it reduced the oil percentage in 2013 season by 2.09 % and in 2014 season by 2.02 %. These results are in agreement with those found by **Sharar** et al. (2000); El-

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Concerning the effect of micronutrients foliar application rates, results indicated that sesame yield and its components were significantly affected by microelements treatments in both seasons. Applying 400 g fed⁻¹ gave the highest averages of yield and its components, while applying 200 g fed⁻¹ gave the lowest ones in both seasons. Increasing the rate of microelements foliar application from 300 to 400 g fed⁻¹ significantly increased the yield and its components, i.e., capsules weight plant⁻¹, seed yield plant⁻¹, seed yield fed⁻¹, oil yield fed⁻¹, harvest index and oil %, by 24.72, 30.59, 16.18, 8.96, 17.62, 6.92, 4.61 and 1.22 %, respectively, in 2013 season, and by 20.00, 22.83, 12.80, 6.84, 14.47, 5.66, 4.80 and 1.52 %, respectively, in 2014 season. It could be concluded that increasing microelements foliar application rate from 200 to 300 or 400 g fed⁻¹ significantly increased sesame yield and its components.

Table (3): Effect of microelement foliar application and N levels on some growth parameters of two sesame varieties.

Treat	tments	Capsules weight plant ⁻¹	Seed yield g plant ⁻¹	Seed yield kg fed ⁻¹	Biological Yield Kg fed ⁻¹	Oil yield kg fed ⁻¹	Harvest index	Seed index	Oil %	
2013 season										
Varieties (A)	Shandaweel 3	27.73	14.23	532.60	2660.56	267.96	19.94	413.00	50.25	
	Sohag 1	38.39	21.14	638.97	2825.15	329.12	22.52	423.94	51.44	
L	SD,	3.85**	1.27**	60.14*	NS	28.88*	1.23*	NS	0.77*	
N levels	40 kg fed ⁻¹	29.71	16.13	555.97	2682.65	286.22	20.63	399.94	51.37	
(B)	60 kg fed ⁻¹	36.41	19.25	615.59	2803.06	310.56	21.84	437.00	50.32	
		3.48**	1.92**	41.91*	NS	21.53*	1.12*	25.16*	0.79*	
Micro	200 g fed ⁻¹	23.17	12.60	489.81	2479.81	244.84	19.73	400.33	49.96	
Elements (C)	300 g fed ⁻¹ 400 g fed ⁻¹	33.82 42.18	17.55 22.92	586.34 681.20	2751.16 2997.60	299.05 351.73	21.25 22.72	417.92 437.17	50.98 51.60	
LSDc		4.07**	2.14**	21.91**	119.86**	11.54**	0.70**	8.14**	0.40**	
Interactions	AB AC BC ABC	NS * NS NS	NS * NS NS	NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS	* NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS	
	(2014 sea						
Varieties	Shandaweel 3	3 26.60	14.09	540.69	2627.40	274.53	20.51	408.61	50.63	
(A)	Sohag 1	36.39	19.04	632.23	2884.63	324.80	21.85	422.61	51.29	
LSD _a		<u>7.74*</u>	2.83*	64.44*	172.90*	33.86*	0.99*	NS	0.28*	
N levels	40 kg fed ⁻¹	27.94	15.00	562.16	2661.77	290.31	21.03	396.50	51.41	
(B)	60 kg fed ⁻¹	35.06	18.13	610.76	2850.26	309.03	21.33	434.72	50.4	
LSD _b		NS	NS	7.76**	118.89*	4.41**	ŅS	20.04**	0.21*	
Micro	200 g fed	23.09	11.66	495.90	2530.66	245.95	19.57	393.33	49.56	
Elements	300 g fed ⁻¹	32.45	17.08	593.75	2773.84	304.49	21.38	416.75	51.2	
(C)	400 g fed ⁻¹	38.94	20.98	669.74	2963.54	348.56		436.75	52.0	
LSDc		3.01**	<u>0.84**</u>	12.53**	75.51**	8.11**	0.60**	13.71**		
Interactions	AB	NS	NS	**	NS	**	NS	NS	*	
	, AC	**	**	NS	NS	NS	NS	*	NS	
	BC	**	**	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	
	ABC	NS	<u>NS</u>	NS	<u>NS</u>	*	NS	<u>NS</u>	*	

The obtained results are in accordance to those reported by Romemheld and El-Fouly (1999); Heidari *et al.* (2011); Kohnaward *et al.* (2012); Hamideldin and Hussein (2014) and Mahdi (2014).

The analysis of variance for sesame yield and its components (Table 3) at different interactions between treatments showed that there were no significant effect in bilateral interactions in both seasons except the effect of interaction (AB) between varieties and N fertilization levels (AB) on seed index and interaction (AC) between varieties and microelements foliar application (AC) on capsules weight plant⁻¹ and seed yield plant⁻¹ in 2013 season. The same trend was observed for the significant effect of the interaction (AC) on capsules weight fed⁻¹ and oil%, and the interaction (AC) on capsules weight plant⁻¹ and seed index. While, the interaction (BC) appeared to be with no significant effect on yield and its components except capsules weight plant⁻¹ and seed yield fed⁻¹. Sharar et al. (2000), El-Habbasha et al. (2007), Amanullah et al. (2014) and Iarlamen et al. (2014) found that varieties x N fertilizer interaction had no significant effect on seed, biological and yields, 1000-seed weight, harvest index and oil%.

Regarding the triple interaction (ABC) there were no significant effect on yield and its components in 2013 season. Similarly, in 2014 season there were no significant effect of this interaction on yield and its components except its effect on oil yield fed⁻¹ and oil %.

On conclusion, data revealed that the Sohag 1 cv was superior in growth parameters, yield and yield components under the tested treatments. Under the trail conditions it could be recommended that planting Sohag 1 cv under applying 60 kg N fed⁻¹ together with 400 g fed⁻¹ of microelements foliar application is favourable to have profit yield of sesame.

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تم تنفيذ تجربتين حقليتين في مزرعة كلية الزراعة بالفيوم – جامعة الفيوم – مصر. خلال الموسم الصيفي لعامي ٢٠١٣ و ٢٠١٢ لدراسة تأثير الرش الورقي بالعناصر الصغرى ومستويات التسميد النيتروجيني على النمو والمحصول لصنفين من السمسم هما ٧٦: شندويل ٣ و ٧٧ : سوهاج ١. وتم استخدام القطع المنشقة مرتين في تصميم القطاعات كاملة العشوائية ذي اربع مكررات في الموسمين. وقد احتلت معاملتي النيتروجين (٤٠ و ٢٠ كجم/ف) القطع الشقية الأولى ووزعت ثلاثة معدلات للرش بالعناصر الصغري (٢٠، ٢٠٠ووية جم/ف) والتي تم إذابتها في ٢٠٠ لتر ماء/ف في القطع الشقية الثانية . وقد تم استخدام العناص الصغري في صورة كان

(Fe 7.5 %, Mn 3.5 %, Zn 0.70 %, Cu 0.28 %, B 0.65 % and Mo 0.30 % w/w أظهرت النتائج المتحصل عليها تفوق الصنف سوهاج ١ على الصنف شندويل ٣ فى صفات النمو (مثل ارتفاع النبات، قطر الساق وعدد كبسولات النبات^٢) وأيضا صفات المحصول ومكوناته (مثل وزن كبسولات النبات، محصول البذور النبات، محصول البذور والزيت والمحصول البيولوجى للفدان، دليل الحصاد والنسبة المئوية للزيت. تخطى معنويا المعدل ٢٠ كجم ن/فدان المعدل ٤٠ كجم ن/فدن خلال الموسمين المتعاقبين.

أعطى المعدل ٤٠٠ جم / فدان من العناصر الصغرى رشا أعلى القيم معنويا لكل الصفات خلال الموسمين عند مقارنته بالمعدلين ٢٠٠ و ٣٠٠ جم/فدان.