

## *Abstract*

Composting of some plant residues was studied microbiologically and chemically besides its effects on the yield of wheat grown in recent sandy soil conditions. The aim of this study was achieved through: Investigation of compost physico-Chemical conditions, the role of microbial succession and enzyme activity of the successive common microbial species ( cellulase , protease and dehydrogenase ). The results, showed the increase of PH, EC, bulk density and total nitrogen values whereas, the values of ( O.C ), ( O.M ) and C/N ratio were decreased. At the beginning and at the end of composting process the populations of mesophilic organisms increased while at the period of 20 – 40 days there was markedly increase of thermophilic organisms. Addition of compost as well as biofertilizers significantly enhanced the growth and productivity of wheat and that indicated the positive effect of organic matter and biofertilization in organic farming.



## الموجز العربي

تم عمل دراسة ميكروبيولوجية وكيميائية على الكمبوست الناتج من بعض المخلفات النباتية وأثر استخدام هذا الكمبوست على إنتاجية محصول القمح تحت ظروف أراضي رملية حديثة الاستصلاح وتم تحقيق الهدف من الدراسة وهي عزل وتعريف الأنواع الميكروبية الشائعة في الكمبوست وكذلك دراسة الظروف الكيميائية والطبيعية وإظهار دور التعاقب الميكروبي والنشاط الإنزيمي وخاصة إنزيمات السيلوليز والبروتياز والدهيدروجينيز وظهرت النتائج تزايد قيمة الـ  $PH$  حتى التعادل نهاية الكمر وزادت قيم كل من التوصيل الكهربائي والكثافة الظاهرية ، انخفاض قيمة الكربون العضوي والمادة العضوية وكذلك نسبة  $C/N$  وزيادة النيتروجين الكلي . زيادة الأعداد الميزوفيلية في بداية عملية الكمر وفي نهاية العملية وزيادة الأنواع الثرموفيلية في الفترة من ٢٠ - ٤٠ يوم ومن خلال تجربة حقلية أدى إضافة الكمبوست والتسميد الحيوي إلى تشجيع نمو وإنتاجية محصول القمح مما يعكس الأثر الإيجابي للتسميد العضوي والحيوي في التطبيقات الزراعية .



# CONTENTS

<b>Item</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>LIST OF TABLES .....</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>LIST OF FIGURES .....</b>	<b>VII</b>
<b>CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION</b>	
<b>CHAPTER 2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE</b>	
2.1. Organic wastes .....	4
2.1.1. Organic wastes composting .....	5
2.1.2. Composting operations .....	6
2.1.3. Microbiological role of microorganisms during composting .....	6
2.1.4. Effect of physical factors on the composting process ....	11
2.1.4.1. Temperature .....	12
2.1.4.2. Moisture .....	13
2.1.4.3. Aeration .....	14
2.1.4.4. Particle size and grinding .....	14
2.1.5. Chemical factors affecting on the compost process .....	15
2.1.6. The role of enzymes during composting .....	17
2.1.6.1. Cellulolytic enzymes. ....	17
2.1.6.2. Proteolytic enzymes .....	19
2.1.6.3. Dehydrogenase activity .....	20
2.2. Effect of compost on soil fertility .....	22
2.3. Effect of application of compost on some soil biological	

properties .....	23
2.4. Effect of organic farming on the plant growth and yield .....	24
2.5. The role of N <sub>2</sub> -fixers as a biofertilizers .....	25
2.6. The role of (AM)-mycorrhizal fungi as a biofertilizer .....	27
2.7. Effect of N <sub>2</sub> fixers and (AM)-mycorrhizae on plant growth and yield with compost as an organic matter .....	29
<b>CHAPTER 3. MATERIALS AND METHODS</b>	
<b>Part I</b> .....	31
1. Preparation of compost starters .....	31
2. Preparation of different types of compost heaps .....	31
3. Isolation of most common microbes .....	33
4. Microbial succession, isolation, purification and identification of microorganisms isolated from each compost heap .....	34
5. Estimation of enzyme activities of active isolates of bacteria, fungi and actinomycetes .....	35
5.1. Estimation of cellulase activity .....	35
5.2. Estimation of protease activity .....	39
5.3. Dehydrogenase activity .....	42
<b>Part II: Effect of compost, (AM)-mycorrhizae and N<sub>2</sub>-fixing     bacteria on the growth and yield of wheat plant .....</b>	<b>46</b>
1. Field experiment .....	46
2. Seeds .....	48
3. Biofertilizers .....	48
4. Chemical fertilizers .....	49

5. Treatments and periods .....	50
6. Wheat field experiment .....	50
7. Microbiological determinations .....	51
8. Chemical analysis .....	53
9. Media .....	54

## **CHAPTER 4. RESULTS**

<b>Part I</b> .....	64
4.1. Physical and chemical changes during composting process ...	64
4.1.1. Changes in the temperature of different compost piles at different intervals during composting process .....	64
4.1.2. Changes in pH .....	66
4.1.3. . Changes in EC (dS/m) during the compost process .....	68
4.1.4. Changes in bulk density ( $\text{g}/\text{cm}^3$ ) of compost materials during the composting process .....	68
4.1.5. . Changes in organic carbon during the compost process .	71
4.1.6. Changes in organic matter (%) during the compost process .....	71
4.1.7. Changes in total nitrogen (%) of compost material during the compost process .....	71
4.1.8. Changes in C/N ratio of compost material during the compost process .....	75
4.2. Isolation and identification of culturable microorganisms from different compost heaps .....	77

4.2.1. Isolation and identification of fungi colonizing the compost. ....	77
4.2.2. Isolation and identification of bacteria colonizing the compost .....	79
4.2.3. Isolation and identification of actinomycetes colonizing the compost .....	87
4.3. Study of the microbial succession of common microorganisms during composting process .....	96
4.3.1. Effect of different incubation periods on total microbial count in different compost heaps ( $-x10^5$ cfu/g) .....	96
4.3.2. Fungal colonization of different compost heaps at different incubation periods .....	101
4.3.3. Bacterial colonization of different compost heaps at different incubation periods .....	104
4.3.4. Actinomycetes colonization of different compost heaps at different incubation periods .....	107
4.4. Study of the microbial enzymes activity of common microorganisms during composting process .....	110
4.4.1. Cellulase activity of common fungal, bacterial and Actinomycetes species from different compost heaps .....	110
4.4.2. Total soluble protein and protease activity in culture filtrate of different common microbial species isolated from different compost heaps .....	112
4.4.3. Dehydrogenase activity of culture filtrate of some common microbial species isolated from different compost heaps ...	114

<b>Part II</b> .....	117
4.1. Effect of different compost types, (AM)-mycorrhizae and N <sub>2</sub> -fixing bacteria on the growth and yield of wheat plants .....	117
4.1.2. Effect of different compost types, (AM)-mycorrhizae and N <sub>2</sub> -fixing bacteria on the lengths of wheat plant height (cm plant <sup>-1</sup> ) .....	119
4.1.3. Effect of different compost types, (AM)-mycorrhizae and N <sub>2</sub> -fixing bacteria on wheat dry weight .....	122
4.1.4. Effect of different compost types, (AM)-mycorrhizae and N <sub>2</sub> -fixing bacteria on infection percentage (%) of (AM)-mycorrhizae on the roots of the wheat plants .....	124
4.1.5. Effect of different compost types, (AM)-mycorrhizae and N <sub>2</sub> -fixing bacteria on nitrogenase activity (N-ase) in the rhizosphere of wheat plants .....	124
4.1.6. Effect of different compost types, (AM)-mycorrhizae and N <sub>2</sub> -fixing bacteria on number of tillers plant <sup>-1</sup> of wheat ..	127
4.1.7. Effect of different compost types, (AM)-mycorrhizae and N <sub>2</sub> -fixing bacteria on nitrogen percentage of wheat plant .	127
4.1.8. Effect of different compost types, (AM)-mycorrhizae and N <sub>2</sub> -fixing bacteria on percentage of wheat potassium content .....	130
4.1.9. Effect of different compost types, (AM)-mycorrhizae and N <sub>2</sub> -fixing bacteria on percentage of wheat phosphorous content .....	130
4.2. Yield parameters .....	133
4.2.1. Effect of different compost types, (AM)-mycorrhizae and	

N <sub>2</sub> -fixing bacteria on weight of 1000 grains in wheat .....	133
4.2.2. Effect of different compost types, (AM)-mycorrhizae and N <sub>2</sub> -fixing bacteria on grain yield (ard Fed <sup>-1</sup> ) in wheat .....	135
4.2.3. Effect of different compost types, (AM)-mycorrhizae and N <sub>2</sub> -fixing bacteria on straw yield (ton Fed <sup>-1</sup> ) for wheat plants .....	135
4.2.4. Effect of different compost types, AM (mycorrhizae) and N <sub>2</sub> -fixing bacteria on some chemical properties of sandy soil after harvesting .....	138
<b>CHAPTER 5. DISCUSSION</b> .....	140
<b>CHAPTER 6. SUMMARY</b> .....	162
<b>CONCLUSION</b> .....	169
<b>REFERENCES</b> .....	171
<b>* ARABIC SUMMARY</b> .....	----

\*\*\*\*\*