

Dedication

To my father

To my mother (Awatif)

To my brothers

To my sisters

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all praise is to ALLAH for giving me health and patience to complete this work successfully.

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ABSTRACT

The experimental work of this study was conducted during the seasons of 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 in the Farm of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, University of Dongola, Northern State, Sudan. The objective of the study was to assess the effect of nitrogen levels (0, 43, 86 and 129 kg/ha) and sowing methods (on ridges and on the flat) on growth, yield and yield efficiency of three maize (*Zea mays*.L) cultivars (Hudeib-1, Hudeiba-2 and Dongola). The experiment was conducted on high terraces soil (Aridisols) in the Northern State of Sudan. A randomized complete block design in a split-split plot arrangement with four replications was used to layout this experiment. The three open-pollinated maize cultivars were assigned to the main plot ,the two types of sowing methods were assigned to subplots and the four levels of nitrogen were assigned to sub-subplots. The vegetative growth characters of maize which were investigated in this study were plant height, stem diameter, days to 50% tasselling, number of leaves per plant, leaf area index and days to maturity. Yield and yield components characters were number of seeds per row, number of rows per cob, number of seeds per cob, number of cobs per plant, number of cobs per meter square, cob length, thousand seeds weight, roots weight, grain yield and harvest index. Maize quality characters included crude protein and crude fiber and the efficiency characters included nitrogen use efficiency and agronomic efficiency.

With the exception of plant height after 60 days, stem diameter after 60 days and days to maturity which showed insignificant differences in both seasons, the statistical analysis of variance indicated that the increase in nitrogen levels significantly increased most the of vegetative growth characters in the first season namely plant height and stem diameter after

90 days, days to 50% tasselling, number of leaves per plant and leaf area index. Also, the four nitrogen levels revealed significant differences in some of yield components namely thousand seeds weight, roots weight and harvest index in both seasons in addition to cob length which showed significant differences in the second season. On the other hand, other characters showed insignificant differences and these included number of seeds per row, number of rows per cob, number of seeds per cob, number of cobs per plant and number of cobs per meter square in both seasons. In addition, grain yield increased significantly and nitrogen use efficiency decreased significantly with the increase in nitrogen level in both seasons. Moreover , the analysis of variance indicated a highly significant effect of nitrogen levels on crude protein and crude fiber in the second season.

Significant differences between the two types of sowing methods were revealed in some characters namely stem diameter after 90 days, days to maturity, number of seeds /cob and cob length in both seasons and leaf area index, thousand seeds weight and harvest index in the first season and days to 50% tasselling, number of seeds per row, crude fiber content ,nitrogen use efficiency and agronomic efficiency which showed significant differences in the second season. Also, there were significant differences among maize cultivars in some vegetative growth characters in both seasons namely plant height after 60 days, days to 50% tasselling, leaf area index and days to maturity in addition to some characters namely plant height after 90 days, stem diameter after 60 days, stem diameter after 90 days and number of leaves/plant which showed significant differences in the first season. Also , the analysis of variance indicated significant differences among maize cultivars in most of yield and yield components in both seasons with the exception of number of rows/cob which showed significant differences in the first season. Moreover , the analysis of variance indicated significant differences

among maize cultivars in nitrogen use efficiency in both seasons and agronomic efficiency in the first season and crude fiber which exhibited significant differences in the second season.

المستخلص

أجريت هذه التجربة خلال موسمي 2013/ 2014 و 2014/2015 بمزرعة كلية العلوم الزراعية، جامعة دنقلا، الولاية الشمالية، السودان. هدفت الدراسة إلي تحديد تأثير أربعة مستويات من السماد النيتروجيني (0، 43، 86 و129 كجم نيتروجين/الهكتار) وطريقتين للزراعة (سرايات وارض مسطحة) علي النمو الخضري، الإنتاجية والكفاءة الإنتاجية لثلاثة أصناف من الذرة الشامية (حديبة1، حديبة2 ودنقلا). وقد أجريت الدراسة علي تربة التروس العليا بشمال السودان. صممت التجربة باستخدام طريقة القطع المنشقة المنشقة بتصميم القطاعات العشوائية الكاملة بأربعة مكررات. شملت القطع الرئيسية أصناف الذرة الشامية الثلاثة، بينما وزعت طريقتي الزراعة علي القطع المنشقة، في حين وزعت الأربعة مستويات من سماد النيتروجين علي القطع المنشقة المنشقة. شملت مقاييس النمو الخضري التي تم دراستها طول النبات، سمك الساق، عدد الأيام اللازمة لظهور 50% من الإزهار المذكرة، عدد الأوراق للنبات، دليل مساحة الورقة وعدد الأيام اللازمة للنضج كما شملت مقاييس الإنتاجية ومكوناتها عدد البذور في الصف، عدد الصفوف في الكوز، عدد البذور في الكوز، عدد الكيزان في النبات، عدد الكيزان في المتر المربع، طول الكوز، وزن الألف حبة، وزن الجذور، الإنتاجية ودليل الحصاد أما مقاييس الجودة فشملت البروتين الخام والألياف الخام بينما شملت مقاييس الكفاءة كفاءة استخدام النيتروجين والكفاءة الإنتاجية. باستثناء طول النبات بعد 60 يوم من الزراعة، سمك الساق بعد 60 يوم وعدد الأيام اللازمة للنضج أوضحت النتائج أن زيادة جرعة السماد النيتروجيني أدت إلي زيادة معنوية في بعض صفات النمو الخضري في الموسم الأول مثل طول النبات بعد 90 يوم، سمك الساق بعد 90 يوم، عدد الأيام اللازمة لظهور 50% من الأزهار المذكرة، عدد الأوراق في النبات ودليل مساحة الورقة. أيضا أعطت مستويات النيتروجين الأربعة فروق معنوية في بعض مكونات الإنتاجية والتي تتمثل في وزن الألف حبة، وزن الجذور ودليل الحصاد في كلي الموسمين بالإضافة إلي طول الكوز في الموسم الثاني بينما لم يكن هنالك تأثير علي عدد البذور في الصف، عدد الصفوف في الكوز، عدد البذور في الكوز، عدد الكيزان في النبات، عدد الكيزان في المتر المربع في كلي الموسمين وكذلك أوضحت النتائج أن زيادة جرعة السماد النيتروجيني أدت إلي زيادة معنوية في الإنتاجية والي نقص معنوي في كفاءة استخدام النيتروجين في كلي الموسمين و أيضا اظهر تحليل التباين وجود فروق معنوية لتأثير السماد النيتروجيني علي البروتين الخام والألياف الخام في الموسم الثاني. أوضح تحليل

التباين وجود فروق معنوية بين طريقتي الزراعة في بعض الصفات والتي تتمثل في سمك النبات بعد 90 يوم، عدد الأيام اللازمة للنضج، عدد البذور في الكوز وطول الكوز في كلا الموسمين ودليل مساحة الورقة، وزن الألف حبة ودليل الحصاد في الموسم الأول بالإضافة إلي عدد الأيام اللازمة لظهور 50% من الأزهار المذكرة، عدد البذور في الصف، الألياف الخام، كفاءة استخدام النيتروجين والكفاءة الإنتاجية في الموسم الثاني. اظهر تحليل التباين وجود فروق معنوية في بعض صفات النمو الخضري بين أصناف الذرة الشامية الثلاثة في كلى الموسمين والتي تتمثل في طول النبات بعد 60 يوم، عدد الأيام اللازمة لظهور 50% من الأزهار المذكرة، دليل مساحة الورقة وعدد الأيام اللازمة للنضج بالإضافة لبعض الصفات والتي تتمثل في طول النبات بعد 90 يوم، سمك النبات بعد 60 يوم، سمك النبات بعد 90 يوم وعدد الأوراق في النبات والتي أظهرت فروق معنوية في موسم النمو الأول. ايضا أوضح تحليل التباين وجود فروق معنوية في معظم صفات الإنتاجية ومكوناتها خلال الموسمين باستثناء صفة عدد الصفوف في الكوز والتي كانت معنوية في الموسم الأول. ايضا أوضح تحليل التباين وجود فروق معنوية بين أصناف الذرة الشامية في كفاءة استخدام النيتروجين في كلى الموسمين والكفاءة الإنتاجية في الموسم الأول بالإضافة إلي الألياف الخام في الموسم الثاني.