EFFECT OF SEAWEED EXTRACT AND BIOFERTILIZER ON ORGANIC PRODUCTION OF COMMON BEAN SEEDS (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.)

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ABSTRACT

At the Experimental Farm, Agriculture Faculty, University of Ain Shams, Qaliobia Governorate, Egypt, in order to investigate the influence of biofertilizer (Bio.); *Rhizobium* (R), mycorrhiza (MF), R + MF and control, seaweed extract (SWE) concentration (zero, one, two and four gram per liter) and their interactions on vegetative growth, productivity and quality of seed common bean cv. Nebraska. Before planting, the seeds were soaked in MF (*Glomus* sp.) and sown on the first of March 2016 and 2017 seasons respectively. The experimental plot area was seven m² (four rows). The length of each row was 2.5 m and width of 0.7 m. The plant's distance was seven cm on one side, and an alley (one width m) was left as a border between the treatments. After two weeks of planting, young plant were inoculated with R *phaseolus* after the first irrigation. Plants were sprayed three times of SWE (30, 45 and 60 days) after sowing. A split plot design with four replicates was used; where the main plots are Bio treatments and the subplots are SWE treatments. The obtained results clearly indicated that different applied treatments increased measured growth characteristics (No. leaves/plant, leaf area and total chlorophyll (SPDS)), the yield and components of yield (No. pods/plant, seed yield/plant and seed yield) and chemical constituents (total protein, carbohydrates, nitrogen and phosphorus) in seed after harvest. As well as, the best results were obtained by interactions between SWE (two and four gram per liter) and Bio. (R + MF) treatments in the two assigned seasons So adding combination between Bio. (R + MF) and SWE (two or four g) to improve vegetative growth, productivity and quality of common bean seed could be recommended under organic system (conversion to organic agriculture).

Keywords: Seaweed, Seeds production, Common bean, Carbohydrates Protein and Biofertilizer (*Rhizobium* and Mycorrhizal).

INTRODUCTION

Common bean are one of the most important fabacea vegetable which being widely consumed in many countries and its predominant export crop, as well as it provable high protein content (Zewail, 2014).

Seaweed extract (SWE) is a natural organic fertilizers containing highly effective nutritious and promotes faster seeds germination and increase yield and resistant ability of many crops (Zewail, 2014). Unlike, chemical fertilizers, extracts derived from SWE are biodegradable, nontoxic, nonpolluting and non-hazardous to plants. Exogenous application of SWE has already been shown to enhance plant growth, yield and its quality, as reported by Abdel Mawgoud et al (2010) on celeriac plant and Abou El-Yazied et al (2012) on Snap Bean.

*Mycorrhizal* fungi (MF) colonize most of agricultural crops and also play an important role in Phosphorus supply to plants in Phosphorus deficient farming systems. The importance of MF in Phosphorus supply may be comparable to that of root hairs. Their hyphae can extend further from roots than the root hairs, which resulted in a higher soil volume that a colonized root can explore. Furthermore, MF can protect plants against toxic elements (Zn, Cd, and Mn) by accumulation of these in their
hyphae and may enhance plants tolerance against pathogen by competing with pathogenic microorganisms (Turk et al. 2006). For Faba bean root colonization by indigenous MF increased vegetative growth and seed yield in addition to improving nodulation (Mathur and Vyas, 2000).

Dall’Agnol et al (2014) observed considerable increase in percentage of nodulated plants and protein in seed under field conditions due to seed inoculation in soils apparently free of Rhizobium (R). However, studies on organic manuring indicated that haricot bean showed positive response to such fertilizer. Moreover, biofertilization is currently gaining increasing importance as an alternative strategy to chemical fertilization particularly in low input agricultural systems.

Therefore, the present research aims to study the effect of SWE and Bio inoculation on growth and seed yield of common bean conversion to organic system (conversion to organic agriculture).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

At the experimental farm, Agriculture Faculty, University of Ain Shams, Qaliobia governorate, Egypt. In order to investigate the effect of SWE and Bio on vegetative growth, productivity and quality of seed common bean (Phaseolus vulgaris L.).

Seeds of common bean cv. Nebraska were sown on the first of March 2016 and 2017 seasons respectively. Rabbit manure and Chicken manure were added at the recommended dose i.e., 60kg N/fed. All cultural practices for the cultivation of common bean plants as recommended in the organic production area (conversion to organic agriculture) for the production of dry bean seeds have been implemented. Cultural management, disease and pest control programs were followed according to the recommendations of the Egyptian Ministry of agriculture. Harvesting was carried out for each sowing date when seeds were matured (start yellowing and dried of leaves).

SWE (powder form) were produced by U.A.D. Co. Egypt (Table 1). SWE was used at four concentrations, i.e., zero (control, sprayed with tap water) dose of one, two and four g/L, applied after 30, 45and 60 days from sowing days as a foliar application.

Table 1. Chemical and biochemical analyses of SWE, according to UAD® Company

| Organic matter         | Growth regulators | Macro and micro elements |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| amino acid ........... 6% | IAA ............0.03% | Organic (N) ........ 3.12 % |
| Carbohydrates.........35% | Cytokinins ......0.02% | P2O5 ............ 2.61 % |
| Alginic acid ........10% |                  | K2O ............. 4.71 % |
| Manitol ............4%   |                  | Ca .............. 0.25 % |
| Betaines ........... 0.04% |                  | S .............. 3.56 % |
|                        |                  | Mg .............. 0.58 % |
|                        |                  | Fe ............. 150ppm |
|                        |                  | Zn ............. 70 ppm |
|                        |                  | Mn ............. 13 ppm |
|                        |                  | B .............. 60 ppm |
|                        |                  | I .............. 30 ppm |

*Rhizobium phaseolus* and *Mycorrhiza (glo- mus* sp.) were bought from the Marsam Faculty of Agriculture, Ain Shams University.

Studied characteristics

Vegetative characteristics

Sample of three plants from each plot were randomly taken after forty five days from sowing for measured. The following characteristics: - Number of leaves / plant, total chlorophyll reading (SPAD), total leaf area (cm²) / plant were using the disk method according:

\[
\text{Leaf area (cm}^2\text{) = Disk area \times Number of Disks \times \frac{Leaf (fresh weight)}{Disk (fresh weight)}
\]
Chemical analyses

1. **Percentage of seed total protein**: total N % was determined colorimetrically as shown in seed samples, the fourth expanded upper seed of three plants in middle row per plot (Jackson, 1973) and a factor of 6.25 was used for conversion of total N to protein percentage.

2. **Percentage of seed total carbohydrate**: It was measured in the dry matter of seed of three plants in middle row per plot; samples were measured calorimetrically according to A.O.A.C.2005.

3. **Total phosphorus in seeds**: It was determined as reported (mg/ 100 mg DW).

Yield and yield components

Sample of ten plants from each plot were harvested to measuring the following character: No. pods/plant, seed yield /plant and expected seed yield /plant X number of plants/Fadden.

Statistical analysis

The two seasons data were arranged and statistically analyzed using the M static program. The comparison between the different treatment methods has been determined, as previously explained by Snedecor and Cochran (1982).

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Vegetative characteristics

The data presented in Table (2) show the influence of SWE, Bio and their interaction during 2016 and 2017 seasons on No. of leaves /plant, leaf area and chlorophyll reading (SPAD). In general, the vegetative growth of common bean responded positively to Bio treatments. Inoculated seedling with arbuscular MF plus R gave the highest significant values of vegetative growth in the both seasons. These results in harmony with Salih et al (2015), Abdel-Fattah et al (2011) and Tajini et al (2012). In this respect, found that growth parameters of cantaloupe and cucumber plants treated with MF were generally increased by 10-25% with 85% water regime than untreated (control) plants grown with 100% water regime. It has been shown that colonizing MF in wheat under water stress conditions has a beneficial effect on the state of the water, enhances the absorption of plant water, reduces the reduced water content of leaves and light pigments, and increases the overall gross weight. Shokri and Maadi (2009) It was reported that colonization of MF increased the total dry weight (TDW) of plants pollinated with MF by 5.29 times more than control plants. Most of the phosphorous in insoluble compounds was not available for cultivation. Root bacteria that promote plant growth (PGPR) are able to emerge from a beneficial effect on plant growth, nitrogen fixation and melting P.

Respecting the foliar application of SWE, the obtained data showed that the foliar application of SWE at two or four g/L increased No. of leaves /plant, leaf area and chlorophyll reading (SPAD) as compared with the other studied seaweed extract treatments. Almost had similar values by Abbas (2013), Abo-Seder et al (2016), Abou El-Yazied et al (2012), Boghdady (2016) and Zewail (2014).

The growth enhancing potential of SWE might be attributed to the presence of growth regulators and macro elements. SWE have been known to promote the growth of vegetables, fruits, and other crops as they have been reported to contain growth regulators such as loxin (IAA and IBA), gibberelin, cytokines, betenes and macronutrients. The results obtained by Sridhar and Rengasamy (2010) confirm our results, Sargassum wightii brown peanuts treated with liquid seaweed fertilizers showed an increase in physical parameters such as imaging height, gross fresh and dry weight, number of branches and leaf area of the third young leaf The trees. He attributed this to the fact that SWE contains a maximum amount of K compared to other total nutrients N and P. These results may be attributed to the beneficial effect of SWE containing natural nutrients, plant growth hormones (oxins, cytokines, and gibberellins) as well as stimulants Other plant vitals; for example amino acids, vitamins that can maintain photosynthesis rates, improve plant resistance, delay plant aging and cell division. Concerning the interactions, the studied combination between Bio and SWE treatments indicated that inoculated seedling with arbuscular MF plus R with foliar application of SWE at two g/L gave the highest significant No. of leaves /plant, leaf area and chlorophyll reading compared to the other interaction treatments.
Table 2. Effect of Bio, SWE and their interaction on vegetative characteristics of common bean (combined of 2016 and 2017 seasons)

| Treatment       | SWE g/L | Chlorophyll reading (SPAD) | No. of Leaves /plant | Leaf area(cm²) |
|-----------------|---------|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Control         | Mean Bio| 44.65 D’                   | 17.39 D’             | 219.28 D’     |
| R               |         | 45.59 C’                   | 19.66 C’             | 246.86 B’     |
| MF              |         | 46.90 B’                   | 20.79 B’             | 229.45 C’     |
| Combination     | 0       | 44.51 C                    | 17.70 C              | 212.36 C      |
| SWE             | 1       | 45.55 B                    | 18.44 B              | 230.30 B      |
|                 | 2       | 47.97 A                    | 21.72 A              | 260.17 A      |
|                 | 4       | 47.68 A                    | 21.74 A              | 262.75 A      |
| Control         | Mean Bio| 45.59 C’                   | 19.66 C’             | 230.30 B      |
| R               |         | 46.05ce                    | 18.50 ef             | 260.17 A      |
| MF              |         | 46.58 be                   | 18.83 ef             | 262.75 A      |
| Combination     | 0       | 43.70 f                    | 17.71 fg             | 212.36 C      |
| SWE             | 1       | 45.10ef                    | 18.58 ef             | 236.69 fg     |
|                 | 2       | 47.00bd                    | 21.00 d              | 254.32 de     |
|                 | 4       | 46.54 be                   | 21.35 cd             | 266.57 c      |
|                 | 0       | 45.49 de                   | 18.46 ef             | 266.57 c      |
| R               | 1       | 46.04ce                    | 19.25 e              | 264.58 cd     |
| MF              | 2       | 48.09 b                    | 22.96 b              | 299.42 g      |
| Combination     | 1       | 47.16bc                    | 19.33 e              | 253.85 de     |
| (Bio)           | 2       | 50.75 a                    | 24.42 a              | 313.51 a      |
|                 | 4       | 49.60 a                    | 24.29 a              | 283.14 b      |
| L.S.D.0.05      | Bio     | 0.493                      | 0.6876               | 2.5328        |
|                 | SWE     | 0.501                      | 0.4522               | 3.8028        |
|                 | Bio*SWE | 1.416                      | 1.279                | 10.76         |

Means having the same letters (s) are not significantly different. Duncan’s multiple range test at (P≤0.05).

2. Fruit characteristics

The data presented in Table (3) show the influence of Bio, SWE and their interaction during 2016 and 2017 seasons on No. of pods/plant, seed yield (Kg/Fed) and seed yield per plant (g). In general, fruit characteristics of common bean responded positively to Bio (R and MF) No. of pods/plant, seed yield (Kg/Fed) and seed yield per plant (g) as compared with the other studied Bio treatments. These results in harmony with, Abdel-Fattah (2011), Salih et al (2015) and Gamal et al (2016).

Concerning the interactions, the studied combination between biofertilizer and SWE indicated that plants Bio (R + MF) and seaweed (4g) showed No. of pods/plant, seed yield (Kg/Fed) and seed yield per plant (g) than the other combination treatments.

3. Chemical constituents

The data presented in Table (4) show the influence of Bio, SWE and their interaction during 2016 and 2017 seasons on total protein (%), total carbohydrates (g/100g d.wt), P (%) and N(%). In general, chemical constituents of common bean seeds responded positively to Bio (R and MF) increased total
Table 3. Effect of Bio, SWE and their interaction on fruit characteristics of common bean, (combined of 2016 and 2017 seasons)

| Treatment  | SWE (g/L) | No. of pods /plant | Seed yield per plant (g) | Seed yield (Kg/Fed) |
|------------|-----------|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Control    | Mean Bio  | 26.90 D'           | 34.14 D'                | 2007.56 D'          |
| R          |           | 28.09 C'           | 35.81 C'                | 2105.88 C'          |
| MF         |           | 29.54 B'           | 37.30 B'                | 2193.36 B'          |
| Combination|           | 32.10 A'           | 39.87 A'                | 2344.11 A'          |
| Mean SWE   | 0         | 26.53 D            | 32.81 D                 | 1929.45 D           |
|            | 1         | 28.02 C            | 34.86 C                 | 2049.74 C           |
|            | 2         | 30.60 B            | 39.45 B                 | 2319.80 B           |
|            | 4         | 31.49 A            | 40.00 A                 | 2351.92 A           |
| Control    | 0         | 24.70 k            | 31.32 j                 | 1837.20 j           |
| R          | 1         | 26.34j             | 32.00 j                 | 1881.61 j           |
|            | 2         | 27.94 h            | 36.99fg                 | 2175.18fg           |
|            | 4         | 28.64fh            | 36.33 g                 | 2136.23 g           |
| MF         | 0         | 25.66 jk           | 32.04 j                 | 1884.10 j           |
|            | 1         | 27.36 hi           | 34.70 h                 | 2040.29 h           |
|            | 2         | 29.63eg            | 37.97ef                 | 2232.46ef           |
|            | 4         | 29.73df            | 38.55 de                | 2266.66 de          |
| MF + R     | 0         | 27.54 hi           | 33.32i                  | 1958.94 i           |
|            | 1         | 28.23gh            | 35.84 g                 | 2107.27 g           |
|            | 2         | 31.10 cd           | 39.62 cd                | 2329.48 cd          |
|            | 4         | 31.31 c            | 40.44 c                 | 2377.76 c           |
| MF         | 0         | 28.23 gh           | 34.65 h                 | 2037.56 h           |
|            | 1         | 30.16 ce           | 36.90fg                 | 2169.79fg           |
|            | 2         | 33.75 b            | 43.23 b                 | 2542.08 b           |
|            | 4         | 36.28 a            | 44.68 a                 | 2627.03 a           |

| L.S.D_{0.05} | Bio. | 0.596 | 0.56  | 32.960 |
|              | SWE  | 0.476 | 0.458 | 26.925 |
|              | Bio* SWE | 1.347 | 1.121 | 65.921 |

Means having the same letters (s) are not significantly different. Duncan’s multiple range test at (P<0.05).

Concerning of interactions, the studied combination between Bio and SWE indicated that plants Bio (R + MF) and SWE (two and four g) showed the highest total protein (%) and N (%) than the other combination treatments. And indicated that plants Bio (R + MF) and SWE (two g) showed the highest total carbohydrates (g/100g d.wt) and P (%) than the other combination treatments.

These results can be attributed to the beneficial effect of SWE that contain naturally occurring nutrients, plant growth hormones (oxin, cytokines, and gibberelins) and other biomimulators (amino acids, and vitamins) that can maintain photosynthesis rates, improve Plant resistance, plant aging delay
Table 4. Effect of biofertilizer (Bio.), SWE and their interaction on chemical analyses of common bean, (combined of 2016 and 2017 seasons)

| Treatment | Characters | characters |
|-----------|------------|------------|
|           | N (%)      | P (%)      | Total carbohydrates (g/100g d.wt) | Total protein (%) |
| Bio       | SWE (g/L)  |           |                               |                  |
| Control   | Mean       | 3.10 D'   | 0.54 D'                        | 42.70 D'         | 19.39 D'         |
|           | R Bio      | 3.33 B'   | 0.62 C'                        | 45.08 C'         | 20.84 B'         |
|           | MF Combination | 3.31C'   | 0.63 B'                        | 51.05 B'         | 20.68 C'         |
|           |            | 3.43 A'   | 0.66 A'                        | 51.50 A'         | 21.43 A'         |
| Mean      | SWE 0      | 3.12 C    | 0.57 D                         | 43.72 C          | 19.50 C          |
|           | 1          | 3.23 B    | 0.60 C                         | 45.34 B          | 21.7 B           |
|           | 2          | 3.42 A    | 0.64 A                         | 50.53 A          | 21.36 A          |
|           | 4          | 3.41 A    | 0.63 B                         | 50.74 A          | 21.31 A          |
| Control   | R 0        | 2.96 h    | 0.50 l                         | 39.21 g          | 18.51 h          |
|           | 1          | 3.03 g    | 0.54 k                         | 40.56 g          | 18.93 g          |
|           | 2          | 3.21 e    | 0.57 i                         | 45.36 de         | 20.09 e          |
|           | 4          | 3.20 e    | 0.55 j                         | 45.68 de         | 20.03 e          |
| R         | 0          | 3.14 f    | 0.59 h                         | 43.20 f          | 19.62 f          |
|           | 1          | 3.28 d    | 0.61 g                         | 43.02 f          | 20.48 d          |
|           | 2          | 3.48 b    | 0.64 d                         | 45.08 e          | 21.75 b          |
| MF        | 0          | 3.44 b    | 0.63 de                        | 49.01 c          | 21.52 b          |
|           | 1          | 3.21 e    | 0.63 de                        | 48.49 c          | 20.04 e          |
|           | 2          | 3.44 b    | 0.67 bc                        | 55.16 ab         | 21.52 b          |
|           | 4          | 3.46 b    | 0.66 c                         | 53.69 b          | 21.65 b          |
| R + MF    | 0          | 3.26 d    | 0.63 de                        | 45.60 de         | 20.37 d          |
|           | 1          | 3.40 c    | 0.64 d                         | 49.29 c          | 21.24 c          |
|           | 2          | 3.53 a    | 0.70 a                         | 56.51 a          | 22.07 a          |
|           | 4          | 3.52 a    | 0.68 b                         | 54.60 b          | 22.03 a          |
| L.S.D0.05 | Bio SWE    | 0.0021    | 0.0082                         | 0.330            | 0.0497           |
|           | Bio* SWE   | 0.0225    | 0.0054                         | 0.528            | 0.1257           |
|           |            | 0.0402    | 0.0108                         | 1.492            | 0.2515           |

Means having the same letters (s) are not significantly different. Duncan's multiple range test at (P≤0.05).

and control cell division. These results strongly suggest that cytokines are a biologically active ingredient in seaweed concentration. Phosphate has a profound effect on plant metabolism, growth and its economy in nature was important. MF plants are more efficient at absorbing phosphates and in legumes plants; phosphate stimulates nodule production and therefore the rate of fixation of atmospheric nitrogen is increased and Biostimulants SWE can improve plant growth may be because of:

1) Activate root cells and also stimulate biosynthesis of endogenous cytokinins from roots (Schmidt 2005).
2) Strengthen leaf water status, some plant nutrients absorption, shoot growth and root pull strength (Demir et al 2004).
3) A change hormonal balances and favors cytokinins and auxins production (Schmidt 2005).
4) Improvement of antioxidant enzymes such as (SOD, GR, ASP) for protection against adverse environmental conditions (Schmidt 2005).
5) Energizing the biosynthesis (Tocopherol, ascorbic acid and carotenoids) in chloroplast which protect photosynthetic apparatus of PSII (Zhang and Schmidt 2000).
6) Protection of plant cells from lipid peroxidation and in activation of enzymes that occur under stress (Smirnoff 1995).
7) Energizing stem elongation and exhibits auxin-like activity.
8) Decreased uptake of NaCl whilst increased K and Ca content in the leaves (Demir et al 2004).
9) Energizing of chlorophyll biosynthesis (Garbay and Churin 1996) and regulation cell membrane components under drought stress (Yan 1993).
10) Prevents activity of free radical groups which are major elements for chlorophyll degradation (Fletcher et al 1988).
11) Energizing the uptake of N, P, K, Mg, Ca, Zn, Fe and Cu by the plants that alleviate the inhibitory effect of Na toxicity and restored growth.
12) Energizing of chloroplast development and enhancing phloem loading and delay senescence (Demir et al 2004).

While the development of multifunctional microbial inoculants is a promising method to increase the positive effects of microorganisms. This depends on more than one effect of the single organism or on a combination of organisms (Vassileva et al 2010). Bacterial and fungal populations can interact in the rhizosphere and stimulate plant growth and improve nutrient availability very effectively (Zaidi et al 2003; Töljander et al 2007). Additive effects between MF and plant growth-promoting bacteria were observed, e.g., after the combined application of MF and Pseudomonas species (Gamarero et al 2004) or Bacillus circulans (Singh and Kapoor, 1999).

CONCLUSION

Common bean plants obtained from seed soaked with MF, inoculated with R bacteria and sprayed three times with SWE gave the best results for the quantity of the crop and the quality of seeds.

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In this study, field experiments were conducted during the summer seasons of 2016 and 2017, at the experimental farm, Faculty of Agriculture, Ain Shams University, Qalyubia governorate, Egypt, to verify the effect of mycorrhizal inoculation (Glomus spp.) and Rhizobium, and marine plant extracts at concentrations (zero, one, two, and four grams/liter) and their interaction on the growth and yield of fava beans variety (Nabrab). Prior to planting, the seeds were soaked in the mycorrhizal (Glomus sp.) and a distance of one meter between plots was left as a space between treatments. Two weeks after planting, the plants were inoculated with Rhizobium (R. phaseolus). The plants were sprayed with marine plant extracts (01, 02, and 03 days after planting). The treatments were arranged in a split-plot design with four replications, where the mycorrhizal treatments were in the main plot and the marine plant extract treatments were in the sub-plot. The results clearly indicated that the applied treatments increased growth characteristics (number of leaves/plant, leaf area, SPDS, and total chlorophyll), components of yield (number of pods/plant, seed and pod yield), and chemical components (total protein, total carbohydrates, nitrogen, and phosphorus) in the beans after harvesting and were the best results in the interaction between marine plant extracts (6 or 5 grams/liter) and mycorrhizal inoculation (Rhizobium + Mycorrhiza) in the two seasons. Therefore, we recommend adding the combination of mycorrhizal inoculation (Rhizobium + Mycorrhiza) and marine plant extracts (6 or 5 grams/liter) to improve the growth and productivity of fava beans within the organic system (conversion to organic farming).

Keywords: Marine plants, Seed production, Fava, Carbohydrates and proteins, Mycorrhizal inoculation (rhizobia – mycorrhiza).