



ATTEMPTS TO IMPROVE GROWTH AND PRODUCTIVITY OF SUCKARY MANGO TREES BY USING PIGEON MANURE TEA AND *Spirulina plantensis* ALGA

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ABSTRACT: A field experiment was carried out during two successive seasons 2017/2018 and 201/2019 with the object of improving the vegetative growth and fruiting of 15-years old Suckary mango trees grown in private orchard located at Edfu district, Aswan Governorate-Egypt. Partial replacement of mineral nitrogen fertilization by using pigeon manure tea and *Spirulina plantensis* fungi were examined. Higher and significant vegetative growth (in terms of shoot lengths, number of shoots/tree, number of leaves/shoot and leaf area) were associated with reduced the mineral N doses by using pigeon manure tea and *Spirulina plantensis*. However, Increasing the nitrogen replaced ratio over 60% (using 30% pigeon manure tea + 30% *Spirulina plantensis*) resulted a significant reduced in all vegetative growth parameterizes. Suckary mango Productivity (yield “kg/tree”, fruit number/tree and fruit weight “g”) significantly enhanced as a result of increasing the ratio of mineral N replaced by pigeon manure tea + *Spirulina plantensis*. On the opposite side, increasing the ratio of mineral N replacement over than 40% (using 20% pigeon manure tea + 20% *Spirulina plantensis*) caused a significant decrease in yield (kg)/tree and its components. Then, the present investigation recommended by recommended to replace 40% of mineral N by using 20% pigeon manure tea + 20% *Spirulina plantensis* in order to improve vegetative growth parameters, and trees productivity.

Key words: *Mangifera indica*, Suckary mango, pigeon manure tea + 10% *Spirulina plantensis*.

INTRODUCTION

Mango tree (*Mangifera indica*) belongs to family Anacardaceae. Mangos are common and main fruit in many countries such as; India, Pakistan, Philippines and Bangladesh and Egypt. Mango is considered as one of the most important commercial and favorite fruits in Egypt. In Aswan Governorate where the investigation took place, mango ranks the fourth position after Ismailia, Noubaria, and Sharkia, since fruiting area in this region reached 9568 feddans produced 48203 tons (**Annual Reports of Statist. & Agric, 2018**). Suckary mango *cv.* is considered a prime and outstanding mango cultivar, and has strong spicy flavor, producing appealing aroma, sweet, low in fiber, regular bearing and middle season maturity, popular in the domestic market for fresh consumption and has a wide acceptance in international markets (**Madany, 2017**). However, under Aswan Governorate the trees predictability is remarkably lower than other countries (**Madany, 2017**).

Using organic and biofertilizer extracts nowadays for fruit crops has called the attention of research workers as an alternative to synthetic auxins and mineral nitrogen fertilization. They are safe for human, animal and environment. Clean cultivation is greatly achieved by using organic and biofertilizers (**Russo and Berlyn, 1990; Kulk 1995; Litterick et al., 2004; Eman et al., 2010; Ibrahim et al., 2015 and Ibrahim et al., 2019**). The water extract of pigeon manure termed pigeon manure tea, it retains all the beneficial soluble bioactive compounds, making it a potent source of plant stimulatory and defensive compounds. The exact nature and extent of these features are, however, modified by fermentation process, feedstock quality. Furthermore, the beneficial effects of the biofertilizer, such *Spirulina plantensis*, are attributed to their own from natural hormones, glutathione, lecithin, adenylic acid, enzymes and co-enzymes, vitamins B1 & B6 and glycine. Also, they are essential for the synthesis of protoporphyrin, precursor of plant pigments and photosynthesis through enhancing the release of CO₂

(El-Shenawy and Fayed, 2005; Abd El-Aal et al., 2007; Chang et al., 2007; Gad-El-Kareem, 2009; Ibrahim et al., 2009 and De-Oliveira et al., 2020)

The target of this study was examining the partially replacement of mineral nitrogen by using pigeon manure tea and *Spirulina Plantensis* alga on growth, fruit setting%, yield (kg/tree), number of fruits/tree and fruit weight (g) of Succary mango trees grown under Aswan Governorate conditions, Egypt.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This field experiment was conducted during two seasons 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 on 24 uniform in vigor 15-years old Succary Mango trees grown in private orchard located at Edfu district, Aswan Governorate – Egypt, where the soil texture is loamy clay and well drained water. The chosen trees are planted at 7 X 7 meters apart. Surface irrigation system using Nile water was adopted. The trees are subjected to regular horticulture practices that were commonly applied in the orchard including fertilization, irrigation, hoeing and pest management.

Soil characters

The orchard where the present experiment carried out was loamy clay soil (Table 1). Whereas, a composite sample was collected and subjected to Physical and chemical analysis using to the procedures outlined by and Wilde et al., (1985) and Urman et al. (1996), the data are shown in Table (1).

Table 1. Physical and chemical analysis of experimental orchard soil

Constituents	Values
Sand %	6.1%
Silt %	86.7%
Clay %	7.2%
Texture	loamy clay
EC (1 : 1 extract, dSm ⁻¹)	0.59
Organic matter %	2.39
pH (1 : 2.5 extract)	7.4
Soluble cations (meq/l)	
Ca ⁺⁺	1.5
Mg ⁺⁺	2.5
Na ⁺	0.69
K ⁺	0.74
Soluble anions (meq/l)	
HCO ₃	1.1
Cl ⁻	1.7
Available P (Olsen, ppm)	6.14

Experimental work

In order to study the effect of partial replacement of mineral N fertilization on growth and fruiting of

Succary mango trees, by using pigeon manure tea and *Spirulina plantensis* on Succary mango trees using complete randomized block design (CRBD) arrangement, the following six doses of partial replacement were examined:

- 1- 100% mineral + 0.0% organic + 0.0% bio fertilization
- 2- 80% mineral N + 10% pigeon manure tea + 10% *Spirulina plantensis*.
- 3- 60% mineral N + 20% pigeon manure tea + 20% *Spirulina plantensis*.
- 4- 40% mineral N + 30% pigeon manure tea + 30% *Spirulina plantensis*.
- 5- 20% mineral N + 40% pigeon manure tea + 40% *Spirulina plantensis*.
- 6- 0.0% mineral N + 50% pigeon manure tea + 50% *Spirulina plantensis*.

Each treatment was replicated four times, one tree per each. The obtained data were analyzed and the differences between the means were compared by using LSD at 5% according to Snedecor and Cochran (1980).

Preparation of pigeon manure tea

Fresh pigeon manure was obtained from three pigeonhole near the farm. The manure was placed in burlap bags (2 kg/bag), then the bags was placed in plastic drums filled with water (20 liters/drum), a rock was added to the manure to make sure it did not float. Then the barrels were covered with plastic wrap to complete the fermentation process. The burlap bags were manual moved up and down several times daily. After three weeks of fermentation, the pigeon manure tea was ready for use. The following Table shows the chemical composition of the pigeon manure tea used in the experiment (Price and Duddles, 1984).

Table 2. Chemical composition of pigeon manure tea (1:10 extraction) used in this experiment

Constituents	Values
pH	7.92
EC (dS.m ⁻¹)	1.46
Total N (ppm)	219
Phosphorus (ppm)	329
Potassium (ppm)	318
Fe (ppm)	7.52
Cu (ppm)	3.1
Zn (ppm)	1.78
Mn (ppm)	0.05

Preparation of *Spirulina plantensis* alga

Spirulina plantensis alga was grown on Potato dextrose media (according to **EL-Boray et al., 2015**) incubated for 2-3 days at 28 C° to maintain populations of 3×10^8 colony forming unit ml⁻¹ (CFU/ml). The fungi strain was kindly provided from Dept. of Microbiology Faculty of Agriculture, Minia University, Egypt.

Measurement of vegetative growth

During the maturation stage at the middle of July for both seasons, the following vegetative characteristics were measured: Shoot lengths in cm, Number of leaves per shoot, Number of new shoots/tree Leaf area (cm²) were determined, according to (According to **Ahmed and Morsy, 1999**) using the following equation:

$$\text{Leaf area} = 0.67 (L \times W) + 107.15$$

whereas L= leaf length (cm) and W = leaf width (cm)

Determination of leaves main pigments

Samples of five mature and fresh leaves from those collected for mineral determination cut into small pieces and 0.05 g weight from each sample was taken, homogenized and extracted by 25% acetone in the presence of little amounts of Na₂CO₃ then filtered. The extract was completed to a known volume (20 ml) with acetone 85%. The optical density of the filtrate was determined at the wave length of 662 and 664 nm to determine chlorophylls A and B, respectively. Concentration of each pigment was calculated by using the following equations according to **Ward and Johnston (1962)**.

$$\text{Chlorophyll A} = (9.784 \times E_{662}) - (0.99 \times E_{644}) = \text{mg} / 100 \text{ g FW}$$

$$\text{Chlorophyll B} = (21.426 \times E_{644}) - (4.65 \times E_{622}) = \text{mg} / 100 \text{ g FW}$$

$$\text{Total carotenoids} = (4.965 \times E_{4460} - 0.268 (\text{chlorophylls } a + b))$$

where E = optical density at a given wavelength.

Yield and its components

During the two experimental seasons, the total number of fruits per tree were counted at fruit harvested at second week of Jun), 12 fruit were randomly collected, in order of 3 fruit per each said of tree, then the weight of each fruit was recorded in grams, so the main fruit weight (grams) was calculated. The yield (kg)/tree calculated mathematically, as a result of multiplying the average fruit weight by the number of fruits/tree.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Effect on vegetative growth of Succary mango trees

The obtained data illustrated in Table (3) shows that, the shoot lengths (cm), shoot diameter (cm) and number of leaves/shoot were remarkable increased due to replacement mineral N fertilization by using pigeon manure tea (as an organic fertilizer) and *Spirulina plantensis* (as a bio-fertilizer) during the two experimental seasons. This increment reached a maximum when replaced 60% of mineral N by using 30% pigeon manure tea and 30% *Spirulina plantensis* in comparison with control. It is clear from the obtained data that, replacement of mineral N partially by using pigeon manure tea and *Spirulina plantensis* effectively enhancing shoot lengths (cm), shoot diameter (cm) and number of leaves / shoot significantly, these increment continually until using 60% nitrogen fertilization in form of organic and biofertilizers. Then, increasing the replacement ratio than 60% caused a significant decreased in all vegetative growth parameters.

The trees received 40% mineral N + 30% pigeon manure tea + 30% *Spirulina plantensis* present the highest shoot length (cm), shoot diameter (cm) and number of leaves/shoot. Contrary, the lowest shoot length (cm), shoot diameter (cm) and lowest number of leaves / shoot were obtained from the trees received 0.0% mineral N + 50% organic N + 50% bio-fertilizer, during the two experimental seasons respectively. Furthermore, leaf area was also significantly affected by the partial replacement of mineral N using pigeon manure tea and *Spirulina plantensis*. However, increasing the ratio of mineral N replacement than 60% significantly decreased the leaf area (cm²), during the two experimental seasons.

The obtained results concerning the stimulation the vegetative growth of Succary mango trees as a result of partial replacement of mineral N by using organic manure tea and *Spirulina plantensis* are in harmony with those obtained by **El-Khawaga (2011)** on organic and biofertilization of Florida prince peach trees; **Mohamed (2014)** on the response of Le-Conte Pori trees to tea compost treatments; **Ibrahim et al. (2015)** on organic and biofertilization of Keitte mango trees; **Haggag et al., 2014** on Agizzi olive trees; **Baiea and El-Gioushy (2015)** on Grande Naine plant; **Mostafa et al. (2009)** on Washington Navel orange; **Sau et al. (2017)** on Himsagar Mango trees **Hagag et al., 2018 on olive trees** and **Abd El-Hamid and El-Shazly (2019)** on Succary mango trees grown in sandy soil.

The previous positive concerning the action of organic manure namely pigeon manure tea and bio-fertilization with *Spirulina plantensis* algae on vegetative growth of Succary mango trees was attributed mainly to the beneficial effects of these fertilizers in reducing soil salinity, soil pH and soil

erosion and enhancing the production of natural hormones namely IAA, GA₃ and cytokines, increasing mineral nutrients availability and soil microbial activity (El-Kramany et al., 2000; Litterick et al., 2004; Mohammed et al., 2010; Von-Bennewitz and Hlusek, 2006; Hasan, 2015 and Hagag et al., 2018).

Leaf pigments content

Data illustrated in table (4) showed the effect of partial replacement of mineral nitrogen fertilizers using pigeon manure tea as organic fertilizer and *Spirulina plantensis* algae as biofertilizer on leaves

main pigments contents (chlorophyll a, chlorophyll b, total chlorophylls and total carotenoids). The obtained data showed that increasing the replacement ratio of pigeon manure tea + *Spirulina plantensis* ratio from 0 to 60% was capable to enhancing all the main pigments significantly in the leaves of Succary mango trees, during the two experimental seasons. On the opposite side, increasing the replaced ratio of pigeon manure tea + *Spirulina plantensis* than 60% caused a significant decrease in all the main pigments these data was true during the two experimental seasons

Table 3. Effect of replacing mineral nitrogen partially by using pigeon manure tea and *Spirulina plantensis* on vegetative growth of Succary mango trees, during 2018 and 2019 seasons

Treatments	Shoot lengths (cm)		Shoot thickness (cm)		No. of leaves /shoot		Leaf area (cm ²)	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
100% mineral N	19.0	19.1	1.85	1.89	16.3	16.5	78.9	79.5
80% mineral + 10% pig. tea + 10% <i>S. plantensis</i>	20.5	20.6	1.94	1.98	17.4	17.3	80.5	80.6
60% mineral + 20% pigeon + 20% <i>S. plantensis</i>	22.0	22.2	1.99	2.12	18.5	18.5	83.2	84.4
40% mineral + 30% pigeon + 30% <i>S. plantensis</i>	23.4	24.5	1.79	2.21	22.2	24.3	91.1	98.3
20% mineral + 40% pigeon + 40% <i>S. plantensis</i>	18.2	19.0	1.74	1.75	16.9	16.6	75.8	77.3
0% mineral + 50% pigeon + 50% <i>S. plantensis</i>	15.5	15.1	1.70	1.72	14.0	13.7	74.5	76.1
New LSD at 5%	0.80	0.9	0.03	0.02	0.9	0.8	1.3	1.0

The illustrated data in Table (4) showed that, Succary mango trees received 60% of N fertilizer in form of (30% pigeon manure tea + 30% *Spirulina plantensis*) present the higher chlorophyll a (6.9 & 6.9 mg/100g F.W.), chlorophyll b (3.8 & 4.0 mg/100g F.W.), total chlorophylls (10.7 & 10.9 mg/100g F.W.) and total carotenoids (4.3 & 4.7 mg/100g F.W.). However, increasing the ratio of pigeon manure tea + *Spirulina plantensis* than 60%, significantly decreased all studied pigments, this data were true in both experimental seasons respectively. Contrary, trees received 100% of 50% pigeon manure tea + 50% *Spirulina plantensis* and 0.0% mineral N present the lowest contents of chlorophyll a (4.0 & 3.8 mg/100g F.W.), chlorophyll b (1.2 & 1.3 mg/100g F.W.), total chlorophylls (5.2 & 5.1 mg/100g F.W.) and total carotenoids (2.9 & 2.8mg/100g F.W.), during the two experimental seasons respectively.

Effect of Pigeon manure tea and *Spirulina plantensis* on yield and its components

Data concerning the effect of partial replacement of mineral N by using pigeon manure tea + *Spirulina plantensis* on yield (kg/tree), number of fruit/tree as well as fruit weight (g) of Succary mango trees during 2018 and 2019 seasons are presented in Table (5). It

is clearly shown from these data that partial replacement of mineral N by pigeon manure tea + *Spirulina plantensis* significantly was accompanied with improving yield, number of fruit/tree and fruit weight (g) relative to the control treatment.

This promotion was in proportional to increase the ratio of organic (pigeon manure tea) and bio (*Spirulina plantensis*) fertilizers from 0.0% to 40%. So, increasing the replacement mineral N ratio over than 40 was accompanied with significant decrease in yield and its components, these data were true during the two experimental seasons.

It is clear from the same Table the highest yield (kg)/tree (65.7 & 66.0 kg), fruit numbers/tree (300 & 305 fruit/tree) and fruit weight (219.1 & 216.5 g) were obtained from the trees received 40% in nitrogen fertilization in form of organic (pigeon manure tea) + bio fertilizers (*Spirulina plantensis* alga). On the opposite side, the lowest yield (kg)/tree (32.0 & 32.3 kg), as well as lowest fruit numbers/tree (200 & 195 fruit/tree) and lowest fruit weight (160.0 & 165.5 g) were obtained from the trees received 100% of nitrogen fertilizers as a form of organic + bio fertilizers, these data were true during the two experimental seasons respectively. Therefore, in

order to significantly improve the yield and its components it may be evidence and economically, suggested that use 40% from N fertilizers as a form

of organic (20% pigeon manure tea) + bio (20% *Spirulina plantensis* alga).

Table 4. Effect of replacing mineral N partially by using pigeon manure tea and *Spirulina plantensis* on leaves main pigments of Succary mango trees, during 2018 and 2019 seasons

Treatments	Chlorophyll a (mg/100g F.W)		Chlorophyll b (mg/100g F.W)		Total Chlorophyll (mg/100g F.W)		Total Carotenoids (mg/100g F.W)	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
	100% mineral N	5.4	5.6	2.7	2.6	8.1	8.2	3.3
80% mineral + 10% pig. + 10% <i>S. plantensis</i>	6.0	6.1	3.3	3.3	9.3	9.4	3.9	4.2
60% mineral + 20% pigeon + 20% <i>S. plantensis</i>	6.7	6.7	3.8	3.9	10.3	10.5	4.3	4.7
40% mineral + 30% pigeon + 30% <i>S. plantensis</i>	6.9	6.9	3.8	4.0	10.7	10.9	3.9	4.1
20% mineral + 40% pigeon + 40% <i>S. plantensis</i>	4.3	4.3	1.5	1.6	5.8	5.9	3.1	3.3
0% mineral + 50% pigeon + 50% <i>S. plantensis</i>	4.0	3.8	1.2	1.3	5.2	5.1	2.9	2.8
New LSD at 5%	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.6

Similar results were observed by certain authors in fruit trees, such as **Sefan (2009)** on yield and berry quality of King Ruby grapevines. And **Hasan (2015)** when study the replacement of the mineral fertilizers by using plant compost tea enriched with *Spirulina plantensis*, their results confirmed that the productivity in terms of yield and its components of Flame seedless grape. The effect leaf fertilization of Papaya trees with *Spirulina plantensis* on growth and fruiting were studied by **Railene et al. (2017)** their results confirmed the positive effect of this algae on yield and its components. Furthermore, the role of using manure tea was extended study by: **Ibrahime et al. (2015)** on mango trees cv. Keitte and **Mandal et al. (2017)** on mango trees cv. Himsagar, these studies clearly distinguished the positive effect of manure tea on enhancing fruit sett and yield and its components.

From the view of previews studies, the positive effect of manure tea, such as pigeon manure tea, due to; it could remarkably improving soil physical, chemical and biological characteristics of all soil types, adjusting the soil pH, increasing mineral elements available for plant absorption. Furthermore, adding organic fertilizers could significantly increase the availability of phosphorus, potassium and calcium as well as micro-elements. Then, using organic or bio fertilizers shortly increases the microbial population in soil and increases the activity of microbial enzymes (**Abou-Hussein et al., 2002** and **Baiea and EL-Giousy 2015**). Pigeon manure is a readily available fertilizer, it has some beneficial effects on physical and chemical properties of fruits (**Gogoi et al., 2004; Mohammed et al., 2010; Loredana et al., 2015** and **Baiea and EL-Giousy 2015**).

Table 5. Effect of replacing mineral N partially by using pigeon manure tea and *Spirulina plantensis* on leaves NPK contents (% D.W.) of Succary mango trees, during 2018 and 2019 seasons

Treatments	Number of fruit/tree		Fruit weight (g)		Yield (kg/tree)	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
	100% mineral N	240	250	190.2	192.5	45.6
80% mineral + 10% pigeon + 10% <i>S. plantensis</i>	272	279	206.3	206.0	56.0	57.5
60% mineral + 20% pigeon + 20% <i>S. plantensis</i>	300	305	219.1	216.5	65.7	66.0
40% mineral + 30% pigeon + 30% <i>S. plantensis</i>	223	235	176.5	180.5	39.4	42.4
20% mineral + 40% pigeon + 40% <i>S. plantensis</i>	211	217	166.5	171.3	35.1	37.2
0% mineral + 50% pigeon + 50% <i>S. plantensis</i>	200	195	160.0	165.5	32.0	32.3
New LSD at 5%	10.0	12	5.0	5.6	3.0	4.6

Conclusion

Under Edfu district, Aswan Governorate, Egypt conditions, in nil valley loamy clay soil, or resampling conditions, it could be strongly recommended to replaced 40% of mineral nitrogen used in fertilizers program of Succary mango trees by using 20% organic fertilization (in form of pigeon manure tea) + 20% biofertilization (in form of *Spirulina plantensis* alga), in order to improve vegetative growth and predictability of trees (yield “kg/tree”, number of fruits/tree and fruit weight “g”).

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Attempts to Improve Growth and Productivity of Succary Mango Trees by Using Pigeon Manure Tea and *Spirulina Plantensis* Alga

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