

## Response of Cucumber (*Cucumis sativus* L.) to Various Organic and Bio Fertilization Treatments under an Organic Farming System.

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### ABSTRACT

A pot experiment was conducted outdoor at the Experimental Farm, Faculty of Agriculture, Mansoura University during the summer seasons of 2015 and 2016 to evaluate the positive interaction effects among different types of organic fertilization forms and levels alongside with bio fertilizer applications on quantitative and qualitative yield characteristics of cucumber grown under an organic farming conditions. Thirty treatments were arranged in a split-split plot design with three replicates, which were the simple combination of three types of organic amendments (compost, FYM, and biochar), two rates of soil application (5 and 10 ton fed<sup>-1</sup>) and five types of bio fertilizer application forms i.e. (1) microbien + phosphorien, (2) microbien + phosphorien+ effective microorganisms (EM), (3) EM, (4) poultry manure extract, and (5) control (without biofertilization). Compost proved its effectiveness in improving yield characteristics, nutrients content and quality indices as compared with other organic amendments. The application level of 10 ton fed<sup>-1</sup> was the optimum rate for providing sufficient needs of plant during its whole growth stage. The combined biofertilization treatment (microbien + phosphosien+ EM) was the most effective treatment for improving quantitative and qualitative yield characteristics. The obtained results concluded that the integrated treatment of compost application at 10 ton fed<sup>-1</sup> alongside with microbien + phosphosien+ EM biofertilization is recommended to produce the highest productivity and quality indices of cucumber yield grown on a sandy soil condition.

**Keywords:** Cucumber (*Cucumis sativus* L.), organic fertilization, bio fertilizers, nutrient contents, fruit quality and sandy soils.

### INTRODUCTION

The future sustainable agriculture should focus on producing sufficient yield (food, feed and fiber) to satisfy changing human needs with conserving natural resources, maintaining the quality of the environment, and ultimately leading to community and gender equity (Dimitri *et al.*, 2012). Recently, attention has been directed toward expansion in organic farming to cope with sustainable agriculture needs. Organic farming is the production system where synthetic fertilizers, pesticides and growth regulators are completely or largely avoided. Organic farming systems are growing rapidly in the last decades (approximately 31 million hectares worldwide) with annual revenues of about 26 billion \$ (Ashraf *et al.*, 2016). Organic farming growers have to market their production in high prices to compensate the low-productivity of organic farming systems as compared with conventional production. The consumers of organic production, therefore, are affluent educated and health conscious have the willingness to pay for the high-priced products (Yadav *et al.*, 2013). Consequently, there is an urgent need to produce organic crops with high profitability and quality in order to provide organic products with lower prices available for various categories of consumers. This could be achieved through maximizing the nutritive value of organic amendments to generate high yield production.

Composting is a natural way to rejuvenate the soil health. Compost recycles nutrient elements (e.g. C, N, K, Mg, S, P and micronutrients) into the rhizosphere. These essential nutrients not only sustain the plants nutrition needs, but also provide an available form for feeding soil microorganisms. Farmyard manure (FYM) is the most used conventional manure in most worldwide agricultural systems. It is a decomposed mixture of cattle dung and urine with agricultural residues (e.g. rice straw), which used as bedding and/or a feeding material (Belay *et al.*, 2001). FYM releases plant nutrients slowly and steadily and activates soil microbial biomass (Ayuso *et al.*, 1996). On the other hand, attention has been drawn recently toward using biochar in organic farming systems. Biochar is the recalcitrant carbonized material generated following

thermal processing of organic biomass in oxygen limited conditions (Downie *et al.*, 2009).

Biofertilizers can be defined as the living cells of efficient strains of nitrogen fixers, phosphate solubilizers and silicate decomposers used for application to soil with the objective of acceleration certain microbial processes to augment the extent of the availability of nutrients in a form which can be easily assimilated by plants (Cakmakci *et al.*, 1999 and Abu El-Fotoh *et al.*, 2000). In addition to their crucial role in nutrients availability, biofertilizers produce organic acids, which protects plant against plant pathogens and excretion growth regulators like IAA and GA3. Effective Micro-organisms (EM) as a biofertilizer contains group of beneficial microorganisms (primary photosynthetic and lactic acid bacteria, yeast, actinomycetes and fermenting fungi) which promotes germination, flowering, fruit and ripening, improves physical, chemical and biological environments of the soil and suppresses soil borne pathogens and pests. Furthermore, it enhances the photosynthetic capacity of crops (Woodward, 2003).

Cucumber (*Cucumis sativus* L.) is a member of the economically important family *cucurbitaceae*. Cucumber is a warm season crop. However, it has the ability to grow under very wide range of climates either in open fields or in greenhouses. In Egypt, cucumber is grown in open fields at the summer season and under greenhouses or plastic tunnels in winter season.

The objectives of this work are to evaluate the positive interaction effects among different types of organic fertilization forms and levels alongside with bio fertilizers applications on quantitative and qualitative yield characteristics of cucumber grown under sandy soil conditions.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

A pot experiment was conducted in outdoor conditions at the Experimental Farm, Faculty of Agriculture, Mansoura University during the summer seasons of 2015 and 2016 to investigate the impact of organic fertilizers (compost, farmyard manure (FYM) and biochar) with two

rates (5 and 10 Mg fed<sup>-1</sup>) and bio fertilizers (Microbien, phosphorien, EM and poultry manure extract) application on maximizing productivity of cucumber (*Cucumis sativus* L.) grown in a sandy soil. Thirty treatments, which represent the simple combination between treatments, were arranged in a split-split plot design with three replicates. Experimental pots (10 g pot<sup>-1</sup>) were irrigated to reach the field capacity, and the assumed field capacity were compensated every 3-4 days with tap water by weight. Biofertilizers were applied before first irrigation directly by mixing their recommended dose) with soil. Plants were sown at mid of June in both seasons (5 seed per each pot). Two weeks later; seedling were thinned to the most two uniform ones per pot. Some soil physical and chemical analyses, the available Fe, Zn, Cu, and Mn were determined as described by (Ryan 1996; Table 1)

**Table 1. Some physical and chemical properties of the experimental soil before cultivations in the two Seasons.**

Soil properties	2015-2016	2016-2017
Coarse sand %	6.75	7.01
Fine sand %	68.47	69.31
Silt %	15.66	15.34
Clay %	9.12	8.34
Soil texture	Sandy	Sandy
Organic matter %	0.98	0.92
Saturation percentage %	29.5	31.0
<b>Chemical properties</b>		
CaCO <sub>3</sub> %	4.63	4.52
pH	8.13	7.89
EC (dSm <sup>-1</sup> ) (1:5)	1.09	0.98
	CO <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	N.D
Anions	HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	1.19
(meq 100 g <sup>-1</sup> soil)	Cl <sup>-</sup>	2.63
	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	1.76
	Ca <sup>2+</sup>	1.69
Cations	Mg <sup>2+</sup>	0.98
(meq 100 g <sup>-1</sup> soil)	Na <sup>+</sup>	2.77
	K <sup>+</sup>	0.14
Available	N	37.9
Nutrient	P	3.95
(mg kg <sup>-1</sup> soil)	K	194
	Fe	4.5
Micronutrient	Mn	2.98
(mg kg <sup>-1</sup> soil)	Zn	0.45

N.D. means not detected

Mature compost and biochar were obtained from a private farm located at Belquas District, Dakahlia Governorate. FYM was obtained from the Animal husbandry farm, Mansoura University. Some chemical properties of the used organic amendments, biochar and poultry manure extract are presented in Table 2,3 and 4.

At harvesting stage (60 days from sowing), vegetative growth and yield parameters (average fruit weight (g), total yield per pot and number of fruits per pot) were recorded. To carry out chemical analysis of fruits, random samples were selected from each treatment, oven dried at 70°C, ground and wet digested by the acid mixture of H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and HClO<sub>4</sub> (Peterburgski 1968). Using standard Kjeldahl method, total nitrogen was determined according to Hesse (1971). Phosphorus was calorimetrically determined at wavelength of 680 nm (Jackson, 1967). According to Black (1965), potassium was determined using flame photometer.

**Table 2. Some chemical properties of the organic manures used:-**

Sample	Season 1		Season 2	
	FYM	Compost	FYM	Compost
O.M %	35.75	37.20	49.2	57.6
O.C %	20.62	25.05	28.6	33.5
N %	1.19	2.07	1.48	2.12
P %	0.41	0.55	0.36	0.41
K %	0.55	0.63	0.49	0.57
C/N	17.32	12.10	19.3	15.8
pH	6.56	6.02	6.57	6.09
E.C dSm <sup>-1</sup>	3.97	3.57	4.15	3.79
SP%	135	157	132.5	149.7

**Table 3. Chemical characteristics of the biochar used:-**

Sample	Biochar
Moisture	14.01%
pH	9.6
C	77.4%
Total nitrogen	0.87 %
C/N	88.9
Cu mg kg <sup>-1</sup>	94
Fe mg kg <sup>-1</sup>	326
Mn mg kg <sup>-1</sup>	81
Zn mg kg <sup>-1</sup>	99
P g kg <sup>-1</sup>	20.5
K g kg <sup>-1</sup>	13.2

**Table 4. Chemical analyses of the poultry manure extract:**

Sample (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	poultry manure extract
N	89.6
P	19.3
K	435.2
Fe	32.6
Zn	7.95
Mn	16.09

Representative samples of cucumber fruits were randomly chosen from each treatment at the third picking to determine the quality parameters of cucumber fruits (i.e. total soluble solids (TSS) using a hand refractometer and free NO<sub>3</sub>-N (mg kg<sup>-1</sup>) according to the method described by Singh (1988)).

All statistical analyses were performed using analysis of variance technique by means of COSTATE Computer Software (V. 6.303, CoHort, USA, 1998-2004) as described by Gomez and Gomez, (1984). Treatment means were compared using Duncan's multiple range test at the 5% level of probability.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Fruit yield and its components:

Data presented in Table 5 illustrate the effect of organic fertilizers types, organic fertilizers levels, bio fertilizers types and their interactions on average fruit weight (g), fruit length (cm), No. of fruits pot<sup>-1</sup> and total yield g pot<sup>-1</sup> during both seasons of experiment.

The statistical analysis of obtained data show that organic fertilizers types had a significant effect on average fruit weight (g), fruit length (cm), No. of fruits pot<sup>-1</sup> and total yield pot<sup>-1</sup> in (Table 5). It can be observed that compost fertilizer treatment caused a progressive increase in all characters over than FYM and biochar treatments. This is mainly revealed to the positive impact of compost on physical and chemical properties of soil comparing with other organic fertilizers. Several reports suggested that compost has a significant impact on improves soil drainage, and maximizing water and

nutrient supply potentials of soil; thus, maintain cucumber productivity ( *Kabeel and Hasanin (2006); Polat et al. (2009); Nair and Ngouajio (2010); Fahmy (2012) and Abou-El-Hassan et al. (2014)*). Further to this, the chemical analysis of organic amendments illustrated that compost has a lower C/N ratio as compared with other treatments, which allowed the

readily flux of available nitrogen for plants grown under compost treatments. On other hand, the lowest vegetative growth values were recorded with plants amended with biochar in both seasons. This is mainly revealed to the low nutritive values of biochar as compared with compost and FYM.

**Table 5. Fruits weight (g), fruit length (cm), No. of fruits pot<sup>-1</sup> and total yield pot<sup>-1</sup> of cucumber plants as affected by organic fertilizers types, organic fertilizers levels and bio fertilizers types in 2015 and 2016 seasons.**

Treatments			Fruit weight (g)		Fruit length (cm)		No. of fruits		Total yield (g pot <sup>-1</sup> )	
O.F.	O. F. levels	Bio fertilizers	seasons							
			2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
Compost	5 ton fed <sup>-1</sup>	0	37.53 p	8.15 k	10.66 i	401.2 k	37.03 t	8.50	12.66 i	465.00 n
		M+ph	39.93	8.86 g	12.66 f	505.8 f	41.86 f	9.52 ef	14.66 f	614.46 h
		EM+M+ph	42.16 b	9.65 b	16.00 b	674.66 b	44.20 b	10.23 b	18.00 b	795.60 b
		EM	40.90 e	9.23 d	14.00 d	572.20 d	44.20 b	9.74 d	16.00 d	706.93 d
		PME	38.63 l	8.49 i	12.00 g	463.60 h	41.53 h	8.99 h	14.00 g	581.46 i
	10 ton fed <sup>-1</sup>	0	38.13 mn	8.31 j	11.33 h	431.73 j	41.00 j	8.92 h	13.33 h	546.26 j
		M+ph	40.46 g	9.05 e	14.00 d	566.53 d	43.06 d	9.59 e	16.00 d	689.06 e
		EM+M+ph	42.53 a	9.85 a	16.66 a	709.26 a	45.23 a	10.38 a	18.66 a	844.4 a
		EM	41.46 c	9.45 c	14.66 c	608.20 c	43.46 c	10.01 c	16.66 c	724.73 c
		PME	39.13 j	8.73 h	12.00 g	470.06 gh	41.70 g	9.25 g	14.00 g	583.93 i
FYM	5 ton fed <sup>-1</sup>	0	35.83 u	7.09 s	7.33 n	263.06 p	37.60 r	7.48 op	9.33 n	350.53 r
		M+ph	38.06 n	7.95 l	10.00 j	380.66 l	40.56 k	8.42 k	12.00 j	486.80 m
		EM+M+ph	40.60 f	8.73 h	12.66 f	514.73 f	43.56 c	9.33 g	14.66 f	638.73 g
		EM	39.36 i	8.29 j	11.33 h	446.66 i	41.26 i	8.78 i	13.33 h	549.73 j
		PME	36.93 r	7.47 o	8.66 l	320.46 n	39.76 l	7.92 m	10.66 l	424.33 p
	10 ton fed <sup>-1</sup>	0	36.23 t	7.27 q	8.00 m	289.86 o	38.00 q	7.71 n	10.00 m	380.00 q
		M+ph	38.73 k	8.12 k	10.66 i	413.13 k	40.60 k	8.53 j	12.66 i	513.66 l
		EM+M+ph	41.10 d	8.92 f	13.33 e	548.00 e	43.06 d	9.45 f	15.33 e	660.60 f
		EM	39.96 h	8.51 i	12.00 g	479.50 g	42.23 e	9.01 h	14.00 g	591.26 i
		PME	37.30 q	7.71 m	9.33 k	348.06 m	39.13 o	8.17 l	11.33 k	443.66 o
Biochar	5 ton fed <sup>-1</sup>	0	33.50 z	5.82 z	4.66 r	155.93 t	35.16 x	6.16 v	6.66 r	233.80 v
		M+ph	35.46 v	6.55 v	7.33 n	260.00 p	37.20 s	6.85 r	9.33 n	346.66 r
		EM+M+ph	37.73 o	7.33 p	10.00 j	377.33 l	39.56 m	7.76 n	12.00 j	474.80 mn
		EM	36.73 s	7.00 t	8.66 l	318.66 n	38.53 p	7.42 p	10.66 l	411.53 p
		PME	34.56 x	6.18 x	6.00 p	207.40	35.96 v	6.55 t	8.00 p	287.73 t
	10 ton fed <sup>-1</sup>	0	34.00 y	5.98 y	5.33 q	181.40 s	35.70 w	6.33 u	7.33 q	261.40 u
		M+ph	36.20 t	6.75 u	8.00 m	289.6 o	37.63 r	7.15 q	10.00 m	376.33 q
		EM+M+ph	38.20 m	7.54 n	11.33 h	432.80 j	39.73 l	7.98 m	13.33 h	529.66 k
		EM	37.26 q	7.14 r	9.33 k	347.80 m	39.43 n	7.56 o	11.33 k	447.00 o
		PME	35.06 w	6.35 w	6.66 o	233.40 q	36.13 u	6.73 s	8.66 o	313.40 s
Mean values as affected by organic fertilizers	Compost	40.09 a	8.97 a	13.4 a	540.32 a	42.33 a	9.51 a	15.4 a	655.18 a	
	FYM	38.41 b	8.00 b	10.33 b	400.42 b	40.58 b	8.48 b	12.33 b	503.93 b	
	Biochar	35.87 c	6.66 c	7.73 c	280.43 c	37.50 c	7.05 c	9.73 c	368.23 c	
Mean values as affected by organic levels	5 Ton fed <sup>-1</sup>	37.86 b	7.78 b	10.13 b	390.82 b	39.86 b	8.24 b	12.13 b	491.20 b	
	10 Ton fed <sup>-1</sup>	38.38 a	7.97 a	10.84 a	423.29 a	40.40 a	8.45 a	12.84 a	527.02 a	
Mean values as affected by bio fertilizers	Control	35.87 e	7.10 e	7.88 e	287.2 e	37.41 e	7.52 e	9.88 e	372.83 e	
	M+ph	38.14 c	7.87 c	10.44 c	402.62 c	40.15 c	8.34 c	12.44 c	504.50 c	
	EM+M+ph	40.38 a	8.66 a	13.33 a	542.8 a	42.56 a	9.19 a	15.33 a	657.30 a	
	EM	39.28 b	8.26 b	11.66 b	462.18 b	41.52 b	8.75 b	13.66 b	571.86 b	
	PME	36.93 d	7.49 d	9.11 d	340.5 d	39.03 d	7.93 d	11.11 d	439.08 d	

\*M = microbial fertilizer

\*ph = phesphorien fertilizer

\*\*PME = Poultry manure extract

It can be noticed that the level of 10 ton fed<sup>-1</sup> significantly produced the highest mean values of all parameters *i.e.* average fruit weight, fruit length, No. of fruits per pot and total yield by 1.4, 2.4, 7.0 and 8.3% , respectively as compared with 5 ton fed<sup>-1</sup> in the two growing seasons. Presumably, due to the insufficient nutrient contents of plant nutrients released under the level of 5 ton fed<sup>-1</sup> (Mahmoud *et al.*, 2009).

The statistical analysis showed a superiority for the combined treatment of biofertilizers (EM+M+ph) comparing with sole application or the control treatment (without biofertilization). This combined biofertilizers contain effective microorganisms, which are able to play beneficial roles in improving soil quality indices (woodward, 2003). Several reports suggested the beneficial effect of biofertilization on improving

cucumber productivity (Saeed *et al.*, (2015) and Moemenpour and Karami (2015).

The interaction effect between treatments recorded significant effect on some vegetative growth parameters. The optimum treatment that generated the highest yield was compost application at 10 ton fed<sup>-1</sup> with the combined (EM+M+ph) application. Beside the aforementioned benefits of biofertilizers on improving soil quality indices, it is well known that these microorganisms are able to accelerate the organic

amendments decomposition; thus, releasing more nutrients for plant needs (Saleh *et al.*, 2007)

**N, P, K content (%), TSS% and NO<sub>3</sub>-N ppm of cucumber plant.**

Regarding the effect of organic fertilizers types on chemical composition of cucumber fruits, it is clearly obvious that organic fertilizer types significantly affect N, P and K content (%), TSS% and NO<sub>3</sub>-N ppm (Table 6) during both seasons . An obvious superiority was recorded for compost treatment in maximizing nutrient concentrations in cucumber fruits.

**Table 6. N, P, K, TSS (%) and NO<sub>3</sub>-N (mg kg<sup>-1</sup>) of cucumber plants as affected by organic fertilizers types, organic fertilizers levels and bio fertilizers types in 2015 and 2016 seasons.**

Treatments			N %		P %		K %		TSS %		NO <sub>3</sub> -N(mg kg <sup>-1</sup> )			
	O. F.	O. F. levels	Bio fertilizers	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	
Compost	5 ton fed <sup>-1</sup>	0		1.11p	1.13 o	0.12g	0.13ef	0.61g	0.62f	-	3.74 k	18.03m	18.41m	
		M+ph		1.42i	1.43g	0.13de	0.13d	0.61e	0.62cd	-	4.79 f	17.33r	17.71q	
		EM+M+ph		1.77b	1.82a	0.13 a	0.14a	0.62ab	0.63b	-	6.02 a	16.74v	17.1u	
		EM		1.61d	1.70c	0.13 c	0.13bc	0.62cd	0.63b	-	5.63 c	17.04t	17.39s	
	10 ton fed <sup>-1</sup>	PME		1.27k	1.27 k	0.12 f	0.13e	0.61f	0.62e	-	4.23 i	17.64p	18.14o	
		0		1.20m	1.26 kl	0.12fg	0.12fg	0.61f	0.62e	-	4.17 i	17.86n	18.29n	
		M+ph		1.52f	1.52e	0.13cd	0.13c	0.61d	0.62c	-	5.06	17.16s	17.55r	
		EM+M+ph		1.80 a	1.83a	0.13 a	0.14a	0.62a	0.63a	-	6.12 a	16.51w	16.84v	
	FYM	5 ton fed <sup>-1</sup>	EM		1.72	1.74b	0.13b	0.13b	0.62bc	0.63b	-	5.83 b	16.92u	17.24t
			PME		1.34j	1.33j	0.13 e	0.13d	0.61e	0.62d	-	4.48 h	17.45q	17.8p
			0		0.91u	0.90 s	0.11no	0.11m	0.54n	0.55l	-	3.00 m	18.75gh	19.12gh
			M+ph		1.24l	1.25 l	0.11l	0.12j	0.55l	0.56ij	-	4.15 i	18.17l	18.54l
10 ton fed <sup>-1</sup>		EM+M+ph		1.56e	1.65d	0.12hi	0.12gh	0.56hi	0.57g	-	5.44 d	17.48q	17.84p	
		EM		1.41i	1.44fg	0.12jk	0.12i	0.55jk	0.56hi	-	4.82 f	17.82no	18.16o	
		ChK		1.08q	1.10p	0.11m	0.11k	0.55m	0.56k	-	3.67 k	18.43j	18.8j	
		0		1.02s	1.08 q	0.11n	0.11kl	0.55mn	0.55m	-	3.64 k	18.56i	18.95i	
Biochar		5 ton fed <sup>-1</sup>	M+ph		1.33j	1.36 i	0.12k	0.12i	0.55k	0.56hi	-	4.52 gh	18.00m	18.36mn
			EM+M+ph		1.62	1.66d	0.12gh	0.12f	0.56h	0.57g	-	5.53 cd	17.36r	17.71q
			EM		1.47h	1.52e	0.12ij	0.12h	0.55ij	0.56h	-	5.05 e	17.75o	18.15o
			PME		1.16o	1.19 n	0.11lm	0.12j	0.55l	0.56j	-	3.97 j	18.29k	18.65k
	10 ton fed <sup>-1</sup>	0		0.79v	0.80 u	0.10t	0.10t	0.49 v	0.49r	-	2.66 n	19.80a	20.26a	
		M+ph		1.09q	1.11p	0.10r	0.11op	0.49 s	0.50q	-	3.68 k	19.11e	19.49e	
		EM+M+ph		1.41i	1.45f	0.11o	0.11m	0.50 o	0.51n	-	4.83 f	18.55i	18.96i	
		EM		1.24l	1.23m	0.10r	0.10rs	0.50 q	0.50p	-	4.14 i	18.81g	19.2	
	Mean values as affected by organic fertilizers	5 Ton fed <sup>-1</sup>	ChK		0.98t	1.00 r	0.10s	0.10qr	0.49 tu	0.50q	-	3.35 l	19.42c	19.81c
			0		0.90u	0.87t	0.10t	0.10s	0.49 uv	0.50q	-	2.93 m	19.66b	20.04b
			M+ph		1.18n	1.18 n	0.10q	0.11o	0.49 r	0.50p	-	3.93 j	18.96f	19.34f
		10 Ton fed <sup>-1</sup>	EM+M+ph		1.49g	1.50e	0.11no	0.11lm	0.50 o	0.51n	-	5.02 e	18.39j	18.74j
EM				1.33j	1.41h	0.11p	0.11n	0.50 p	0.51o	-	4.66 fg	18.72h	19.08h	
PME				1.06r	1.11p	0.10rs	0.10pq	0.49 st	0.50q	-	3.68 k	19.27d	19.65d	
Control				0.99 e	1.01 e	0.11 e	0.11 e	0.55 e	0.56 e	-	3.36 e	18.78 a	19.18 a	
Mean values as affected by bio fertilizers		M+ph		1.30 c	1.31 c	0.12 c	0.12 c	0.55 c	0.56 c	-	4.35 c	18.12 c	18.50 c	
		EM +M+ph		1.61 a	1.65 a	0.12 a	0.12 a	0.56 a	0.57 a	-	5.49 a	17.50 e	17.80 e	
		EM		1.46 b	1.50 b	0.12 b	0.12 b	0.56 b	0.56 b	-	5.02 b	17.84 d	18.20 d	
		PME		1.15 d	1.17 d	0.11 d	0.12 d	0.55 d	0.56 d	-	3.89 d	18.41 b	18.80 b	

\*M = microbien fertilizer

\*ph = phesporien fertilizer

\*\* PME = Poultry manure extract

These results may be attributed to the role of compost in soil quality properties as it produces humic substances, which are able to improve some physical and chemical soil properties leading to increasing nutrient availabilities. Moreover, incorporation of organic materials in soils can further increase NPK

availability by increasing CO<sub>2</sub> forming H<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> in the soil solution. Also, improvement of these parameters may be due to the slow and continuous supply of both micro and macro nutrients, which might have helped in the assimilation of carbohydrates. These trend of result could be enhanced with those obtained by Kabeel and

Hasanin (2006), Talha (2013), Natsheh and Mousa (2014).

Concerning the effect of organic fertilizer rate, it is cleared that the application level of 10 ton fed<sup>-1</sup> gave the highest nutrient concentration as compared with 5 ton fed<sup>-1</sup>. This might be attributed the fact that the rate of 10 ton fed<sup>-1</sup> was able to satisfy plant nutrient needs during the whole growth season.

The combined biofertilization treatment (EM+M+ph) recorded the highest value of plant nutrients. This result may be due to the beneficial effect of dual application on macronutrients availability and uptake by plants. These results confirm by those obtained by Rashed (2002) who reported that biofertilizers combined with organic manure increased the content of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. El-Ghadban et al (2002) mentioned that both compost and biofertilizers led to an increase of macro-nutrients uptake. This increase might be related to the positive effect of compost and microorganisms in increasing the root surface area per unit of soil volume and water-use efficiency, which directly affects the physiological processes and nutrients absorption. Inoculated plants with biofertilizers combined with full dose of compost gave the highest uptake of total nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. These results are in harmony with those obtained by Han et al. (2006), Isfahani and Besharati (2012), Moemenpour and Karami (2015) for Nitrobin and Phosphorin as well as Arafa et al. (2012), Abd El-Hameed (2013) and Olle (2015) for EM

As shown in Table 6, the interaction effects between all treatments have significant differences during the two seasons. The interaction between organic fertilizers types × organic fertilizers levels is significant on N, P, K contents, TSS% and NO<sub>3</sub>-N in fruit of cucumber plant. The same trend was true in the 2<sup>nd</sup> season. The optimum treatment that produced the highest values under investigation in fruits is the combined treatment of bio fertilizers EM+M+ph and 10 ton fed<sup>-1</sup> from compost. Meanwhile, the highest values of NO<sub>3</sub>-N content was obtained from the control treatment of bio fertilizers with applying 5 ton fed<sup>-1</sup> from biochar.

## CONCLUSION

It could be concluded that the use of 10 ton fed<sup>-1</sup> compost fertilizer with applying microbial + phosphorus+ EM could enhance significantly the yield, nutrient contents and quality of cucumber under an organic farming system.

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## أستجابة نباتات الخيار لأنواع مختلفة من الأسمدة العضوية والحيوية تحت نظام زراعة عضوية

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أجريت تجربة أصص في الهواء الطلق بمحطة البحوث الزراعية - بكلية الزراعة - جامعة المنصورة خلال موسمي 2015-2016 لتقييم تأثير ال بعض الأسمدة العضوية (الكمبوست - السماد البلدي - البيوشار) بمستويين (5 و 10 طن للفدان) والتسميد الحيوي (الميكروبيين - الفسفورين - EM) ومستخلص السبلة) علي تعظيم انتاجية محصول الخيار تحت نظم الزراعة العضوية. تم ترتيب 30 معاملة في تصميم القطاعات المنشقة مرتين في ثلاث مكررات والتي تمثل تفاعل المعاملات سابقة الذكر. أظهرت نتائج التجربة أن معاملة إضافة الكمبوست بمعدل 10 طن للفدان مع إضافة الميكروبيين والفسفورين وال EM أنتجت أعلى معدلات انتاجية لثمار الخيار وزيادة جودتها وكذلك إلي تحسن مستويات تركيزات النيتروجين والفسفور والبوتاسيوم % في أنسجة الثمار والتي يمكن التوصية بها تحت ظروف نظم الزراعة العضوية.