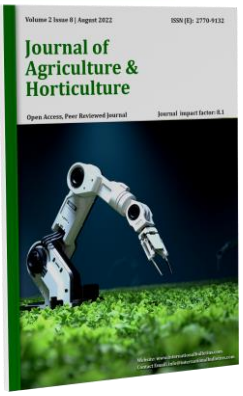

POSSIBILITIES OF INCREASING THE PRODUCTIVITY OF SORGHUM THROUGH THE USE OF MICRONUTRIENTS

Serekeeva Gulzira
2nd year master's student of the specialty "Agrochemistry",
Karakalpakstan institute of agriculture and agrotechnologies
Nawrizbaev Ikram
Associate professor, Karakalpakstan institute of agriculture and agrotechnologies
Karlibaev Sultanbay
2nd year master's student of the specialty "Agrochemistry",
Karakalpakstan institute of agriculture and agrotechnologies
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Abstract. This article discusses the importance of micronutrients, specifically iron, zinc, manganese, copper, boron, molybdenum, and nickel, for the growth and productivity of sorghum plants. It highlights the roles these micronutrients play in various physiological processes and the consequences of their deficiencies. The article emphasizes the need to supply sorghum plants with sufficient micronutrients through fertilizers or soil amendments to overcome deficiencies and promote optimal growth and productivity. It also emphasizes the importance of applying micronutrients in the right amounts and at the right time to avoid toxicity or nutrient imbalances. Overall, the article emphasizes the significance of considering the micronutrient requirements of sorghum plants for their optimal growth and development.
Keywords. micronutrients, iron, zinc, manganese, copper, boron, molybdenum, nickel, growth, productivity, sorghum plants, physiological processes, deficiencies, fertilizers, soil amendments, optimal growth, nutrient imbalances, toxicity, development.

Sorghum is an important crop that is widely grown for food, feed, and industrial purposes [3]. To ensure optimal growth and productivity of sorghum plants, it is essential to provide them with the necessary micronutrients. Micronutrients are essential elements that are required by plants in small quantities but play a crucial role in their growth and development.

One of the micronutrients that is vital for sorghum plants is iron (Fe). Iron is involved in various physiological processes, including chlorophyll synthesis, photosynthesis, and respiration. A deficiency of iron can lead to chlorosis, stunted growth, and reduced yield. Therefore, supplying sorghum plants with sufficient iron can improve their overall productivity.

Another micronutrient that is important for sorghum plants is zinc (Zn). Zinc plays a key role in enzyme activity, protein synthesis, and carbohydrate metabolism. A deficiency of zinc can result in poor root development, reduced seed production, and increased susceptibility to diseases. By providing sorghum plants with adequate zinc, their growth and productivity can be significantly enhanced [5].

Other micronutrients such as manganese (Mn), copper (Cu), boron (B), molybdenum (Mo), and nickel (Ni) are also essential for the normal growth and development of sorghum plants. These micronutrients are involved in various biochemical and physiological processes, including enzyme activation, hormone synthesis, and nutrient uptake. Their deficiency can lead to various disorders and reduced yield.

To ensure the availability of micronutrients to sorghum plants, it is necessary to supply them through fertilizers or soil amendments. The application of micronutrient fertilizers can help overcome deficiencies and promote optimal growth and productivity. However, it is important to apply micronutrients in the right amounts and at the right time to avoid toxicity or nutrient imbalances.

Ways of increasing the productivity of sorghum through the use of micronutrients:

1. Soil testing and analysis: Before planting sorghum, it is important to conduct a soil test to determine the nutrient levels and any deficiencies. This will help identify which micronutrients need to be supplemented.

2. Fertilizer application: Once the soil analysis is done, farmers can apply fertilizers containing the necessary micronutrients. This can be done either by broadcasting the fertilizer across the entire field or by applying it directly to the plant's root zone [2].

3. Foliar application: In addition to soil application, micronutrients can also be applied directly to the leaves through foliar sprays. This method allows for quick absorption and utilization of the nutrients by the plants.

4. Use of micronutrient-rich amendments: Incorporating organic matter or compost into the soil can help increase the availability of micronutrients. These amendments can also improve soil structure and nutrient-holding capacity.

5. Timing of application: It is important to time the application of micronutrients appropriately. For example, applying iron during periods of active growth can help prevent deficiencies and promote healthy plant development.

6. Balanced nutrient management: Micronutrients should be applied in conjunction with macronutrients (such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium) to ensure a balanced nutrient profile. This will help optimize plant growth and productivity.

7. Regular monitoring: Farmers should regularly monitor the nutrient levels in the soil and plant tissues to ensure that deficiencies or toxicities are addressed promptly. Adjustments to application rates can be made based on these monitoring results [1].

8. Integrated nutrient management: Combining the use of micronutrients with other agronomic practices, such as crop rotation, cover cropping, and proper irrigation, can further enhance sorghum productivity. These practices help improve soil health and nutrient availability for the plants.

By implementing these strategies, farmers can effectively utilize micronutrients to increase the productivity of sorghum crops and achieve higher yields.

The use of micronutrients such as iron, zinc, manganese, copper, boron, molybdenum, and nickel has the potential to significantly increase the productivity of sorghum plants. These micronutrients play crucial roles in various physiological processes, including growth and development.

Deficiencies in micronutrients can have a detrimental effect on sorghum plant growth and productivity. For example, iron deficiency can lead to chlorosis, stunted growth, and reduced yield, while zinc deficiency can result in poor root development and decreased grain production. By providing these essential nutrients through fertilizers or soil amendments, farmers can optimize the growth and development of sorghum plants [4].

Addressing nutrient imbalances and ensuring optimal nutrient levels is crucial for maximizing sorghum crop yields. Micronutrient application can help correct deficiencies and improve

overall plant health and vigor. This, in turn, leads to increased productivity and profitability for farmers.

However, it is important to apply micronutrients judiciously to avoid toxicity issues. Excessive amounts of certain micronutrients can be harmful to plant health and development. Careful monitoring of nutrient levels and adjustment of application rates is necessary to prevent these negative effects.

Conclusion. In conclusion, the use of micronutrients such as iron, zinc, manganese, copper, boron, molybdenum, and nickel has the potential to increase the productivity of sorghum plants. These micronutrients play crucial roles in various physiological processes, including growth and development.

Deficiencies in micronutrients can significantly impair sorghum plant growth and productivity. Therefore, providing these essential nutrients through fertilizers or soil amendments can help optimize the growth and development of sorghum plants. By addressing nutrient imbalances and ensuring optimal nutrient levels, farmers can enhance the yield and quality of their sorghum crops. However, it is important to note that micronutrient application should be done judiciously to avoid toxicity issues. Excessive amounts of certain micronutrients can have detrimental effects on plant health and development. Therefore, it is crucial to carefully monitor nutrient levels and adjust application rates accordingly. Overall, incorporating micronutrients into sorghum cultivation practices has the potential to improve productivity and maximize crop yields. By ensuring that sorghum plants have access to the necessary micronutrients, farmers can enhance the overall health and vigor of their crops, leading to increased productivity and profitability.

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