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## Plants nutrient management as a factor enhancing the resilience agricultural production in conditions of extreme weather events

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### SUMMARY

- The main purpose of this paper is
- determining the effectiveness of agrochemical measures in plant nutrition management as a factor of improvement resilience of agricultural crops to climate change. Climate change and climate variability pose great risks to agricultural production.
  - Different mechanisms of plant nutrient management which aimed reducing the vulnerability of the "soil-plant" system to the extreme weather conditions during the growing season are discussed.
  - The high efficiency of the targeted

- management of plants nutrient by introducing a complex system of fertilization was shown on the example of long-time experiments. Research has proven that nutrition management is very effective and flexible method, which enhances an adaptation of agriculture production to extreme weather events and promotes the rational use of water during the growing season.

- Selecting of optimal fertilizers and methods of their application, as well as combination with other adaptive measures might significantly improve stability of harvests in conditions of extreme weather events.

**Key words:** nutrient management, climate change, extreme weather events, fertilizer, soil fertility, water use efficiency

## INTRODUCTION

- The agriculture faces a daunting challenge of providing adequate food to a growing world population, which is projected to increase to nine billion by 2050. The additional threat to agriculture from climate change in the form of unpredictable floods, droughts and other extreme weather events makes the task of providing enough food for the global population even more challenging (Clements et al., 2011).

- In most cases, extreme weather affects agriculture dramatically. Sometimes yield losses from adverse weather conditions can reach 45-50%, and under combination of several adverse events (late frost, the loss of snow cover, drought) - 70% or more.

- It is not surprising that most countries are interested in technologies for adapting agriculture to climate change, and Ukraine is no exception.

(Chapin, 1991; Brown, 1993).

(2014), Cooper et al.

10-20%

(Ajayi, 2008; Syampungani, 2010; Lasco, 2011; Schoeneberger, 2012).

(Milovskaya et al., 2001; Kagale et al., 2007; Vayner et al., 2014).

A wide range of adaptive measures ranging from technological options on-farm to improved farm managerial practices and political tools (e.g. adaptation action plans) exists in different countries. Some of such measures are listed below.

Appropriate genetic improvement of crop plants. Improvement of water use efficiency is often called as important target for genetic modification of crops (Brown, 1993; Chapin, 1991). A similar approach can be applied to the choice of varieties according to their demands for nutrients. Using the method of tissue diagnosis, Cooper et al. (2014) found that the response of different genotypes of plants for nitrogen-phosphorus supply provides up to 10-20% variability of yield.

Agroforestry as a way to reducing climate risks for rural development. Plant hedgerows and agroforestry are increasingly recognized as an obligatory element of sustainable land use in multi-functional landscapes. This measure enhances farmers' ability to adapt to climate change due to multiple benefits including food provision, supplementary income and environmental services (Lasco, 2011; Ajayi, 2008; Schoeneberger, 2012 and Syampungani, 2010).

Methods of induced resistance and adaptation of plants to abiotic stress. Brassinosteroids are the group of polyhydroxy steroids, which regulate a broad spectrum of physiological responses in plants. In addition to their growth regulatory activities, they have a significant role for stress-protection of plants. Brassinosteroids have been successfully used to increase plant resistance to drought (Milovskaya et al., 2001; Kagale et al., 2007; Vayner et al. 2014). This proved that salicylic and succinic acids are able to induce plant resistance to abiotic stressors associated with the effect of these acids on

(Kolupaev et al., 2011; Yastreb et al., 2013; Karpets et al., 2015)

(Climate Change, 2008; Gbetibouo, 2009; Living in a changing climate, 2015).

16 138

(LIFE HelpSoil project, 2013).

Jungk (2002),

antioxidant defense systems of plants (Kolupaev et al., 2011; Yastreb et al., 2013; Karpets et al., 2015).

In addition, to cope with projected changes in climate conditions, farmers can change their crop rotation to make best use of available water, adjust sowing dates according to temperature and rainfall patterns (Climate change, 2008; Gbetibouo, 2009; Living in a changing climate, 2015). The effectiveness of all above-mentioned methods has been well investigated and used in farming practice. Unfortunately, investigations regarding these directions of adaptation of plant production to extreme weather do not follow a multidisciplinary approach, as each issue is considered separately.

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Agrochemical methods in nutrient management as a factor increasing the resistance of plants to stress conditions. Increasing the temperature and CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in the air, changes in the distribution of rainfall during a year will be a significant impact on plant nutrition and soil processes, although the precise nature of these changes is quite uncertain. Despite the importance of balanced nutrition for plant resistance, traditional measures mitigation of such effects do not take into account water-nutrients interactions. For instance, only 16 from 138 research projects at the European Climate Adaptation Platform are related to soils, but only one of them has examined soil-plant interaction at least partially (LIFE HelpSoil project, 2013).

Given that soil moisture and temperature are primary determinants of nutrient availability and root growth, it is reasonable to expect that plant nutrition will be reflective of the changed climate.

As reviewed by Jungk (2002), availability of nutrients is a function of soil properties as well as location of nutrients relative to the root surface.

(Munns, 2002, Valliyodan and Nguyen, 2006, Ashraf and Foolad, 2007, Silva et al., 2009, Molden et al., 2010, Kano et al., 2011; Stiki et al., 2015).

(Matson et al., 1998; Hultgreen and Leduc, 2003).

(Brinkman and Sombroek, 1996),

- So nutrient acquisition by the plant reflects an array of physiological phenomena that govern nutrient transport to roots and different aspects of chemical and positional nutrient availability in the soil.

- The effects of drought on plant growth and water relation have been widely studied in recent years (Munns, 2002; Valliyodan and Nguyen 2006; Ashraf and Foolad, 2007; Silva et al. 2009; Molden et al., 2010; Kano et al., 2011; Stiki et al., 2015). However, studies on the effects on nutrient uptake and the consequences for physiological processes are scarce. One of these issues is that the effect of stress usually has combined character (e.g., cold stress induces lack of phosphorus, salt stress relates to lack of water, thermal stress - to lack of potassium, etc.). Warming and decreasing of precipitation during the spring-summer season affects the balance between C, N and P in soils and the availability of essential micronutrients for plants. It is established, that spring applications have a lower impact on greenhouse gases and are more effective than autumn-applied fertilizer in climate change condition (Matson et al., 1998; Hultgreen and Leduc, 2003). This facts show that new knowledge and methods for assessing changes of the nutrient regime in the face of climate change and increasing the action of external stress (such as drought, temperature rise, etc.) might lead to innovative solutions in the crop management under stressful conditions.

- Thus, adequate nutrient management can simultaneously improves soil quality and resilience against negative effects of climate change (Brinkman and Sombroek, 1996) to maintain agricultural productivity. Optimal and balanced use of nutrient inputs from mineral fertilizers will be a fundamental importance to adaptation agricultural

production to abiotic stress (drought, high temperatures etc.) (International Food Policy Research Institute, 1995).

At the same time improving nutrient and water use efficiency is a most critical and daunting research issue (Thompson, 2012). Efficient use of all nutrient sources should therefore be Stewardship (IPNI, 2012).

Nutrient stewardship embraces concepts such as balanced fertilization and site-specific nutrient management, improved placement and timing of applications, slow- and controlled-release and stabilized fertilizers, etc. (IPNI, 2012; Trenkel, 2010; University of Illinois Extension, 2004; Bruulsema, 2012). Positive impact of fertilizers to water use efficiency has been demonstrated by various researchers cited in proceedings of many international conferences (Monteith and Webb, 1981; van Duivenbooden et al., 1999; Rao and Ryan, 2004; IAEA, 2005).

Adequately fertilized soils promote rapid leaf area expansion and more rapid green ground cover, thus reducing evaporation and increasing evapotranspirational water use efficiency.

Therefore, high nutrient levels in soil exert additive effects on water use efficiency (Schmidhalter and Studer, 1998) so water and nutrients have interaction in respect of yield (Prihar et al., 1985; Aggarwal, 2000).

Adequate fertilizing of plants may also promotes drought tolerance (Lahiri, 1980; Wang et al., 2011).

Having nutrients in the right place – vertically and horizontally – ensures that plant roots can absorb enough of each nutrient at all times during the growing season.

Placement systems can be used to position fertilizer in relation to the growing roots. In recent years, precision farming

2012; Drechsel et al., 2015).  
 (Miroshnychenko et al., 2014).  
 (IPNI,

- technology has made possible to fine-tune nutrient application, varying doses according to variability of soils. The right place also depends upon the characteristics of the fertilizer material being applied. Therefore, for crops to access these nutrients, roots must contact the fertilizer reaction zone around the point of application.

- In particular, placement in or near the seed-row may increase access of crops to the nutrient early in the growing season and provide a “starter” effect that improves early-season growth (IPNI, 2012; Drechsel. et al., 2015). Localization of fertilizers deeper than usual promotes enhance efficiency of using nutrients especially in drying years (Miroshnychenko, Hladkikh et al. 2014).

- However, until today the practice of plant nutrition management almost not adapted to solving problems resilience of crops to stress conditions to climate change. The optimal ratio of nutritional elements in the nutrient management system, the role of the individual nutrient to improve water use efficiency, the optimum time for fertilization for eliminate the deficiency of nutrient still not determined.

- Purposeful management of the plant nutrition is one of the most flexible and at the same time effective method of plant adaptation to adverse extreme weather events. It is promoting the rational use of water and nutrient by plant in the growing season. That is why the main purpose of this paper is determining the effectiveness of agrochemical measures in plant nutrition management as a factor of improvement resilience of agricultural crops to climate change.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

### Experimental site

- Studies were carried out by the Agrochemistry Department NSC "ISSAR"
- in long term and temporary field experiments. As far back as 1969, a long-term stationary experiment was begun on Chernozem typical at the ISSAR Grakivske Experimental Station in Kharkiv region, East Ukraine (Figure 1), to investigate the influence of different kinds, rates, terms and conditions of mineral fertilizer application on the transformation of soil properties and crop yields, resilience of crops to different climate conditions of the growing season.



Fig. 1. The area of research (long-term stationary experiment - Kharkiv region, East Ukraine)

During the period 1969-83 three high-dose applications of mineral fertilizers (200, 400 and 600 kg.ha<sup>-1</sup>) were made to create four levels of nitrogen, phosphate, potash and nitrogen-phosphorus-potassium agrochemical backgrounds (natural, medium, heightened and high). The experimental field was laid out in 360 variants with



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( I) 5.5,  
3,9-4,5%, N 0,22%,  
0,12% 2,05%.

different doses, types of fertilizers, and frequency of their application.

For our investigation, we selected variants of high potassium and nitrogen-phosphorus-potassium agrochemical backgrounds. Prior to soil sampling, six rotations of 6-field crop rotation (vetch-and-oats for green forage, winter wheat, sugar beet, barley, maize silage, winter wheat) had been completed. Sampling of the 0–20 cm layer, before application of fertilizers, showed pH (KCl) 5.5, humus content 3.9–4.5 %, total N 0.22 %, total P 0.12 %, and total K 2.05 %.

Temporary field experiments were carried out on the Chernozem podzolic heavy loam (Kharkiv district Kharkiv region) and medium loam (Lokhvitskii district, Poltava region (Figure 2)).



**Fig. 2. The area of research (temporary field experiment - Poltava region, East Ukraine)**

Experimental design and agricultural practices in long-term stationary experiment

Soil samples were collected from 8 agrochemical backgrounds with different levels of fertilization (Table 1) and were analyzed to determine various dynamic forms of nitrogen, phosphorus and

potassium: mineral nitrogen ( $\text{NO}_3^- + \text{NH}_4^+$ ) (in extract of 1%  $\text{K}_2\text{SO}_4$ ), available phosphorus and potassium (in extract of 0.5N  $\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}$ ).

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**Table 1. Scheme of soil sampling and levels of fertilization on variants of the six crop rotations in long-term stationary experiment**

/Agrochemical background	/ Total amount of soil-assimilated nutrients from fertilizers, $\text{kg}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}$		
	N	$\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$	$\text{K}_2\text{O}$
/Virgin fallow	0	0	0
/Control, without fertilizer	0	0	0
/Manure, $140 \text{ t}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}$ [ /Background]	560	280	700
+ $\text{P}_{1800}$ ( , 1983 .) Background+ $\text{P}_{1800}$ (into reserve, after-effect since 1983)	560	2080	700
+ $\text{K}_{600}$ ( , 1983 .)/ Background+ $\text{K}_{600}$ (into reserve, after-effect since 1983)	560	280	1300
+ $\text{K}_{1200}$ ( , 1983 .)/ Background+ $\text{K}_{1200}$ (into reserve, after-effect since 1983)	560	280	1900
+ $\text{K}_{1800}$ ( , 1983 .)/ Background+ $\text{K}_{1800}$ (into reserve, after-effect since 1983)	560	280	2500
+ $\text{N}_{1800}\text{P}_{1800}\text{K}_{1800}$ ( , 1983 .) Background+ $\text{N}_{1800}\text{P}_{1800}\text{K}_{1800}$ (into reserve, after-effect since 1983)	2360	2080	2500

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- Fertilizers as a factor resilience crop to extreme weather events

- Water and nutrients are key determinants of plant growth and crop productivity. Is determined that productivity of water consumption in dry periods increases under the influence of fertilizers in 2-2,4 times, while for optimal humidification mode - only 1,4-1,6 times (Zaborin et al., 1998). In general, fertilizers contribute to increasing a total spending of soil moisture through transpiration due to larger crop. Simultaneously, moisture spending per unit production are decreasing.

Optimization of plant nutrition enhances the osmotic pressure and the hydration of colloids in plant cells, increases the amount of colloid-bound water in leaves, and intensifies the

2-2,4  
1,4-1,6  
(Zaborin et al., 1998).

(Konstantinov, 1978; Folberth et al., 2014).

(Nosko and Hladkikh, 2012).

20-25%

( 3).

215

22.3 t/ha<sup>-1</sup>

26.9 t/ha<sup>-1</sup>

N<sub>180</sub>P<sub>180</sub>

t/ha<sup>-1</sup> 35.7 t/ha<sup>-1</sup>.

K<sub>90</sub> K<sub>180</sub>

N<sub>180</sub>P<sub>180</sub>

3,4 t/ha<sup>-1</sup> , 2,6 t/ha<sup>-1</sup>.

assimilation of needed substances (Konstantinov, 1978; Folberth et al., 2014). The effect of increasing the resistance of agricultural crops to adverse weather conditions is also determined by structural changes of organoids in cells under high phosphorus nutrition. Residual phosphates which have been accumulated in soils from fertilizers are different from natural forms of this element. They are more active and available for plants what may be the hallmark of well-cultivated soils (Nosko and Hladkikh, 2012).

Our results in long-term experiment indicate that water use efficiency have been improved on the hernozem chernic with the high content of residual phosphates (Table 2). The use of water for one ton of dry matter of corn and sugar beet reduced by 20-25% on the soil with high content of phosphorus compared to the soil with low content. This difference is greatly reduced after fertilization but still significant.

In turn, the yield of sugar beet depends on the content of available potassium in the soil and weather conditions, especially rainfall per growing season (Table 3). In dry years, when rainfall during the growing season did not exceed 215 mm, sugar beet harvest had increased significantly with increasing the reserve in the soil potassium.

Without fertilizes harvest amounted from 22.3 t/ha<sup>-1</sup> on the soil with a low potassium level to 26.9 t/ha<sup>-1</sup> on the soil with a high level. Under the application of N<sub>180</sub>P<sub>180</sub> the harvest of sugar beet increase to 33.3 t/ha<sup>-1</sup> and 35.7 t/ha<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. Potassium fertilizers in doses of K<sub>90</sub> and K<sub>180</sub> on the background N<sub>180</sub>P<sub>180</sub> provided the maximum of extra-harvest on the soil with low potassium level that amounted 3.4 t/ha<sup>-1</sup> and 2.6 t/ha<sup>-1</sup> respectively. Application of potassium fertilizer does not provide crop growth on soils with high potassium content

(Petrichenko et al., 2013). - | (Petrichenko et al., 2013).

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**Table 2. Effect of fertilizers on crop yield and water consumption by crops in Chernozem typical (in long-term experiment) with different levels of phosphorus application**

The content of available phosphorus, mg <sub>25</sub> .kg <sup>-1</sup> soil	Experiment variants	Yield, t.ha <sup>-1</sup>	160 cm / Reserve of productive moisture in soil layer of 160 cm, m <sup>3</sup> .ha <sup>-1</sup>		Using water, m <sup>3</sup>		
			on the beginning of the growing season	at the end of growing season	evapo-transpiration	per 1 kg main products	per 1 t of dry matter
/ Corn for silage							
40-50 (Control, without fertilizer)	Control	34,0	1050	550	2280	0,67	2,87
	NPK	34,4	1000	460	2330	0,52	2,24
140-160 (Background+P <sub>1800</sub> )	Control	36,9	1140	510	2410	0,65	2,32
	NPK	41,2	890	460	2200	0,53	2,29
/ Sugar Beets							
40-50 (Control, without fertilizer)	Control	21,4	1040	210	3160	1,48	3,88
	NPK	38,9	1250	130	3750	0,96	3,07
140-160 (Background+P <sub>1800</sub> )	Control	33,4	980	180	3130	0,94	2,91
	NPK	40,9	1300	130	3510	0,89	2,66

- 2340 m<sup>3</sup>.ha<sup>-1</sup>/

- 1780 m<sup>3</sup>.ha<sup>-1</sup>;

Note. Rainfall during the growing season corn - 1780 m<sup>3</sup>.ha<sup>-1</sup>; sugar beet - 2340 m<sup>3</sup>.ha<sup>-1</sup>

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**Table 3. Effect of fertilizers on the sugar beet yield on Chernozem typical (in long-term experiment) with different content of mobile potassium depending on soil moisture conditions**

/ Rainfall mm *		Experiment variants	/ Yields of sugar beet in different agrochemical background with various mobile potassium content in the soil, t.ha <sup>-1</sup>							
for April-August	in a year		Control, without fertilizer (85-87 mg K <sub>2</sub> O.kg <sup>-1</sup> soil)		Background+K <sub>600</sub> (92-96 mg K <sub>2</sub> O.kg <sup>-1</sup> soil)		Background+K <sub>1200</sub> (96-117 mg K <sub>2</sub> O.kg <sup>-1</sup> soil)		Background +K <sub>1800</sub> (107-139 mg K <sub>2</sub> O.kg <sup>-1</sup> soil)	
			1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
215 (167-243)	517 (340-727)	Control	22,3	-	21,4	-	24,6	-	26,9	-
		N <sub>180</sub> P <sub>180</sub>	33,3	-	33,0	-	34,8	-	35,7	-
		N <sub>180</sub> P <sub>180</sub> + <sub>90</sub>	36,7	3,4	33,9	0,9	37,3	2,5	36,0	0,3
		N <sub>180</sub> P <sub>180</sub> + <sub>180</sub>	35,9	2,6	35,4	2,4	34,9	0,1	36,1	0,4
350 (313-389)	657 (564-711)	Control	33,4	-	31,6	-	34,5	-	34,2	-
		N <sub>180</sub> P <sub>180</sub>	40,1	-	42,4	-	43,5	-	44,1	-
		N <sub>180</sub> P <sub>180</sub> + <sub>90</sub>	38,9	-	39,5	-1,9	44,0	0,5	44,8	0,7
		N <sub>180</sub> P <sub>180</sub> + <sub>180</sub>	42,2	2,1	44,0	1,6	43,7	0,2	43,5	-0,6

1 – ;  
 2 – N<sub>180</sub>P<sub>180</sub>  
 Note: \* The average data for three years, in brackets - the fluctuations limits;  
 Count 1 - yields of sugar beet;  
 Count 2 - growth the harvest from potassium fertilizers to a variant N<sub>180</sub>P<sub>180</sub>.

- 350 mm  
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 N<sub>180</sub>P<sub>180</sub>  
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 6,4%.  
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 63%.

In years with higher amount rainfall (in average 350 mm from April to August) the sugar beet much weaker responsive to changes of potassium background. Without fertilizer, a slight increasing of yield is observed only on heightened and high background of potassium. In the variant N<sub>180</sub>P<sub>180</sub> yield increased more significantly (almost proportionally) simultaneously with increasing residual reserves of potassium in the soil.

Fertilizing efficiency reduced sharply in periods of long spring-summer drought. At that time the reaction of plants to fertilizers may be even negative for the reason of increasing of salts concentration in the soil solution. That is why potassium fertilizers should be applied in advance as correction of deficiencies is very difficult in stressful conditions.

Nitrogen application, improving transpiration/evapotranspiration ratio, have important management implications. And vice versa, the effectiveness of nitrogen fertilization largely depends on the agrochemical background in the conditions of spring low humidification. For instance, at the beginning of the growing season in 2015, reserves of productive moisture in 100 cm soil layer were assessed as insufficient and at the end of the growing season - as very low (Table 4). Thus, fertilizing by ammonium nitrate on the pure background had promoted to increasing of yield only by 6.4%. In contrast, the application a high dose of fertilizers on the good agrochemical background increased crop yield by 63%.

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**Table 4. Efficiency spring nitrogen fertilizing of winter wheat in different agrochemical backgrounds (in long-term experiment) under adverse conditions moisture software**

/ Experiment variants		100 cm / The reserves of productive moisture in 100 cm soil layer, mm		100 cm / The reserves of mineral nitrogen in 100 cm soil layer, kg.ha <sup>-1</sup>		Winter wheat yield t.ha <sup>-1</sup>
agrochemical background	additional nitrogen fertilizing, kg.ha <sup>-1</sup>	/ the beginning of the growing season	/ the end of the growing season	/ the beginning of the growing season	/ the end of the growing season	
Control (without fertilizers)	0	102	23	115	32	2,80
	60	-	14	-	76	2,98
Background+ <sub>1800</sub>	0	94	49	200	49	3,51
	60	-	5	-	73	4,60
Background+ N <sub>1800</sub> P <sub>1800</sub> K <sub>1800</sub>	0	116	33	167	34	3,50

- Influence the placement of nutrients in soil layers on the resilience of plants to extreme weather events

- One of agrochemical ways to increase crop resistance to drought is the purposeful differentiation of nutrients in soil layers. Fertilization promotes to formation a dense network of roots in the area of their placement the created conditions, allowing use even unproductive precipitation and increase supply the nutrients. As shown Trapeznikov et al. (1999), highly-saline roots which intensively formed in the area of fertilizer localization are able to perform function of secondary roots. This fact is extremely important in conditions of soil drought. According to Fateev (2002), localization of fertilizers is the most suited method for cultures with fibrous root system on all types of chernozems. Long-term studies indicate that after placing fertilizers in row total losses of soil moisture at creating per unit yield of winter wheat grain reduced by 15%, barley - by 30%, millet - by 24 %, and the yield of grain increased by 0,4-0,5 t.ha<sup>-1</sup>.

Trapeznikov et al. (1999),

Fateev (2002)

15%  
30%,

24%  
0,4-0,5 t/ha<sup>-1</sup>.

At the same time the spatial

location of the fertilizer row in the top layer of soil cannot be a single solution. Too shallow location of fertilizer leads to shallow placing of root system that have negative consequences in the case of dry conditions, especially in the first half of growing season. In turn, the deep location of fertilizer also has advantages and disadvantages. This is well illustrated by the research results of comparative effectiveness ammonium nitrate and liquid anhydrous ammonia on the Chernozem podzolic (Table 5).

The largest harvest from application of anhydrous ammonia was obtained in 2012-2013 (with 86-97 mm of rain in April-June) due to the effective using of nitrogen fertilizers from localization zone on the depth of 18 cm. It stimulated strong proliferation (branching) of roots and, consequently, increased their absorption of fertilizers. Roots "intercepts" most fast the fertilizer, which located in rows on the depth that is in three times lower than the depth of the seed placement. This is happened because moisture persists longer on this layer than in the surface layer of soil. In contrast to this, when soil moisture is a very favorable, deeply nitrogen application reduced the efficiency of fertilization.

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 2012-2013 . ( 86-97 mm  
 ),  
 18 cm. (

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**N<sub>100</sub>**

**Table 5. The yield of crop in rotation link during the use of different forms of nitrogen fertilizers in a dose of N100 on the Chernozem podzolic medium loam**

Kinds of nitrogen fertilizers	/ Crops yield in rotation link, t.ha <sup>-1</sup>					
	/ Maize (2012)		/ Winter wheat (2013)		/ Sunflower (2014)	
	Crop yield	Growth yield	Crop yield	Growth yield	Crop yield	Growth yield
Anhydrous ammonia	4,9-8,4	not defined	5,3	0,9	3,8	0,5
Ammonium nitrate	4,6-5,2	not defined	4,9	0,5	4,6	1,3

- Hypothesis about uneven reaction of plants to fertilizers under various weather conditions is confirmed by observations on barley. This is a culture, which has a short growing season so especially needs to nutrients in first stages of growing. An accurate diagnosis of nutrients deficiency for normal growth and development of barley helps to increase the adaptive capacity of "soil-plant" system during periods of extreme weather conditions. In our experiments the management of nutrition was carried using the method of functional diagnostics. This method was developed by B. Yagodin based on changes Hill's reaction of chloroplast suspension after adding of individual chemical elements.

- Thus needs of plant nutrition were detected in the tillering stage and phase of exit in the tube. Whereupon, appropriate fertilizers were applied (Table 6).

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**Table 6. Influence of foliar fertilizing on yields of grain of spring barley on Chernozem podzolic hard loam**

/ Variants of experiment	Yield of grains barley in different variants of fertilizers application, t.ha <sup>-1</sup>		
	without fertilizers	N <sub>30</sub> P <sub>30</sub> K <sub>30</sub>	N <sub>60</sub> P <sub>60</sub> K <sub>60</sub>
2012			
/ Without fertilization	3,00	3,10	3,30
in the tillering stage / Fertilizing	2,90	3,10	3,30
/ Fertilizing in the tillering stage and in the phase of exit in the tube	2,90	3,00	3,20
2014			
/ Without fertilization	2,00	3,45	4,05
in the tillering stage / Fertilizing	2,60	3,55	4,35
/ Fertilizing in the tillering stage and in the phase of exit in the tube	2,80	3,70	4,40

- However, very dry weather conditions during growing season in 2012 (only 63 mm of rain in April-July) were so



( 63 mm  
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 .  
 2014 . (272 mm  
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 0.35 t/ha<sup>-1</sup> 0.80 t/ha<sup>-1</sup>.

stressful for plants, that spring barley did not respond to foliar fertilizing neither growth yield, nor grain quality.

In contrast, under very good moisture in 2014 (272 mm of rain in April-July) growth yield from foliar fertilizing by complex macro- and micronutrients ranged from 0.35 t.ha<sup>-1</sup> to 0.80 t.ha<sup>-1</sup>.

## CONCLUSIONS

Increasing the resilience of the soil-plant system to climate change greatly depends on how effectively agriculture adapts to climate changes.

Adaptive measures include changes in land use, afforestation, genotype selection, crop rotation for most effective use of available soil moisture.

However, plant nutrition management also can be beneficial for increasing resilience soil-plant system and mitigating of climate change.

Water and nutrient availability of the soil-plant system show many interactions and has numerous mechanisms of self-regulation. Balanced fertilizer system increases water use efficiency and helps crops achieve optimal performance under limited moisture conditions.

Thus, management of soil nutrients is the focal issue that is shown to increase water use efficiency by 10-25%.

10-25%.

Research has shown that agrochemical measures in plant nutrition management are an important factor in strengthening of plant adaptation to extreme weather events during the growing season. Creating high background of residual phosphates significantly improves soil moisture use for the efficiency of nitrogen fertilizers. In return, the efficiency of nitrogen-

phosphorus fertilizer depends on reserves of the residual potassium in soil, which is particularly occurs in dry years. Through creation of a high phosphorus-potassium background, choice of optimal forms of fertilizers and the method of their application we might significantly improve a stability of crop growing at different hydrothermal conditions.

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## K - means cluster

1, 2, 1  
1, 5635, 1  
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## Comparison and grouping of the experimental maize hybrids by K – means clustering

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### SUMMARY

The results of the comparison and distribution of the 33 experimental hybrids and 2 standard inbreds using K-means clustering algorithm are presented in this study.

The investigated genotypes were evaluated based on the following indicators: grain yield, moisture at harvest, performance index, period of vegetation and percentage of grain in ear.

They are divided into 5 sets due to their genetic proximity, as follows: 11 hybrids in the first set, 10 hybrids in the second set, 4 hybrids in the third set, 5 hybrids in the fourth set and 7 hybrids in the fifth set. The cluster centers of the final clustering are pointed out. The classification of the studied hybrids will increase the objectivity of the evaluation and will enhance the selection process when working with them.

**Key words:** chemical mutagenesis, mutation selection, experimental hybrids, K-means clustering, agronomic traits

2 33  
-  
5  
:  
, Performance  
index,  
- 10,  
- 7  
- 4,  
- 11,  
- 5  
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,  
- ,

## INTRODUCTION

In the seventies of the last century in the Maize Institute - Knezha is initiated a program aiming at increasing the genetic diversity of elite lines and maize hybrids by experimental mutagenesis and subsequent mutation selection. Its use gives not only an opportunity for enrichment and expanding genetic diversity of the maize but also for development of wide range of mutant lines with valuable biological and economic qualities (Hristov, 1983; Morgun, 1983; Genov, 1988; Hristov and Hristova, 1995; Valkova, 2013; Ilchovska, 2013). The evaluation of their potential is crucial for the effectiveness of the selection process. To this purpose a cluster analysis could be performed. It is intended for distribution of multiple objects, simultaneously, by several criteria in relatively small number of relatively homogenous groups, called clusters.

(Hristov, 1983; Morgun, 1983; Genov, 1988; Hristov and Hristova, 1995; Valkova, 2013; Ilchovska, 2013).

The aim of this study was by using cluster analysis of the average K (K-means clustering) 33 experimental maize hybrids, obtained by chemical mutagenesis, to be compared and grouped based on their genetic similarity and to be evaluated based on several agronomic indicators (traits).

(K-means cluster), 33

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study is conducted in the period between 2004 and 2013 at the experimental field of Maize Institute – Knezha. As a result of the chemical mutagenesis performed in compliance with the methodology of Morgun (1983), modified by Hristov and Hristova (1995) and Genov (1988), at 1 diverse genetic material was obtained. New stabilized mutant lines were obtained after repeated self-pollination and selection based on the valuable economical qualities at 7 and 8 generations. In 2010 some of them were tested by using three testers: X 92

2004-2013 .

Morgun (1983)  
Hristov Hristova  
(1995); Genov (1988) 1

8

2010 .  
: 92 471, 4418 4390

(2011 2012 .)  
 (2013 .),  
 10 m<sup>2</sup> (Barov, 1982).  
 PR35F38 509 ( FAO  
 500-600).  
 Pi (  
 ),  
 ) (%  
 ).  
 (Duran and Odelle, 1977; , 2003),  
 (Ilchovska and  
 Ivanova, 2014).  
 K-  
 means cluster,  
 (Hartigan and Wong, 1979; Hartigan,  
 1985).  
 (Ward, 1963).  
 SPSS.

471, X 4418 and X 4390 by top-cross  
 method. Their hybrid combinations were  
 tested twice (in 2011 and 2012) in  
 preliminary variety trials. In the next year  
 (2013) experimental crosses that exceed-  
 ed the standard ones were tested in two  
 competitive variety trials by the method of  
 the Latin Rectangle at three repetitions  
 and with a size of the crop area of 10 m<sup>2</sup>  
 (Barov, 1982). The experiments were  
 conducted under the conditions without  
 irrigation, with accepted for the region  
 agro technique. For the purposes of the  
 comparison are used the following  
 standards: PR35F38 and Knezha 509  
 (group under FAO 500-600).

The analyzed variants are  
 evaluated for the following traits: grain  
 yield, harvest moisture, Pi (performance  
 index), vegetative period (period from  
 germination to silking) and % of the grain.  
 For the purposes of comparison and  
 grouping of the hybrids as well as for their  
 evaluation in terms of the studied traits  
 clyster analysis was performed (Duran  
 and Odelle, 1977; Vandev, 2003) as a  
 complementary method of the process of  
 selection and improvement (Ilchovska and  
 Ivanova, 2014). The used cluster  
 procedure is based on the method of K-  
 means cluster that requires the number of  
 the clusters to be determined in advance  
 (Hartigan and Wong, 1979; Hartigan,  
 1985). Euclidean distance square (Ward,  
 1963) was used as a measure of genetic  
 proximity. To avoid the difference in the  
 dimensions of the traits, the input  
 variables were standardized. In addition  
 dispersion analysis (ANOVA) was  
 reformed in order the impact of each  
 parameter on the formation of the cluster  
 to be assessed. The processing of the  
 data was done using the statistic program  
 SPSS

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In Table 1 are presented the  
 average values of grain yield, grain  
 moisture at harvest, vegetative period  
 until silking, percentage of grain in ear, as



Pi well as calculated Pi to the included standards of experimental maize hybrids. By performing several preliminary study using different number of clusters, the results of the K-means clustering show that the hybrids can be grouped in five clusters, providing that each of them enters into the cluster with the closest average value. The genotypes in each cluster have similar meanings in terms of definite set of indicators which distinguish them from the genotypes of the other clusters.

5

1.

2013 .

**Table 1. Results of testing of experimental maize hybrids in 2013 year**

Variants	Hybrids	Grain yield, kg/ha	Moisture, %	Vegetative period, days	Pi <sub>1</sub> , %	Pi <sub>2</sub> , %	% of the grain
/ first experiment							
1	St <sub>1</sub> PR35F38	9117	12,1	60	100	105	86,0
2	St <sub>2</sub> Kn 509	8122	11,3	57	95	100	83,0
3	E 3 13 4	9537	11,8	59	107	112	83,3
4	E 23 13 4	9021	9,9	55	121	127	85,0
5	E 18 13 4	8932	12,2	56	97	102	83,0
6	E 21 13 4	8875	12,0	56	98	103	84,0
7	E 32 13 4	8806	10,9	56	107	104	85,0
8	E 12 13 4	8736	12,3	56	94	99	83,7
9	E 13 13 4	8679	11,0	57	105	110	84,0
10	E 19 13 4	8604	10,6	55	108	113	83,0
11	E 6 13 4	8595	10,5	59	109	114	84,0
12	E 4 13 4	8585	11,0	56	104	109	83,0
13	E 10 13 4	8580	11,5	59	99	104	83,3
14	E 33 13 4	8483	11,3	57	100	104	83,0
15	E 8 13 4	8363	12,1	58	92	96	82,0
16	E 15 13 4	8316	10,7	56	113	108	85,0
17	E 14 13 4	8207	11,8	56	92	97	83,7
18	E 5 13 4	8187	11,3	57	96	101	83,0
19	E 7 13 4	8176	11,5	56	94	99	84,0
20	E 29 13 4	8107	12,3	55	87	92	82,0
21	E 31 13 4	8075	12,1	55	89	91	83,0
22	E 28 13 4	7823	12,5	56	80	87	83,0
/ second experiment							
23	St <sub>3</sub> PR35F38	8983	12,7	59	100	105	86,3
24	St <sub>4</sub> Kn 509	7948	11,8	57	96	100	84,0
25	E 24 13 5	9452	11,5	57	116	122	82,0
26	E 20 13 5	9313	11,7	58	113	118	84,0
27	E 11 13 5	9256	14,0	60	93	98	85,0
28	E 12 13 5	8923	13,3	55	95	100	83,0
29	E 7 13 5	8830	11,5	58	109	114	81,3
30	E 28 13 5	8881	11,3	58	111	117	85,0
31	E 5 13 5	8806	13,3	58	94	98	83,0
32	E 22 13 5	8775	11,3	58	110	115	82,0
33	E 3 13 5	8146	11,5	57	100	105	83,0
34	E 15 13 5	8074	13,0	62	88	92	80,0
35	E 21 13 5	7983	12,8	55	88	93	83,0
36	E 16 13 5	7838	13,0	61	85	90	83,0
37	4 13 5	7804	12,4	57	89	93	85,0

2

3

Table 2 shows the percentage distribution of the hybrids in the five clusters and also their participation at each of them. In Table 3 are shown the cluster centers at the final clusterization, i.e. the value of the parameters around which are grouped the hybrids in a specific cluster.

2.

**Table 2. Distribution of the hybrids in clusters**

No of the cluster	Variations in the cluster	Hybrids, number	Distribution of the hybrids, %
1	1,4,5,6,7,23,28,29,30,31,32	11	29,7 %
2	2,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,33,34	10	27,0 %
3	3,25,26,27	4	10,8 %
4	22,24,35,36,37	5	13,6 %
5	8,9,10,11,12,13,14	7	18,9 %
/ Total:		37	100 %

3.

**Table 3. Average values of the traits of the final cluster centers**

	Traits	Clusters				
		1	2	3	4	5
1	kg/ha /Yield kg/ha	8905	8177	9390	7879	8609
2	, % /Moisture, %	11,9	11,8	12,3	12,5	11,2
3	, /V. P, days	57,2	56,9	58,5	57,2	57,0
4	Pi <sub>PR35F38</sub> , %	104	95	107	88	103
5	Pi <sub>509</sub> , %	108	98	113	93	108
6	, % /% of the grain	84,0	82,9	83,6	83,6	83,4

29,7%.  
 11  
 PR35F38  
 (St<sub>1</sub>, St<sub>3</sub>)  
 9117 kg/ha 8775 kg/ha  
 84,0%  
 104% 108%.

The percentage of the hybrids forming first cluster was the highest one - 29,7 %. This cluster includes 11 hybrids, grouped together with the standard PR35F38 (St<sub>1</sub>, St<sub>3</sub>) at two filed experiments. They are characterized by a relatively high average grain yield whose values varied between 9117 kg/ha and 8775 kg/ha and with the highest average values of the traits % of the grain 84,0% and performance index of 104% and 108%. The latter reflect the correlation between the grain yield and the moisture



(Petrovska and Dimova, 2012; Ilchovska and Ivanova, 2013).

(4).

This assessment allows us to determine the most appropriate ones for further selection work in different directions.

It is known that the traits included in the clusterization participate with different weight in the separation of the genotypes in clusters (Petrovska and Dimova, 2012; Ilchovska and Ivanova, 2013, etc.). Performed here dispersion analysis shows that, from the studied traits, statistically significant influence on the formation of the clusters has the yield and performance indexes (Table 4).

The study conducted allows to be made the following conclusions:

#### 4.

**Table 4. Results of the ANOVA**

Traits	Clusters		Errors		F	Sig.
	SQ	df	SQ	df		
/ Yield, kg/ha	19637,200	4	96,204	32	204,12	0,000
/ Moisture, %	1,512	4	0,672	32	2,25	0,086
, / V. P, days	1,983	4	3,261	32	0,61	0,660
Pi <sub>PR35F38</sub> , %	0,037	4	0,006	32	6,36	0,001
Pi <sub>509</sub> , %	0,039	4	0,005	32	7,47	0,000
,% /% of the grain	1,605	4	1,630	32	0,99	0,430

### CONCLUSIONS

- 1.
- 2.
3. FAO (500-600).
5. FAO (400-500).

1. The enrichment of the genetic diversity in maize and its evaluation are of high importance for the effectiveness of the selection process by development of new inbreds and hybrids with the necessary qualitative parameters.
2. Experimental hybrids, included in the first and the third cluster, are of interest from selection point of view and should be included in agro - ecological trials of mid-late maturity group under FAO (500-600).
3. Genotypes belonging to the cluster 5 were with shorter vegetative period and lower grain moisture content at harvest. Their testing in agro - ecological variety trials allows to be included in mid-earlier group of maturity under FAO (400-500)

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## Influence of herbicides on the productivity of maize inbred lines

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### SUMMARY

In the period 2012-2014 was conducted filed experiment with maize inbred lines – parental component of hybrids on Muck soil type (typical black) without irrigation. The research is about efficiency, phytotoxicity and the impact of herbicide system *Gardoprim Plus Gold* (act. in. 312,5g/l S-metolachlorine + 187.5 g/l Terbutylazine) at a dose 4500 ml/ha + *Mistral extra* (act. in. 60 g/l Nicosulfuron) at a dose 750 ml/ha + *Pik 75 VG* (act. in. 750 g/kg Prosulfuron) at a dose 15 g/ha onto grain yield productivity in lines of 300-400 and 400-500 FAO groups. The results of the tests showed in 400-500 FAO lines is difference in grain yield between treated plots and business controls are mathematically proven, while in the lines of 300-400 FAO group there is no such link.

**Key words:** maize, lines, herbicide system, grain yield, phytotoxicity, maize

### INTRODUCTION

The usage of herbicides in maize is associated with the responses of individual genotypes to chemically active

2012-2014 .  
-  
( . -  
312,5 g/l S- + 187,5 g/l  
) 4500 ml/ha +  
( . - 60 g/l )  
750 ml/ha + 75 ( . - 750  
g/kg ) 15 g/ha

	<p>substances. In the literature are reports about sensitivity of some parental forms (maize lines) to different chemicals applied in vegetation.</p>
<p>( Stefanovic (1980) 4 6</p>	<p>Stefanovic (1980) examines the impact of <i>Titus 4VG</i> and <i>Eradikan 6E</i> on the height and yield productivity of inbred lines and their phytotoxicity. The majority of the lines are responsive to herbicides at the beginning of vegetation and then overcome their negative influence.</p>
<p>Grimalovskiy (1995) 2,4- 20%.</p>	<p>Grimalovskiy (1995) investigated the response of maize inbred lines herbicidal compositions based on 2,4-D amine salt and phenoxazine. Under the conditions of this experiment herbicides had had a negative impact on some lines, even in some forms reduction reached 20%.</p>
<p>Borukaev (1994); Borsht Kuznetsova (2008). (<i>Sorghum halepense</i> L./Pers.). (Kaloyanova et al., 2008; Stoimenova et al., 2008).</p>	<p>Similar results were confirmed in Borukaev (1994); Borsht and Kuznetsova (2008) research. Parental forms of corn hybrids are extremely sensitive to weed invasion on root perennials like <i>Sorghum halepense</i> L./Pers. Many authors study influence and distribution of <i>Sorghum halepense</i> onto the crops in farming fields (Kaloyanova et al., 2008; Stoimenova et al., 2008).</p>
<p>(Altuhova, 2005; Malakanova et al., 2013).</p>	<p>It has been found that, a numerous part of lines have no negative efficiency in treatment with leaf herbicides (Altuhova, 2005; Malakanova et al., 2013). The results show that different forms of maize react differently to herbicides, so the new chemical products should not be used without prior testing to the corresponding genotype.</p>
	<p>The purpose of this study was to determine the influence of soil and leaf herbicides on growth, development and productivity of maize inbred lines.</p>

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

2012-2014

( 312,5 g/l S-  
+ 187,5 g/l )  
4500 ml/ha

( 60 g/l  
750 ml/ha )  
75 ( 750 g/kg )  
15 g/ha.

1. - 300-400  
\* -94 -  
-307  
\* N-192 -  
-307

2. - 400-500  
\* -4418 -  
-435  
\* 46-52 -  
-435

3. - 500-600  
\* 11 -  
-442  
\* Mo 17RfC -  
: -509, -595, -  
613, -614, -683

4. - 600  
\* -103 -  
-611  
\* 23/78 -  
-613  
\* 4640 -  
-621  
\* 4661 -  
-620

4

55000 /ha

The assay was to performed in experimental fields of Maize Research Institute located in Knezha, Bulgaria during the period 2012-2014 a typical Muck soil type. For weed control was used soil herbicide *Gardoprim Plus Gold* (act. in. 312.5 g/l S-metolachlorine + 187.5 g/l Terbutylazine) at a dose of 4500 ml/ha. For the vegetation period was used the mixture of leaf herbicides *Mistral extra* (act. in. 60 g/l Nicosulfuron) at a dose 750 ml/ha and *Pik 75VG* (act. in. 750 g/kg Prosulfuron) at a dose of 15 g/ha.

Harvested lines are in the following groups of maturity:

1. A group of 300-400 FAO

\* AC-94 – the mother form of corn hybrid Knezha-307

\* N-192 – the father form of corn hybrid Knezha-307

2. A group of 400-500 FAO

\* XM-4418 – the mother form of corn hybrid Knezha-435

\* K-4652 – the father form of corn hybrid Knezha-435

3. A group of 500 - 600 FAO

\*K 11zC – father form of corn hybrid Knezha-442

\*Mo 17RfC – father form of corn hybrids Knezha: Kn-509, Kn-595, Kn-613, Kn-614, Kn-683A and others.

4. A group of over 600 FAO

\*C-103MB – father form of corn hybrid Knezha-611M

\*23-78C – mother form of corn hybrid Knezha-613

\*K 4640 – father form of corn hybrid Knezha-621

\* 4661 – mother form of corn hybrid Knezha-620

The experiment has pledged via the long plots method in 4 reps. Each line represents a separate variant that has been herbicide treated + adjacent economic control. The lines are seeded at the density of 55 000 plants/ha during the optimal sowing period for corn in the region of Knezha (the second ten ten days of April and during the three year



300 l/ha.

5-

1.

10- , 20- 40-

2. ( kg/ha)

14%.

4500 ml/ha +  
750 ml/ha + 75

15 g/ha  
EWRS

40- 10- , 20-

300-400

1.

duration of the trial).

Introduction of herbicides is made with a knapsack sprayer. The flow rate is 300 l/ha. The soil herbicide was introduced after sowing, before germination of the corn and weeds, and in vegetation period - in fifth leaf phase of the lines. Three weeks after treatment with leaf herbicides committed one mechanized cultivation in between the rows and a hand hoeing in the row. Economic control of each one of harvested lines was maintained free from weeds by hoeing only.

The following indicators are reported:

1. Phytotoxicity of the investigated herbicides.

For the purpose were made visual observations of the studied inbred lines and untreated plants – on the 10th, 20th and 40th day after treatment with leaf herbicides.

2. Grain yield (kg/ha)

The yield of grain from each repetition was calculated and the results are equivalent to a standard humidity - 14%. Maize was harvested in full maturity phase. The collected data is statistically evaluated the accuracy of differences.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The assessment of phytotoxicity of herbicide system *Gardoprim Plus Gold* at a dose of 4500 ml/ha. The + *Mistral Extra* at a dose 750 ml/ha + *Pik 75VG* at a dose of 15 g/ha is done by sight on the EWRS scale.

It was found that after the usage of herbicides of the 10th, 20th and 40th day have not been established damage to the crop plants. Their habit is not different from the plants of economic controls surveyed inbred lines.

The yield of group 300-400 FAO is presented in Table 1. In terms of the experiment the grain yield average for the period of study obtained by line AC-9434 versions of treatment is 2'892.38 kg/ha

-9434  
2892,38 kg/ha,  
2,29%  
( 1).

- which is only 2.29% more than the yield obtained by the industrial control (Table 1).

1. (kg/ha)  
300-400 -

**Table 1. Grain yield (kg/ha) of inbred lines of maize, a group 300-400 FAO – early**

(Inbred lines)	(Treated with herbicides)				(Control industrial)				%	(Significance of variation)
	2012	2013	2014	(average for the period)	2012	2013	2014	(average for the period)		
1. 9434	2763,48	2858,85	3055,00	2892,38	2572,71	2695,25	3214,50	2827,49	2,29	n. s.
2. N 192	3439,18	3860,20	4203,50	3834,26	3314,25	3774,75	4160,14	3749,71	2,25	n. s.

2012-2014 .

Significance of variation average for the period 2012-2014 year

9434  
For line AC 9434  
gDp<sub>5%</sub> = 253 kg/ha  
gDp<sub>1%</sub> = 425 kg/ha  
gDp<sub>0,1%</sub> = 610 kg/ha

9434  
For line AC 9434  
gDp<sub>5%</sub> = 302 kg/ha  
gDp<sub>1%</sub> = 455 kg/ha  
gDp<sub>0,1%</sub> = 720 kg/ha

N-192,

2,25%.

Grain yield results of line N-192 treated with the same herbicide system are one-way and it shows that the increase to economical control period average is 2.25%.

Differences in yield rates received from both lines in the versions with treatment compared with economic controls have not been proven mathematically.

In Table 2 is presented the influence of removing ways of weeds to grain yield in mid.early lines.

2.  
(  
) 4418,  
, 4319 kg/ha.  
( ) 3761 kg/ha,  
14,8% -  
5%.

Grain yield (average for the period) of line XM 4418 treated with herbicides is 4'319 kg/ha. From economic control was obtained (average for the period) 3'761 kg/ha, that is 14,8% less than the option with treatment. The differences is shown at a significance level of 5%.

2. (kg/ha)

400-500

Table 2. Grain yield (kg/ha) of inbred lines of maize, a group 400-500 FAO

(Inbred lines)	(Treated with herbicides)				(Control industrial)				%	(Significance of variation)
	2012	2013	2014	(average for the period)	2012	2013	2014	(average for the period)		
1. 4418	4431	4046	4480	4319	3953	3755	3576	3761	14,8	+
2. 4652	3754	3896	4140	3930	2659	2960	3061	3593	9,4	++

2012-2014 .

Significance of variation average for the period 2012-2014 year

4418

For line 4418

gDp<sub>5%</sub> = 563 kg/ha

gDp<sub>1%</sub> = 790 kg/ha

gDp<sub>0,1%</sub> = 1152 kg/ha

4652

For line 4652

gDp<sub>5%</sub> = 488 kg/ha

gDp<sub>1%</sub> = 624 kg/ha

gDp<sub>0,1%</sub> = 1011 kg/ha

2012-2014 .  
-4652  
9,4%

gDp 5%, 1% 0,1%.

The average grain yield for the period 2012-2014 from line K-4652 is 9,4% higher from treated, then economic control yield. The result is proven mathematically in gDp5%, 1% and 0,1%.

The results about influence of herbicide chemicals used in the experiment on grain yield show, in mid late lines KB 11zC and Mo 17RfC (average for the period) the yield of KB 11zC is with 19,3% more in treated, then the economic control. The difference is proven in gDp=5%.

11 Mo 17RfC

11  
19,3%

gDp=5%.

17RfC (

291,7 kg/ha,

( 9,4%  
3).

Mo )

Average for the period the grain yield from Mo 17RfC line is 291,7 kg/ha, which is with 9,4% higher from the economic control (Table 3).

3. (kg/ha)

500-600

Table 3. Grain yield (kg/ha) of inbred lines of maize, a group 500-600 FAO

(Inbred lines)	(Treated with herbicides)				(Control industrial)				%	(Significance of variation)
	2012	2013	2014	(average for the period)	2012	2013	2014	(average for the period)		
1. 11	3708	4295	4090	4031	2500	3826	3815	3380	19,3	+
2. Mo 17RfC	2501	2841	3409	2917	2360	2442	3197	2667	9,4	n. s.

2012-2014 .  
 Significance of variation average for the period 2012-2014 year

11	Mo 17RfC
For line 11	For line Mo 17RfC
gDp <sub>5%</sub> = 555 kg/ha	gDp <sub>5%</sub> = 258 kg/ha
gDp <sub>1%</sub> = 784 kg/ha	gDp <sub>1%</sub> = 422 kg/ha
gDp <sub>0,1%</sub> = 933 kg/ha	gDp <sub>0,1%</sub> = 783 kg/ha

Table 4 presents results of the influence of tested herbicide chemicals onto grain yield of group 600 and over FAO inbred maize lines.

600  
 4.  
 4. (kg/ha)  
 600

**Table 4. Grain yield (kg/ha) of inbred lines of maize, a group 600 FAO**

(Inbred lines)	(Treated with herbicides)				(Control industrial)				%	(Significance of variation)
	2012	2013	2014	(average for the period)	2012	2013	2014	(average for the period)		
1. -103	3620	4198	4634	4151	3784	4045	4359	4063	2,17	n. s.
2. 23/78	3439	3781	4109	3776	3206	3538	3979	3574	5,65	+
3. 4640	2453	3133	3538	3041	2097	2948	3278	2774	9,63	+
4. 4661	2706	3199	3630	3178	2416	2990	3252	2886	10,11	+

2012-2014  
 Significance of variation average for the period 2012-2014 year

-103	23-78	4640	4661
For line C-103 MB	For line 23/78 C	For line K 4640	For line 4661
gDp <sub>5%</sub> = 2832 kg/ha	gDp <sub>5%</sub> = 195 kg/ha	gDp <sub>5%</sub> = 251 kg/ha	gDp <sub>5%</sub> = 331 kg/ha
gDp <sub>1%</sub> = 4150 kg/ha	gDp <sub>1%</sub> = 313 kg/ha	gDp <sub>1%</sub> = 523 kg/ha	gDp <sub>1%</sub> = 555 kg/ha
gDp <sub>0,1%</sub> = 7440 kg/ha	gDp <sub>0,1%</sub> = 720 kg/ha	gDp <sub>0,1%</sub> = 854 kg/ha	gDp <sub>0,1%</sub> = 022kg/ha

Grain yield from treated line C-103MB is 2,17% higher, then the economic control but the difference is not mathematically proven.

Grain yield (average for the period of study) of line 23-78C treated with herbicide chemicals is 3'776 kg/ha. This result is proven at a significance level of 5%. From the same line in economic control the yield is 3'574 kg/ha average for the period 2012-2014, which is with 5,65% less then the treated with herbicides.

Grain yield from inbred line K 4640BC herbicide treated plot is 3'041 kg/ha, that is with 9,63% higher then the

9,63%

5%.

4661

3178 kg/ha

( 2012-2014 ),

10,1%

gDp=5%.

2012-2014

5-

3-

)

economic control and it is mathematically proven by significance level of 5%.

By the conditions treated with the studied herbicide chemicals for the period 2012-2014, inbred line KC 4661 is gained grain yield of 3'178 kg/ha, that is 10,1% and is proven by significance level of 5%.

Results for the period 2012-2014 show, that from all studied inbred lines the highest grain yield is reached in mid late lines by the studied herbicide combination. In these lines has been observed the highest yield production against the economic control expressed in percentage for the all period of study. This fact can be explained by the longer vegetation period of the mid late group. The early time treatment with herbicides do not cause stress to the timely reproductive organs formation, so therefore higher yields.

The early inbred lines have much fast growth and treatment with herbicides till Stage V-5 of the vegetation has the same productive effect like the economic control.

This shows that, treatment with herbicides has a better effect onto parental components in mid late and late (FAO) group of maturity because of the lower temps of vegetation and development of the researched genotypes.

The risk for this groups of maturity is weed development in the early stages – it can cause compromising yields. Therefore in case in missing the terms of implementing herbicides (that is Stage V-3 of the lines) and even after that mechanical cultivation (like in the economic controls) the productivity potential on the plants won't be restored.

➤ ( . - 312,5 g/l S- +  
 187,5 g/l ) 4500  
 ml/ha  
 ( . - 60 g/l )  
 750 ml/ha + 75 ( . -  
 750 g/kg ) 15 g/ha

➤ ,  
 ,  
 , -  
 , -  
 , -  
 N 192 19,3% 2,25%  
 11

➤ ,  
 ,  
 , -  
 , -

## CONCLUSIONS

- The system *Gardoprim Plus Gold* (act. in. 312.5 g/l S-metolachlorine + 187.5 g/l Terbutylazine) at a dose of 4500 ml/ha. For the vegetation period was used the mixture of leaf herbicides *Mistral extra* (act. in. 60 g/l Nicosulfuron) at a dose 750 ml/ha and *PIK 75VG* (act. in. 750 g/kg Prosulfuron) at a dose of 15 g/ha has no phytotoxic effect on growth and reproductive manifestations of maize inbred lines – parental components of hybrids.
- Grain yield received from all maize inbred lines treated with herbicides is higher than the surrounding untreated control of corresponding genotype. The percentage increase from 2,25% - line N192 to 14,8% in XM 4418.
- The need of using herbicides in maize inbred lines is necessary condition, therefore in the early stages the lines are very sensitive to weed attacks. Weed control is important condition to gain well leveled crops of a hybrid parental lines.

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