

(*Medicago sativa* L.)

„ „, 7007 „

Productive potential of the progenies of elite alfalfa clones (*Medicago sativa* L.)

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Received: 16.04.2018

Accepted: 26.04.2018

Published: 14.06.2018

SUMMARY

The aim of present study was to determine dry matter yield in progenies of eight elite alfalfa clones – Prista 2, 5 5, 5 7, 325, 8 Y-1, 97, 8 Y-2 and 10, of local origin. The study was carried out without irrigation in the experimental field of the Institute during 2002-2005.

The summarized results showed significant differences in total forage productivity from 235,16 kg da⁻¹ (average for elite progenies) during the first growing season to 1907,65 kg da⁻¹ in the third year. It was found that the differences between progenies studied concerning dry matter yield were decreasing at each subsequent growing season. For study period the highest mean annual dry matter yield for 5 A5, 5 A7, 8 Y-2 and 8 Y-1 progenies were found 1267,73 kg da⁻¹; 1251,24 kg da⁻¹; 1206,36 kg da⁻¹; 1193,54 kg da⁻¹, respectively. Regarding dry matter yield the elite progenies were distinguished with high genetic potential and a better combining ability and they are of interest for a breeding.

Key words: alfalfa, elite progenies, dry matter yield

325, 8 -1, 2, 5 5, 5 7, 97, 8 -2 10, 2002-2005 .., 235,16 kg da⁻¹ (1907,65 kg da⁻¹ 5 5 A5, 5 A7, 8 Y-2 and 8 Y-1 1267,73 kg da⁻¹; 1251,24 kg da⁻¹; 1206,36 kg da⁻¹ 1193,54 kg da⁻¹.

INTRODUCTION

(*Medicago sativa* L.) (2n=4x=32), (Brummer, 2004; Robins et al., 2008). (Strbanovic et al., 2017). (Hill and Elgin, 1981; Hill et al., 1988). (Kati et al., 2008). Kati et al. (2011) half-sib full-sib (Kertikova, 2000; Kertikova, 2008; Annicchiarico et al., 2015). Rotili et al., (1999)

Cultivated alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.) is an autotetraploid (2n=4x=32), perennial entomophilic, cross-pollinated legume species with high genetic complexity (Julier et al., 2003; Brummer, 2004; Robins et al. 2008). Creation of new alfalfa varieties is a very time-consuming process of selecting plants with improved qualities in several cycles, in order to produce varieties significantly better than others (Strbanovic et al., 2017).

Alfalfa varieties are genetically broad-based synthetic populations traditionally developed using intra-population breeding methodologies, in which selected parents are randomly intermated and their progenies advanced through several generations of open-pollination (Hill and Elgin, 1981; Hill et al., 1988).

The success in developing alfalfa varieties depends the most on the breeding method used (Kati et al., 2008). Kati et al. (2011) argue that the progress of alfalfa breeding is slow, most notably due to the use of the simple methods of selection, such as mass selection, individual selection, phenotypic selection, recurrent selection, and so on. For development of synthetic varieties fodder legumes, including alfalfa, have been suggested a number of selection systems: selection of the initial material based on assessment of the clones, selection of the half-sib or full-sib progenies or selfed progenies of different generations of self-pollination (Kertikova, 2000; Kertikova, 2008; Annicchiarico et al., 2015).

According Rotili et al. (1999) two breeding schemes proposed at different times are at disposal of alfalfa breeders to create new alfalfa varieties. Presented simplified, the first scheme include the following methodical steps: a) phenotypic analysis of the parental populations; b) phenotypic selection of parental plants; and c) synthesis of new populations. The second scheme is improved by assessing the genotype values of the plant prior synthesis of the new population.

<p>Mili et al. (2011)</p>	<p>Therefore, there is a progeny test from polycross, topcross, etc. in the second scheme.</p> <p>Mili et al. (2011) also consider that the progeny tests provide information about the genetic value of the parental components based on the values found in their progeny and hence their great importance in the breeding of perennial forage crops.</p>
<p>Woodfield and Brummer (2001), Mili et al. (2010)</p>	<p>Woodfield and Brummer (2001), Mili et al. (2010) report that quantitative traits such as yield and quality which inheritance is complex in nature require breeding procedures that include progeny tests.</p>
<p>Riday and Brummer (2005)</p>	<p>According to Riday and Brummer (2005), progeny tests play an important role in the choice of heterotic parental populations of alfalfa. The same authors also note the importance of these tests for the genetic gain obtained in each cycle of selection.</p>
<p>(Rumbaugh et al., 1988; Riday and Brummer, 2002; Riday and Brummer, 2006). Rowe and Hill (1999), Riday and Brummer (2002), Li and Brummer (2009), Mili et al. (2010)</p>	<p>Although a number of different progeny tests are used in alfalfa breeding, alfalfa breeders commonly use tests of open pollination progenies (Rumbaugh et al., 1988; Riday and Brummer, 2002; Riday and Brummer, 2006). According to Rowe and Hill (1999), Riday and Brummer (2002), Li and Brummer (2009), Mili et al. (2010) the importance of open pollination in alfalfa and crossing can be explained by the accumulation of desirable alleles in progenies.</p>
<p>(Mili et al., 2011).</p>	<p>The open pollination tests are important for evaluating parental alfalfa populations in breeding for dry matter yield, especially because they make it possible to perform larger seed increases (Mili et al., 2011).</p> <p>The aim of present study was to determine dry matter yield in eight elite alfalfa progenies created at IASS "Obraztsov chiflik" - Rousse.</p>

2002-2005 .,
 „ „,
 – 2, 5 5, 5 7,
 325, 8 -1, 97, 8 -2
 10,

2002 .

10 m².
 (kg da⁻¹)

(200 g)
 105

kg da⁻¹.
 2

4

(ANOVA),

e

a

Duncan's multiple range test.

STATGRAPHICS PLUS.

(2002-2005 .),

(1).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The experiment was carried out from 2002 to 2005, without irrigation at the experimental field of Institute of Agriculture and Seed Science „Obraztsov chiflik” - Rousse. The progenies of eight elite alfalfa clones – Prista 2, 5 5, 5 7, 325, 8 Y-1, 97, 8 Y-2 and 10 of local origin created by polycross were studied. The experiment was sown in the spring of 2002 in a randomized block design with four replications and harvesting plot size 10 m².

The forage yields (kg da⁻¹) were determined by regrowth, years and average for the study period in early flowering stage by weighing the green biomass.

The dry matter content was calculated by drying the green mass sample (200 g) to constant weight in a drying chamber at 105°C. Data for green mass yield and dry matter content to dry matter yield determination (kg da⁻¹) were used. In the first experimental year 2 cuttings were made, and in the next three years 4 cuttings.

For weather characterization the data for precipitations and average monthly air temperatures from meteorological station of the Institute were used.

The data for dry matter yield were analysed by the One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) method. Significance of differences was tested by Duncan's multiple range test (DMRT). The SPSS Statistics 19 software product was used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

During the study period of elite progenies (2002-2005) significant differences in both temperature sums and the amount of rainfall and its distribution by months, years and long-term norm were observed (Figure 1).

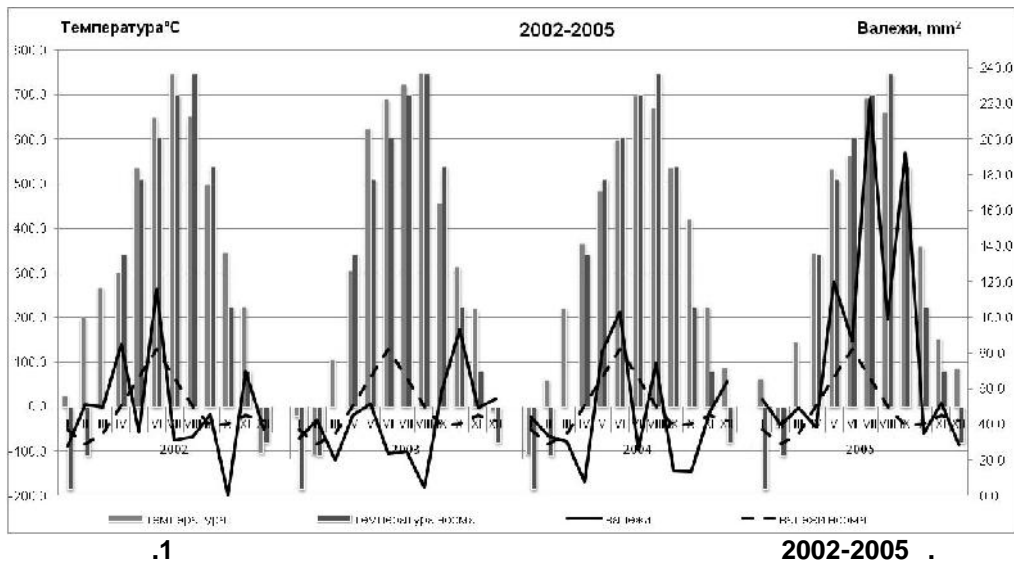


Fig. 1 Meteorological characteristic of 2002-2005

mm) - (227,4 (X-III)
 2001-2002 . 215,5 mm
 - 235,1 mm

2003-2004
 69,5 mm.

2003
 (-)
 165,4 mm),

Total rainfall (221,4 mm) for the autumn-winter (October 2001 – March 2002) was close to the long-term norm (235,1 mm) and provided good moisture supply. The sufficient moisture and high temperatures in March ensured good germination and stand density of elite progenies. The following months (May, June, July and August) of alfalfa vegetation were characterized by temperature sums above the average for long-term period and rainfall below the average norm, which were unequally distributed. The vegetation of alfalfa stands were prolonged and two regrowths were formed.

In the coming years of the study, the amount of precipitation in the autumn-winter period was equal to the average the long-term norm and in 2003-2004 exceeded the norm by 69,5 mm. The good moisture supply provided a good start to alfalfa plants. In 2003, the active alfalfa growing season (April-August) was characterized by temperatures above the average long-term norm and rainfall significantly below norm (by 165,4 mm), which did not allow alfalfa to manifest its yield potential.

2004 .

2005 .

21,2 mm 156,8

mm.

2002-2005 .

5 7 (134, 25 kg da⁻¹), 8 -1
(122, 25 kg da⁻¹) 5 5 (118, 50 kg da⁻¹).

101,50 kg da⁻¹ 10

176,00 kg da⁻¹
325 (1).

1.

The amount of precipitation and the temperature sums for the period April-August 2004 did not deflect to the long-term norms. The favourable weather conditions ensured good growth and development of the studied elite progenies in all regrowths.

The spring and summer of 2005 were characterized by temperature sums close to the average the long-term norm and significant rainfall in May and July exceeding the norm by 21,2 mm and 156,8 mm, respectively. In conclusion, can be noted the meteorological conditions for the 2002-2005 period were relatively favourable for expression of productive potential of elite progenies.

The reported values for forage productivity in the year of stand establishment showed that in a first regrowth the best phenotypic expression of genetic potential for the trait the progenies of 5 A7 clone (134, 25 kg da⁻¹) 8 Y-1 clone (122, 25 kg da⁻¹) and 5 A5 (118, 50 kg da⁻¹) was distinguished. There were found some deviations from the trend outlined in the second regrowth. The values for dry matter yield were in the range of 101,50 kg da⁻¹ for 10 to 176,00 kg da⁻¹ reported for progeny of 325 clone (Table 1). The progenies fell into different statistical groups with significant differences in the values of the trait.

, 2002 .

Table 1. Forage productivity of alfalfa elite progenies in first growing season, 2002

Elite progenies	/ Dry matter yield, kg da ⁻¹		
	I	/ regrowth I	/ Total
2 / Prista 2	93,25	118,75	212,00 de
5 5	118,50	117,50	236,00 bc
5 7	134,25	124,50	258,75 b
325	106,30	176,00	282,30 a
8 -1 / 8 Y-1	122,25	119,50	241,75 b
97	105,00	110,75	215,75 cd
8 -2 / 8 Y-2	110,25	133,00	243,25 b
10	90,00	101,50	191,50 e
/ Mean	109,98	125,19	235,16
SE			21,55

LSD 99,5% –

LSD 99,5% – values in the columns followed by the same letter are not significantly different

The summarized data for the first productive year showed that dry matter yield values in all progenies were relatively close to the mean one for the year. It may be noted that the studied progenies were characterized with relatively high potential for forage productivity, except Prista 2 and 10 produced lower annual yield.

During the second growing season the phenotypic expression of the trait in regrowths was in a wide range. Data showed that the determined values in all progenies decreased from first to fourth regrowth (Table 2).

2.
, 2003 .

Table 2. Forage productivity of alfalfa elite progenies in second growing season, 2003

Elite progenies	/ Dry matter yield, kg da ⁻¹				
	I regrowth	II regrowth	III regrowth	IV regrowth	Total
2 / Prista 2	369,00	353,30	181,50	71,00	974,80 bc
5 5	504,00	409,30	163,20	92,80	1169,30 a
5 7	469,00	345,50	179,80	99,00	1093,30 ab
325	405,00	328,80	152,00	84,80	970,60 bc
8 -1 / 8 Y-1	425,80	347,30	161,80	88,20	1023,10 abc
97	399,50	332,00	153,50	81,00	966,00 bc
8 -2 / 8 Y-2	478,80	338,00	158,20	92,50	1067,50 abc
10	396,80	289,80	135,50	75,50	897,60 c
/ Mean	430,99	343,00	160,69	85,60	1020,28
SE					172,25

LSD 99,5% –

LSD 99,5% – values in the columns followed by the same letter are not significantly different

5 5, 8
-2, 504,00 kg da⁻¹ 478,80 kg
da⁻¹.

In the first regrowth the highest forage productivity for No 5 A5 and No 8 Y-2 progenies were found, which produced a dry matter yield 504,00 kg da⁻¹ and 478,80 kg da⁻¹, respectively. In the following regrowths there were some exceptions from this tendency and different degrees of trait expression in progenies.

Analysis of the results showed that in the second, third and fourth cuttings the value differences between the studied progenies were in narrower range compared to those in first regrowth. With the highest forage productivity in second

5 5 (1169,30 kg da⁻¹),
5 7 (1093,30 kg da⁻¹).

- growing season No 5 A5 (1169,30 kg da⁻¹)
- was distinguished, followed by No 5 A7
- (1093,30 kg da⁻¹). The other progenies
- produced annual dry matter yields close
to the mean values for the trait.

The data for yields produced in
regrowths during the third productive year
wer similar to those in the second (Table
3).

(3).

3.

, 2004 .

Table 3. Forage productivity of alfalfa elite progenies in third growing season, 2004

Elite progenies	/ Dry matter yield, kg da ⁻¹				
	I regrowth	II regrowth	III regrowth	IV regrowth	Total
2 / Prista 2	657,50	533,00	389,50	292,3	1872,3 abc
5 5	671,20	575,30	392,20	321,9	1960,6 ab
5 7	700,00	607,80	382,80	341,3	2031,9 a
325	656,50	538,50	370,50	318,3	1883,8 abc
8 -1 / 8 Y-1	661,50	569,30	374,50	340,0	1945,3 ab
97	627,20	561,00	362,50	298,1	1848,8 bc
8 -2 / 8 Y-2	691,00	578,10	370,50	305,1	1944,7 ab
10	602,80	540,70	359,00	271,3	1773,8 c
/ Mean	658,46	562,96	375,19	311,04	1907,65
SE					147,64

LSD 99,5% –

LSD 99,5% –values in the columns followed by the same letter are not significantly different

602,80 kg da⁻¹ 10 700,00
kg da⁻¹ 5 7 271,30 kg da⁻¹
341,30 kg da⁻¹

5 7

da⁻¹).

(2031,90 kg

5 5, 8 -1

8 -2.

(4).

- It is obvious that in the second and
- third regrowths the elite progenies are
- equally productive. More considerable
- differences in dry matter yields at first and
- fourth cuttings were found from 602,80 kg
- da⁻¹ for No 10 to 700,00 kg da⁻¹ for No 5 A7
- and from 271,30 kg da⁻¹ to 341,30 kg da⁻¹
- for the same progenies, respectively.

The summarized results showed that
No 5 A7 progeny was characterized by the
best phenotypic expression of the trait in
three regrowths, produced a significantly
higher total dry mass yield (2031,90 kg da⁻¹).
No 5 A5, No 8 Y-1 and No 8 Y-2 progenies
whit good productive potential were also
determined.

The data in the last year of study
showed keeping the tendency of reducing
the productivity of the elite progenies
studied in each subsequent regrowths in
the second and third growing season
(Table 4).

4.

, 2005 .

Table 4. Forage productivity of alfalfa elite progenies in fourth growing season, 2005

Elite progenies	/ Dry matter yield, kg da ⁻¹				
	I regrowth	II regrowth	III regrowth	IV regrowth	Total
2 / Prista 2	623,00	392,00	156,00	131,00	1302,00 c
5 5	689,00	553,00	259,00	204,00	1705,00 a
5 7	715,00	520,00	236,00	150,00	1621,00 ab
325	690,00	462,00	205,00	145,00	1502,00 ab
8 -1 / 8 Y-1	668,00	488,00	195,00	213,00	1564,00 ab
97	644,00	490,00	234,00	147,00	1515,00 ab
8 -2 / 8 Y-2	654,00	518,00	202,00	196,00	1570,00 ab
10	616,00	499,00	246,00	138,00	1499,00 ab
/ Mean	662,38	490,25	216,63	165,50	1534,75
SE					182,31

LSD 99,5% –

LSD 99,5% – values in the columns followed by the same letter are not significantly different

- The reported value differences for the elite progenies from the mean values
- were not significant in all individual regrowths. It was not found statistically
- significant differences between the
- progenies of the elite clones during the
- fourth growing season, except the Prista
- 2 progeny, produced a significantly lower
- dry matter yield (1302,00 kg da⁻¹).
-
- The data about a productive
- potential of progenies for the study period
- 5. are presented in Table 5. The
- summarized results indicated significant
- differences in dry matter yields from
- 235,16 kg da⁻¹ (average for elite
- progenies) during the first growing
- season to 1907,65 kg da⁻¹ in the third one
- (Table 5).
- Data analysis also showed that
- regarding dry matter yield the differences
- between progenies studied were
- decreasing at each subsequent growing
- season. For the four-year period the
- reported values in progenies of elite
- clones were close to the mean value
- (1174,46 kg da⁻¹) for the trait. It could be
- noted that elite progenies were
- distinguished with good phenotypic
- expression of the trait and with relatively
- equal productivity. For the four-year
- period the highest mean annual dry

8 -1, 1251,24 kg da⁻¹; 1193,54 kg da⁻¹.
 5 5, 5 7, 8 -2
 1267,73 kg da⁻¹; 1206,36 kg da⁻¹.

matter yields for 5 A 5, 5 A 7, 8 Y-2 and 8 Y-1 progenies were found 1267,73 kg da⁻¹; 1251,24 kg da⁻¹; 1206,36 kg da⁻¹ 1193,54 kg da⁻¹, respectively.

5.

2002-2005

Table 5. Forage productivity of alfalfa elite progenies from 2002 to 2005

Elite progenies	/ Dry matter yield, kg da ⁻¹				
	2002	2003	2004	2005	/ Mean
2 / Prista 2	212,00	974,80	1872,30	1302,00	1090,28 c
5 5	236,00	1169,30	1960,60	1705,00	1267,73 a
5 7	258,75	1093,30	2031,90	1621,00	1251,24 a
325	282,30	970,60	1883,80	1502,00	1159,68 bc
8 -1 / 8 Y-1	241,75	1023,10	1945,30	1564,00	1193,54 ab
97	215,75	966,00	1848,80	1515,00	1136,40 bc
8 -2 / 8 Y-2	243,25	1067,50	1944,70	1570,00	1206,36 ab
10	191,50	897,60	1773,80	1459,00	1090,48 c
/ Mean	235,16	1020,28	1907,65	1534,75	1174,46
SE					99,50

LSD 99,5% –

LSD 99,5% – values in the columns followed by the same letter are not significantly different

According to the comprehensive evaluation of data on forage productivity, which determine the economic significance of this crop the progenies could be defined with better combining ability which can be successfully used to developing a new alfalfa candidate variety.

CONCLUSIONS

– 235,16 kg da⁻¹ ()
 1907,65 kg da⁻¹

The summarized results showed significant differences in total forage productivity from 235,16 kg da⁻¹ (average for elite progenies) during the first growing season to 1907,65 kg da⁻¹ in the third year.

It was found that the differences between progenies studied concerning dry matter yield were decreasing at each subsequent growing season.

7, 8 -2 8 -1, 1267,73 kg da⁻¹; 1251,24 kg da⁻¹; 1206,36 kg da⁻¹ 1193,54 kg da⁻¹.

For study period the highest mean annual dry matter yield for 5 A 5, 5 A 7, 8 Y-2 and 8 Y-1 progenies were found 1267,73 kg da⁻¹; 1251,24 kg da⁻¹; 1206,36 kg da⁻¹ 1193,54 kg da⁻¹, respectively.

Regarding dry matter yield the elite progenies were distinguished with high genetic potential and a better combining ability and they are of interest for a breeding.

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I.

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Breeding progress achieved of Bulgarian maize hybrids from different vegetation groups I. Grain yield

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Received: 13.04.2018

Accepted: 27.04.2018

Published: 14.06.2018

SUMMARY

15 (2001-2015),
 - 3
 6 4 . -
 ,
 ,
 ()
 : 300 – 400 – 7190
 kg/ha; 400 – 500 – 7330 kg/ha;
 500 – 600 – 7165 kg/ha 600 –
 7057 kg/ha.
 - 400 – 500
 ,
 .
 ($x_i - b_i$), -
 (400 – 500).
 kg/ha (300 – 400), 97
 -

For fifteen years period (2001-2015) different number of MRI - Knezha hybrids were tested in ecological trials including 3 to 6 locations and 4 FAO groups. Aggregated results for the grain yield describe a substantial tendency of achieved breeding progress for that trade independently from different number of hybrids tested every year and fluctuation of agrometeorological environments for the period. Grain yields by FAO groups are distributed (as general means) as follows: FAO 300 – 400 – 7190 kg/ha⁻¹; FAO 400 – 500 – 7330 kg/ha⁻¹; FAO 500 – 600 – 7165 kg/ha⁻¹ and FAO 600⁺ – 7057 kg/ha⁻¹. The middle-early group (FAO 400 – 500) has a relatively highest grain yield, but the late group (600⁺) has the biggest variation. General adaptation index ($x_i - b_i$) values point out the best position of middle-early hybrids (FAO 400 – 500) again.

By maturity groups average annual increase is 97 kg/ha⁻¹ for early hybrids (FAO 300 – 400) which is the highest followed by middle-early ones (FAO 400 – 500) – 67

(400 – 500) – 67 kg/ha.
 - (500 – 600),
 - (13 kg/ha),
 (500 – 600), 32 kg/ha
 ,
 52,3 kg/ha,
 15 ,

()

2016 .

1060,1
 1
 (http://www.fao.org/f_ostat/en/#data, 2016).
 21

XX

30-

(Tomov, 1997).
 20 (1988-2008)

: 25 kg/ha
 38 kg/ha/

80 kg/ha/

– 1,6 t/ha
 (Fischer and Edmeades, 2010).

kg/ha⁻¹. At middle-late group (FAO 500 – 600) that increase is the least – 13 kg/ha⁻¹, but at full season one (FAO 600⁺) it is 32 kg/ha⁻¹, mean per year for the period. For all FAO groups the increasing is 52.3 kg/ha⁻¹, average rate for 15 years period, which could be indicated like achieved breeding progress.

The relation between grain yield and vegetation period (by FAO groups) is not linear which confirms previous investigations and proves the ability for high productivity maize hybrids breeding with earlier maturity.

Key words: grain yield, hybrids by FAO groups, breeding progress

INTRODUCTION

From the most important cereals crops in the world – maize, wheat and rice, first one has the biggest global production. According FAO data in 2016 the world production of maize grain is 1060.1 million tons – e.g. up to 1 billion tons (http://www.fao.org/f_ostat/en/#data, 2016). At the beginning of 21st century maize become the most produced crop from the group of cereals thanks to an achieved breeding and genetics progress and applied modern agricultural practices as well.

Since maize hybrids introduction in the USA in 30^{es} and its cultivation in Europe and in the rest of the world after the Second World War an substantial progress was observed regarding maize yields and production everywhere (Tomov, 1997).

For the 20 years period (1988-2008) the following yield progress for the cited up crops was observed: 25 kg/ha per year for wheat; 38 kg/ha per year for rice and 80 kg/ha per year for maize, e.g. for that period the biggest increasing of grain yield belongs to maize – 1.6 t/ha average sum for world wide (Fisher and Edmeades, 2010).

1992). 1930 . Duvick (1977; 1992). 1930 . 1955 . 57 kg/ha 1982 . 144 kg/ha 50 . (1960-2010), 114 kg/ha - 214 kg/ha (Fischer and Edmeades, 2010). 50 (Cordwell 1982, Duvick 2005, Tolenaar and Lee, 2006). - 25 (1985-2010) 1000 (Fischer and Edmeades, 2010). 90- GMO (per se) Duvick, (2005) 70 . (1930-2002). - 80 kg/ha 30 80 .

For US corn belt investigations of an achieved progress of this crop are published by Duvick (1977; 1992). Till 1930 an yield progress of cultivated maize open varieties almost is not noticed. From 1930 to 1955, after introducing of maize hybrids into grain production the yield increasing is 57 kg/ha per year. For the period 1955-1982 this progress is more remarkable – 144 kg/ha per year. In general for 50 years period (1960-2010) for the USA the increasing of yield is 114 kg/ha per year. Only for Iowa – the corn belt center that progress has a record – 214 kg/ha per year (Fischer and Edmeades, 2010).

The achieved progress is due to the breeding of new more productive hybrids and to the applied agritechnics as well. The relation between both categories is about 50 to 50 (Cardwell, 1982; Duvick, 2005; Tolenaar and Lee, 2006).

From the applied practices the most important role has the plant density increasing. For 25 years (1985-2010) it is growing up to (in US corn belt) 1000 plants/ha per year, while the level of nitrogen fertilization is kept. In other words new high productivity hybrids are tolerant to higher plant density and utilize better the fertilizers (Fischer and Edmeades, 2010). The same authors have noticed that after GMO maize introducing in the end of 90^{es} the yield increasing only for these forms (per se) is not observed, e.g. the conventional hybrids and practices give the same results.

Duvick (2005) pointed out the main maize traits which improvement and changing lead to the achieved breeding progress for the period more than 70 years (1930-2002). At the first position – grain yield with optimal density continually increased – average with 80 kg/ha per year. The optimal plant density had increased also from 30 to 80 thousand plants per hectare for whole period. The biomass and the harvest index have

50 – 55%. Vulchinkov et al. (1995)

m^2

(MVK)

Gassman (1999)

(2011)

(QPM)

type

(Vulchinkov and Vulchinkova, 2011).

(SI)

(Vulchinkov et al., 2013).

4

15

grown also and high values have been varying between 50-55%. Vulchinkov et al. (1995) have noted that fact too. Number of kernels per m^2 have been increasing, but less barren plants are observed, while MVK almost doesn't grow. Grain protein content have decreased stable in return of starch increasing. Duvick and Gassman (1999) have noticed that negative correlation yield-grain quality is not overcome, but Atlin et al. (2011) confirmed that the achieved breeding progress of quality protein maize (QPM) is not connected with higher grain yield. Days to silking for different vegetation groups are not changed, but the period of grain filling have prolonged with faster dry down.

The whole plant height has not changed with a small reduction of ear height. There is a root lodging reduction, but this process is not completely overcome.

Canopy level leaves have increased with much more erect type but leaf area index (LAI) in general is not changed. So called "stay green" type of hybrids is increased, but it doesn't real impact on terminal droughts. The tassel size is much reduced. This trait like an object of tandem selection with high yield is rather easy to reach (Vulchinkov and Vulchinkova, 2011). At last the anthesis-silking interval (ASI) is reduced almost to zero, e.g. tassel flowering and silking have a synchron both which is a stress tolerance indicator.

Studies of maize breeding progress in our country are not carried out or the observed trends are analyzed from other point of view (Vulchinkov et al., 2013). The aim of that investigation is to find out any achieved progress observed in relation to hybrids of MRI-Kneja from 4 FAO groups for 15 years period.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

(ECO) 4
 2001-2015 3 6
 ()
 (300-400) 18
 (400-500) - 41
 (500-600) - 46
 (600+) - 36
 (CV, %)
 Vulchinkov (1990)
 (Pi) Lee et al. (2001).
 (x_i-b_i)

Data from ecological trials (ECO) of Maize Research Institute-Knezha are used. Hybrids from 4 FAO groups are tested in different locations around the country for 2001-2015 period. Number of locations vary from 3 to 6 in the years, including no irrigated (mainly) and irrigated environments. Number of tested hybrids by FAO groups also vary. In the early group (FAO 300-400) average for the period are tested 18 hybrids; in the semi-early group (FAO 400-500) – 41 hybrids; in the middle-late group (FAO 500-600) – 46 hybrids and in the late group (FAO 600+) – 36 hybrids. The results of grain yield by FAO groups are evaluated after statistical analysis. Beside means and coefficient of variation (CV%), a general adaptation index was determined (x_i-b_i) according Vulchinkov (1990) and also performance index (Pi) by Lee et al. (2001). Correlation and regression analyzes were done of data, and theoretical regression lines of grain yield dynamics by FAO groups were computed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1
 (2001-2015)
 400) 281
 (400-500) 623;
 (500-600) - 694
 (600+) - 544.
 2142
 15
 54

During the period observed a great number of hybrids were tested. With exceptions of checks used, they don't repeat themselves. On able 1 (like general plan) results of ecological trails of MRI-Kneja (2001-2015) are presented by FAO groups. Generally for that period in the early group (FAO 300-400) 281 hybrids are tested; in semi-early group (FAO 400-500) 623 hybrids are tested; in the middle-late group (FAO 500-600) – 694 (the most) and in the late group – 544. For the whole period and from all FAO groups 2142 hybrids take part in the testing. During that time they are tested at wide range of environments – for 15 years the total sum of locations is 54. The combination year-location for every separate case is unique one.

1.

(/ha)

2001-2015

Table 1. Mean values of grain yield (kg/ha) of tested ECO hybrids by FAO groups for period 2001-2015

Years	FAO 300-400			FAO 400-500			FAO 500-600			FAO	600	Mean per years	
	Number of locations	Number of hybrids	Mean yield (kg/ha)	Number of locations	Number of hybrids	Mean yield (kg/ha)	Number of locations	Number of hybrids	Mean yield (kg/ha)	Number of locations	Number of hybrids		Mean yield (kg/ha)
2001	6	13	5233,00	6	43	5367,00	6	49	5346,50	6	36	5081,20	5256,93
2002	3	26	7033,50	3	44	7571,60	3	53	7373,20	3	32	6773,10	7187,85
2003	3	17	5063,80	3	42	5573,80	3	46	5822,50	3	40	5415,30	5468,85
2004	4	27	9309,10	4	52	9713,80	4	57	9940,40	4	46	10323,50	9821,70
2005	4	19	9615,50	4	58	9737,60	4	67	9853,60	4	66	9780,60	9746,83
2006	2	19	7927,20	3	40	7712,30	4	42	8298,10	3	36	7707,50	7911,28
2007	3	13	2237,50	3	37	2410,80	3	26	2262,20	3	40	2266,30	2294,20
2008	4	13	7176,40	4	27	7945,40	4	32	7549,00	4	23	7400,00	7517,70
2009	3	12	7811,46	3	25	7308,61	3	46	7549,45	3	45	7702,29	7592,95
2010	2	14	8072,60	2	51	7858,24	2	53	7696,90	2	41	7824,60	7863,09
2011	4	15	8365,69	4	53	8952,96	4	59	7917,88	4	38	8259,40	8373,98
2012	5	23	4996,17	5	42	4694,85	4	50	4774,56	4	34	4350,00	4703,90
2013	3	27	8843,25	3	35	9480,40	3	33	8261,22	3	18	8912,79	8874,41
2014	4	18	9143,88	4	27	8676,94	4	33	8018,92	4	13	7300,84	8285,14
2015	4	25	7032,73	4	47	6948,52	4	48	6822,35	4	36	6769,94	6893,39
\bar{x}			7190,79			7330,19			7165,79			7057,82	7186,15
V, %			28,25			28,16			27,49			29,73	28,10
$\bar{x}_i - b_i$			6,197			6,317			6,193			6,030	
pi			4,70			4,62			4,15			3,72	4,03

1

kg/ha 400-500 – 7330

kg/ha (300-400) – 7190

) – 7165 kg/ha, (500-600

(600) – 7057 kg/ha

(CV – 7,49%),

300-400 400-500,

CV – 28,25% 28,16%,

(600), CV=29,73%.

($x_i - b_i$)

($b_i < 1,0$)

Vulchinkov (1990).

6,03,

(400-500) $x_i - b_i = 6,317$.

(P_i)

1

(Vulchinkov et al., 2013),

In order to catch grain yield dynamics, resulting of complicated GxE interactions and emerging trends we discuss data obtained by vegetation groups, regarding these FAO groups like unoccasional factor at fluctuation of many occasional factors connected with environmental conditions. Table 1 data point out following trends for grain yield hybrids by FAO groups. Semi-early hybrids from FAO 400-500 have the highest yield – 7330 kg/ha, followed by early group (FAO 300-400) – 7190 kg/ha and middle-rate one (FAO 500-600) – 7165 kg/ha, which result is closer to previous group. The relatively lowest position has the late group (FAO 600) – 7057 kg/ha mean yield for the period.

The middle-late group (FAO 500-600) has the lowest variation (CV=23.49%), followed by both earlier groups (FAO 300-400 and 400-500) with close values of CV – 28.25% and 28.16% respectively. The variation of late group (FAO 600+) is relatively the highest, CV=29.73%. This groups turns out like most unstable in relation to the investigated yield period. Judging by values of general adaptation index ($x_i \cdot b_i$) the same situation is observed. This index gives a priority of high yield forms with better ecological stability ($b_i < 1.0$) – Vulchinkov (1990), The group index of late hybrids is the lowest (6.03), while at the rest groups it is higher with relatively equal values for early and middle-late group and with the highest position of semi-early group (FAO 400-500), $x_i \cdot b_i = 6.317$.

Performance index (P_i) values are pointed out also on Table 1. This index gives a priority of hybrids with higher yield and lower grain moisture at harvest. This trait will be discussed more detailed in a separate study, but results on Table 1 confirm a previous investigation of ours (Vulchinkov et al., 2013), that the observed positive correlation between grain moisture and vegetation length

P_i - .
 - - 1
 $P_i=4,70$
 $(P_i=3,72)$, -
 P_i $x_i \cdot b_i$, -
 - (400-500),
 1
 -
 - ,
 2004 2005 ..,
 - 9821,7 kg/ha.
 600) -
 - 10323,5 kg/ha.
 - 2004
 -
 2007 . -
 2294,2 kg/ha, -
 (400-500
).
 7186,15
 kg/ha. 1
 2002 .
 400-500 ,
 1 -
 -
 -
 -
 -

carries automatically to lowest of P_i in the later groups. The observed trends on Table 1 is just the same – early group has the highest value ($P_i=4.73$), and the late group has the lowest one ($P_i=3.72$). From the point of view of both indices simultaneously (P_i and $x_i \cdot b_i$) the best position has semi-early group (FAO 400-500), just noticed for grain yield also.

In the right part of Table 1 mean yields results from all groups of vegetation for years of the investigations are presented. Because most of ecological trails of MRI-Kneja are carried without irrigation it could be assessed agro-meteorological conditions by years of the investigated period. With highest mean yields are 2004 and 2005, just the first one, is the highest for whole period – 9821.7 kg/ha.

In that year full season (late) hybrids (FAO 600+) present the highest yield for the period – 10323.5 kg/ha. In other words the yield potential realization of late hybrids requires better or irrigated conditions. In the same 2004 yields grow up with vegetation groups increasing, e.g. the lowest yield is realized in the earliest group.

The lowest mean yield has 2007 – 2294.2 kg/ha with relatively highest one for semi-early group (FAO 400-500). That year is the most drought for the period.

The general yield mean from all groups and years investigated is 7186.15 kg/ha. From Table 1 it is seen that the closest value to that mean is the yield of 2002. Than yields have a maximum in FAO group 400-500 with the same dynamics of means by groups for the whole period.

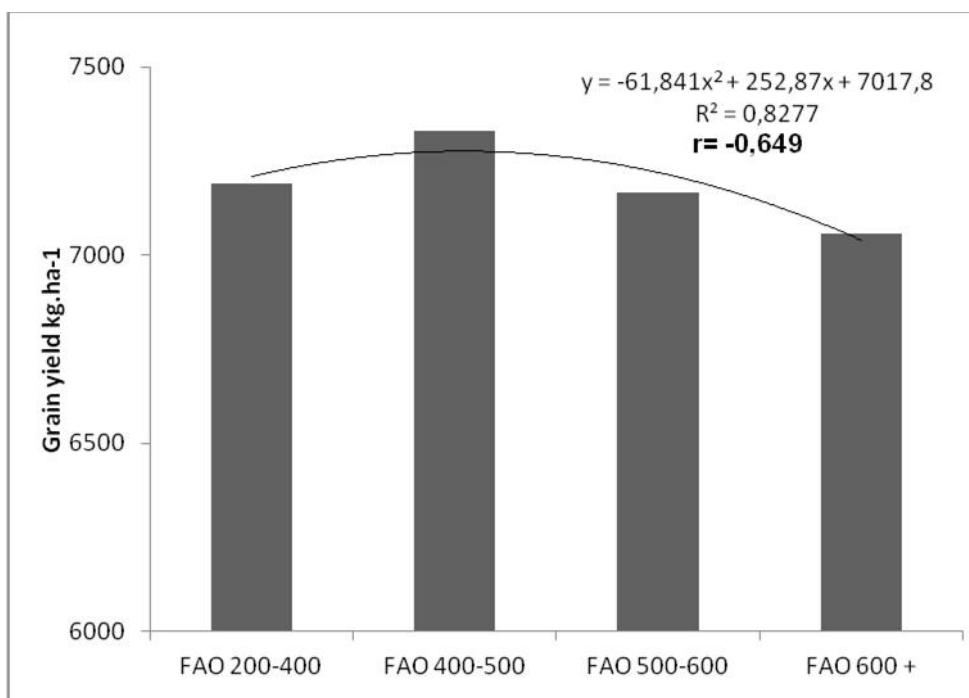
This dynamics of mean yield by FAO groups is presented on Figure 1. It is described better like an unlinear regression. The computed correlation between yield and vegetation length like

($r=-0,649$).

Duvick Gassman (1999).
(Vulchinkov et al., 2013),

500-600

silking days by FAO groups is negative, unsignificant ($r= -0.649$). Missing of correlation between both traits proves the principal possibility for breeding of high yield hybrids with shorter vegetation, noted also by Duvick and Gassman (1999). In previous publication of ours (Vulchinkov et al., 2013) the same conclusion was done at comparing trials of MRI-Kneja and IASAS, even there the yield maximum was observed in FAO 500-600 group.



. 1.

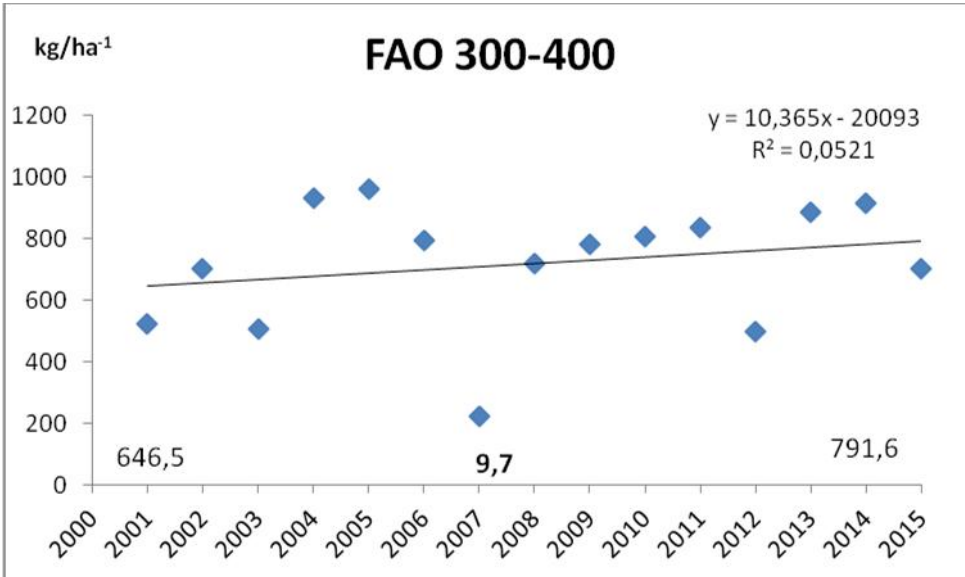
Fig. 1. Grain yield dynamics by FAO groups for the investigated period

2

(300 - 400).

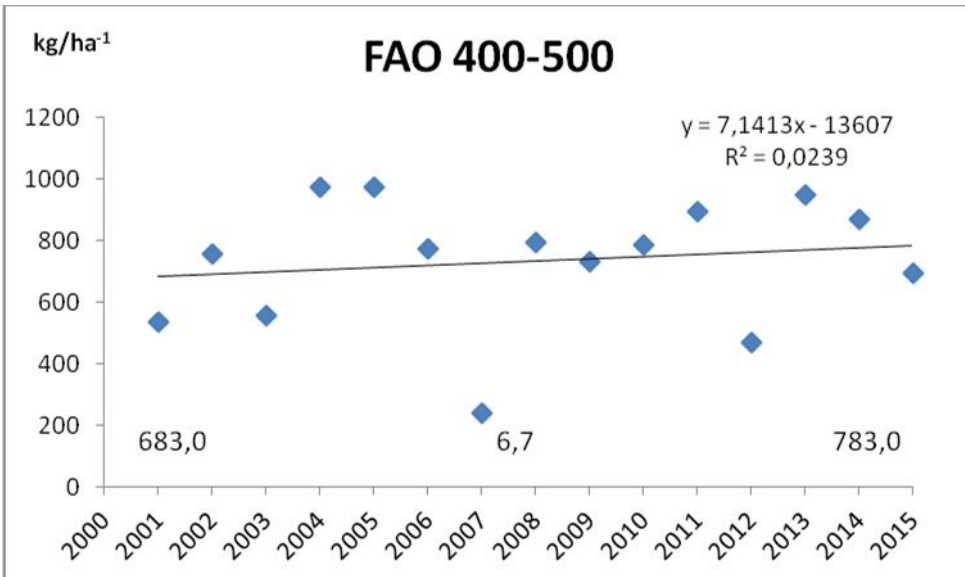
9,7 / / , 97 kg/ha
2007 .

On the Figure 2 dynamics of grain yield in the early group (FAO 300-400) is presented. The observed tendency just like in the other groups points out a small increasing of the yield from the first to the last years of the period. Computed linear regression points out that this tendency of increasing has a rate 97 kg/ha per year or 9.7 kg/da per year, independently from some extreme values, like the yield in 2007.

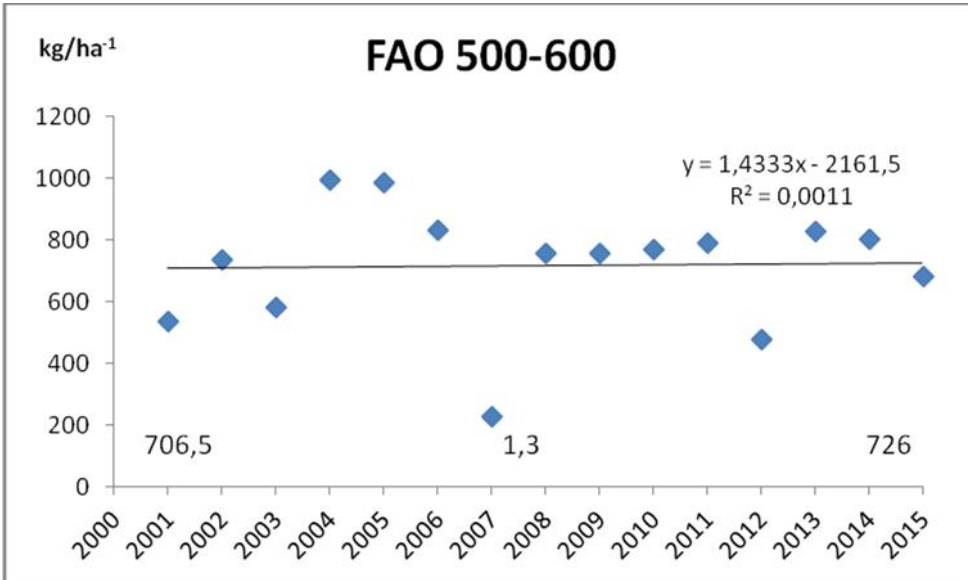


2.
Fig. 2. Grain yield dynamics in the early groups

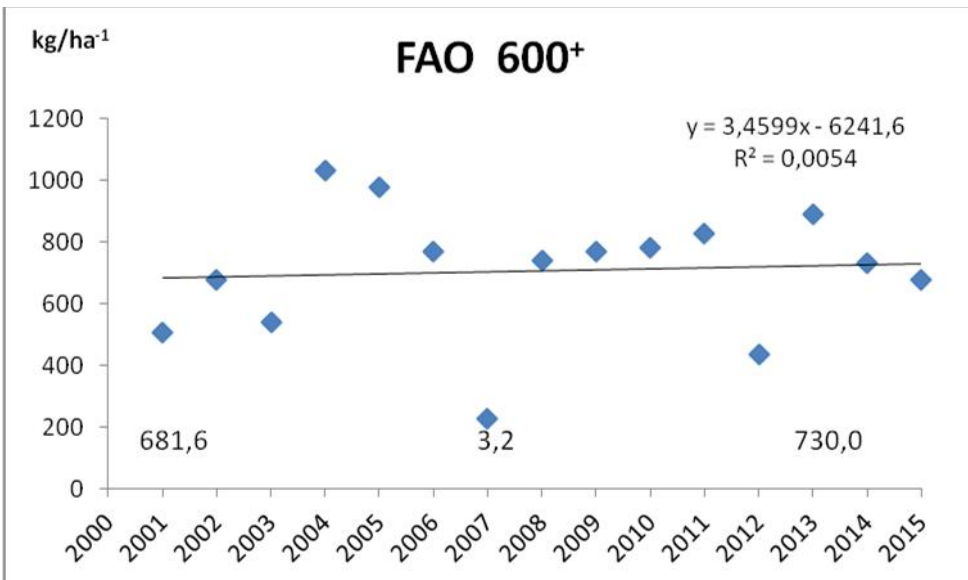
5). (3 - For the other groups in the same way are computed theoretical regression lines with equations respectively, presented graphically (Figure 3 – Figure 5).



3.
Fig. 3. Grain yield dynamics in the semi late groups



. 4.
Fig. 4. Grain yield dynamics in the middle late groups



. 5.
Fig. 5 Grain yield dynamics in the late groups

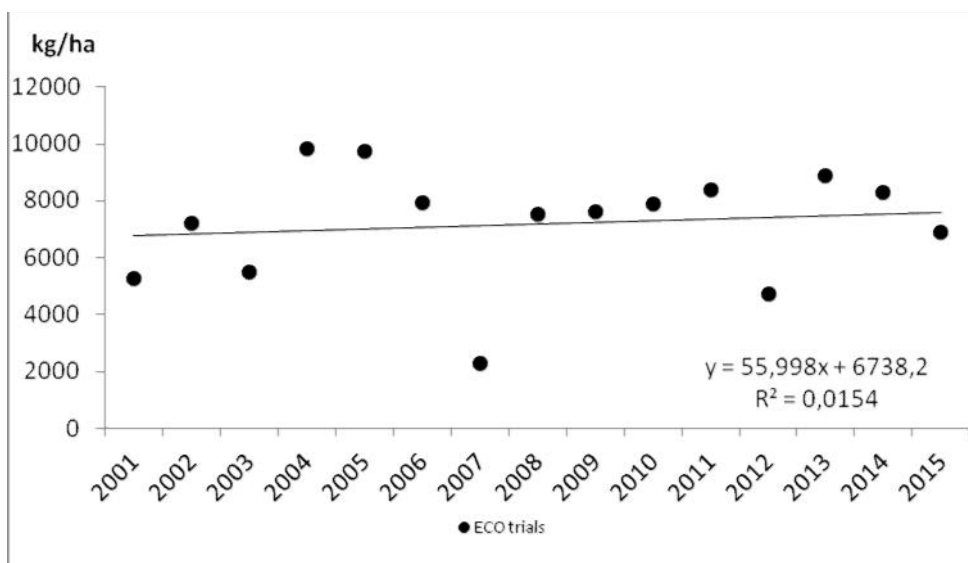
3
 67 kg/ha
 (400).
 13 kg/ha

On Figure 3 the yield increasing is 67 kg/ha per year for semi-early hybrids (FAO 400-500). At middle-late hybrids the rate is 13 kg/ha per year – the smallest from all

32 kg/ha (4 5).
) (15.
 kg/ha/).
 52,3 kg/ha (6).

other groups (Figure 4). For late hybrids the increasing is 32 kg/ha per year (Figure 5).

These increases per years are computed like a difference from the highest and lowest theoretical value of the yield (according equations), divided by 15. The progress is observed for all FAO groups but it is highest in the early one (97 kg/ha per year). In the same way the observed yield progress is computed for hybrids for all groups, which is 52,3 kg/ha per year (Figure 6).



. 6. 2001-2015 .

Fig 6. Grain yield tendency of maize hybrids for all FAO groups screening (2001-2015)

(300-400 400-500)
 -
 - 784,5 kg/ha,
 ,

Early and semi-early groups (FAO 300-400 and 400-500) are presented like most dynamics in relation of achieved progress, with the highest increasing of values every year. These values and common increase as well – 784.5 kg/ha total sum for all hybrids for the period come to the mean values of observed breeding progress in other countries, which results and comparison are made for longer time period.

CONCLUSIONS

1. , -
2. (x_i-b_i) - 400-500
3. (300-400) – 97 kg/ha
4. (52,3 kg/ha)

1. Between grain yield and vegetation period length of studied hybrids by FAO groups a significant correlation is not observed, which proves the possibility of earlier and high yield breeding hybrids.
2. By general adaptation index (x_i-b_i) semi early hybrids (FAO 400-500) present the best position, which have the highest mean yield.
3. For the period of study an achieved grain yield breeding progress is observed for all FAO groups, best expressed in the early group (FAO 300-400) – 97 kg/ha per year.
4. The average rate (52.3 kg/ha per year) achieved for all groups of vegetation comes to the progress observed in other countries for longer periods.

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II.

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, 5835

Breeding progress achieved of Bulgarian maize hybrids from different vegetation groups II. Grain moisture at harvest

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Received: 17.04.2018

Accepted: 26.04.2018

Published: 14.06.2018

SUMMARY

4
15
3 6
(2001-2015 .).
(
(300 – 400)
(500 – 600).
300 – 400
0,26%
; 400 – 500
0,35% –

The study object is the grain moisture at harvest of great number of MRI - Knezha maize hybrids, from 4 FAO groups tested in Eco trials – 3 to 6 locations for 15 years period (2001 – 2015). In spite of the influence of many accidental factors impact on the trials – a different number of maize hybrids tested every year and a diversity of environmental conditions – a regress tendency (decreasing) of values at that very important selection trait was observed. By FAO groups mean values of grain moisture increase because of the significant correlation with the vegetation length. The variation of hybrids grain moisture from early (FAO 300 – 400) and middle-early group (FAO 400 – 500) is the least. Within every vegetation group a substantial decrease tendency was observed in all cases as follows: in FAO group 300 – 400 according the theoretical regression line the rate is 0.26% for the studied period; in FAO group 400 – 500 this rate is 0.35% – the biggest one to all other groups. In the

(500 – 600)
 0,33%
 (600) – 0,32%.
 performance index
 (P_i) –
 0,32% 15
 4,8%,

middle-late one (FAO 500 – 600) grain moisture decreases with 0.33% every year; in the late group (FAO 600⁺) – with 0.32%.

The performance index values (P_i) like a relation of grain yield to the moisture at harvest are the highest in early and middle-early groups, but it's correlation with vegetation period length is significant negative.

For all hybrids and FAO groups the rate of grain moisture decreasing is 0.32% per year for the investigated period, e.g. for 15 years this decreasing is 4.8% as an amount. It is noticed like a serious breeding progress.

Key words: maize hybrids, FAO groups, grain moisture at harvest

14-15%,

INTRODUCTION

The maize grain moisture at harvest is very important selection trait and economic one as well. The field grain harvesting with moisture about 14-15% which is the standard for most of countries, permits its storage to be done with out of additional drying and save the costs.

Hybrids characteristics in relation of dry down rate and studies of maize physiology about this problem are made of many authors: Troyer and Ambrose (1971), Cross and Kabir (1989), Newton and Eagles (1991), Angelov and Vulchinkov (2009) and others. In summary these investigations come to the following conclusions – after physiological maturity of maize and “black” layer appearance (moisture about 30%) assimilates movement from the stalk to the cob and grain is terminated.

: Troyer and Ambrose (1971), Cross and Kabir (1989), Newton and Eagles (1991), Angelov and Vulchinkov (2009)

30%)

From that moment the rate of grain dry down depends on the genotype and environmental conditions also. The traits connected with genotype are the vegetation group, depth of grain pericarp, number and depth of husked ear leaves,

), (the time for their senescence (drying), ears angle disposition.

Nielssen (2000)

4 1.0

0.75% 0.75 0.50%

15-20

De Jader et al. (2004)

Sala et al. (2006)

QTL

Cavalieri and Smith (1985)

Duvick

(2005), 0.6% 1.0%

Earlier hybrids have a shorter period of physiological maturity as the environments for them are better for faster grain dry down. According Nielsen (2000) in the US corn belt for 4 years period the rate of dry down at normal dry autumn is from 1.0 to 0.75% per day for the second half of September, and for 0.75 to 0.50% per day for the first half of October. In other words earlier forms with a physiological maturity appeared at the beginning of September can dry to the standard grain moisture for 15-20 days, while for the late ones that time is prolonged and in the wet autumn drying down is terminated in the end of October, e.g. the harvesting of full season forms requires additional grain drying. From other side the put harvesting off in order grain dry down to be better not ever gives good results, because loses are increased from broken plants and dropped ears and delay of acreage release as well.

According De Jader et al. (2004) the rate of grain dry down is a heritable trait, e.g. it could be included in a breeding programme. Sala et al. (2006) study QTL for grain moisture and dry down rate and they note that for mass selection of these traits the most suitable breeding strategy is a combination of molecular markers and phenotype traits values.

In evolution plan comparing older and newer hybrids generations in relation to rate of filling and drying of maize grain Cavalieri and Smith (1985) have noticed a breeding progress on the base of correlations between traits having a relation to faster dry down. A similar conclusion makes and Duvick (2005) at comparing hybrids from different generations in the same vegetation group. The progress is from 0.6% to 1.0% grain dry down per day related older to newer

4 , 15

(ECO) 4
2001-2015

3 6,

18, 41, 46 36

(Vulchinkov and Vulchinkova,
2018).

(2001).

(Pi) Lee et al.

()

hybrids at the same testing conditions.

In our country investigations of achieved breeding progress regarding grain moisture at harvesting are not made. The aim of this study is it observed such progress at hybrids of Maize Research Institute from 4 FAO groups, tested in ecological trials for 15 years period.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Hybrids of MRI-Knezha are tested in ecological trials (ECO) in 4 FAO groups for the period 2001-2015. The trials are carried out in different places in the country as the number of locations vary from 3 to 6 and most of them are without irrigations. The number of hybrids by FAO groups also vary, like average ones for the period they are 18, 41, 46 and 36 for early to semi-early middle-late and late group, respectively.

The same data statistical analyzes are made just like in a previous study of ours (Vulchinkov and Vulchinkova, 2018). For comparisons a performance index (Pi) proposed by Lee et al. (2001) is applied. The grain moisture at harvest is determined electronically of a representative sample from every variant (hybrid) of trials during whole the period of investigation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Data for grain moisture are summarized and averaged for great number of hybrids by FAO groups. The number of all tested hybrids, just we pointed in the previous study of ours is 281 for FAO group 300-400, 623 for FAO group 400-500, 694 for FAO group 500-600 and 544 for late group FAO 600+. Their general number for 15 years and 54 locations summarized is 2142 hybrids. They don't repeat themselves with small exceptions. Dynamics of the investigated factor – grain moisture at harvesting is studied by FAO groups. We accept it like a fixed factor at fluctuations of many other factors connected with genotype,

281
, 623
300 – 400 , 694
400 – 500 , 544
500 – 600 15
600.
54 2142

1
-
(Jugenheimer, 1979)

environmental and their interaction.

On Table 1 results of the investigated trait and period by FAO groups are presented.

As the correlation between grain moisture and vegetation period length is positive, definitely proven (Jugenheimer, 1979) data from the table only confirm the observed tendency. The grain moisture increases like mean values from earlier to later groups by years and for the whole period as well.

1.

(%)

Table 1. Grain moisture values at harvesting (%) by FAO groups for the investigated period

Years	FAO 300-400	FAO 400-500	FAO 500-600	FAO 600*	Mean per year	Mean per sub periods
2001	17,8	19,2	19,3	22,3	19,7	
2002	18,1	19,2	20,0	20,0	19,3	
2003	13,4	14,2	16,2	16,4	15,0	18,6
2004	18,3	19,4	19,6	21,8	19,8	
2005	18,0	19,0	19,7	21,1	19,4	
2006	15,4	16,5	18,1	20,7	17,7	
2007	13,5	14,9	18,7	19,5	16,6	
2008	15,6	16,3	18,4	20,9	17,8	17,0
2009	15,5	15,4	17,4	20,7	17,3	
2010	14,4	14,6	16,3	17,8	15,8	
2011	14,3	14,6	16,3	18,5	15,9	
2012	13,7	11,6	14,5	15,6	13,9	
2013	11,9	12,1	11,9	12,9	12,2	14,9
2014	15,1	15,5	16,4	17,8	16,2	
2015	14,4	15,5	16,2	18,3	16,1	
Mean by groups	15,29	15,88	17,26	18,95	16,84	
CV,%	12,89	15,55	12,78	13,53	13,05	
Pi	4,70	4,62	4,15	3,72	4,03	
Silking (days)	61	63	64	67	64	r=-0,94851++

: 15.29%
(300 – 40); 15.88%
(400 – 500);
17.26%
500 – 600) 18.95%
(600).
() 3.66%.

Average values of the trait for period of investigation are: 15.29% for early group (FAO 300-400); 15.88% for semi-early group (FAO 400-500); 17.26% for middle-late group (FAO 500-600) and 18.95% for late group (FAO 600+).

Difference between the last (late) group and the early one is 3.66%. The

- (CV=15.55%),
 - (CV = 12.89% 12.78%,
). (CV = 13.53%).
 400 – 500
 ,
 .
 4 , 16,84% – 15
 . 2007 .
 , - .
 - , ,
 .
 - 2013 ., -
 (19.8%) 2004 .,
 .
 .
 1 -
 5 .
 -
 -
 5
 (2001-2005)
 18.6%, (2006-2010)
 17%, 5
 (2011-2015) 14.9%.
 10 -
 (Vulchinkov et al.,
 2013)
 -
 -
 -
 (ECO)
 () . 15 . ,
 .
 .
 - -

- most variation has the semi-early group
 - (cv=15.55%), it is relatively lower in the
 - early and middle-late group (cv=12.89%
 and 12.78% respectively). In the late
 group it is occupied by intermediate value
 (cv=13.53%). The stronger variation in
 FAO group 400-500 means that a
 sufficient stabilized selection is not
 completed yet for this trait.

The general grain moisture mean for the
 whole period of study – 15 years and 4
 FAO groups is 16.84%. This value is the
 closest one to the mean for 2007. In the
 previous study of ours we pointed out that
 year (like the most drought one for the
 period) had the lowest grain yield. We
 can not make a conclusion the hybrids
 than are harvested with less grain
 moisture even the moment of harvesting
 varies about the favourable agrotechnical
 term. Hybrids are harvested with the
 lowest grain moisture in 2013, but with
 the highest one (19.8%) in 2004, which is
 the most yielded for the period.

However a trend of grain moisture
 decrease from the beginning to the end
 of the period is observed. In the right part
 of Table 1 we had divided the whole study
 period on three subperiods by 5 years. It
 is seen the values of these subperiods
 point out the same tendency for moisture
 decreasing. For the first 5 years (2001-2005)
 they have a value of 18.6%, for the
 second 5 years (2006-2010) the moisture
 mean is 17%, for the last 5 years
 (2011-2015) it is 14.9%.

For the period of the first ten years in a
 separate study of ours (Vulchinkov et al.,
 2013) we find out a progress in relation of
 grain moisture decreasing, in parallel
 compared trials of MRI-Kneja (ECO) and
 IASAS trials (KCO). For discussed 15
 years period this progress is also
 observed.

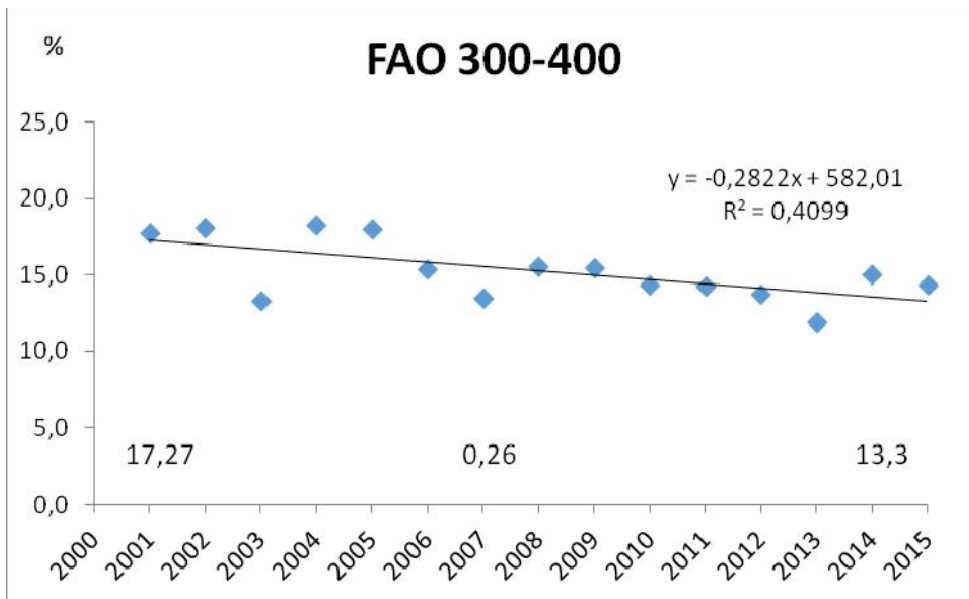
This progress is calculated like a
 difference from the highest and lowest

15 –

0.26%

theoretical values of the trait, according regression equations by FAO groups, and for whole period from all groups, divided by 15 – number of years.

By FAO groups results are followed. On Figure 1 dynamics of grain moisture of early hybrids (FAO 300-400) is presented. A trend of decreasing (regress) of grain moisture from the beginning to the end of period is observed. The calculated difference between maximum and minimum theoretical values of the trait divided by 15 points out 0.26% grain moisture decreasing every year. In fact the observed regress could be supposed like a progress, because hybrids with lower grain moisture at harvesting are more valuable for breeding. At equal grain yield these hybrids possess a higher performance index (Pi), which gives a priority of forms of higher grain yield and lower grain moisture at harvest.

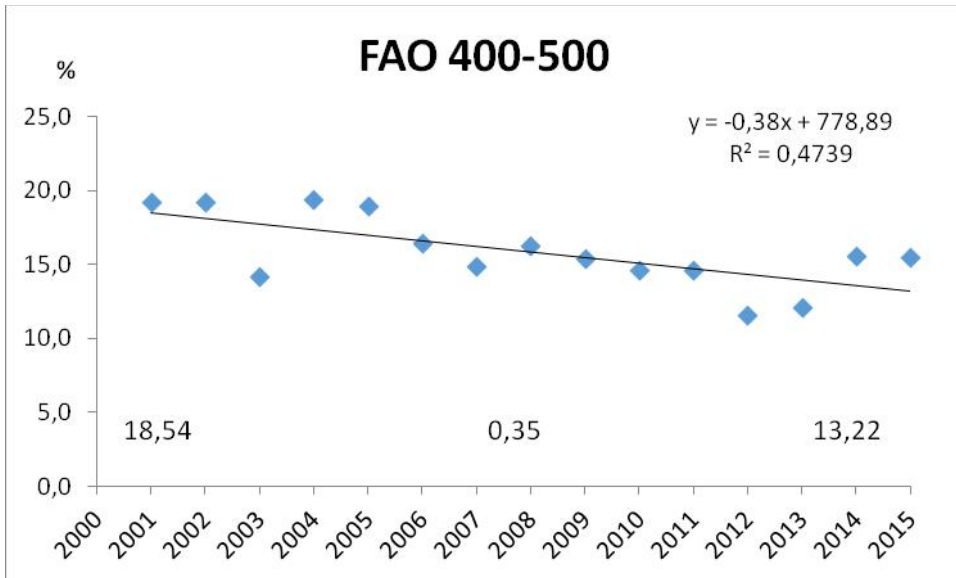


. 1.
Fig. 1. Moisture dynamics in the early group

400 – 500
0.35%

2

For the rest FAO groups the rate dry down is calculated on the same way. On Figure 2 dynamics of that dry down of FAO group 400-500 is presented. The moisture decreases with a rate of 0.35% per year, which is the highest one for all groups compared.



. 2.

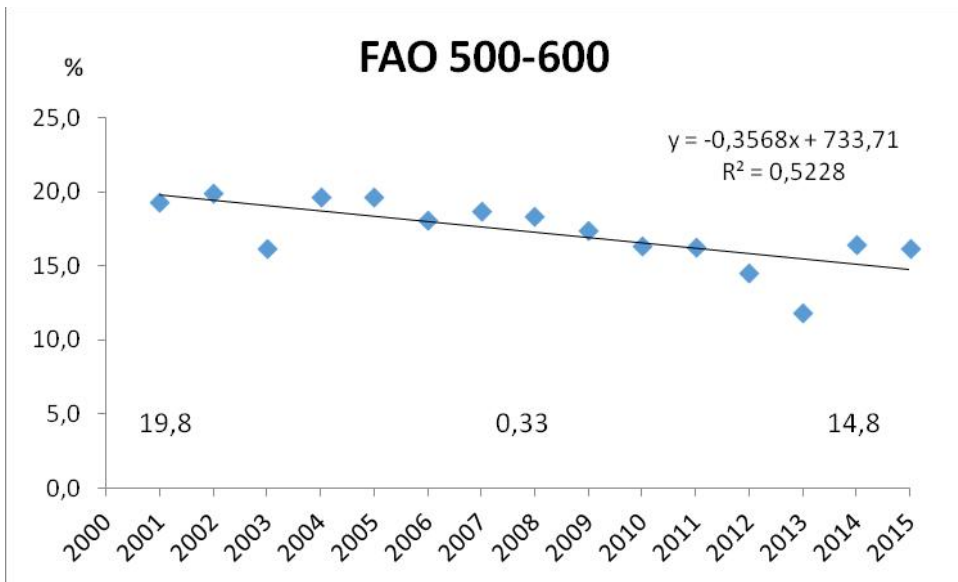
Fig. 2. Moisture dynamics in the semi-late group

500 – 600) 0.33%
(600) 0.32%
(4).

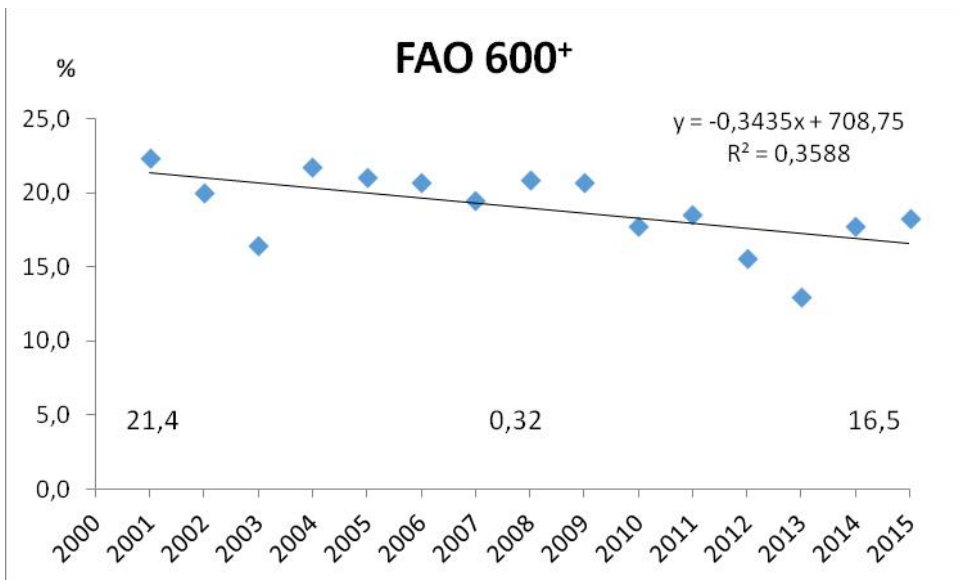
(

0.32%

On Figure 3 the presented dynamics for middle-late group (FAO 500-600) is 0.33% dry down every year, for the late group (FAO 600+) the rate is 0.32% per year (Figure 4).



. 3.
Fig. 3. Moisture dynamics in the middle late group



. 4.
Fig. 4. Moisture dynamics in the late group

5

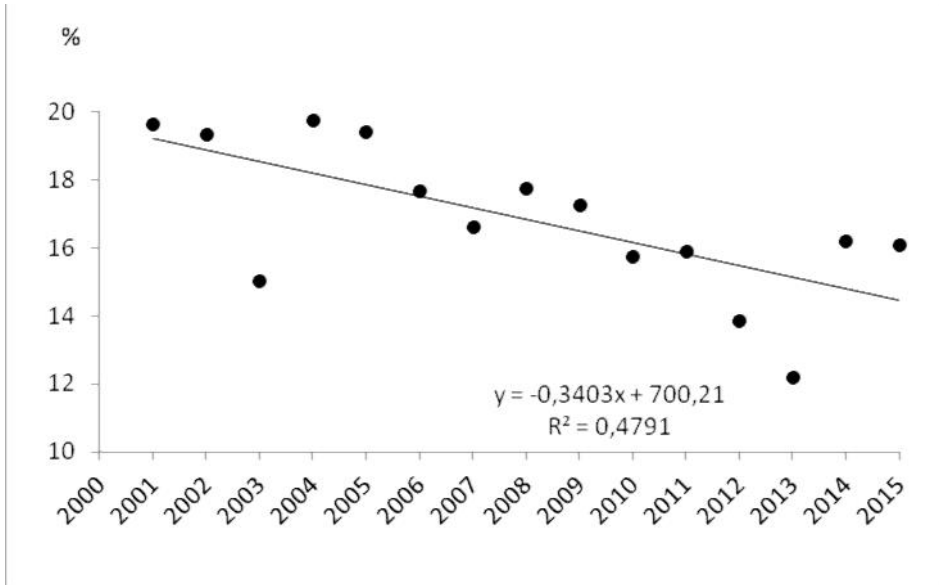
0.32%

On Figure 5 in a summarized view a regression of grain moisture of tested hybrids from all FAO groups for the period is presented. The average rate of grain dry down is 0.32% per year. In other words the total sum of grain

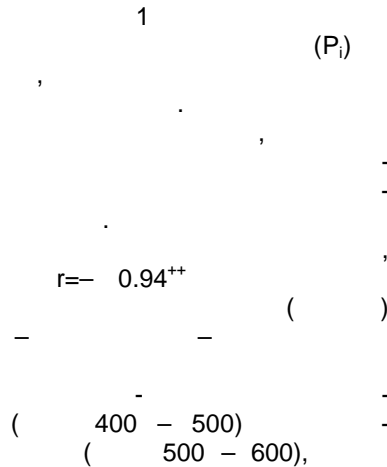
4.8%

15

moisture decrease for 15 years investigated hybrids is 4.8%. It could be reported like a serious breeding progress achieved about this trait.



5.
 2001-2015
Fig 5. Grain moisture dynamics of maize hybrids for all FAO groups (2001-2015)



On Table 1 performance index (Pi) values are presented also by FAO groups that we have discussed in the previous study. They decrease from the early to the late group, which is logical.

The Pi values and vegetation length negative correlation, is significant ($r = -0.94^{**}$). This creates a prerequisite of tandem selection – high yield – a low grain moisture in all FAO groups, but the chances are higher in semi early (FAO 400-500) and middle-late group (FAO 500-600), which already had been discussed.

CONCLUSIONS

1.

1. A grain dry down is observed for the period of investigation with different rate for every FAO group – 0.26% per year for

0.26%	300 – 400;	300-400 group; 0.35% per year for 400-500
0.35%	400 – 500;	group; 0.33% per year for 500-600 group
0.33%	500 – 600	and 0.32% per year for 600+ group.
600.		
2.		2. For all FAO groups the dry down rate is 0.32% per years or 4.8% total for 15 years period – an achieved breeding progress.
4.8%	0.32%	
15 . –		
3.		3. The negative correlation between performance index (Pi) and vegetation period length creates conditions for tandem selection – a high yield – a low grain moisture with better chances in semi-early and middle-late groups.
(Pi) –		
–		
-		

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Study of the water stress impact on inbred maize lines and hybrids

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Received: 12.04.2018

Accepted: 04.06.2018

Published: 14.06.2018

2007-2008 .
10 -
: 2487 , 2378 , 26 , 17RfC,
-108, 4527, 4647, 4418,
4652, 87136 7
: 509,
517, 546, 619, 620, 621
625
().
,
-
4647, 108 4418
621 517,
.
4652, 4527, 87136, 2487
509, 620,
,
4647, 4652, 2378
546, 620 517

SUMMARY

Field trials were carried out in 2007-2008 including 10 inbred maize lines: 2487 , 2378 , 26 , 17RfC, -108, 4527, 4647, 4418, 4652, 87136 and 7 medium late and late maize hybrids: n 509, n 517, n 546, n 619, n 620, n 621 and n 625 under irrigation and without irrigation (water stress simulation).

The objective of the study was to screen water stress tolerance of the investigated lines and hybrids at normal conditions and under stress by traits affecting the water regime and biometry of the stem. Lines K 4647, 108 and 4418 and the hybrids Kn 621 and Kn 517 were relatively more stress tolerant, as they were characterized by low water deficit and high relative turgidity of leaf tissues. The inbred lines K 4652, 4527, 87136, 2487 and the hybrids Kn 509, Kn 620 were relatively more susceptible to drought as water deficit was much greatly expressed and the leaf tissues had worse turgor.

The inbred lines K 4647, K 4652, 2378B and the hybrids Kn 546, Kn 620 and Kn 517 were relatively more stress

tolerant referring the studied biometrical traits: plant height, number of leaves, ear leaf area.

The selected dry-resistant maize lines and hybrids could be used for obtaining new source material in the source selection units.

Key words: maize hybrids, inbred lines, water deficit, relative turgidity, plant height, number of leaves, ear leaf area

(Yordanov et al., 1984; Yordanov, 1992; Bänzinger et al., 2000; Ziyomo and Bernardo, 2013).

tolerant referring the studied biometrical traits: plant height, number of leaves, ear leaf area.

The selected dry-resistant maize lines and hybrids could be used for obtaining new source material in the source selection units.

Key words: maize hybrids, inbred lines, water deficit, relative turgidity, plant height, number of leaves, ear leaf area

INTRODUCTION

The issue of water stress mechanisms of influence on the major physiological processes and those determining the drought tolerance has not been definitely resolved and remains a subject of research. In natural conditions, plants are often subjected to drought stress, which usually occurs at high temperatures and high light intensity. The recent extreme climatic episodes require a quick response from the physiology and plant breeding for obtaining water stress resistant and tolerant genotypes, including maize (Yordanov et al., 1984; Yordanov, 1992; Bänzinger et al., 2000; Ziyomo and Bernardo, 2013).

The aim of the study was to evaluate the response of inbred maize lines and hybrids to water stress by traits affecting the water regime and biometry of the stem at normal conditions and under stress.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The field trials were carried out in 2007-2008 by the method of the Latin rectangular in three replicates with crop parcel of 10 m² with 10 inbred maize lines: 2487, 2378, 26, 17RfC, -108, 4527, 4647, 4418, 4652, 87136 and 7 medium late and late maize hybrids: n 509, n 517, n 546, n 619, n 620, n 621 and n 625 under

2007-2008 .

10 m² 10

: 2487 , 2378 ,

26 , 17RfC, -108, 4527,

4647, 4418, 4652, 87136 7

: 509, 517, 546,

619, 620, 621 (625, (

),

6

2007 .

2008

3 -

Bozova et al. (1993).

10

(

(1).

irrigation and without irrigation (water stress simulation). The trials were carried out by the traditional technology for the region as the only difference was that under irrigation conditions the water deficit was compensated by 6-fold watering during the very dry year of 2007 and 3-fold watering during the more favourable 2008. The indicators related to the plant water regime: fresh, turgid, absolutely dry mass, available water in leaf tissues, tissue saturating water, water deficit and relative turgidity by the weighting method according Bozova et al. (1993) were analyzed.

In the lines the third fully formed leaf from the top downwards during the silking was used as an indicator leaf, while for the hybrids – the ear leaf. The biometric measurements of plant height, number of live photosynthetic leaves and the ear leaf area during the stage of silking cob were done on 10 plants from each replicate.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The insufficient water in the soil and in the air often affects the ratio of absorbed and transpired water, thus disturbing the water balance of the plants. That happens as a result of the greater loss of water in the process of transpiration and less water coming from the roots. Water deficit is expressed in percentage of the water content to completely saturate the tissues and in fact represents the water shortage to the complete saturation of the tissues.

The tolerance response of the studied inbred lines to dehydration in the conditions without irrigation (water stress simulation) was specific for the individual genotypes (Table 1). There is no significant difference between entries under irrigation and without irrigation.

1.

Table 1. Water deficit of leaf tissues of maize inbred lines at irrigation and without irrigation (water stress simulation)

Inbred lines	Available water in tissues (g)	Saturating tissues water (g)	Water deficit (%)	Relative turgidity (%)
/ without irrigation				
1. 2487	0,7140	0,7945	10,13	89,87
2. 2378	0,7080	0,7810	9,34	90,66
3. 26	0,7490	0,8255	9,26	90,74
4. 17RfC	0,7770	0,8535	8,96	91,04
5. 108	0,6360	0,6920	8,09	91,91
6. 4527	0,7250	0,8130	10,58	89,42
7. 4647	0,8240	0,8925	7,68	92,32
8. 4418	0,7570	0,8300	8,80	91,20
9. 4652	0,7280	0,8360	12,92	87,08
10. 87136	0,6560	0,7315	10,33	89,67
/ with irrigation				
1. 2487	0,6990	0,7700	9,22	90,78
2. 2378	0,7090	0,7675	7,62	92,38
3. 26	0,7490	0,8100	7,53	92,47
4. 17RfC	0,7590	0,8250	8,00	92,00
5. 108	0,7270	0,7855	7,45	92,55
6. 4527	0,6860	0,7465	8,04	91,96
7. 4647	0,7650	0,8025	4,67	95,33
8. 4418	0,6720	0,7225	6,98	92,02
9. 4652	0,7450	0,8055	7,51	92,49
10. 87136	0,6430	0,7140	9,95	90,05

2007

()

70%

(5-7)

2008

(308,4 l/m²)

It is known that inbred lines are more susceptible to drought stress and heat stress, especially during the experimental 2007, characterized as very unfavorable in this respect. The very high summer temperatures during the critical stage (silking), the low relative air humidity and the insufficient amount of rainfall resulted in the quick reduction of soil moisture below 70% for a short period of time (5-7 days) and respectively increasing the numbers of the watering.

In 2008 the growing conditions concerning temperatures, relative humidity and rainfalls (308.4 l/m²) were more favorable that led to better compensation effects and reduced number of watering. The results in the table reveal that under the conditions of

()

4647 (7,68%), 4418 (8,80%), 108 (8,08%).

-

- : 92,32%;

91,20%; 91,19%).

4652, (12,92%)

(87,08%).

4527, 87136 2478 10%.

,

,

4647 4418,

4652,

,

,

,

(Udovenko, 1976; Gulyaev, 1995).

2487

87136 (9-10%)

-

,

,

,

,

,

,

,

,

2

water stress (without irrigation), the inbred lines KC 4647 (WD 7.68%), XM 4418 (WD 8.80%), N 108 (WD 8.08%) showed relative resistance. They were characterized by low water deficit of the leaf tissues during stress and their high turgidity confirmed that – respectively 92.32%; 91.20%; 91.19% RT). From the screening it was found that line K 4652 was the most susceptible to drought with WD (12.92%) and quite low relative turgidity (87.08%). Lines XM 4527, XM 87136 and 2478B were relatively susceptible to drought with water deficit about 10%. Under irrigation it was observed a decrease in the amount of water saturating leaf tissues, water deficit reduction and improved turgidity of leaves of the studied lines. Good stress tolerance under irrigation had the lines KC 4647 and XM 4418 as they showed the lowest water deficit and they were stable concerning that trait when changing the environmental conditions. The response of K 4652 was of interest as it had high susceptibility under stress while with the improvement of the water regime increased its stress tolerance with the reduction of the water deficit. That's a typical example of demonstrating the relative resistance of the plants, i.e. under certain conditions the organisms are resistant, under other conditions – they are not. That means that with the relative resistance the structural and functional changes have dynamic character (Udovenko, 1976; Gulyaev, 1995). Lines 2487 and XM 87136 (WD about 9-10%) almost did not change their water deficit as they kept higher susceptibility under irrigation too. It could be concluded that regardless of the response determined by the genotype under stress it was observed a tendency of increasing the water deficit and reducing the relative turgidity while under irrigation there was the reverse dependence, i.e. plants suffer less water deficit when they are in better turgor and physiological condition.

Table 2 presents the results for the

water deficit and relative turgidity of medium late and late hybrids.

Like the lines under stress impact hybrids had high water deficit, most pronounced in Kn 620 (15.98%) and Kn 509 (15.63%). Hybrids Kn 621 and Kn 517 were less affected by drought (WD about 13%) that were relatively more stress tolerant compared to the others.

The hybrids, distinguished with better adaptability, when irrigated reduce to the greater extent their water deficit as the leaf tissues were saturated with water more intensively and the plants restored back to normal their turgidity quicker and more efficiently. That was most markedly in Kn 619 (WD – 4.3%), Kn 621 (5.13%), Kn M625 (5.98%) and Kn 509 (5.81%) distinguished for their higher relative turgidity.

2.

Table 2. Water deficit of maize hybrids at irrigation and without irrigation

Hybrids	Available water in tissues (g)	Saturating tissues water	Water deficit (%)	Relative turgidity (%)
		(g)		
/ without irrigation				
1. Kn 509	0,6800	0,8060	15,63	84,37
2. Kn 517	0,6460	0,7500	13,87	86,13
3. Kn 546	0,6930	0,8080	14,23	85,77
4. Kn 619	0,7130	0,8320	14,30	85,70
5. Kn 620	0,6755	0,8040	15,98	84,02
6. Kn 621	0,7320	0,8420	13,06	86,94
7. Kn M625	0,7260	0,8540	14,99	85,01
/with irrigation				
1. Kn 509	0,7980	0,8472	5,81	94,19
2. Kn 517	0,7895	0,8520	7,34	92,66
3. Kn 546	0,8440	0,9200	8,26	91,74
4. Kn 619	0,7350	0,7680	4,30	95,70
5. Kn 620	0,8435	0,9075	7,05	92,94
6. Kn 621	0,8445	0,8902	5,13	94,86
7. Kn M625	0,8095	0,8010	5,98	94,02

4652 - The latter hybrid like K 4652 line changed its behaviour in case of changing the

growing conditions – from susceptible under conditions without irrigation, it became very responsive when irrigated as it greatly reduced its water deficit and the leaf tissue turgidity was improved.

Plant height, the number of live photosynthetic leaves and the leaf area are also of interest to be studied under stress conditions. They are related to the photosynthetic activity of the leaf apparatus under normal conditions and under water stress. The data obtained about the above traits are presented in Table 3, from which it could be seen that the values of all studied traits went down under water stress conditions.

3.

Table 3. Biometric parameters of maize inbred lines and hybrids at irrigation and without irrigation

Genotype	/ With irrigation			/ Without irrigation			
	Inbred lines	Plant high (cm)	Number of leaves	Ear leaf area (cm ²)	Plant high (cm)	Number of leaves	Ear leaf area (cm ²)
1. 2487		143,5	9,8	459,9	107,0	9,4	406,2
2. 2378		147,3	11,6	500,2	115,0	9,6	481,5
3. 26		122,8	8,5	407,0	102,0	8,9	395,0
4. 17RfC		181,5	10,5	432,7	140,0	7,2	328,3
5. 108		171,6	10,7	444,7	137,0	10,1	401,4
6. 4527		166,5	11,4	450,6	122,4	10,5	425,7
7. 4647		191,2	13,4	427,6	144,4	12,9	402,9
8. 4418		166,7	11,3	440,5	122,3	10,8	382,3
9. 4652		170,5	11,9	473,0	124,2	10,5	439,9
10. 87136		166,0	11,4	409,2	132,0	10,7	391,3
/ Hybrids							
1. Kn 509		224,5	14,1	639,5	200,5	13,6	518,6
2. Kn 517		210,0	12,8	683,7	146,0	11,9	542,8
3. Kn 546		251,5	14,9	665,8	200,0	13,2	602,7
4. Kn 619		206,0	13,6	630,3	132,3	12,3	532,7
5. Kn 620		246,8	14,4	685,8	189,0	11,8	599,3
6. Kn 621		227,0	14,3	584,1	180,5	13,6	511,4
7. Kn M625		192,0	12,6	609,2	130,8	10,5	529,7

4647
2378 (500,2 cm²)

The inbred line KC 4647 was characterized by the greatest height and number of leaves while lines 2378B

481,5 cm²) 4652 (473 cm² 439,9
 cm²) - ,
 ,
 -
 546 620 -
 ,
 517.

(500.2 cm² and 481.5 cm²) and K 4652 (473 cm² and 439.9 cm²) had the highest leave area under normal and stress conditions that revealed their stability in case of environmental conditions change. On the other hand they were the least affected by the unfavourable effect of water stress. Hybrids Kn 546 and Kn 620 were relatively resistant to water stress concerning the studied traits and for the leaf area Kn 517 also turned out to be resistant.

4647, 108, 4418 : 621
 517,
 :
 4652, 4527, 87136, 2487 -
 : 509, 620,
 4652
 509, -
 4647,
 4652, 2378 546, 620 -
 517

CONCLUSIONS

Water stress increases water deficit and reduces the relative turgidity of the leaf tissues of the studied maize lines and hybrids.

The inbred lines KC 4647, H 108, XM 4418 and the hybrids Kn 621 and Kn 517 were relatively tolerant to water stress as they were characterized by low water deficit and good turgidity of the leaf tissues. The lines K 4652, XM 4527, XM 87136, 2487 and the hybrids Kn 509, Kn 620 were relatively susceptible to stress as they were distinguished by high water deficit and deteriorated turgidity of the tissues. The line K 4652 and the hybrid Kn 509 had specific reaction as they were responsive to the improvement of the environmental condition.

The inbred lines KC 4647, K 4652, 2378 and the hybrids Kn 546, Kn 620 and Kn 517 were relatively resistant to water stress concerning the traits – plant height, number of leaves and ear leaf area.

The selected dry-resistant maize lines and hybrids could be further used for obtaining new source material in the source selection units.

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Voodoo Juice Tarantula

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Study of inoculants of bioproducts Voodoo Juice and Tarantula influence on the photosynthetic pigments and water regime of two maize hybrids

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Received: 12.04.2018

Accepted: 22.05.2018

Published: 14.06.2018

SUMMARY

Voodoo Juice (VJ) Tarantula (TRL), Bacillus 435 509. - 16 10 m ² .	The influence of microbial commercial products Voodoo Juice (VJ) and Tarantula (TRL) containing strains from rhizosphere bacteria <i>Bacillus sp.</i> on the pigment content and water deficit of maize hybrids Kn 435 and Kn 509 was investigated. wo-year field experiments without irrigation on leached black soil (chernozem) were carried out in the Maize Research Institute - Knezha. Randomized block design includes 16 entries in 3 replications by 10 m ² . Trials included 2 controls (checks) and 6 variants with bioproducts treatment. The results pointed out specific genotype reactions regarding
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VJ 10⁷ TRL 10⁷ 435.
10,88% 8,87%
8,45% 6,48%

509 -

VJ 10⁸, VJ 10⁷ TRL 10⁸.

TRL 10⁷,
TRL 10⁸.

VJ 10⁷,
VJ 10⁶

the leaf pigments content. More noticeable changes were observed for Kn 435 hybrid. After treatment with VJ 10⁷ and TRL 10⁷, the pigment content was increased by 10.88% and 8.87% respectively compared to the control variant, and by 8.45% and 6.48% compared to the zeolite control. The hybrid Kn 509 was less influenced after treating with the same bioproducts. A slight positive effect was observed during one of the years of the investigation.

The water deficit was decreased; the turgidity and draught tolerance of plant tissues were improved after the application of bioproducts VJ 10⁷ and TRL 10⁷ and in some cases – VJ 10⁶ and TRL 10⁸.

Key words: Rhizosphere bacteria, photosynthetic pigments, water deficit, maize hybrids, bioproducts

INTRODUCTION

It has long been known that rhizosphere microorganisms play an important role in growth, development, feeding, resistance to root diseases and abiotic stress of plants (Lugtenberg and Kamilova, 2009). Application of the so-called bacterial fertilizers is essential for enriching the root zone with beneficial microorganisms and improving the conditions of root nutrition. They are being successfully used in organic agriculture and have significant advantages over synthetic fertilizers: synthesize physiologically active biological substances, increase the productivity of photosynthesis, improve the water regime, act as antagonists of phytopathogenic microorganisms and enhance the protective functions of plants (Coleman and Crossley, 1995). Members of the genus *Bacillus* are considered promising biofertilizers based on the results of many years of research and testing of *Bacillus* strains. It is found that

and Kamilova, 2009).

(Lugtenberg

(Coleman and Crossley, 1995).

Bacillus

(Garsia et al., 2004);
et al., 2006); (Bai et al., 2002)

Bacillus.

Voodoo Juice (VJ) *Tarantula* (TRL)
435 (400) 509 (500).

- these bacteria show positive effect for
- improving mineral nutrition and resistance
- to stress and phytopathogenic factors.
- There are many studies demonstrating
- the yield increase of different crops:
vegetables (Garsia et al., 2004); maize
and rice (Xuming et al., 2006); soy (Bai et
al., 2002), etc. after being treated with
Bacillus strains.

The aim of this study is to
demonstrate the effect of treatment with a
combination of rhizosphere bacteria
included in the products *Voodoo Juice*
(VJ) and *Tarantula* (TRL) on the
photosynthetic pigments and water deficit
of maize hybrids Kn 435 (FAO 400) and
Kn 509 (FAO 500).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

A two-year experiment is conducted
at the test field of the Maize Institute -
Knezha with maize hybrids Kn 435 and
Kn 509 – representatives of the medium
early-maturing and medium late-maturing
groups (FAO). The tests are carried out
without irrigation on a typical slightly
leached black soil (chernozem) and
background of fertilization N_8P_{10} . Scheme
of experience included three repetitions
and size of the experimental plot 10 m^2
for each repetition. The microbial inoculates
include *Bacillus sp.*– rhizosphere bacteria
from commercial preparations *Voodoo Juice*
(VJ) and *Tarantula* (TRL). The
combinations of strains in the composition
of VJ and TRL are described in details in
another publication. Micronized zeolite
clinoptilolite type, fraction <100 microns
is used as a mineral filler. The inoculation
is done before sowing; the seeds are
encrusted with the preparations
containing the mineral filler and sorbitol
surfactant as a binding agent.

In the composition of VJ are
entered 14 combinations of strains, in the
TRL – 17 ones, which are definitely
described in other publication of ours
(Savov et al., 2013).

N_8P_{10} .

10 m^2

Bacillus sp. –

Voodoo Juice (VJ) *Tarantula* (TRL).
VJ 14
TRL 17
(Savov et al., 2013).

<100

14 VJ
TRL 17

(Savov et al., 2013).

- 3) : 1) ; 2) ;
- VJ 10^8 CFU. g^{-1} ; 4)
- VJ 10^7 CFU. g^{-1} ; 5) VJ 10^6
- CFU. g^{-1} ; 6) TRL 10^8 CFU. g^{-1} ;
- 7) TRL 10^7 CFU. g^{-1} ; 8)
- TRL 10^6 CFU. g^{-1} .
- 70 g. kg^{-1}

Bozova et al. (1993).

mg/g:

- „ = 10,3 663 - 0,918 644
- „ = 19,7 644 - 3,87 663
- „ + = 6,4 663 + 18,8 644
- () = 4,75 440 - 0,226 (+)

Bacillus,

VJ TRL.

435

1.

The scheme of the experiment is as follows: 1) Control; 2) Control zeolite; 3) Inoculate – VJ 10^8 CFU. g^{-1} ; 4) Inoculate – VJ 10^7 CFU. g^{-1} ; 5) VJ 10^6 CFU. g^{-1} ; 6) Inoculate TRL 10^8 CFU. g^{-1} ; 7) Inoculate TRL 10^7 CFU. g^{-1} ; 8) Inoculate TRL 10^6 CFU. g^{-1} . The dose of each preparation is 70 g. kg^{-1} of seeds.

The content of photosynthetic pigments and the water deficit of leaf tissues are determined according to the methods of Bozova et al. (1993).

Samples for analysis are taken from the ear leaves of each variant during the flowering of the tassel. Plastid pigments are determined colourimetrically by extraction with acetone, and water deficit of leaf tissues is determined by weighing.

Plastid pigments content is calculated by following formulae:

- Chlorophyll „ = 10.3 x E663 – 0.918 x E644
- Chlorophyll „b“ = 19.7 x E644 – 3.87 x E663
- Chlorophyll „ +b“ = 6.4 x E663 + 18.8 x E644
- Carotines = 4.75 x E440 – 0.226 x (a + b)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The content of plastid pigments in assimilating organs has a significant role among the factors affecting the photosynthetic activity of maize plants. It is known that pigment content is influenced by the intensity and spectral composition of light energy, heat and water regime, mineral nutrition and other external factors.

The present study is focused on determining the changes in pigment content depending on the treatment of maize hybrids with *Bacillus* inoculates containing rhizosphere bacteria from the commercial products *Voodoo Juice* and *Tarantula*. Data about the pigment content for the individual years and the average of them relative to the control and zeolite control for hybrid Kn 435 are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Influence of studied rhizosphere microflora on the photosynthetic pigments of maize hybrid Kn 435

Variants BAS	/ Photosynthetic pigments (mg/g)			
	chl. „a“	chl. „b“	chl. „a+b“	carotenes
Control 2010	3,42	1,42	4,84	0,299
Control 2011	2,47	1,43	3,90	0,292
1. /Average	2,94	1,425	4,37	0,295
ontr. zeolite 2010	3,47	1,36	4,83	0,302
ontr. zeolite 2011	3,05	1,10	4,15	0,238
2. /Average	3,26	1,23	4,49	0,280
Vj 10 ⁸ 2010	3,96	1,59	5,55	0,339
Vj 10 ⁸ 2011	2,54	1,13	3,67	0,218
3. /Average	3,24	1,36	4,60	0,278
Vj 10 ⁷ 2010	4,28	1,78	6,06	0,340
Vj 10 ⁷ 2011	2,72	1,07	3,79	0,156
4. /Average	3,50	1,425	4,925	0,248
Vj 10 ⁶ 2010	3,34	1,42	4,76	0,291
Vj 10 ⁶ 2011	2,44	1,01	3,45	0,212
5. /Average	2,89	1,215	4,105	0,251
TRL 10 ⁸ 2010	3,86	1,61	5,47	0,331
TRL 10 ⁸ 2011	2,53	1,17	3,70	0,232
6. /Average	3,19	1,39	4,58	0,281
TRL 10 ⁷ 2010	4,34	1,78	6,12	0,379
TRL 10 ⁷ 2011	2,47	1,06	3,53	0,130
7. /Average	3,40	1,42	4,82	0,254
TRL 10 ⁶ 2010	3,76	1,54	5,30	0,314
TRL 10 ⁶ 2011	2,70	1,08	3,78	0,169
8. /Average	3,23	1,31	4,54	0,241

During the first year of the study the content of chlorophyll "a", chlorophyll "b" and carotenes is higher. The results for the average content of the two years indicate that the treatment with VJ 10⁷ has the strongest positive influence on the synthesis of photosynthetic pigments. In other words, the increase above the control and zeolite control in the case of chlorophyll "a" for VJ 10⁷ are 19.2% and 7.36% respectively, and 12.70% and 9.68% – for the sum of chlorophyll "a+b". The influence of TRL 10⁷ treatment leads to an increase of chlorophyll "a" by 15.65%

During the first year of the study the content of chlorophyll "a", chlorophyll "b" and carotenes is higher. The results for the average content of the two years indicate that the treatment with VJ 10⁷ has the strongest positive influence on the synthesis of photosynthetic pigments. In other words, the increase above the control and zeolite control in the case of chlorophyll "a" for VJ 10⁷ are 19.2% and 7.36% respectively, and 12.70% and 9.68% – for the sum of chlorophyll "a+b". The influence of TRL 10⁷ treatment leads to an increase of chlorophyll "a" by 15.65%

7,35%.
435 -
TRL
1.
TRL 10⁷
VJ 10⁷
VJ 10⁷ TRL 10⁷
8,87%.
10⁷ TRL 10⁷.
: 8,45% 6,47% VJ

and 4.29% compared to the control and zeolite control respectively, and for the sum of chlorophyll "a + b" – 10.3% and 7.35%. Even clearer picture of the effect of treatment with various concentrations VJ and TRL is obtained from the results about the total content of pigments (green + yellow) shown in Figure 1. The graphic image shows the above mentioned tendency – that the application of VJ 10⁷ and TRL 10⁷ is the most appropriate to use because of its pronounced positive effect on increasing the total content of photosynthetic pigments of hybrid Kn 435. Expressed in %, the average total pigment content after treatment with VJ 10⁷ and TRL 10⁷ is 10.88% and 8.87% higher than that of the control. Compared to the zeolite control, the increase is 8.45% and 6.47% for VJ 10⁷ and TRL 10⁷.

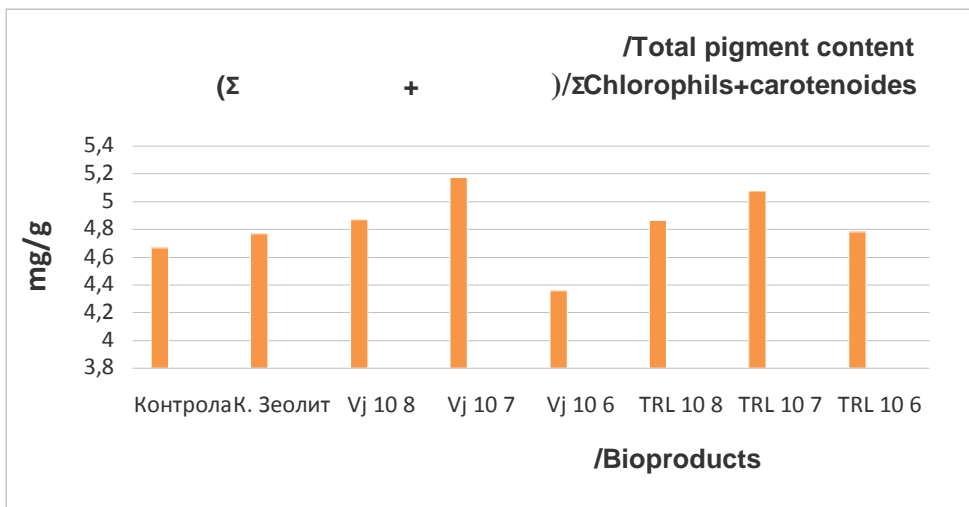


Fig. 2. Influence of studied bioactive substances on the total pigment content of maize hybrid Kn 435

2
509.

The results about the influence of the rhizosphere microflora on photosynthetic pigments of hybrid Kn 509 are shown in Table 2. A specific reaction is observed for this hybrid, showing a lower pigment content for the BAS-treated variants compared to the two controls. There are no significant

VJ 10⁷ (4,01%) TRL 10⁸ (2,00%), VJ 10⁸ (4,58%),

(9,87%) TRL 10⁸ (7,73%), VJ 10⁸ (10,47%), VJ 10⁷

509.

2.

differences between the two controls with respect to the total pigment content, expressed as an average of the two years. In the first year of the study higher values for the total content are determined in the cases of treatment with VJ 10⁸ (4.58%), VJ 10⁷ (4.01 %) and TRL 10⁸ (2.00%) compared to the control.

In comparison with the zeolite control, there is an increase of pigment content after application of VJ 10⁸ (10.47%), VJ 10⁷ (9.87%) and TRL 10⁸ (7.73%) in the first year of study.

509

Table 2. Influence of studied rhizosphere microflora on the photosynthetic pigments of maize hybrid Kn 509

Variants BAS	Photosynthetic pigments (mg/g)			
	chl. „a“	chl. „b“	chl. „+b“	carotenes
/Control 2010	3,50	1,18	4,68	0,251
/Control 2011	3,09	1,25	4,34	0,254
1. /Average	3,295	1,215	4,51	0,252
ontr. zeolite 2010	3,15	1,25	4,40	0,268
ontr. zeolite 2011	3,17	1,36	4,53	0,265
2. /Average	3,16	1,31	4,47	0,266
Vj 10 ⁸ 2010	3,48	1,42	4,90	0,257
Vj 10 ⁸ 2011	2,30	1,09	3,39	0,179
3. /Average	2,89	1,26	4,15	0,218
Vj 10 ⁷ 2010	3,46	1,41	4,87	0,259
Vj 10 ⁷ 2011	2,23	1,08	3,31	0,180
4. /Average	2,845	1,245	4,09	0,220
Vj 10 ⁶ 2010	2,97	1,23	4,20	0,216
Vj 10 ⁶ 2011	2,98	1,32	4,30	0,249
5. /Average	2,975	1,275	4,25	0,232
TRL 10 ⁸ 2010	3,36	1,40	4,76	0,269
TRL 10 ⁸ 2011	2,78	1,26	4,04	0,216
6. /Average	3,07	1,33	4,40	0,242
TRL 10 ⁷ 2010	3,04	1,24	4,28	0,245
TRL 10 ⁷ 2011	3,23	1,16	4,39	0,218
7. /Average	3,135	1,20	4,345	0,232
TRL 10 ⁶ 2010	2,86	1,33	4,19	0,220
TRL 10 ⁶ 2011	2,41	1,04	3,45	0,192
8. /Average	2,635	1,185	3,82	0,206

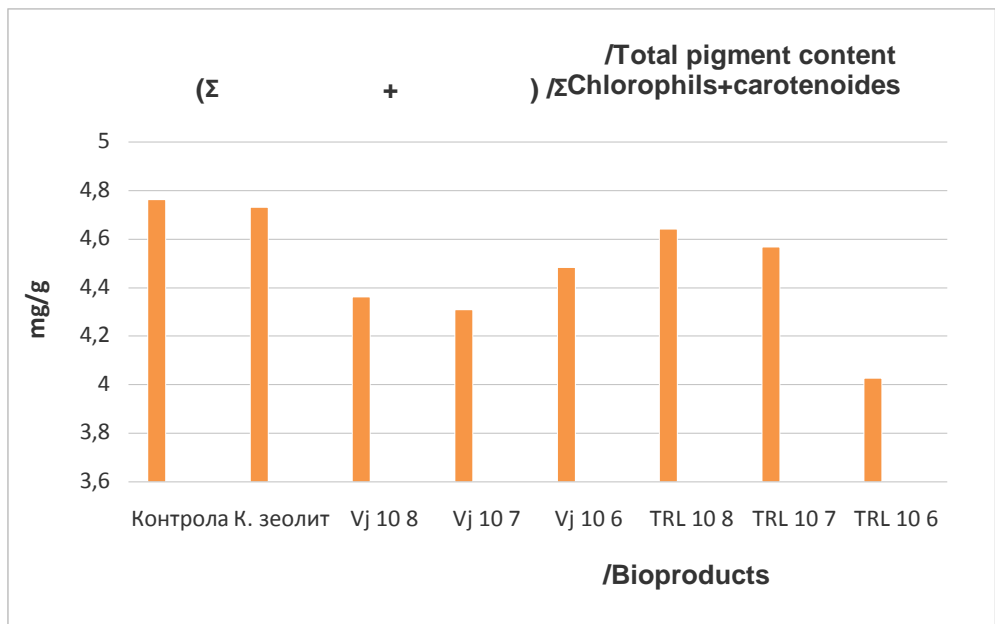
509

The data for the average total pigment content of hybrid Kn 509 after treatment with the bio preparations are

2. VJ TRL
 VJ 10⁶
 TRL – TRL 10⁸
 435.

depicted on Figure 2. It is obvious that the six variants of treatment with VJ and TRL have lower total pigment content. Between the three applied concentrations of VJ and TRL, the best effect has VJ 10⁶ and TRL 10⁸.

It can be concluded that the studied hybrids show genotypically determined reactions regarding their pigment content, and the positive changes are more pronounced in the case of the medium early hybrid Kn 435.



2. 509
Fig. 2. Influence of studied bioactive substances on the total pigment content of maize hybrid Kn 509

435 509
 3.

The water deficit of leaf tissues of hybrids Kn 435 and Kn 509 has been studied during the tassel flowering phase which is critical regarding drought in order to study the reaction of hybrids to abiotic stress and to determine the effect of treatment with BAS. The results of the experiment are presented in Table 3.

509 ()

Table 3. Influence of studied rhizosphere microflora on the water deficit of leaf tissues of maize hybrids Kn 435 and Kn 509 (in the flowering phase of the tassel)

Variants BAS	435 / Knezha 435		509 / Knezha 509	
	Water deficit (%)	Relative turgescence (%)	Water deficit (%)	Relative turgescence (%)
Control 2010	8,36	91,64	7,78	92,22
Control 2011	8,74	91,26	-	-
1. /Average	8,55	91,45	7,78	92,22
ontr. zeolite 2010	8,96	91,04	7,82	92,18
ontr. zeolite 2011	5,33	94,47	-	-
2. /Average	7,14	92,75	7,82	92,18
Vj 10 ⁸ 2010	10,64	89,36	9,37	90,63
Vj 10 ⁸ 2011	9,03	90,97	-	-
3. /Average	9,83	90,16	9,37	90,63
Vj 10 ⁷ 2010	7,82	92,18	7,03	92,97
Vj 10 ⁷ 2011	4,20	95,80	-	-
4. /Average	6,06	93,99	7,03	92,97
Vj 10 ⁶ 2010	6,35	93,65	9,94	90,06
Vj 10 ⁶ 2011	6,94	93,06	-	-
5. /Average	6,65	93,35	9,94	90,06
TRL 10 ⁸ 2010	7,43	92,57	9,28	90,72
TRL 10 ⁸ 2011	13,14	86,86	-	-
6. /Average	10,28	89,72	9,28	90,72
TRL 10 ⁷ 2010	5,76	94,24	8,75	91,25
TRL 10 ⁷ 2011	9,71	90,29	-	-
7. /Average	7,73	92,27	8,75	91,25
TRL 10 ⁶ 2010	8,54	91,41	8,38	91,62
TRL 10 ⁶ 2011	7,20	92,80	-	-
8. /Average	7,87	92,12	8,38	91,62

Water deficit is the shortage of water until complete saturation of the cells. It is expressed in percentage from the water content during complete saturation of leaf tissues. The lowest water deficit and the highest relative turgescence for hybrid Kn 435 are determined in the cases of treatment with VJ 10⁷ (II-nd year – 4.20 %) and TRL 10⁷ (I-st year – 5.76 %), which implies that in these cases the relative stress tolerance to drought is higher compared to controls.

- VJ 10⁷ TRL 10⁷.
 - VJ 10⁶ TRL 10⁶
 -
 -
 -
 -
 VJ 10⁷ TRL 10⁷. 509
 -
 -
 (7,08%) TRL 10⁶ (8,38%).
 VJ 10⁷

The lowest water deficit average from the two years is reported when VJ 10⁷ and TRL 10⁷ are used. It is noteworthy that the water deficit when using VJ 10⁶ and TRL 10⁶ is not significantly different (average from the two years) from that of the aforementioned microbial preparations, but VJ 10⁷ and TRL 10⁷ are preferable due to their better effect. For hybrid Kn 509 a lower water deficit and better effect on increasing the relative resistance to drought are also determined after treatment with VJ 10⁷ (7.08 %) and TRL 10⁶ (8.38%).

CONCLUSIONS

Considering the results obtained, we conclude that both hybrids show genotypically determined reactions:

• 435
 VJ 10⁷ TRL 10⁷
 10,88% 8,87%,
 8,45% 6,48%.
 • 509
 ()
 VJ 10⁷ TRL 10⁸.
 VJ 10⁸,
 VJ 10⁷, TRL 10⁷,
 VJ 10⁶ TRL 10⁸.

• The total pigment content of hybrid Kn 435 is increased by treatment with VJ 10⁷ and TRL 10⁷ by 10.88% and 8.87% compared to the control, and by 8.45% and 6.48% compared to the zeolite control.

• There is no pigment content increase for hybrid Kn 509 (average for the whole study period). A slight positive effect is noticed only during the first year of study – after treatment with VJ 10⁸, VJ 10⁷ and TRL 10⁸.

The water deficit is reduced, the turgor and drought tolerance of plant tissues are increased when using the bio preparations VJ 10⁷, TRL 10⁷, and in some cases – VJ 10⁶ and TRL 10⁸.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This research is conducted with the support of Advanced Nutrients Ltd., Canada

Advanced Nutrients Ltd,
 Canada.

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*,
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Change in energy yield and bioenergy coefficient for Kn-307 and Kn-435, depending on growing conditions

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Received: 13.04.2018

Accepted: 26.04.2018

Published: 09.07.2018

SUMMARY

The study was done in the period 2014-2016 in the experimental field of the Institute of Maize - Knezha. The subject of the study are hybrids: Kn-307 group 200-400 per FAO and a density of 6500-7000 p/da and Kn-435 group 400-500 per FAO and density of 6000-6500 p/da.

The maize was grown under control without fertilization (T_0) and two fertilization levels: $N_{8,5} \ 5,4 \ 6,4$ (T_1) and $N_{17}P_{10,8}K_{12,8}$ (T_2). The agrotechnics adapted for the region was applied.

For Kn-307 hybrid and density of 6500 p/da, mineral fertilization increased the yield of energy by 27-26% for variants T_1 and T_2 and by 33% respectively about two doses of fertilizer T_1 and T_2 and density of 7000 p/da.

At both fertilization levels T_1 and T_2 and the two densities 6000-6500 p/da for the hybrid Kn-435, the yield of energy was 30-33% more than the control (T_0).

Average for period, the fertilization with $N_{8,5} \ 5,4 \ 6,4$ the bioenergetic coefficient for the hybrid Kn-307 was changed from 3.6 to 4.2. For doubled

2014-2016 .
 : -307
 200-400
 6500-7000 /da -435 400-500
 6000-6500 /da.
 (0)
 : $N_{8,5} \ 5,4 \ 6,4$ (1)
 $N_{17}P_{10,8}K_{12,8}$ (2).
 -
 -307 6500
 /da,
 27-26%,
 : $N_{8,5} \ 5,4 \ 6,4$ $N_{17}P_{10,8}K_{12,8}$
 33% 1
 2 7000 /da.
 6500 /da 1 2 -435, 6000-
 30-33%,
 0.
 $N_{8,5} \ 5,4 \ 6,4$
 -307 3,6 4,2.
 $N_{17}P_{10,8}K_{12,8}$,

1,8 2,1.
- 0,8
2 6500 /da
- 5,6 1 7000
/da -435
6000 /da,
4,2 2,3 -
1 6500 /da, 2,
4,3 2,2.
:
,
,
,

fertilizer $N_{17}P_{10,8}K_{12,8}$ this indicator ranged from 1.8 to 2.1. For years, the bioenergy coefficient was with the lowest value of 0.8 for T_2 variant and 6500 p/da for the first year and the highest of 5.6 for the T_1 and 7000 p/da for the third year. For Kn-435 and 6000 p/da the survey indicator changed from 4.2 to 2.3 for the single T_1 and the double dose of fertilizer T_2 , and for the density of 6500 p/da these values were 4.3 and 2.2.

Key words: maize, hybrid, fertilizer, densities, energy yield, bioenergetic coefficient

INTRODUCTION

In the current situation, when problems related to the economic use of energy resources arise, the issue of energy analysis is raised along with the economic and environmental indicators (Bazarov, 1983; Dikanev and Efanov, 2006). The main task of the energy analysis in agriculture is to assess the expenses by type of energy and to determine their share in the production of individual crops.

(Bazarov, 1983; Dikanev and Efanov, 2006).

Mineral fertilization costs (particularly nitrogenous), occupy a substantial part of the total energy costs and generally have a positive effect on plant production (Simon, 1980; Dashkova, 1991). In the literature there are data from energy analyzes for individual technological elements and whole technologies in plant growing (Korshunov et al., 1995). A bioenergy efficiency indicator is the bioenergy ratio (Segetova, 1983; Glogova and Nankov, 2012; Nankov and Glogova, 2012).

(Simon, 1980; Dashkova, 1991).

(Korshunov et al., 1995).

(Segetova, 1983; Glogova and Nankov 2012; Nankov and Glogova, 2012).

Maize is main grain-forage crop for the country. To the conditions of the external environment, it is demanding in terms of heat and moisture. For a large part of the country, the temperature conditions are favourable for it's cultivation but the limiting factor is usually precipitation, that is why they are crucial

(Zarkov, 2001; Koteva and Varlev, 2003).

(Toncheva et al., 2008; Nenova, 2010).

-307 -435,

2014-2016 .
 : -307 200-400
 6500-7000 /da -435
 400-500 6000-6500
 /da.

(T_0)
 $N_{8,5} P_{5,4} K_{6,4} (1)$
 $N_{17}P_{10,8}K_{12,8} (2)$
 1 kg
 o – 14,6 MJ/kg
 : N – 77 MJ/kg, P – 14
 MJ/kg K – 10 MJ/kg (Primental, 1984).
 $N_{8,5} P_{5,4} K_{6,4} - 794$
 MJ/da; $N_{17}P_{10,8}K_{12,8} - 1588$ MJ/da.

$N_0 P_0 K_0$
 6500 /da,
 -307
 9256 MJ/da 12658 MJ/da,
 (1).
 $N_{8,5} P_{5,4} K_{6,4}$

(Zarkov, 2001; Koteva and Varlev, 2003).
 - Maize has a very big genetically
 - determined productivity for the
 - implementation. The region characteristic
 soil and climatic conditions and implement
 agricultural activities, including dominant
 importance fertilization influence on its
 productivity (Toncheva et al., 2008;
 Nenova, 2010).

The purpose of the study is to
 establish the change of energy productivity
 and the biological coefficient in hybrids Kn-
 307 and Kn-435, depending on the
 conditions of growing.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was conducted in the
 period 2014-2016 in the experimental field
 of Maize Research Institute - Knezha.

The subject of the study is the
 hybrids Kn-307 group 200-400 FAO and a
 density of 6500-7000 p/da and Kn-435
 group 400-500 by FAO a density of 6000-
 6500 p/da.

The maize was grown in a control
 variant without fertilization (T_0) and two
 fertilizing levels: $N_{8,5} P_{5,4} K_{6,4} (1)$ and
 $N_{17}P_{10,8}K_{12,8} (2)$. The agrotechnics
 adopted for the region was applied. For
 the determination of the energy yield, the
 energy equivalent for 1 kg grain – 14.6
 MJ/kg and energy equivalents for the
 fertilizer: N – 77 MJ/kg; P – 14 MJ/kg and
 K – 10 MJ/kg (Pimental, 1984), were
 used. Energy costs for $N_{8,5} P_{5,4} K_{6,4} - 794$
 MJ/da; for $N_{17}P_{10,8}K_{12,8} - 1588$ MJ/da.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In case of natural soil supply
 $N_0 P_0 K_0$ and seed density 6500 p/da of
 energy from the hybrid Kn-307 changes
 within the range of 9256 MJ/da to 12658
 MJ/da for the second and the first year of
 the experiment (Table 1). When fertilizing
 maize with $N_{8,5} P_{5,4} K_{6,4}$ the studied
 indicator varies in years. Like the control
 variant, the lowest score was established
 in 2015 – 12687 MJ/da, as the difference

12687 MJ/da, 2015 . – between it and the one with the highest value was 10%.

1. , MJ/da
Table 1. Energy yield, MJ/da

Variants	2014	2015	2016	Average	% % to T ₀	CV %
-307/6500 /da Kn-307/6500 p/da						
N _{0 0 0}	12658	9256	10147	10687	100	13
N _{8,5 5,4 6,4}	13928	12687	14016	13544	127	4
N ₁₇ P _{10,8} K _{12,8}	13958	12921	13607	13495	126	3
/Average	13515	11621	12590			
CV%	4	14	14			
-307/7000 /da Kn-307/7000 p/da						
N _{0 0 0}	11198	9037	9957	10064	100	9
N _{8,5 5,4 6,4}	13359	12571	14381	13437	133	6
N ₁₇ P _{10,8} K _{12,8}	13607	13067	13432	13369	133	2
/Average	12721	11558	12590			
CV%	8	15	15			
-435/6000 /da Kn-435/6000 p/da						
N _{0 0 0}	10906	10249	11359	10838	100	4
N _{8,5 5,4 6,4}	13563	14016	15009	14196	131	4
N ₁₇ P _{10,8} K _{12,8}	14279	14016	15038	14444	133	3
/Average	12916	12760	13802			
CV%	11	14	12			
-435/6500 /da Kn-435/6500 p/da						
N _{0 0 0}	11651	11330	11169	11383	100	2
N _{8,5 5,4 6,4}	13534	14775	16133	14814	130	7
N ₁₇ P _{10,8} K _{12,8}	14133	14936	15651	14907	131	3
/Average	13106	13680	14318			
CV%	7	12	16			

MJ/da. , 13547
T₀,
27%. ,
– N_{8,5 5,4 6,4} N₁₇P_{10,8}K_{12,8}

From the calculations for the average energy yield at this level of fertilization, its value was 13547 MJ/da. Compared to the control variant T₀, this value was 27% more. The data convincingly show that increasing the fertilizer rate twice – from N_{8,5 5,4 6,4} to N₁₇P_{10,8}K_{12,8}, does not lead to the same degree of increase in energy yield. The numeric value of this metric varies from year to year in the range of 12921 MJ/da for 2015 to 13958 MJ/da for 2014. The average of the studied period,

12921 MJ/da 2015 . 13958 MJ/da
 2014 .
 26%.
 - 39%
 MJ/da, 2014 .
 CV=4% 2014 .
 N_{0 0 0} 7000 /da,
 11198 MJ/da
 12571 MJ/da 2015 . 14381
 MJ/da 2016 .
 T₁ 44%
 1 ,
 N_{17P_{10,8}K_{12,8}}
 N_{17P_{10,8}K_{12,8}}
 , 21%, 44% 35%.
 N_{17P_{10,8}K_{12,8}} 2% 4%

compared to the non-fertilizer variant, the energy yield is 26% higher.

The difference between the two fertilizer doses is minimal – 1%. The effect of the same T₂ fertilizer is 39% in the second experimental year. On average all cultivation variants for maize with the highest energy yield of 13515 MJ/da was in 2014. On the average of the three years of the study, the coefficient of variation has the highest value in non-fertilizing maize, respectively CV=13%.

For both fertilization levels T₁ and T₂ this indicator is CV=4% and CV=3%. On average, from the control variant T₀ and the two combinations of fertilizer T₁ and T₂, the variation in energy yield is the least CV=4% for 2014. For the next two years, this indicator is characterized by the same values CV=14%.

When growing maize under natural soil supply N_{0 0 0} and a density of 7000 p/da, yields of energy from the hybrid Kn-307 is the highest 11198 MJ/da for the first year of the study and the smallest 9037 MJ/da for the second year. The use of mineral fertilizer in the N_{8,5 5,4 6,4} proportion has different impacts on energy yield in individual years.

This indicator changes in the range from 12571 MJ/da for 2015 to 14381 MJ/da for the 2016. The increase in energy yield as a result of a single T₁ fertilizer dose is 44% for the third year of the study. The data in Table 1 show that the action of the double dose of fertilizer T₂ does not differ significantly from that of the single fertilizer T₁.

Fertilization with N_{17P_{10,8}K_{12,8}} increases the yield of energy compared to the control variant, respectively 21%, 44% and 35%. Compared to the lower fertilizer use, the effect of fertilization with N_{17P_{10,8}K_{12,8}} is 2% and 4% for the first and second year of the experiment and

7%
 T_1
 33%
 2015 2016
 CV=15%
 : CV=9%
 T_0 ; CV=6%
 CV=2% $N_{17}P_{10,8}K_{12,8}$
 6000 /da 6500 /da.
 6500 /da. 7%
 10%
 - 2%
 $N_{8,5} P_{5,4} K_{6,4}$
 13563 MJ/da 2014
 15009 MJ/da.
 37%
 31%
 6500 /da,
 16%
 44%,
 6000
 /da – 30%.
 1
 T_2
 31%, 38%
 32% –
 6000 /da.

for the third year the difference of 7% is in favour of the single fertilizer T_1 . On average for the studied period the action of both doses of fertilizer is 33%, compared to the non-mineral fertilizer.

The coefficient of variation of the studied indicator has the highest value in 2015 and in 2016 – CV=15%. On average for the three years of the experiment for each variant, this quantity has values as follows: CV=9% for control T_0 ; CV=6% for fertilizing with $N_{8,5} P_{5,4} K_{6,4}$ and CV=2% for $N_{17}P_{10,8}K_{12,8}$.

Hybrid Kn-435 is grown at seed density 6000 p/da and 6500 p/da. When growing maize without the use of mineral fertilizer the energy yield is higher at seed density 6500 p/da. The difference in years is 7% and 10% for the first two years of the experiment and for the third 2% in favour for the lower density. Fertilization of maize plants with $N_{8,5} P_{5,4} K_{6,4}$ changes the studied indicator by 13563 MJ/da for 2014 to 15009 MJ/da. The effect of this fertilizer rate is 37% for the second experimental year. From the mentioned data it can be seen that on average, the increase as a result of the fertilization is 31%. At 6500 p/da density, the action of the same fertilizer combination is better expressed. The difference compared to the control variant ranges from 16 to 44%, respectively for the first and third year of experimental work. The average value of the fertilizer effect is almost the same as the one at 6000 p/da – 30%.

The data presented in the Table 1 convincingly show that the use of both doses of fertilizer has positive effect on the yield of energy. The doubling fertilizer dose T_2 increases the studied indicator by 31%, 38% and 32% for the first, second and third year at a density of 6000 p/da. This result, for the larger density of 6500 p/da, is 21%, 32% and 40%, respectively. On average for the period at both

6500 /da, 21%, 32%
 40%.
 , -
 - 30-33%.
 , -
 CV=2% CV=7%.
 CV=7% CV=16%,
 .
 -307
 -435
 2. -307 6500
 /da, -
 1,6 2014 4,9 2016 .
 -
 .
 53%
 45%
 ,
 3,6 N_{8,5 5,4 6,4},
 N_{17P_{10,8}K_{12,8}} 1,8.
 1,2 2014 3,5 2016 .
 7000 /da. -
 2,7 5,6 -
 T₁, 4,2. -
 -
 N_{17P_{10,8}K_{12,8}}
 -
 6500 /da.

densities the action of the fertilizer combinations is almost the same – 30-33%.

On average for period, the variance coefficient for the individual variants has minimum values of CV=2% to CV=7%. By years, this indicator ranges between CV=7% and CV=16%, respectively for the first and the third year.

The values for the bioenergetic coefficient of the hybrids Kn-307 and Kn-435 at the respective densities and fertilization levels are presented in Table 2. For Kn-307 hybrid and 6500 p/da density this indicator ranges from 1.6 for 2014 to 4.9 for 2016. Increasing the quantity of fertilizer also leads to higher energy costs in fertilizer. As a result the numerical value of the bioenergetic coefficient is also reduced. The highest is the reduction for the second – 53% and 45% for the third year.

The average for the period studied coefficient is 3.6 for the variant N_{8,5 5,4 6,4}; and for fertilizing with N_{17P_{10,8}K_{12,8}} is 1.8. Yearly, average of both fertilizer doses, the value of this quantity is 1.2 for 2014 and 3.5 for the 2016. A similar tendency of change of this indicator is also observed at a density of 7000 p/da. Its numeric value varies from 2.7 to 5.6 and the average for variant T₁ is 4.2. Cultivating maize at twice the amount of N_{17P_{10,8}K_{12,8}} mineral fertilizer again leads to a decrease in the bioenergetic coefficient, similar to the one at density 6500 p/da.

2.

Table 2. Bioenergetic coefficient

Variants	2014	2015	2016	Average	CV %
-307/6500 /da Kn-307/6500 p/da					
N _{8,5 5,4 6,4} (T ₁)	1.6	4.3	4.9	3.6	39.7
N ₁₇ P _{10,8} K _{12,8} (T ₂)	0.8	2.3	2.2	1.8	37.8
/Average	1.2	3.3	3.5		
CV%	42.5	30.3	38.6		
-307/7000 /da Kn-307/7000 p/da					
N _{8,5 5,4 6,4} (T ₁)	2.7	4.4	5.6	4.2	28.3
N ₁₇ P _{10,8} K _{12,8} (T ₂)	1.5	2.5	2.2	2.1	20.0
/Average	2.1	3.4	3.9		
CV%	28.6	30.0	43.6		
-435/6000 /da Kn-435/6000 p/da					
N _{8,5 5,4 6,4} (T ₁)	3.3	4.7	4.6	4.2	15.2
N ₁₇ P _{10,8} K _{12,8} (T ₂)	2.1	2.4	2.3	2.3	6.9
/Average	2.7	3.5	3.4		
CV%	22.2	32.9	33.8		
-435/6500 /da Kn-435/6500 p/da					
N _{8,5 5,4 6,4} (T ₁)	2.4	4.3	6.2	4.3	34.9
N ₁₇ P _{10,8} K _{12,8} (T ₂)	1.6	2.3	2.8	2.2	21.8
/Average	2.0	3.3	4.5		
CV%	20.0	30.0	37.8		

6000 /da -435
3,3 4,7
(T₁),
(T₂) 2,1 2,4. 6500 /da
T₁ T₂ -
N_{8,5 5,4 6,4}
N₁₇P_{10,8}K_{12,8} - 2,8.
4,2 2,3
6000 /da 4,3 2,2 6500
/da.

For Kn-435 hybrid and density 6000 p/da bioenergetic coefficient ranges from 3.3 to 4.7 for the single dose of fertilizer (T₁) and for the double (T₂) from 2.1 to 2.4. For a 6500 p/da density the studied indicator for both fertilizer levels T₁ and T₂ with higher values is the third year of the experiment. For the single dose N_{8,5 5,4 6,4} the numerical value of this quantity is 6.2, and for the double N₁₇P_{10,8}K_{12,8} is 2.8.
Average for the period the value of the surveyed indicator is inversely proportional to the doubled fertilizer, 4.2 to 2.3 for a density 6000 p/da and 4.3 to 2.2 for 6500 p/da, respectively.
The degree of variation of the bioenergetic coefficient by years and

CV=6,9% CV=39,7%.
 CV=20% CV=42,5% –
 CV=30% CV=32,9%.
 CV=33,8% CV=43,6%.

variants is a result of the influence of weather conditions on both the yield value and the efficiency of mineral fertilization. On average the numeric value of this indicator varies from CV=6.9 to CV=39.7. On average from the two fertilization levels the bioenergetic coefficient changes from CV=20% to CV=42.5% in the first year and the second is between CV=30% and CV=32.9%. For the third year of the experiment studies coefficient varies between CV=33.8 and CV=43.6.

-307 6500
 /da
 27-26%,
 $N_{8,5} P_{5,4} K_{6,4}$ $N_{17} P_{10,8} K_{12,8}$
 33% T_1
 T_2 7000 /da.
 6000-6500 /da T_1 T_2
 -435,
 30-33%
 T_0 .
 $N_{8,5} P_{5,4} K_{6,4}$ -
 -307
 3,6 4,2.
 $N_{17} P_{10,8} K_{12,8}$ -
 1,8 2,1.
 0,8 T_2 6500 /da
 - 5,6
 T_1 7000 /da
 -435 6000 /da -
 4,2 2,3 – T_1
 T_2 ,
 6500 /da
 4,3 2,2.

CONCLUSIONS

For Kn-307 hybrid and density of 6500 p/da mineral fertilization increases the yield of energy by 27-26% for variants T_1 and T_2 and by 33%, respectively as a result of the two doses of fertilizer T_1 and T_2 and density of 7000 p/da

At both fertilization levels T_1 and T_2 and the two densities 6000-6500 p/da for the hybrid Kn-435 the yield of energy is 30-33% more than the control (T_0)

Average for period the fertilization with $N_{8,5} P_{5,4} K_{6,4}$ the bioenergetic coefficient for the hybrid Kn-307 changes from 3.6 to 4.2. For doubled fertilizer $N_{17} P_{10,8} K_{12,8}$ this indicator ranges from 1.8 to 2.1. For years the bioenergy coefficient is with the lowest value of 0.8 for the T_2 variant and 6500 p/da for the first year and the highest of 5.6 for the T_1 and 7000 p/da for the third year.

For Kn-435 and 6000 p/da the surveyed/studied/investigated indicator changes from 4.2 to 2.3 for the single T_1 and the double dose of fertilizer T_2 and for density of 6500 p/da these values are: 4.3 and 2.2, respectively.

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