

Parameters of the relation "Yield - Irrigation depth" in tomatoes, greenhouse production

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SUMMARY

The experimental field experience was brought out during the period 2016-2017 in an unheated polyethylene greenhouse. The subject of the study is tomato, variety "Vitelio". To determine the parameters of the "Yield – Irrigation depth" dependence, were used the following options: 1. Irrigation with 50% of the optimal irrigation rate, 2. Irrigation with 75% of the optimal irrigation rate, 3. Irrigation with 100% of the optimal irrigation rate (optimal option). The relation "Yield – Irrigation depth" in tomatoes, greenhouse production can be expressed by square equation ($Y = ax^2 + bx$) as the average for the experimental period is the following: $Y = 2,786x - 1,780x^2$. From a biological point of view, the step formula reflects more accurately the change in yield when applying a different irrigation regime ($R^2 = 0,995$). Average for the period under consideration, the dependence is represented by the equation of the type: $Y = 1 - (1 - x)^{2,9}$. The deviation of the experimentally determined from the calculated yields is

2017).

”

”

%

Y –

: x –

(/); n –

2016-2017

110+50+35,
10 m².

0,2 m

0-30 cm.

: 1)
: $Y = ax^2 + bx,$

(); 2)
Davidov (1994): $Y = 1 - (1 - x)^n,$

2017). The environmental risk of the fertilizing factor and the role of irrigation water as an environmental factor are at the base of this environmental study.

This study aims to establish the parameters of the relation "extra yield-irrigation norm" in tomatoes, greenhouse production. The study of these dependencies gives opportunities to reduce the amount of fertilizer applied by optimizing the irrigation regime in order to obtain ecologically clean products.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The experimental field trial was brought out during the period 2016-2017 in an unheated polyethylene greenhouse. The subject of the study is tomato, variety "Vitelio". The experiment is based on the long plot method, on a flat surface 110 + 50 + 35 with the size of the plot of 10 m².

To determine the parameters of the "yield – irrigation rate" dependence, were used the following options:

1. Irrigation with 50% of the optimal irrigation rate
2. Irrigation with 75% of the optimal irrigation rate
3. Irrigation with 100% of the optimal irrigation rate (optimal option)

Irrigation was carried out using a built-in drip plant. The floating wings have built-in 0,2 m drippers with a flow rate of 2 l/h. Prepared humidity is maintained at 90% PC, with the irrigation rate calculated for an active soil layer of 0-30 cm.

The parameters of the relation "Yield – Irrigation rate" have been identified by the method of least squares by applying the following formulas: 1) regression equation: $Y = ax^2 + bx,$ where Y – relative additional yield in the realization of the relative irrigation rate (x); 2) Grades formula of Davidov (1994): $Y = 1 - (1 - x)^n,$ where: x – ratio between the reduced and the maximum irrigation rate (M / Mo); n - step indicator.

Establishing the connection between the irrigation depth and the yield is

2003, 1 – Microsoft Excel –
 2 –
 YIELD (Davidov, 1992).

mm, 3 15
 cm 30
 2016
 33
 495 mm
 (. 3).
 405 mm,
 27
 1.

performed by means of computer programs, respectively in equation 1 – Microsoft Excel – 2003, and in the case of the formula 2 – the specialized program YIELD (Davidov, 1992).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Influence in the formation of the irrigation norm is provided by the preserved humidity, the depth of the active soil layer, the microclimate in the unheated polythene greenhouse and the growing period of the crop.

The irrigation depth for Variant 3 is 15 mm, calculated for wetting a 30 cm soil layer. In 2003, 33 irrigations were dispatched, with an optimum Irrigation depth of 495 mm (var. 3). In the second year the same was 405 mm, realized through 27 watering.

The data on the size of the irrigation depth and the yield obtained by variants, years and averages for the period are presented in Table 1. Based on their respective relative values, the parameters of the dependency sought are calculated.

1.

Table 1. Source data for calculating of “Yield – Irrigation depth” relationship

Year	Variant	M (mm)	M _i /M _o	/Yield kg/da	Y/ Y _o
2016	1 50% irrigation with 50% of m (m)	247,5	0,50	7848	0,955
	2 75% irrigation with 75% of m (m)	369,6	0,75	10504	1,278
	3 100% irrigation with 100% of m (m)	495,0	1,00	8220	1,000
2017	1 50% irrigation with 50% of m (m)	202,4	0,50	9540	0,920
	2 75% irrigation with 75% of m (m)	302,4	0,75	10030	0,968
	3 100% irrigation with 100% of m (m)	405,0	1,00	10365	1,000
average	1 50% irrigation with 50% of m (m)	225,0	0,50	8694	0,936
	3 75% irrigation with 75% of m (m)	336,0	0,75	10267	1,105
	4 100% irrigation with 100% of m (m)	450,0	1,00	9293	1,000

M – / irrigation depth; M_i/M_o – / relative irrigation depth;
 Y/ Y_o – / additional relative yield

Relation "Yield - Irrigation depth" through a square equation of the type:

$$Y = ax^2 + bx$$

Figure 1 shows the results obtained by regression analysis of the experimental data (Table 1) and in Table 2 parameters of the considered dependence. In the two experimental years, the square equation of the type $Y = ax^2 + bx$ represents the considered connection as a convex parabola.

Although the deduced regression equations have high values of the determination coefficient R^2 (0,978 and 0,992, respectively), the calculated yields deviate from the experimentally determined (Table 2). According to the curve valid for 2016, the maximum yield (1,0) is reported at a rate of 47% m, which does not correspond to the biology of the culture.

Experimental data in the second year is averaged at $R^2 = 0,992$. According to the curve, the relative yield 1,0 is reached at 68% m, in the range of 70-90% m, it is about 3% higher than at 100% m.

The curves approximating the total data points and averaged for the entire period are parabolas again. Both are similar in turn but with a different determination coefficient (R^2 is 0,969 and 0,999, respectively).

From the analysis of the experimental data it can be concluded that under conditions of insufficient water resources, a reduction of the irrigation norms can be successfully implemented by 25%. The application of a 75% m option stabilizes the yield, and in the case of a richer irrigation regime it is not guaranteed to increase it further.

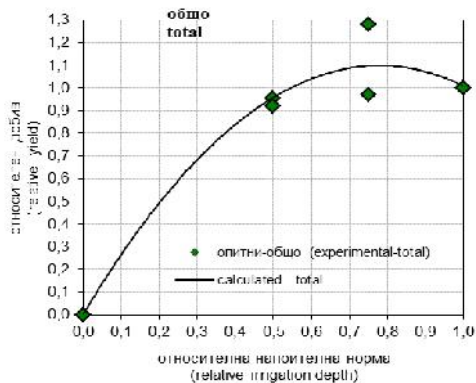
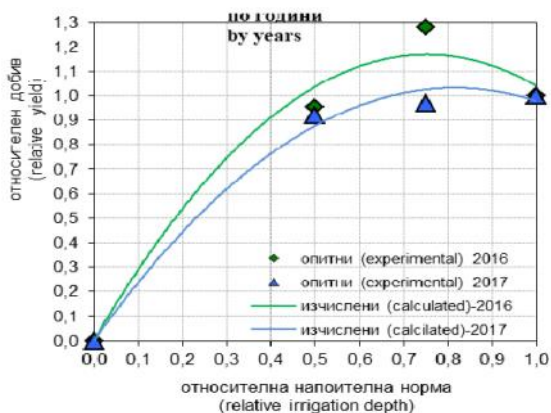


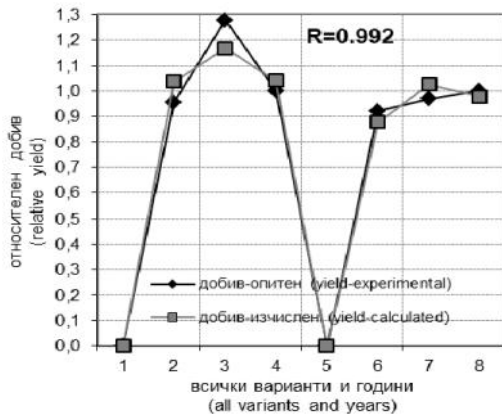
Fig. 1. "Yield – Irrigation depth" relation by years and total, using equation $Y=ax^2+bx$

Table 2. Parameters of relation "Yield – Irrigation depth"

Year	/ Equation				
	Equation (1)		Equation (2)		
	$Y = ax^2 + bx$	R^2	$Y = 1 - (1 - x)^n$	n	R
2016	$Y = -2,066x^2 + 3,107x$	0,978	$Y = 1 - (1 - x)^{2,8}$	2,8	0,975
2017	$Y = -1,553x^2 + 2,531x$	0,992	$Y = 1 - (1 - x)^{3,2}$	3,2	0,999
/ Average	$Y = -1,780x^2 + 2,786x$	0,999	$Y = 1 - (1 - x)^{2,9}$	2,9	0,995
/ Total	$Y = -1,809x^2 + 2,819x$	0,969			

(2),
 (R = 0,992)
 -8,6%
 +8,6%.
 902 kg/da + 676 kg/da (3).

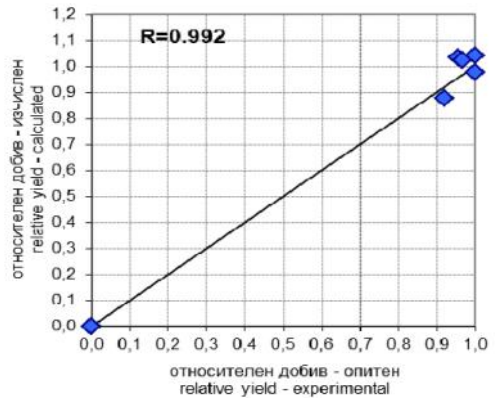
In a rectangular square system, the experimental and calculated yields of the tested variants are compared in years (Figure 2), and Figure 3 illustrates the relation between them. Despite the high correlation (R = 0,992) between the experimentally determined yield and their respective calculated values, the relative deviations between them ranged from -8,6% to +8,6%. In absolute terms, it is equivalent to an extra yield in the range of 902 kg/da to + 676 kg/da (Table 3).



. 2.

$$: Y = ax^2 + bx$$

Fig. 2. Additional yield – experimental and calculated by equation: $Y = ax^2 + bx$



. 3.

$$: Y = ax^2 + bx$$

Fig. 3. Relationship between experimental and calculated yield by formula $Y = ax^2 + bx$

3.

Table 3. Variation of the calculated yield compared with experimentally established

variant	year	/ Equation				year	/ Equation			
		$Y = ax^2 + bx$		$Y = 1 - (1 - x)^n$			$Y = ax^2 + bx$		$Y = 1 - (1 - x)^n$	
		±kg/da	± %	±kg/da	± %		±kg/da	± %	±kg/da	± %
50% m	2016	676	8,6	-808	-10,3	2017	-447	-4,7	-303	-3,2
75% m		-902	-8,6	-2453	-23,4		591	5,9	212	2,1
100% m		337	4,1	0	0,0		-228	-2,2	0	0,0
R		0,992		0,977			0,992		0,977	

“ ” -
:

Relation "Yield - Irrigation depth" by the formula:

$$Y = 1 - (1-x)^n$$

“ ” -

The relationship "Yield – Irrigation depth" is determined by the formula of Davidov, for which purpose the experimental data from Table 1 are processed with a specialized computer program.

, 1

The results of the analysis presented graphically in Figure 4 clearly show the advantage of the variable step indicator.

, 4

This increases the accuracy of approximation and the change of the extra yield is in the range from 0 to 1. The expression of the dependence on the Davidov's formula satisfies the

0 1.

mathematical accuracy requirements and meets the biological characteristics of the tomatoes in relation to the water factor and the reaction of the culture when applying an irrigated irrigation regime.

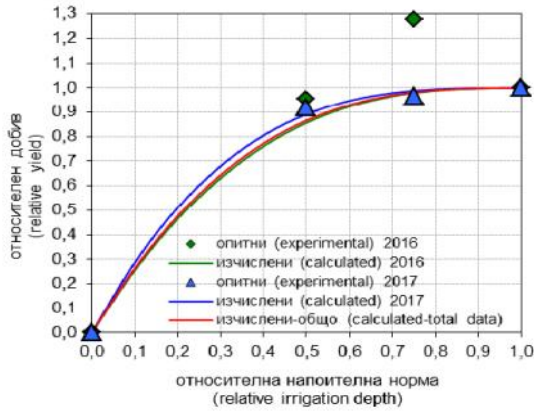


Fig. 4. "Yield-irrigation depth" (by years)

During the two experimental years, the experimental points were averaged by convex parabols with a score of $n = 2,8$ and $n = 3,2$ respectively. The value of the approximation coefficient R over the two years is high – 0,975 and 0,999. The curves characterizing the experimental years overlap in the range of 0,7-1,0, as with maximum relative extra yield being obtained when 80% of the irrigation rate is realized. According to the link presented, a 25% reduction in the norm would lead to a marginal reduction in yield of about 2%.

The averaged test points are approximated by a common curve at $n = 2,9$ and a very high correlation coefficient ($R = 0,995$). At this curve, maximum yield is reached in the 80-100% range, and at 65% m, yields 95% of the maximum.

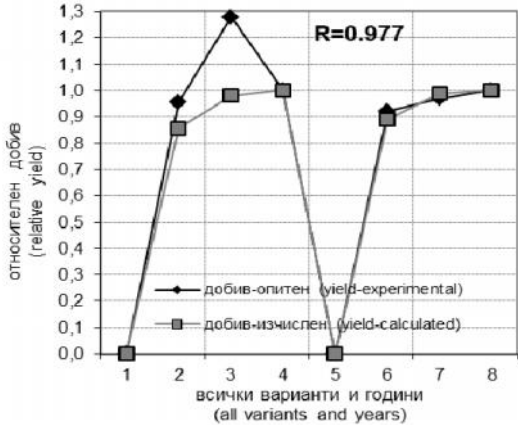
The parameters of the relation "Yield – Irrigation depth", determined by Davidov's formula, are presented in Table

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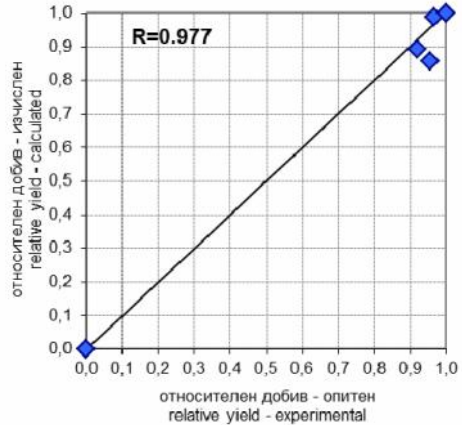
5.

$$Y = 1 - (1 - x)^n$$

Fig. 5. Experimental and calculated additional yield for all years (by equation: $Y = 1 - (1 - x)^n$)

5

2, and Figures 5 are respectively the experimental and calculated yields by year and average over the period. Figure 6 shows the relation between the experimentally determined and calculated yields at a correlation coefficient $R = 0,977$.



6.

$$Y = 1 - (1 - x)^n$$

R=0.977

Fig. 6. Relation between experimental and calculated yield by formula $Y = 1 - (1 - x)^n$

R = 0,977,

-2453 +212 kg/da.

-23,4% +2,1% (3).

The accuracy of approximation in the Davidov's formula is lower than in the regression analysis. As noted above, it better reflects the culture's response from a biological point of view when applying a different irrigation regime. The correlation coefficient is $R = 0,977$, and the experimentally determined extra yields deviate from the range -2453 to +212 kg/da. In relative values, the deviation ranges from -23,4% to + 2,1% (Table 3).

CONCLUSIONS

The relation "Yield - Irrigation depth" in tomatoes, greenhouse production can be expressed by square equation ($Y = ax^2 + bx$) as the average for the experimental period is the following: $Y = 2,786x - 1,780x^2$.

Graphically, it is represented by

" " , -
($Y = ax^2 + bx$)

$$: Y = 2,786x - 1,780x^2.$$

	$R^2 = 0,999.$	convex parabola at $R^2 = 0,999.$ The deviation of the experimentally determined from the calculated extra yields is from -8,6% to +8,6%. In absolute terms, it is equivalent to yield ranging from 902 kg/da to + 676 kg/da.
-8,6%	+8,6%.	
- 902 kg/da	+ 676 kg/da.	
($R^2 = 0,995).$		From a biological point of view, the step formula reflects more accurately the change in yield when applying a different irrigation regime ($R^2 = 0,995$). Average for the period under consideration, the dependence is represented by the equation of the type: $Y = 1 - (1 - x)^{2,9}$. The deviation of the experimentally determined from the calculated yields is from -3,4% to +2,1%, i.e. in the range -2453 to +212 kg/da.
	$: Y = 1 - (1 - x)^{2,9}.$	
+2,1%, . .	-3,4%	
+212 kg/da.	-2453	

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1331

Effect of drip irrigation on the yield and water use efficiency for tomatoes grown in unheated greenhouse

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SUMMARY

This study aims at investigating the effect of application of drip irrigation at different irrigation rates on the yield of greenhouse tomatoes and the water use efficiency. In 2017 an experiment is conducted by the method with long plots on drip irrigated tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum* 'Big Beef') grown in unheated plastic greenhouse under mulch in Haplic chromic luvi soil in the Chelopechene experimental field of the Institute of soil science, agrotechnologies and plant protection in town of Sofia. Four different rates of drip irrigation have been served as treatment: T1 – optimal irrigation in pre-irrigation soil moisture 85-90% of the field capacity, T2 – irrigation with 60% of optimal irrigation rate, T3 – irrigation with 80% of optimal irrigation rate, T4 – irrigation with 100% pan evaporation-based irrigation rate. Irrigation time is determined by soil moisture monitoring taking soil samples in

2017
Solanum lycopersicum 'Big Beef',
T1 –
T2 – 60%
T3 – 80%
T4 – 100%
A.

3
10-
1 – 79.59 t/ha.
71.05 t/ha.
488 mm
– 24.5 kg/m³.

3 replicates. For the vegetation period, 10-day summary and seasonal evapotranspiration are determined. The yield and water use efficiency are determined per treatments. The highest yield is obtained in treatment T1 – 79.59 t/ha. The yield in treatment T4 is close – 71.05 t/ha.

The results also show that the water use efficiency of drip-irrigated tomato is influenced by reducing the amount of water applied. It is highest in T2 treatment with the lowest irrigation rate – 25 kg/m³. Based on the experimental results an optimal irrigation rate of 488 mm and a water productivity of optimal irrigation of tomato is determined – 24.5 kg/m³.

Key words: tomato, greenhouse, drip irrigation, evapotranspiration, yield, water use efficiency

INTRODUCTION

Mehta, 2016),
2017).
(O'Connor and
(MAFF,
15-17%
50%

In recent years there has been a tendency to increase the area of greenhouse-grown vegetables both globally (O'Connor and Mehta, 2016) and in Bulgaria (MAFF, 2017). As a result of the high intensity, greenhouse production provides 15-17% of the total vegetable production in the country, with the proportion of greenhouse tomato accounting for almost 50% of the total vegetable crop production. Cultivation of tomato in unheated plastic greenhouses is increasingly being applied instead of early field production.

Tomato is a high water demanding crop and irrigation is a factor significantly influenced the yield. In greenhouse cultivation only the irrigation system is relied on to supply the needed water for irrigation, so the issues related to effective water use are of particular importance.

It can be achieved by applying water-saving irrigation methods and irrigation

(Kirda et al., 2004).

Domínguez et al., 2003).

(Zegbe-

planning. Drip irrigation is a preferred method, which allows the water to be applied directly to the root system and to be irrigated at lower irrigation rates. Another way to save water is so-called deficit irrigation (Kirda et al., 2004). The application of deficit irrigation strategies to tomato may greatly contribute to save irrigation water (Zegbe-Domínguez et al., 2003).

This study aims at investigating the effect of application of drip irrigation at different irrigation rates on the yield of greenhouse tomatoes and the irrigation water use efficiency.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

In 2017 an experiment is conducted on greenhouse tomato in the Chelopechene experimental field of the Institute of soil science, Agrotechnologies and Plant protection in town of Sofia. Experimental field is a part of the Sofia Field, located at 550 m above sea level. The climate is continental characterized by cold winter. The type of the soil of the experimental site is Chromic Luvisol and can be defined as moderate to strong water-permeable with an average filtration capacity. The greenhouse is unheated plastic with dimensions of 7.9 x 53 m and a total area of 420 m².

The temperature and relative humidity in the greenhouse are measured with a thermometer-hygrometer TFA 45.2000 daily at 8, 13 and 16 hours. Evaporation is also measured daily at 8 am using standard pan class A placed in the middle of the greenhouse.

The subject of the study is tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum* "Big Beef"). This variety is highly productive and resistant to diseases.

An one-factor experiment is conducted with an experimental factor – irrigation. The following treatments are tested:

T1 – Optimal irrigation in pre-irrigation soil moisture 85-90% of the field

2017 .
" " "
" .
" .
550 m
7.9 53 m 420 m².
T
- TFA 45.2000
8, 13 16 .
8
-
(*Solanum lycopersicum* "Big Beef").
-
: T1 – 100%

90% -
 T2 - 60% -
 T3 - 80% -
 T4 - 100% -
 4
 18 m²
 40
 4
 10 cm
 40 cm
 90%
 (Dzhuninski, 1980):

capacity (FC) – maximum (optimal) irrigation;
 T2 – Irrigation with 60% of optimal irrigation rate;
 T3 – Irrigation with 80% of optimal irrigation rate;
 T4 – Irrigation with 100% evapotranspiration-based irrigation rate.

A. Experimental treatments are arranged according to the method with long plots in 4 replications. Each plot has a surface of 18 m² and consisted of twin rows.

The irrigation time is determined by monitoring the soil moisture dynamics for the active soil layer to the depth 40 cm for treatment T1. The soil samples are taken in triplicates at 10 cm increments and are processed by a weight-thermostatic method. Water applications are performed in case of lowering the soil moisture below the optimum, which for the present experiment is accepted 90% FC.

The irrigation application rate is calculated using the formula (Dzhuninski, 1980):

$$m = 10H (\rho - \rho_c) k$$

: m (mm),
 (m), (g/cm³),
 e (g/cm³),
 (%),
 (%),
 k
 0.67.
 o
 (Doorenbos

where: m is irrigation rate (mm), H is the root zone depth (m), ρ is bulk density of the soil (g/cm³); ρ_c is the gravimetric field capacity (%), ρ_c is the current gravimetric soil moisture (%) and k is a factor, representing the ratio between the area wetted from the drip irrigation system and the planted area of the greenhouse. In this case it is assumed equal to 0.67.

Irrigation water amount to be applied based on the evaporation data of a pan class A is calculated using the equation (Doorenbos and Pruitt, 1977):

$$I_r = k_c k_{pan} E_{pan}$$

: I_r (mm),
 (mm), E_{pan}
 e
 e
 (Allen et al.,
 1998):

where: I_r is irrigation water amount (mm), E_{pan} is evaporation (mm), k_{pan} is pan coefficient and k is crop coefficient.

Pan coefficient is calculated using the formula (Allen et al., 1998):

$$K_{pan} = 0.61 + 0.00341RH - 0.000162u_2RH - 0.00000959u_2F + 0.00327u_2 \ln(F) - 0.00289u_2 \ln(86.4u_2) - 0.0106 \ln(86.4u_2) \ln(F) + 0.00063 \ln(86.4u_2^2) (\ln(F))^2$$

: RH e
 (%), F
 (m), u_2
 m, m/s.

where: RH is relative humidity (%), F is the buffer zone (m), u_2 is wind speed at 2 m height, m/s.

The values of the crop coefficient for the various phenoses of the tomato development are selected according to literary data.

Irrigation is performed with a drip irrigation system, comprising a command unit and two batteries with two watering wings of next to the two rows of tomato.

cm
 60
 1.5 l/h.
 +UV 15 mic/1.20 m.

The watering wings are simple 1.5 l/h dripper lines with a 60 cm emitters spacing. The volume of water supplied to the batteries is controlled by water meters mounted on the main pipelines.

To further reducing water losses, mulching is applied. Black polyethylene mulch (+ UV 15 mic/1.20 m) is used.

Evapotranspiration of tomato for each day of the vegetation period is determined by the formula:

$$ET = k_c E_{opan}$$

: ET e
 E_{opan} e
 (mm/day).

(mm/day), where: ET is evapotranspiration (mm/day); E_{opan} is the reference evapotranspiration, which is determined by the pan evaporation method (mm/day).

Daily reference evapotranspiration E_{opan} is calculated by multiplying the measured evaporation by the pan coefficient (Allen et al., 1998):

(Allen et al., 1998):

$$E_{opan} = k_{pan} E_{pan}$$

The relative yield is calculated by the formula:

$$y = Y * 100 / Y_{max}$$

: y
 (g/ha), Y_{max}

(%); Y e where: y is a relative yield (%), Y is yield (kg/ha), Y_{max} is the maximum yield at optimal wetting of the soil.

E
(Sinclair et al., 1984):

The irrigation water use efficiency is defined as (Sinclair et al., 1984):

$$IWUE = Y/W$$

: IWUE
(kg/m³), W e
(m³/ha).

where: IWUE irrigation water use efficiency (kg/m³), W is consumed water volume for irrigation (m³/ha).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- Based on collected daily data on
- the greenhouse microclimate and
- evaporation over the vegetation period the
- reference pan evapotranspiration and
- daily evapotranspiration of tomato are
- determined (Figure 1). From this figure it
- can be seen that the daily values of ET
- fluctuate from 0.67 mm to 10 mm to the
- beginning of the fruit stage (17.07.2017).
- During the fruit stage, the
- evapotranspiration of tomato is increasing
- and after harvesting, it decreases.

- The highest rates of evapotranspiration
- occur in early August, after which it
- decreased until the end of the growing
- season. The mean value of tomato
- evapotranspiration is 3.7 mm/day. Figure
- 2 shows the ten-day summary
- evapotranspiration. The seasonal
- evapotranspiration is 437 mm.

e
(
1).
0.67 mm 10 mm
(17.07.2017).
mm/day. 2 e
437 mm.

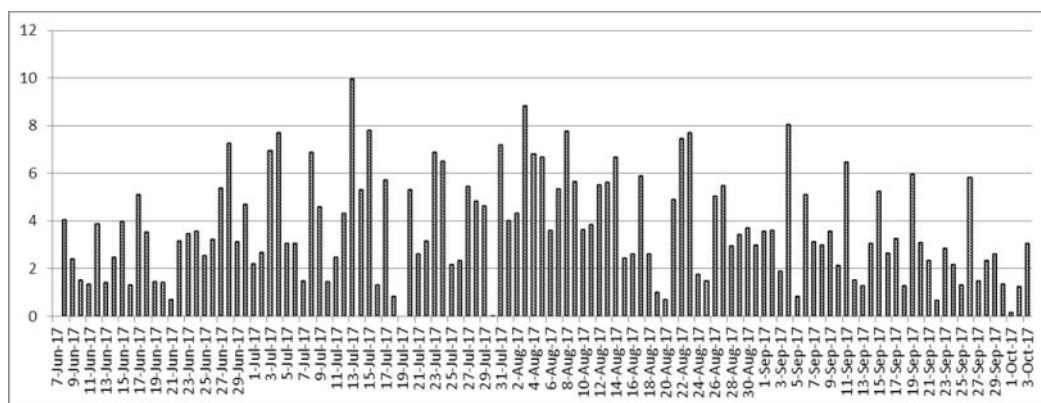
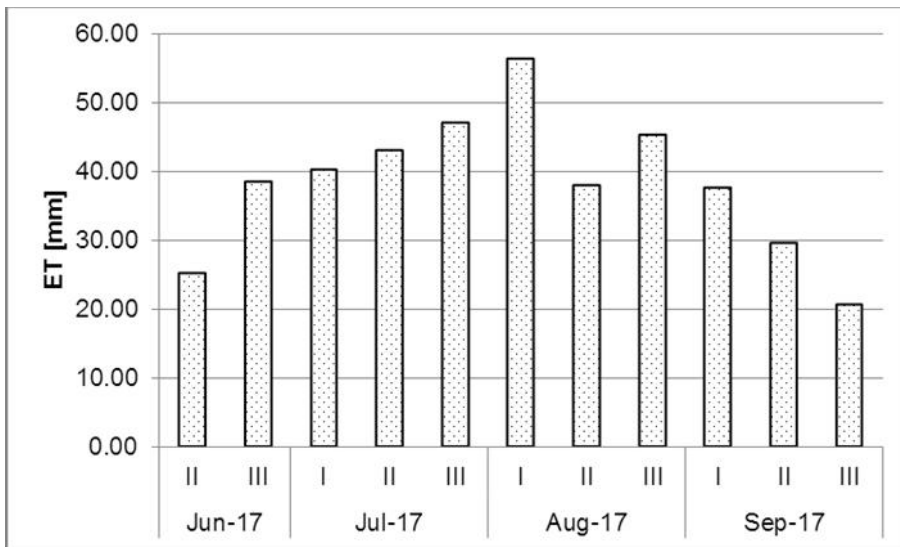


Fig. 1. Daily evapotranspiration in mm



2.
Fig. 2. Ten-day summary evapotranspiration

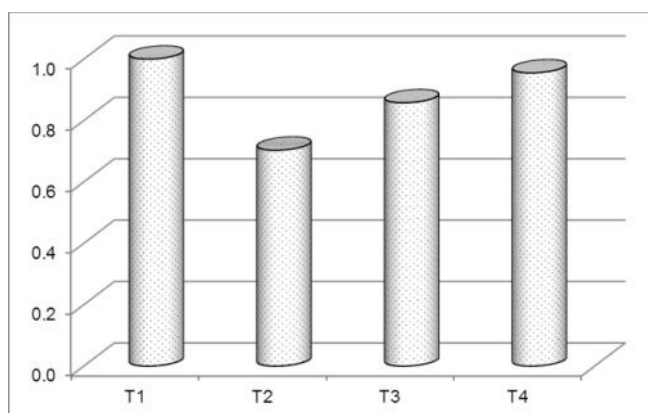
3-7
 1.
 3
 4.
 4,
 1 79.59
 4 – 71.05 t/ha,
 11 %
 20% 40 %
 18%.
 T1
 15 %

The four treatments were irrigated with different percentages of optimal irrigation rate. Twenty-six irrigations were carrying out at a frequency of 3-7 depending on the stage of tomato development. Experimental results for the yield and irrigation water use efficiency of tomatoes showing the influence of irrigation with different irrigation rates are given in Table 1. Relative irrigation rate and the relative yield per treatment are graphically represented in Figure 3 and Figure 4. The increase of the water volume for irrigation generally results in obtaining a higher yield of tomatoes. It is the highest in the optimal treatment T1 and treatment T4, in which the irrigation rate is determined by evapotranspiration. The yield obtained in variant T1 is 79.59 t/ha and in variant T4 – 71.05 t/ha, which is 11% lower than the optimum. The application of the irrigation rate, reduced by 20% and 40% compared to the optimal, leads to a reduction in yield. The yields obtained in the treatments T3 and T2 are lower than the optimal by 15% and 18%, respectively. The results show that tomatoes use better the smaller water quantities supplied for irrigation.

1.

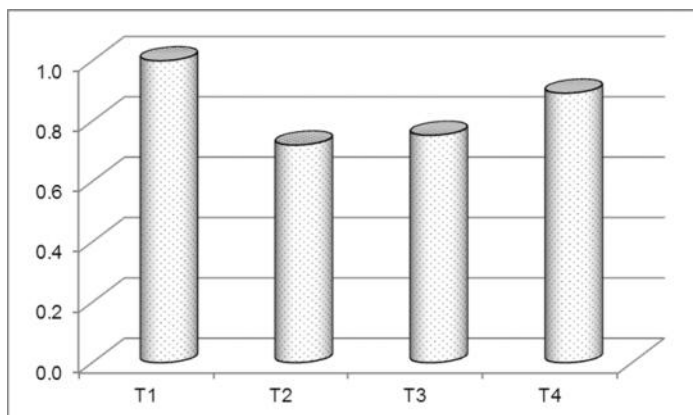
Table 1. Total yield and irrigation water use efficiency (IWUE) of tomato as affected by irrigation level

Вариант Treatment	Добив Yield	Консумирано водно количество Consumed water volume	Ефективност на използване на водата за напоиване IWUE
	t ha ⁻¹	m ³ ha ⁻¹	kg m ⁻³
T1	79.59	3252.40	24.47
T2	57.38	2287.12	25.09
T3	59.93	2789.90	21.48
T4	71.05	3106.56	22.87



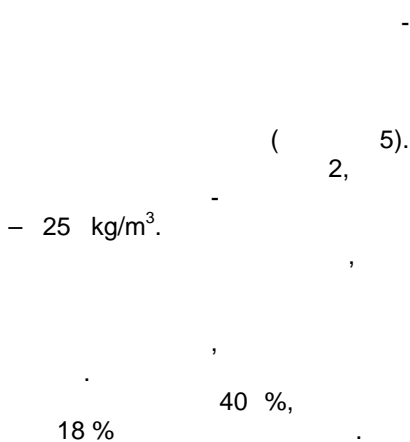
. 3.

Fig. 3. Relative irrigation rate per treatment

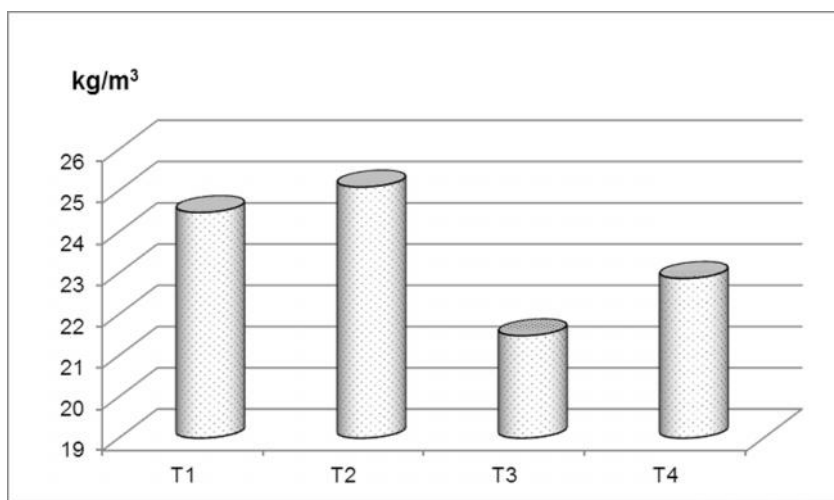


. 4.

Fig. 4. Relative yield per treatment



Based on the results obtained for the yield and the consumed water volume for irrigation, the irrigation water use efficiency per treatment was determined (Figure 5). It is the highest in treatment T2, where the lowest irrigation rate is applied – 25 kg/m³. This result is obtained due to the fact that the decrease in the yield of tomatoes is in a lower degree of reduction of the amount of water supplied for irrigation. In this case, with a reduction of the irrigation rate by 40%, the yield was decreased by 18% compared to the optimal.



5. Fig. 5. Irrigation water use efficiency per treatment

CONCLUSIONS

The experimental results have shown that the amount of water supplied for irrigation significantly influence the yield of tomato cultivated in a greenhouse.

The optimal irrigation with a 100% irrigation rate (treatment T1) is best for good plant development and obtaining high yield.

Close to it in performance is the treatment T4, in which the irrigation rate is determined according to the pan evapotranspiration.

(Chen et al., 2013).

488 mm

– 24.5 kg/m³.

Experimental results have also shown that the water use efficiency in drip irrigation of greenhouse tomato was influenced by the size of the irrigation rate. The highest water use efficiency obtained in the treatment T2 with the lowest irrigation rate shows that deficit irrigation is applicable for water saving.

The result is in agreement with previous studies of other researchers claimed positive effect of deficit irrigation on irrigation water use efficiency (Chen et al., 2013).

Based on the experimental results for drip irrigated tomato cultivated in the plastic greenhouse, an optimum irrigation rate of 488 mm is determined with a water use efficiency of 24.5 kg/m³.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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2
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Change in the soil reaction at fertigation of vegetable crops on Alluvial soil

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SUMMARY

One of the major reasons for reducing the effective fertility of some arable land in Bulgaria is soil acidification to a level harmful to plants. A primary cause, with the most significant involvement in the acidification of arable soils, is the systemic use of fertilizers. For vegetable crops growing, irrigation and high yields require large amounts of fertilizers, which provokes acidification.

Studies were carried out on medium textured Alluvial soil with cabbage and zucchini. The fertilizers were applied with the drip irrigation of the following backgrounds: Control, Manure and Compost. Organic fertilizers were applied once: Manure 44 t/ha and Compost 21 t/ha. These quantities are leveled on nitrogen and correspond to 340 kg of nitrogen per hectare. Under the EU

kg

2.1 t/da.

4.4 t/da

34

20 kg

=5.5.

(Gorbanov, 2005).

nitrate directive, this is the authorized quantity for two years. During the vegetation of cabbage and courgettes 200 kg of nitrogen per hectare in the form of ammonium nitrate was applied.

The change in soil response in fertilization with organic fertilizers at fertigation indicates that fertigation causes poor acidification. Which is due to the transfer of easily soluble nitrates to the soil profile. The manure treatment makes soil more buffering, and acidification is not as noticeable as the control treatment and the compost which is imported at a double lower dose as organic. In our studies there was no strong change in the soil reaction. However, in some places it passed the limit of pH=5.5. With lighter soil and more intense fertilization, the soil reaction will go below this limit, and this means reducing the mobility of the phosphorus.

Aim: To study the change of soil response in the fertilization of organic fertilizer background

Key words: fertigation, manure, compost, courgettes, cabbage, soil acidification

INTRODUCTION

One of the major reasons for reducing the effective fertility of some arable land in Bulgaria is acidification to an extent harmful to plants. A primary cause, with the most significant involvement in the acidification of arable soils, is the systemic use of soil-acidifying fertilizers. Numerous studies carried out in the country show that soils get most acidic after the application of high doses of nitrogen fertilizers containing N in ammonia form (Gorbanov, 2005). Unbalanced fertilization with such fertilizers provides conditions for prolonged contact with the solid phase of the soil with strong mineral acids. This leads to a direct negative influence on the plants and the degradation processes in the acid complex. During vegetable crops growing with irrigation and obtained high yields require large amounts of fertilizers

(Shaban et al., 2014).
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 ,
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 Markov, 2006).
 (Borisov,
 ,
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 (Gorbanov et al., 2005).
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 Feigin et al. (1982)
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 (Bar-Yosef,
 Sheikhoslami, 1976; Bar-Yosef, 1977;
 Papadopoulos, 1985; 1988; Mmolawa and
 Or, 2000).

(Shaban et al., 2014).
 Disturbing is the fact that processes
 of harmful acidification are developing not
 only in low buffer, genetically acidic soils
 but also in soils with a weak acidic and
 neutral reaction (Borisov, Markov, 2006).
 Knowledge of the forms and the nature of
 soil acidity allows us to use the most
 rational mineral fertilizers, including
 calcium, without worsening soil properties
 (Gorbanov et al., 2005).

The change in the soil reaction
 affects the availability of the nutrients for
 the plants. The intense application of a
 nutrient modifies the soil response and
 can block the absorption of another or
 improve the nutrition of the plants.

Feigin et al. (1982) have shown in
 their research that fertigation (co-irrigation
 and use of fertilizer dissolved in irrigation
 water) is the most effective method of
 applying fertilizers into the soil. Drip
 irrigation benefits new enthusiasts every
 day as an effective fertilization method
 because it can control the time and
 amount of fertilizer used. In this way to
 achieve the fullest satisfaction of
 agricultural crops with water and nutrients
 at each stage of their development (Bar-
 Yosef, Sheikhoslami, 1976; Bar-Yosef,
 1977; Papadopoulos, 1985; 1988;
 Mmolawa and Or, 2000).

However, the intensive use of
 fertilizers in fertigation of vegetables can
 lead to acidification of soils.

*Aim: To track the change of soil
 reaction in the fertilization of organic
 fertilizer background*

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Investigations were carried out on
 Alluvial soil (Soil Record Archives of
 ISSAPP N. Poushkarov). The texture of
 the soil is slightly sandy-clayey, the
 predominant fraction is the small sand –
 23.3%. Significant participation is the
 fraction of the gravel – 37.2%. It contains

37.2%.

m²

30 m²

t.da⁻¹ 265 kg

60 m²

t.da⁻¹ 123 kg

60 m².

34 kg

(1).

20 kg

e

- a large percentage of large particles. Soil humus content is poor. In terms of total nitrogen supply, it is very poorly present. The soil is slightly acidic and with poor phosphorus and potassium reserves.

60

:

Field fertilizer experiments with cabbage were carried out for the first year of research and courgettes in the second. The main parcels are 60 m² and have the following background options: Control, Manure and Compost.

e

Each of the parcels is irrigated with drip irrigation. On 30 m² of each ammonium nitrate is applied by means of drip irrigation – fertigation.

4.4

2.1

Organic fertilizers were applied once, respectively: Manure 44 t.ha⁻¹ and 265 kg for 60 m² and Compost 21 t.ha⁻¹ and 123 kg for 60 m². These quantities are equalized to nitrogen and correspond to 340 kg of nitrogen per hectare. Under the EU Nitrate Directive, this is the authorized quantity for two years (Table 1). During the vegetation of cabbage and courgettes, 200 kg.ha⁻¹ of nitrogen were applied in the form of ammonium nitrate. The soil reaction is determined in the extracts of water and potassium chloride.

1.

N,

Table 1. Content of total N, P, K in organic fertilisers (not dried)

/ Treatment	N, %	, %	, %
/ Manure	0,77	0,29	0,85
/ Compost	1,65	0,14	2,88

CI - NF ISO 10390 (1994)

1

Method for determination of pH of soils in water extraction and extraction of 1M KCl - NF ISO 10390 (1994)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

(Dinev and Mitova, 2012, Mitova and Dinev, 2012)

- The trial with cabbage is carried out on results obtained in our country (Dinev and Mitova, 2012, Mitova and Dinev, 2012). The change in the soil reaction in organic fertilizers fertilization and in fertigation shows that fertigation produces poor acidification. This is due to the transfer of easily soluble nitrates down

al., 2017).

(Koutev et

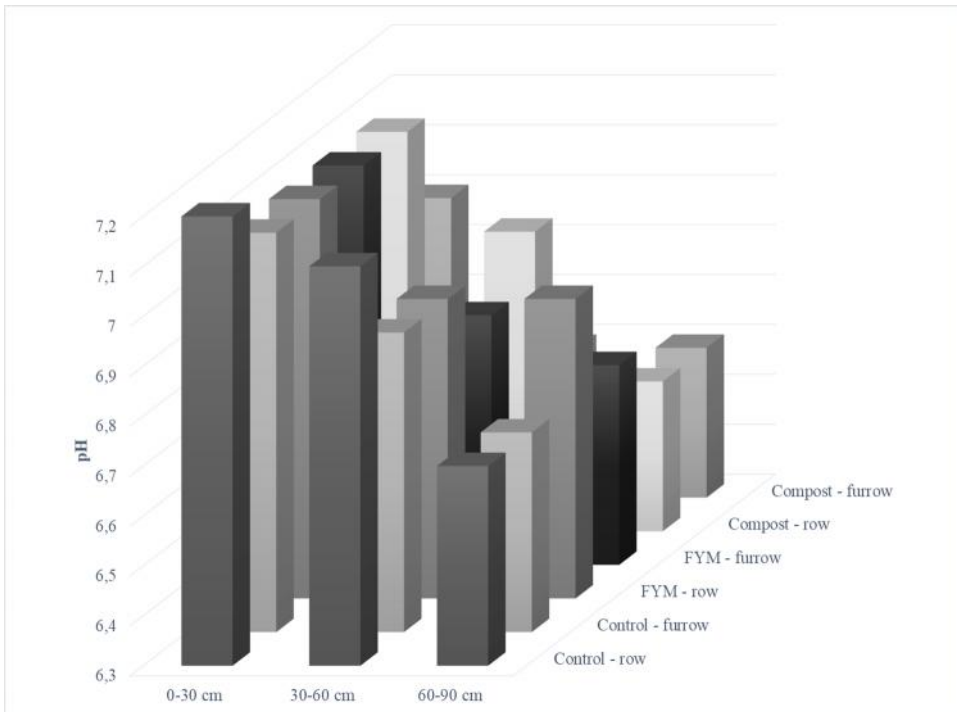
soil profile (Koutev et al., 2017). The manure treatment get soil more buffering, and acidification is not as noticeable as in control and compost. The compost is applied into a double lower dose as an organic and its buffering capacity is not manifested.

al., 2017).

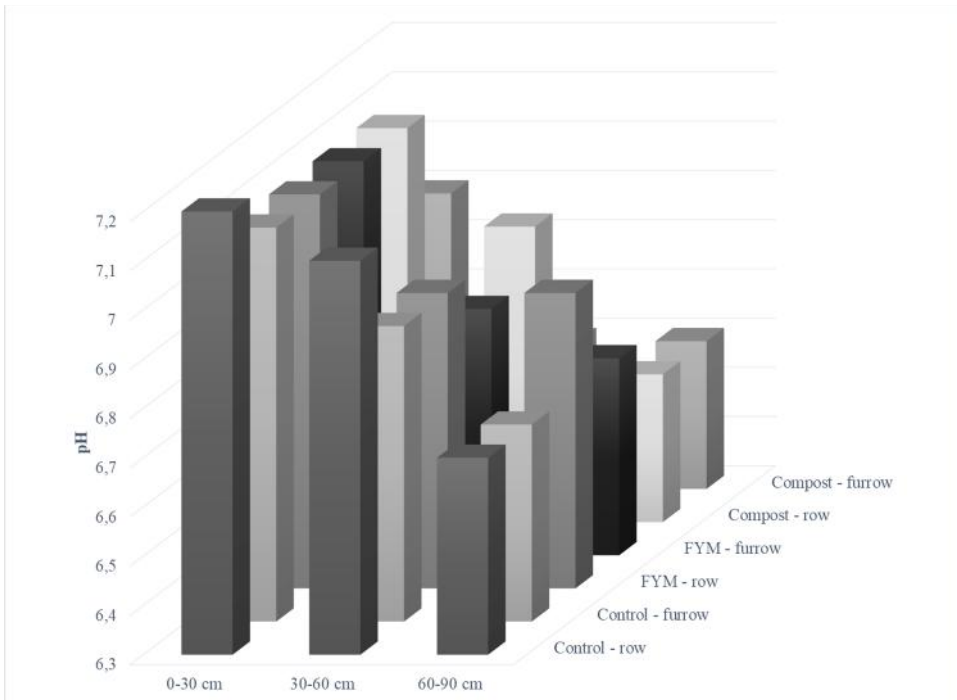
(Koutev et

Acidification is observed in the furrows, in the sides of the main water stream and under the drip system (Koutev et al., 2017). There is the place where most of the fertilizer is stored. The soil reaction decreases on the soil profile with the accumulation of leached nitrates in the lower layers (Figures 1 and 2).

(1 2).



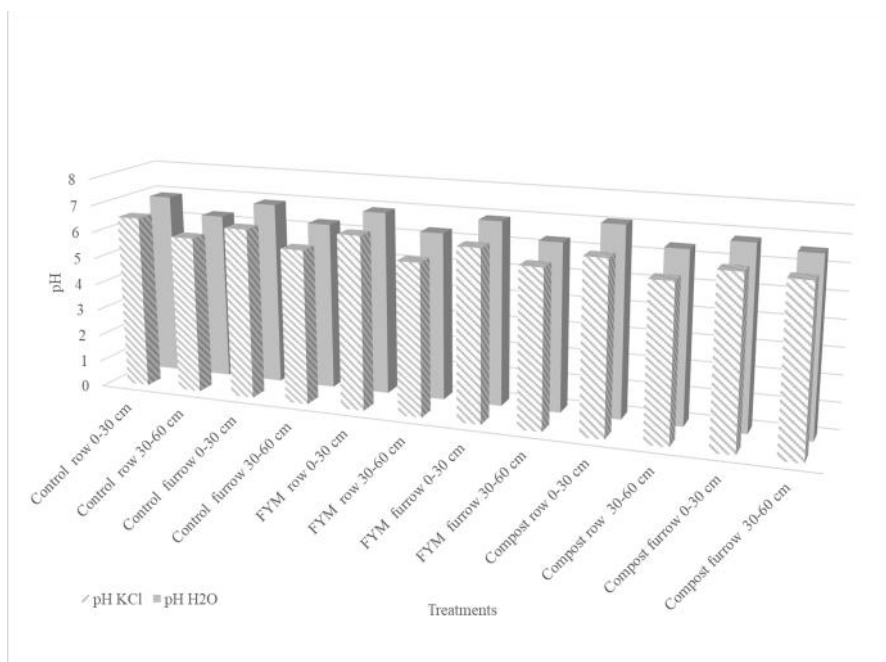
. 1. (2) -
Fig. 1. Soil pH (in H₂O) after cabbage – no mineral fertilization



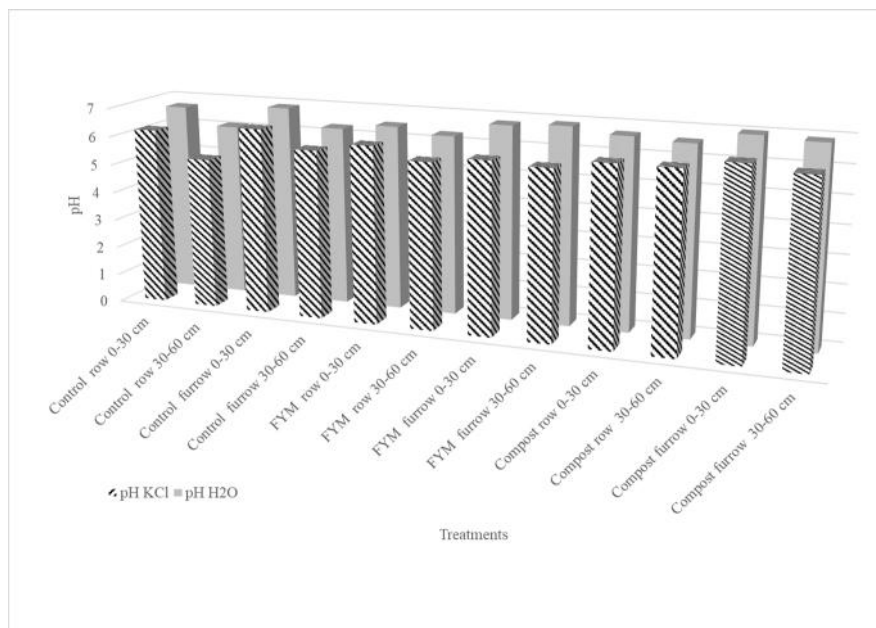
2. (2)
Fig. 2. pH of soil (in H2O) after cabbage with mineral fertilization

et al., 2016a; Dinev et al., 2016b)
 (Dinev
 (3),
).
 (4).

The preparation for the courgettes trial was carried out according to the parameters of cultivation with experiments made in our country (Dinev et al., 2016a, Dinev et al., 2016b).
 In order to evaluate the parameters changing in fertigation in the field, the soil humidity, the soil pH, the electroconductivity of the soil (the salt content in the soil) must be established. As with the cabbage experiment, the courgettes trial also shows the buffer capacity of manure (Figure 4). In the second year of research, compost was also able to decompose into the soil, and its buffer capacity increased.



. 3.
Fig. 3. Soil pH (after fertigation of courgettes



. 4.
Fig. 4. Soil pH after fertigation of courgettes on organic fertilization background

In the case of courgettes studies, the ammonium fraction of the ammonium nitrate, which is very poorly mobile provokes the initial alkalinisation of the soil in fertilized treatments and remained mainly in the upper layer of the soil.

In our studies there was no strong change in the soil reaction. However, in some places it passed the limit of pH = 5.5. With lighter soil and more intense fertilization, the soil reaction will go below this limit, and this will reduce the mobility of the phosphorus.

Information on the change of soil reaction during vegetation helps the management of nutrition with elements whose mobility depends on the soil reaction.

CONCLUSIONS

1. Low acidification of the soil reaction was observed in the studied soil due to ammonium nitrate application. It approaches the limit of pH 5.5.

2. Care should be taken when using high fertilizer rates to avoid unwanted soil reaction levels, especially in light and acidic soils.

3. Organic fertilizers application increases soil buffering and reduces the risk of acidification.

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