

(*Coriandrum Sativum* L.)

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2 - , 4000 ,

Effectiveness of complex organic preparations on growth performance of coriander (*Coriandrum Sativum* L.)

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SUMMARY

- A peculiar feature of coriander growth is the increased demand for nitrogen, which poses a particular environmental risk when grown. An alternative to increasing yields and realizing production of high biological value is foliar feeding with biostimulants, which increases the efficiency of mineral nutrients utilization and the nitrogen intake can be limited.

- In order to investigate the effectiveness of new organic formulations developed in the Laboratory "Biologically active substances for plant breeding" at the Institute of Cryobiology and Food Technologies in Sofia, for two harvesting years, field experiments by randomized block design were carried out using a coriander (*Coriandrum sativum* L.), local small-breed variety. The preparations are applied by leaf-treatment in the budding

(*Coriandrum sativum* L.),

16%, (

).

:

90%

(*Coriandrum*

sativum L.)

Apiaceae.

10% 27.7% 2.6%

(Diederichse

et al., 1996).

(Bhat et al., 2014).

phase. The results obtained show that foliar feeding with the tested series has a stimulating effect on productivity. The most effective are vermicompost extract-based preparations (increase in yield to 16%, with statistical evidence of differences). Preparations of this type are extremely suitable for organic farming purposes.

Key words: coriander, vermicompost, phytostimulators, productivity

INTRODUCTION

Coriander is one of the atypical crops grown in Bulgaria. Its production accounts for 90% of the export of all spices and aromatic plants. The economic importance of culture is determined by the high profitability of its cultivation. Coriander (*Coriandrum sativum* L.) is an annual medical and aromatic plant which belongs to the family Apiaceae.

The huge industrial interest is due to the valuable properties of the plant: antioxidant, antimutagenic, antimicrobial, soothing, as well as an analgesic and hormone-balancing effect. Only its seeds contain between 10% and 27.7% fatty acids and to 2.6% essential oils, which, either separately or in combination, can be used in the food, pharmaceutical and cosmetic industry (Diederichse et al., 1996).

Coriander is a source of vitamin K and -tocopherol, trace elements and nutrients. These and other features of the coriander plant make it an extremely sought-after raw material, as its market value is determined by the physical and chemical characteristics of the plant, as well as by the quality of the fragrance (Bhat et al., 2014).

Coriander is a fast growing crop, characterized by increased needs for nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium and trace elements, due to the relatively short growing season. In terms of nitrogen

(Giuffrè de Lopez Camelo et al., 1995; Donega et al., 2013).

70%

(Carrubba et al., 2014).

(Shirkhodaei et al., 2014).

(*Coriandrum sativum* L.)

2009-2011 .

- sequestration, studies have found a very high degree of nitrogen accumulation, whether the soils are fertilized or non-fertilized (Giuffrè de Lopez Camelo et al., 1995; Donega et al., 2013). Based on this data, hypotheses about the environmental risk in the cultivation of coriander are discussed.

- While growing without nitrogen nutrition in soils poor in nitrogen, it is suggested unacceptable and irreversible depletion of the element. This determines the requirements for additional nitrogen fertilization, and studies show an increase in yields of 4% to 70% when organic or mineral nitrogen is introduced (Carrubba et al., 2014). The excess of organic or inorganic nitrogen fertilizers leads to nitrate contamination along the food chain.

- Ecological alternative for increasing the yield and realizing production with biological value is the use of biostimulants, which increases the efficiency of the mineral nutrients utilization and the introduction of nitrogen may be limited. From various studies, the positive effect on growth and biomass production of biohumus applied as soil improver in cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants such as chamomile, plantain, coriander, fennel, anise, etc. was already known (Shirkhodaei et al., 2014). Another option for dealing with nitrogen need is providing the essential elements through foliar treatment.

- The aim of the present study was to determine the effect of foliar application of complex organic preparations, developed in the Laboratory "Biologically active substances for plant breeding" at the Institute of Cryobiology and Food Technologies in Sofia, on the growth characteristics of coriander (*Coriandrum sativum* L.).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

- The study was conducted during the period 2009-2011 on a former meadow-pond low salinity sandy-clay soil

0-20 cm : N - 26.65 mg/100g; P₂O₅ - 11.21mg/100g; K₂O - 27.47 mg/100g; - 2.39%.

2

15 m²,

12-15 cm

3-4 cm.

1.3 kg da⁻¹,

2000 ml ha⁻¹.

5

1. -80 (800 ml ha⁻¹) -

2. -100 (2500 ml ha⁻¹) -

3. -40 (300 ml ha⁻¹) -

4. -100 (1000 ml ha⁻¹) -

5. -140 (2500 ml ha⁻¹) -

a

250 L ha⁻¹.

1000

in the experimental base at Agricultural University - Plovdiv. The content of the main nutrients in the soil layer 0-20 cm is: N - 26.65 mg/100g; P₂O₅ - 11.21mg/100g; K₂O - 27.47 mg/100g; humus - 2.39%.

In the course of 2 consecutive growing seasons, field experiments have been established using randomly assessed block design, in four replicates per variant, plot size of 15 m² each, after a wheat predecessor. Mineral fertilization was applied as follows: the phosphorous fertilizer - before ploughing and the nitrogen fertilizer - at presowing.

Sowing was carried out during the third decade of October with a local variety "Drebnoploden" at 12-15 cm row spacing, seeding rate 1.3 kg da⁻¹, at a depth of 3-4 cm. For weed control a post-sowing pre-emergence herbicide was applied at the dose of 2000 ml ha⁻¹.

The influence of 5 preparations developed on the basis of humic sources of different composition has been tested:

1. X-80 (800 ml ha⁻¹) - a prototype of a commercially available product with a high potassium humate content.

2. T-100 (2500 ml ha⁻¹) - vemicompost extract

3. H-40 (300 ml ha⁻¹) - a growth regulator derivative compound of naturally identical origin.

4. XH-100 (1000 ml ha⁻¹) - preparation containing humic salts and derivatives of phenoxy acid with growth-stimulating action.

5. TH-140 (2500 ml ha⁻¹) - extract from biohumus, enriched with phytostimulators.

The preparations were applied as foliar spray at the phase of budding, at a rate of working solution 250 L ha⁻¹.

Reported indicators are: plant height, number of canopies per plant, fruit mass per plant, mass of 1000 fruit, hectolitre mass and seed yield. For biometric measurements 20 plants from each plot were taken. The values are

averaged over a plant. The data obtained for the yield were processed mathematically by the dispersion analysis method.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Advantage of the cultivation of coriander is that the whole plant - leaves, root, flowers and fruit, has valuable properties and industrial application. The results of the vegetation trials show that all tested sample-preparations, developed on the basis of biologically active substances stimulate the growth of vegetative mass and increase seed yield to a degree depending on the temperature-humidity regime during the harvesting year.

In the average monthly temperature factor during the study periods, no significant deviations were observed in terms of crop requirements and values relating to the multi-annual period (Figure 1).



1.

Fig. 1. Average monthly temperatures during the growing season of coriander

2)

mm/m²
68 mm/m².

(
2010
2011
82,3

Data on the distribution of precipitation totals (Figure 2) shows a difference over the two economic years. The harvest of 2010 is characterized by lower moisture availability in May, when culture enters the critical phase of budding. In 2011, budding and flowering occurred at a higher moisture supply - the precipitation totals in the May-June period was 82.3 mm/m² versus the multi-year rate of 68 mm/m².

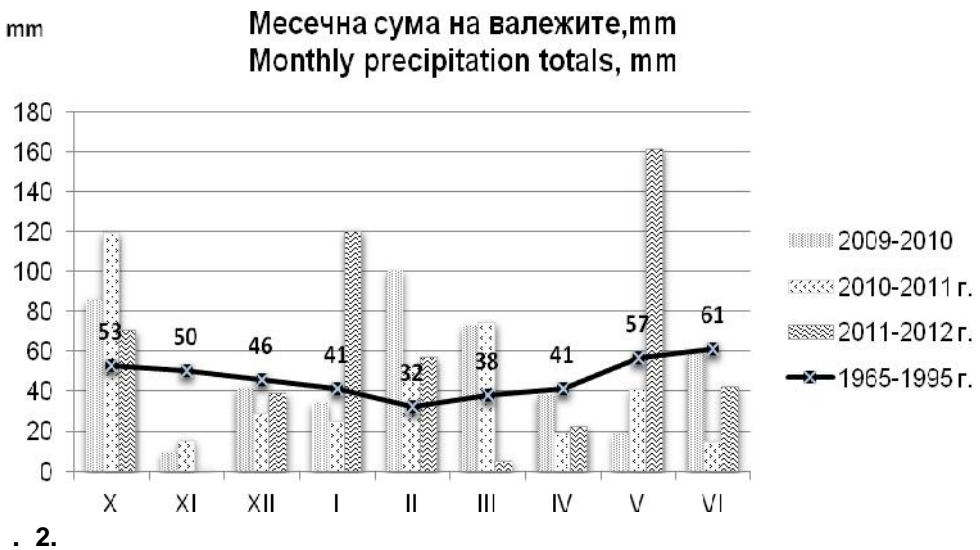


Fig. 2. Distribution of monthly precipitation totals during the growing season of coriander

4-10 cm (1).
3 6

2011

Morphometric data analyses show that at the end of vegetation the height of treated plants exceeds the control variant by 4-10 cm (Table 1). The application of the formulations also stimulates the formation of canopies with 3 to 6 pieces. These effects are very pronounced in the 2011 year characterized by more favourable combination of climatic factors.

1.

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Table 1. Influence of experimental preparations-phytostimulators on the morphometric characteristics of coriander

Variants	Plant height, cm			1 Number of canopies per plant			1 Number of fruits per plant		
	2010	2011	/Mean	2010	2011	/Mean	2010	2011	/Mean
X-80	85.7	105.5	95.6	28.6	31.1	29.9	346.5	269.0	307.8
XH-100	86.7	101.6	94.2	29.2	30.0	29.6	358.4	246.0	302.2
T-100	86.5	106.6	96.6	30.0	33.2	31.6	387.5	262.0	324.8
TH-140	84.0	102.3	93.2	31.3	34.6	33.0	395.7	274.3	335.0
H-40	84.2	104.0	94.1	28.4	34.0	31.2	363.0	255.0	309.0
Control	83.4	94.0	88.7	28.0	28.2	28.1	332.7	230.0	281.4

N=20. Preparations were applied at the stages of budding.

-

(2).

All test preparations have a positive impact on the main indicators forming the yield – number of fruit and its physical characteristics (Table 2).

2.

Table 2. Effect of foliar treatment with phytostimulators on the physical characteristics of coriander fruits

Variants	1 Mass of fruits per plant, g			1000 Mass of 1000 fruits, g			Hectolitre mass,kg		
	2010	2011	/Mean	2010	2011	/Mean	2010	2011	/Mean
X-80	1.19	2.00	1.60	3.41	9.71	6.56	32.4	33.0	32.7
XH-100	1.13	2.20	1.66	3.37	9.11	6.24	32.0	34.0	33.0
T-100	1.21	2.50	1.86	3.52	10.00	6.76	33.6	32.0	32.8
TH-140	1.24	2.60	1.92	3.65	10.40	7.02	33.5	35.0	34.3
H-40	1.16	2.20	1.68	3.43	9.00	6.22	33.0	34.2	33.6
Control	1.09	1.96	1.53	3.24	8.70	5.97	32.1	33.0	32.6

N=20. Preparations were applied at the stages of budding.

”

100

-140,

%

(281

-100

324

/

-140

“

-

335

15-19

).

7-9%.

In the two harvesting years, the stimulating effect on the "number of fruit per plant" indicator is most pronounced in the T-100 and TH-140 preparations, with average values over the period being 324 and 335 pcs. per plant, that is by 15-19% higher in comparison to control (281 pcs. per plant). In the other preparations, the effect is 7-9%. The application of T-100 and TH-140 results in an increase in the

26%,
 140 -40 -
 -100 -
 3
 1.992 t ha⁻¹.
 2.073 2.299 t ha⁻¹.
 4 16%.

mass of fruit by an average of 26%. The rest of preparations provide an increase of 7-13%. Hectolitre mass values after application of TH-140 and H-40 variants are found higher than the control over the two years and for XH-100 only in the year with more favourable climatic conditions.

Results shown on Table 3 reflect the effect of treatment on seed yield. Over the period of two years the yield of control variant was 1.992 t ha⁻¹ on the average. In variants treated with complex humic preparations the yields range from 2.073 to 2.299 t ha⁻¹. In all treatments a significant increase from 4% to 16% has been established.

3.

Table 3. Effect of foliar treatment with phytostimulators on the seed yield of coriander

Variants	2010		2011		Average over the period t h ⁻¹	Difference t h ⁻¹	To control %
	t h ⁻¹	%	t h ⁻¹	%			
X-80	1.738	103.5	2.407*	104.5	2.073	8.1	104.1
XH-100	1.752	104.3	2.460*	106.8	2.106	11.4	105.7
T-100	1.800*	107.1	2.620*	113.7	2.210	21.8	110.9
TH-140	1.865*	111.0	2.732*	118.6	2.299	30.7	115.4
H-40	1.773	105.5	2.540*	110.2	2.157	16.5	108.3
Control	1.680	100.0	2.304	100.0	1.992		100
LSD, 5 %	0.057		0.071				

*Results differ significantly at P<0.05

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 : -100 (2.210 t ha⁻¹) -140 (2.299 t ha⁻¹) - 11/16%
 X-80, H-40, XH-100
 4.1%
 8.3%.

The highest yields were obtained after foliar application of the preparations based on the extract of vermicompost: -100 (2.210 t ha⁻¹) and TH-140 (2.299 t ha⁻¹) - 11/16% increase. In the other preparations X-80, H-40, XH-100 the yield increase is from 4.1% to 8.3%.

From the results obtained it can be concluded that, in general, the tested series of complex humic preparations have a positive impact on growth and development of the coriander. The stimulating effect is determined by the

-100 -140

11% 16%.

presence of highly absorbable organo-mineral compounds and biologically active substances in the composition.

In confirmation of this is the better efficiency of the biohumus based preparations T-100 and TH-140, due to the rich content of phytostimulators, macro- and trace elements, including easy available nitrogen compounds in the vermicompost extract, which makes it a suitable source of nutrients for coriander and other crops with increased demand for nitrogen and the other essential elements supply. The results established are consistent with studies on the humus fertilization effect. The newly developed products-phytostimulators are by their composition applicable for the purposes of the organic farming.

CONCLUSIONS

Foliar treatment with complex sample-preparations containing active humic substances in the phase of budding stimulates growth and development of the coriander local variety "Drebnoploden".

Formulations developed on the basis of the vermicompost extract (T-100 and TH-140) have the most effective influence. In the conditions of the established field trials, its application contributes to an increase in yield by 11% and 16% on the average. Preparations of this composition are extremely suitable for organic farming.

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