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EFFECT OF DIFFERENT LEVELS OF FERTILIZER ON THE GRAIN YIELD OF SORGHUM CULTIVARS.

Abdur Rashid & Ruhul Amin
Arid Zone Research Sub-Station, D.I.Khan.

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ABSTRACT

A fertilizer cum varietal trial was conducted on sorghum crop at Arid Zone Research Farm, Dera Ismail Khan. Five fertilizer levels were, Control; 40-30-0; 80-60-0; 120-90-0 and 80-60-30 kg/ha. The crop varieties were "Giza-3", "BR-319" and "Pak-ss-II". The results of the experiment revealed that all the fertilizer levels have significant effects over control while the varieties and the interaction between the varieties and fertilizer were non-significant. It was concluded that fertilizer level of 80-60-0 kg/ha was the benificial dose for getting optimum yield of 1615 kg/ha.

INTRODUCTION

Sorghum (Sorghum bicolor) being the Principal grain crop of the arid and semi-arid areas, ranks in the major cereals of summer season. It is a dual purpose kharif crop, grown for food and fodder and is also a very beneficial crop under dry to extreme dry condition where other crops fail to survive.

Although Pakistan has a very favourable climate and rich soils for the production of high yielding crops but the production per unit area is very low which may be contributed to the outdated varieties and unbalanced supply of chemical fertilizers which are the important factors for increasing the grain yield of the crops.

Sheldrick (1983) observed that during the last two decades, food production in developing countries was mainly dependent upon fertilizer use, causing 50% of the yield increase in cereal pro-