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## Growth and Yield Production of Canola as Affected by Organic and Mineral Fertilizers Application under Drought Stress Conditions

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## Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. Author SES designed the study, performed the statistical analysis, wrote the protocol and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. Authors FH and HHAK managed the analyses of the study and the literature searches. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

#### Article Information

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Original Research Article

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## ABSTRACT

Field experiment were carried out at the Research and Production Station of the National Research Centre, Nubaria region, Behiera Governorate, Egypt during 2019/2020 to study the effects of compost and zinc foliar application on growth and yield production of canola under drought condition. The water stress treatments (75 and 40% water holding capacity, WHC) occupied the main plots and compost treatments at the rates (0, 2, 4 and 6 ton fed-1) were allocated at random in the sub-plots with the foliar application of zinc at a rate of 0, 50 and 100 ppm. Data noticed that increase compost rate associated with increasing the SPAD red and RWC under both irrigation treatments where 75%WHC scored the highest values than 40 %WHC. Results indicated that increasing compost rates was associated with increasing of canola characters plant height, number of branch, number of pods and 1000 seeds weight as well as, seed yield, biological yield as affected by compost and zinc application rates and their interaction under normal and stress treatments. Also, data illustrated that stress tolerance indices (SSI, STI, GMP, YI, YSI, MP, TOL and HM) of canola as affected by water stress and Compost application and Zinc sulphate. Data indicated that the highest values were attained after application compost

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at a rate of 6.0 ton fed-1 with a foliar spray ZnSO4 at a rate of 100 ppm. Results concluded that, application of compost and zinc is important for enhancing the growth parameter and seed production of canola under water stress condition.

Keywords: Canola; drought; treatment, fertilizer; foliar application.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Canola (*Brassica napus* L.) has been an important crop for many decades, Canola is one of the most important oilseed plants that have high compatibility in resistance to drought and salinity stresses. After soybean, the largest cultivation area of oilseed plants is accounted to canola, and in terms of oil providing, after soybean and oil palm it is in third place [1]. Like many of the oilseed plants, canola is effected stress caused by the water deficits. Studies have shown that the incidence of water deficit at different growth stages, especially reproductive growth, is the effect of quantity and quality of oil [2].

Abiotic stresses like water stress may lead to changes in oil content and compositions in plants [3], a result of water shorting condition frequently alters the composition and biosynthesis process of fatty acids leading to the reduction of oil yield and composition [4]. While, Amini [5] found a remarkable effect of water shortage stress on seed quality (specialy of protein) of oilseed crops.

The use of fertilizers and manure is important to enhance soil fertility and crop yield improvement [6]. Application of manure in the soil, increased water holding capacity in soil, water use efficiency besides increasing soil fertility and crop growth [7]. The compost application into soil improved seed germination and the dry matter yield as compared to control treatments [8]. The application of compost combined with chemical fertilizers in the field enhance the ability to access the elements uptake and can be increased the yield production ability and soil fertility [9]. The compost application increased microbial activity, nitrogen concentration and grain yield [10].

Zinc (Zn) is one of the essential microelements required for plant growth since it is an important component in the carbonic anhydrase enzyme which is present in all photosynthetic tissues, and required also for chlorophyll biosynthesis [11,12]. It involved in many physiological functions, protein and carbohydrate synthesis [13]. The Zn application under water stress conditions could influence the crop yield and quality. Zinc sulfate has an important role in the plant system to decrease water stress, leading to the inaccessibility of Zn uptake by plant [14]. The objectives of present study the effects of organic compost addition to the soil and micronutrient such as of zinc foliar application on grown, nutrient content, chemical constitute of canola plant under water stress conditions.

## 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### **2.1 Experimental Procedures**

Field experiment were carried out at the Research and Production Station of the National Research Centre, Nubaria region (30 30.054' N -30 19.421' E), Behiera Governorate, Egypt during 2019/2020. Seeds of Canola (Brassica napus L.) cv. Sarw were sown on November in season. The experimental design was a split plot with four replications. The Water stress treatments (75 and 40% water holding capacity, WHC) occupied the main plots and compost treatments at the rates  $(0, 2, 4 \text{ and } 6 \text{ ton fed}^{-1})$ were allocated at random in the sub-plots with the foliar application of zinc at a rate of 0, 50 and 100 ppm. The plot area was 9 m<sup>2</sup>. Some physical and chemical properties of a representative soil sample used of the experimental site were determined before sowing according to [15] and presented in (Table 1).

Calcium super-phosphate (15.50% P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) was added pre-sowing at 150 Kg/fed (ha=2.4 fed, fed= feddan) to the soil; similarly, nitrogen in the form of ammonium nitrate (33.0%N) at the rate of 20 kg N/fed as starter dose was added before first irrigation, Potassium sulphate (48% K<sub>2</sub>O) was added at the rate of 50 kg/fed to the soil in two equal doses at 21 and 35 days after sowing. Canola plants were irrigated and maintained during the whole growth season using drip irrigation system. Foliar spray of Zinc sulphate was applied three doses to canola plants during the growth stage. The interaction of different concentrations of both compounds was also assessed in addition to untreated plants (control). Table 2 shows the components of a representative compost sample used of the experimental site.

рН	EC	OM	CaCO <sub>3</sub>	Particl	e size dis	Texture			
(1:2.5)	dSm <sup>-1</sup>	%	%	Sand %	Silt %	Clay %	Class		
7.76	1.26	0.84	2.98	75.7	5.3	18.28	Sandy loam		
	Cations	(mg / 100	g soil)	Anion (mg / 100 g soil)					
Na⁺	K⁺	Ca <sup>⁺⁺</sup>	Mg <sup>++</sup>	CO3-	HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	Cl	SO4-		
3.62	1.41	3.52	1.48	0.38	3.81	1.82	3.44		
Availa	ble macro	onutrients	(mg/100 g soil)	Available micronutrients (mg/kg)					
Ν		Р	K	Fe	Zn	Mn	Cu		
15.33		3.98	16.52	11.61	0.09	5.89	0.011		

рН	EC	Organic	Organic	C/N	Macronutrient (%)			
(1:5)	(1:5)	Matter %	Carbon %	ratio	N	Р	κ	
7.72	2.53	25.13	14.81	23.51	0.63	0.273	0.34	

Some biochemical aspects were determined including photosynthetic pigments in fresh leaves using the method of SPAD according to [16]. Proline content was extracted and calculated according to [17]. Leaf relative water content (RWC) was estimated according to [18,19] for each drought period.

#### 2.1.1 Biological yield

The total biomass of the harvested plants (kg plot<sup>-1</sup>), then it was transformed into ton per feddan.

#### 2.1.2Grain yield (ton ha<sup>-1</sup>)

It was obtained as the weight of clean grains of the plot after threshing, and then it was transformed into tone per feddan.

#### 2.1.3 Harvest index

Harvest index (H.I) calculated as follows:

H. I. = 
$$\frac{\text{Grain yield (ton/fed)}}{\text{Biological yield (ton/fed)}} \times 100$$

#### 2.1.4 Drought tolerance indices

Five drought tolerance indices including stress susceptibility index (SSI), tolerance index (TOL), mean productivity (MP), geometric mean productivity (GMP) and stress tolerance index (STI). The relative decrease in yield were calculated based on grain yield under drought (Ys) and irrigated (Yp) conditions. Drought tolerance indices were calculated by using the equations cited in Table 3.  $\hat{Y}$ s and  $\hat{Y}$ p are mean grain yield of all genotypes in stress and non-stress conditions. SSI: The genotypes with SSI <1 are more resistant to drought stress condition, TOL: The genotypes with low values are more stable in two different condition, MP: The genotypes with high values will be more desirable, GMP: The genotypes with high values will be more desirable, STI: The genotypes with high values will be tolerant to drought stress.

#### 2.2 Statistical Analysis

A combined analysis of data for the two seasons were statistically analyzed according to the technique of analysis of variance (ANOVA) for the split–plot design using [25] computer software package. Least Significant Difference (LSD) method was used to test the differences among treatment means at 5% level of probability as described by [26].

#### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

## 3.1 Photosynthetic Pigments And Relative Water Content (Rwc) Of Leaves

Data in Table 4 showed the effect of both factors under study (compost and  $ZnSO_4$ ) on the SPAD red and RWC under sufficient and deficit irrigation. The obtained results indicated that the lowest values of the studied two factors were observed at control. While the highest ones recorded were 12.94, 5.47 and 17.45, 3.33 % as affected by application compost at a rate of 4.0 ton fed<sup>-1</sup> with Zinc at a rate of 100as compared with control, respectively. While, data observed that from application at a rate of 6.0 ton fed<sup>-1</sup> were 12.82, 7.29% and 24.45, 6.29% comparing 6.0 ton fed<sup>-1</sup> compost with control, respectively. Physical properties such as, the use of fertilizers along with chemical fertilizers has significantly improved bulk density, porosity, water permeability and hydraulic conductivity [27].

According to the influence of the compost application rate on the SPAD red and RWC, data noticed that increase compost rate associated with increasing the SPAD red and RWC under both irrigation treatments where 75%WHC scored the highest values than 40 %WHC. There must be effective equilibrium during periods of water deficit that, applies to the use of zinc sulfate which plays a more important role than other fertilizers in stomata regulation and maintaining the balance of ions in plant systems to reduce drag stress [28].

With respect to the effect of compost on chlorophyll and relative water content in plant, data showed that 4.0 ton fed<sup>-1</sup> of compost recorded values with increase in percentage 14.90 and 4.48% as compared with control, respectively. While, 6.0 ton fed<sup>-1</sup> of compost recorded the highest values with increase in percentage 17.86 and 6.83 % relative to control, respectively. Same trend was observe it in case of zinc application rates where 100 ppm caused an increase of micronutrients content in canola plant by about 14.97 and 9.91% in same previous sequence. These results were consistent with previous results [29]. Zinc is essential for the biosynthesis of chlorophyll, as it is a component of the carbonic anhydrase enzyme present in photosynthesis tissues, making it one of the essential micronutrients required for crop growth [11]. Tarig [30] reported that foliar application of micro-nutrients improves crop quality and increases resistance in plants against biotic and abiotic stresses.

With respect to the proline content, data of the mean values of the compost application rate effect, increase compost rate a combined with a reduction estimated by percentage relative to the control by about 7.15; 3.07 and 14.20; 10.74 % for 4; 6 ton compost fed<sup>-1</sup> under sufficient and deficit irrigation treatments, respectively. The obtained results indicated that the lowest values of the studied two factors were 4.83 and 12.24 % as affected by application compost at a rate of 4.0 and 6.0 ton fed<sup>-1</sup> as compared with control, respectively. Also, Data showed that application of zinc at a rate of 100 ppm reduction of proline

content under sufficient and deficit irrigation at about 21.42% compared to control. These agreed with the results observed by [31].

#### 3.1.1 Growth parameters

Data infested in Table 5 and Fig. 1a & 1b showed some canola characters plant height (cm), number of branch per plant, number of pods per plant and 1000 seeds weight as affected by compost and zinc application rates and their interaction under normal and stress treatments. Resulted data noticed that values of the studied canola plant characters were more than under Normal irrigation (NI) than water stress. While control treatment of zinc (0 ppm) under all compost application rates gained the lowest values with respect to lowest values that attained at control of compost plus zinc treatments.

Whereas, the highest values of the studied canola plant characters were observe after 100 ppm application rate and 6 ton compost. With respect to the highest ones were observed at 6 ton compost and 100 ppm zinc. Compost is particularly effective when added with fertilizer at the time of planting. Not only do seeds germinate faster when compost is present, but a higher percentage of seeds germinate. Compost becomes a source of phosphate and carbon by stimulating micro flora populations [32].

Some studies have found that plant height in wheat is affected by stress, while with zinc added significantly increased the plant height [33]. Same previous trend was observed in case of compost effect on the selected canola characters where increasing compost rates was associated with increasing of canola plant characters wither under normal irrigation and water stress treatments. The reduction resulted from stress ranged from 14.8-23.3, 13.0-19.7, 24.6-27.1 and 22.0-25.2% after 6-0, 0-6, 0-2 and 2-6 ton compost for studied canola characters (plant height (cm), number of branch per plant, number of pods per plant and 1000 seeds weight). Also, data noticed that the rate of increase in examined canola characters were 3.11, 10.19, 3.39: 2.39% and 11.47. 2.69. 4.78: 3.59 comparing 4.0 ton fed<sup>-1</sup> compost with the control, respectively. While, increase in examined canola characters were 4.12, 20.15, 7.97; 4.57% and 11.73, 8.39, 6.77; 6.96% comparing 6 ton compost with control, respectively. The use of compost will not only supplement the chemical fertilizers, but also reduce environmental pollution. In this strategy, the production cost is also reduced. Thus, a higher yield with higher incomes resultantly is expected by the farming community in this culture system [34].

According to the zinc application rates effect on canola plant characters (plant height (cm), number of branch per plant, number of pods per plant and 1000 seeds weight) under both irrigation treatments, data noticed that the increase zinc combined with increase of the examined canola plant characters. Also, data infested in table that maximum and minimum values were recorded at 0 and 100 ppm under both irrigation treatments, where the values under Normal irrigation were more than that under stress. Using compost in sustainable agriculture manner preserves agro-ecosystems and environmental quality [35].

Regardless irrigation treatments, data in Table 5 showed the effect of both compost and zinc application rates and their interactions on the canola plant characters. Data on hand revealed that untreated treatment with zinc under all compost treatments gained the lowest values while, 100 ppm zinc and 6 ton compost scored the highest values. Zinc sulfate spraying had also a significant impact on the increase of the number of branch per plant and number of pods per plant, in a way that spraying with a concentration of 100 ppm (Table 5) these results harmony with [36].

It also indicates the positive effect of fertilizers containing micronutrients such as zinc sulfate on the number of sunflower seeds. Moreover, some reports have been presented on the positive role of using zinc sulfate fertilizer in the number of seeds produced in wheat and canola crops.

With respect to the effect of compost on plant characters, data showed that application of 4.0 ton fed<sup>-1</sup>scored values with increase in percentage 6.87, 6.63, 3.99; 2.92 compared with the control, respectively. Also, application of 6.0 ton fed<sup>-1</sup>of compost scored the highest values with increase in percentage 15.9, 37.1, 32.3, 19.8 relative to control, respectively. Same trend was observe it in case of zinc application rates where 100 ppm caused an increase in canola plant characters by about 13.10, 32.4, 21.5 and 10.73% in same previous sequence. Movahedy Dehnavy [37] showed that Zn spraying to a degree compensated the spoilage to safflower plants caused by the water stress. As well as, yield components including head number/plant,

grain number/head and 1000-grain weight were improved by Zn spraying at flowering and pollination stages.

#### 3.1.2 Yield production

Data in Table 6 Fig. 2a & 2b represented the effect of compost and zinc application rate and their interactions under normal and water stress treatment on the values of biomass, seed yield, biological yield and harvest index of canola plant characters. The obtained result revealed that control of compost and zinc application rates gained the lowest values of under Normal and water stress treatments except for harvest index where 0 compost plus 50 ppm zinc under normal condition with 6 ton compost +100 ppm zinc scored the highest values of (biomass, seed yield, biological yield and harvest index) except for harvest index where 6 ton compost + 0 zinc scored the highest values under both irrigation treatments.

In many crops, garden and pasture the compost application has been reported positive [38]. The addition of compost increased bacterial activity, nitrogen concentration and grain yield [10]. These organic sources have a profound effect on crop yield and quality [39]. In organic farming compost, compost and extracts are used to improve soil fertility and control pests and diseases [40].

Regarding to the effect off compost application rates on the canola yield characters (biomass, seed yield, biological yield and harvest index) under irrigation treatments, data on hand pointed out that the increase of compost rate associated with increase of the studied canola characters under both vield rogation treatments. The minimum and maximum values of studied canola yield characters were observed at control of compost (0 ton) and 6 ton, respectively. It is clear to mention that the highest reduction resulted from water stress were found at 2, 4, 6 ton for studied canola yield characters, respectively. About that, Observed from data application of 4.0 ton fed<sup>-1</sup> compost increased the values of studied canola yield characters by about 2.71, 28.11, 9.46;17.22% and 2.84, 10.73, 4.93; 5.55% under sufficient and deficit irrigation treatments, prospectively. While, 6.0 ton fed<sup>-1</sup> compost increased the relative values of studied canola yield characters by about 4.34, 29.37, 11.00, 16.75% and 5.14, 16.75, 8.21; 7.88% under normal and water stress irrigation treatments, prospectively.

Stress tolerance indices	Equation	Reference
Stress susceptibility index	SSI = 1– (Ys/Yp)/1– (Ŷs/Ŷp)	[20]
Mean productivity	MP = (Ys + Yp) / 2	[21]
Stress tolerance	TOL = Yp – Ys	[21]
Geometric mean productivity	GMP = (Yp * Ys)1/2	[22]
Stress tolerance index	$STI = (Yp * Ys)/(\hat{Y}p)2$	[22]
Yield index	$YI = Ys / \hat{Y}s$	[23]
Yield stability index	YSI = Ys / Yp	[24]

# Table 3. Stress tolerance indices used for the evaluation of barley genotypes to drought tolerance

#### Table 4. SPAD-chlorophyll, RWC and proline content of canola plant as affected by compost and zinc sulfate application

Compost	Zn levels	Chlo	hlorophyll		/C*	Proline	Proline (mg gf.w <sup>-1</sup> )		
-		Normal	Stress	Normal	Stress	Normal	Stress		
0	No Zn applied	47.65	32.64	81.9	65.9	0.427	0.567		
ton/fed	Zn 50 ppm	48.19	37.44	83.5	72.6	0.408	0.468		
	Zn 100 ppm	49.90	41.56	85.4	76.8	0.327	0.346		
(2)	No Zn applied	45.80	29.08	77.7	64.8	0.433	0.633		
ton/fed	Zn 50 ppm	46.30	32.12	81.3	71.5	0.413	0.513		
	Zn 100 ppm	47.86	38.76	83.6	75.2	0.380	0.429		
(4)	No Zn applied	50.95	39.40	86.2	70.7	0.337	0.437		
ton/fed	Zn 50 ppm	55.15	42.84	87.5	72.2	0.308	0.361		
	Zn 100 ppm	58.50	48.88	90.8	79.6	0.229	0.245		
(6)	No Zn applied	53.81	41.98	88.4	71.6	0.314	0.385		
ton/fed	Zn 50 ppm	54.65	45.96	89.2	74.6	0.251	0.286		
	Zn 100 ppm	55.96	51.00	91.5	82.6	0.197	0.202		
Mean of	No compost	48.58	37.21	83.60	71.75	0.39	0.46		
Compost	2 ton/fed	46.65	33.32	80.90	70.51	0.41	0.53		
	4 ton/fed	54.87	43.71	88.17	74.15	0.29	0.35		
	6 ton/fed	54.81	46.31	89.69	76.27	0.25	0.29		
Mean of	No Zn applied	49.6	35.8	83.5	68.2	0.378	0.506		
Zn	Zn 50 ppm	51.1	39.6	85.4	72.7	0.345	0.407		
	Zn 100 ppm	53.1	45.1	87.8	78.5	0.284	0.305		
LSD	Compost (Co)	0.95	1.20	0.69	0.81	0.011	0.011		
0.05	Zinc (Zn)	0.82	1.04	0.75	1.23	0.007	0.008		
	(Co*Žn)	1.65	2.07	1.34	1.89	0.017	0.017		

(RWC); Relative Water Content

The use of compost improves seed germination and dry matter production compared to the compost free treatments [8]. Increase in biological yield might be to due increased grain yield. It may be due to the activation of various physiological processes such as regulation of the mouth, formation of chlorophyll, enzyme activation, and biochemical processes through the use of micronutrients that led to the production of high dry matter [41].

Regardless irrigation treatments, data in Table 6, Fig. 2a & 2b indicated that control of compost and zinc gained the lowest values except harvest index where 100 ppm of zinc and 6 ton compost+100 ppm zinc scored the highest values except harvest index (after 0 Zinc).Foliar application of zinc and irrigation levels significantly affected the biological yield and grain yield (ton ha<sup>-1</sup>): Foliar application of Zn at different concentrations and irrigation levels significantly affected grain yield.

Interaction between these two factors also found to be significant. In foliar applications of zinc at different concentrations, foliar applied zinc at 100 ppm considerably increased grain yield. These results are inconformity with the findings of [41], [42], who reported that foliar application of zinc significantly increases the yield and yield

contributing parameters. As well as, the positive effect of compost on increasing canola yield may be rendered to the role of compost on reducing PH of the soil. With respect to the effect of compost application rates on the studied canola yield characters (biomass, seed yield, biological yield and harvest index), data indicated that maximum and the minimum values were 2.76, 20.69,7.51 and 11.39 % recorded by application of compost at a rate of 4.0 ton fed<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. While, 6.0 ton fed<sup>-1</sup>recorded of increase at about 4.69, 23.95, 9.80, 12.32%, prospectively. Regarding to zinc application rates and it's effect on studied canola yield characters, data revealed that increased zinc application rate led to increase in the studied canola yield characters, where the opposite was true and the improvement in the studied canola yield characters estimated in percentage were 6.07, 8.09, 6.63 and 1.55%, respectively. Using compost in sustainable agriculture manner preserves agro-ecosystems and environmental quality [35]. It is a key ingredient in organic farming and is one of nature's best mulches and soil amendments, and can be used instead of

commercial fertilizers. It also improves soil structure and aeration and increases the waterholding capacity of soil [43].

#### 3.2 Stress Tolerance Indices

Data in Table 7 illustrated that stress tolerance indices (SSI, STI, GMP, YI, YSI, MP, TOL and HM) of canola as affected by water stress and Compost application and Zinc sulphate  $(ZnSO_4)$ . Data indicated that the highest values were attained after application of compost at rates of 4.0 and 6.0 ton fed<sup>-1</sup> with a foliar spray  $ZnSO_4$  in most stress tolerance indices. Resulted data showed that the highest values were 1.17, 0.89, 1.14, 1.11, 1.08, 0.48 and 1.09 (SSI, STI, GMP, YI, MP, TOL and HM), respectively. While, achieved data the lowest values with YSI were 0.53 as affected by application compost at a rate 4.0 ton fed<sup>-1</sup> with the foliar spray Zinc sulphate at a rate of 100 ppm compared to control. Also, Data observed in Table 7 were 1.099, 0.728, 1.06, 1.01, 1.08, 0.64 and 0.96 (SSI, STI, GMP, YI, MP, TOL and HM), respectively.

 Table 5. Plant height, no. of branch, no. of pods /plant and 1000 seed wt. of canola plant as

 affected by compost and zinc sulfate application

Compost	Zn Levels	Plant height (cm)		No. of Branch		No. of Pods /plant		1000 seed wt. (g)	
		Normal	Stress	Normal	Stress	Normal	Stress	Normal	Stress
0 ton/fed	No Zn applied	113.0	73.4	19.0	15.3	295.3	186.8	3.35	2.19
	Zn 50 ppm	123.0	85.7	23.0	16.4	321.3	212.2	3.49	2.33
	Zn 100 ppm	128.0	84.7	26.7	19.1	357.7	226.3	3.65	2.49
(2) ton/fed	No Zn applied	111.7	79.8	18.0	13.7	283.3	182.0	3.06	2.09
	Zn 50 ppm	121.3	83.3	21.7	15.6	317.0	207.8	3.38	2.15
	Zn 100 ppm	127.0	89.4	24.3	18.0	344.3	221.9	3.62	2.30
(4) ton/fed	No Zn applied	116.3	85.4	21.7	15.9	303.3	196.2	3.42	2.34
	Zn 50 ppm	125.7	92.1	24.3	16.4	331.3	221.1	3.55	2.40
	Zn 100 ppm	133.3	94.2	29.7	20.0	372.7	237.9	3.77	2.52
(6) ton/fed	No Zn applied	119.0	84.2	23.0	16.3	313.3	200.9	3.50	2.42
	Zn 50 ppm	126.0	93.1	29.2	17.8	354.7	227.7	3.62	2.48
	Zn 100 ppm	134.0	95.1	30.3	21.0	384.0	239.0	3.85	2.60
LSD	Compost	3.02	4.80	1.93	3.77	6.81	13.96	0.140	0.048
0.05	Zn Interaction	2.19 4.84	1.27 5.34	1.09 2.80	1.39 4.79	5.87 11.34	12.33 24.40	0.065 0.190	0.039 0.081

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While, achieved data the lowest values with YSI were 0.69 as affected by application compost at a rate 6.0 ton fed<sup>-1</sup> with the foliar spray Zinc sulphate at a rate of 100 ppm compared to control. These results are in consistent with those reported by [22] in Mungbean and [44] in maize. Nasir-ud-Din [45] showed significant and positive correlation between Ys and TOL and Ys and Mp as well as between Yp and MP, while TOL was negatively correlated with Yp and MP.

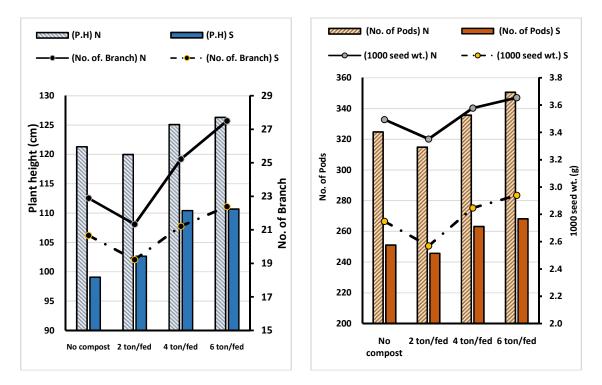
The SSI does not differentiate between potentially water-tolerant genotypes and those that overcome low overall yield potential. Although, low TOL has been used as a basis for selecting cultivars with fighting to water stress, the likelihood of selecting low yielding cultivars with a small yield degree of difference can be expected [46].

Data in Table 8 indicate that simple correlation among the stress tolerance indices and noticed that highly positive correlation between STI x SSI (0.843\*\*), MP x STI (0.999\*\*), GMP x SSI (0.842\*\*), STI (0.990\*\*), MP (1.000\*\*); YI x STI (0.984\*\*), MP (0.981\*\*), GMP (0.985\*\*); TOL were (0.955\*\*), (0.962\*\*), (0.971\*\*), (0.962\*\*) and (0.901\*\*) Multiply by in (SSI, STI, MP, GMP and YI, respectively. Whereas, negative significant correlation was found between YSI x SSI, STI, MP, GMP & YI were (-1,000\*\*), (-0.843\*\*), (-0.859\*\*), (-0.842\*\*) & (-0.738\*\*) and HM x YSI (-0.822\*\*). Same result was obtained by [47] for STI, MP and GMP.

Table 6. Biomass, seed yield, biological yield and harvest index of canola plant as affected bycompost and zinc sulfate application

Compost Zn levels		Biomass (ton fed <sup>-1</sup> )		Seed yield (ton fed <sup>-1</sup> )		Biological yield (g)		Harvest index	
		Normal	Stress	Normal	Stress	Normal	Stress	Normal	Stress
(0)	No Zn applied	2.81	1.76	0.94	0.62	3.75	2.38	0.25	0.26
ton/fed	Zn 50 ppm	2.88	1.80	1.06	0.66	3.94	2.46	0.27	0.27
	Zn 100 ppm	3.00	1.85	1.14	0.67	4.14	2.51	0.28	0.27
(2)	No Zn applied	2.70	1.69	0.91	0.55	3.61	2.24	0.25	0.25
ton/fed	Zn 50 ppm	2.93	1.73	0.95	0.59	3.88	2.31	0.25	0.25
	Zn 100 ppm	2.99	1.78	0.99	0.61	3.98	2.39	0.25	0.25
(4)	No Zn applied	2.89	1.80	1.31	0.70	4.20	2.50	0.31	0.28
ton/fed	Zn 50 ppm	3.00	1.86	1.34	0.72	4.34	2.58	0.31	0.28
	Zn 100 ppm	3.04	1.91	1.38	0.74	4.42	2.64	0.31	0.28
(6)	No Zn applied	2.93	1.87	1.33	0.73	4.26	2.60	0.31	0.28
ton/fed	Zn 50 ppm	3.05	1.89	1.36	0.76	4.41	2.65	0.31	0.29
	Zn 100 ppm	3.09	1.92	1.39	0.78	4.48	2.71	0.31	0.29
LSD	Compost	0.036	0.040	0.005	0.006	0.038	0.040	0.269	0.351
0.05	Zn	0.022	0.012	0.004	0.005	0.022	0.012	0.155	0.171
	Interaction	0.054	0.048	0.008	0.010	0.056	0.048	0.393	0.484

Varieties	Treatment	SSI	STI	MP	GMP	YI	YSI	TOL	НМ
0 ton/fed	No Zn applied	0.797	0.422	0.78	0.77	0.92	0.66	0.32	0.75
	Zn 50 ppm	0.904	0.502	0.86	0.84	0.97	0.62	0.41	0.81
	Zn 100 ppm	0.984	0.547	0.90	0.87	0.98	0.58	0.48	0.84
2 ton/fed	No Zn applied	0.935	0.361	0.73	0.71	0.81	0.60	0.36	0.69
	Zn 50 ppm	0.909	0.400	0.77	0.75	0.86	0.62	0.37	0.73
	Zn 100 ppm	0.910	0.433	0.80	0.78	0.89	0.61	0.38	0.75
4 ton/fed	No Zn applied	1.098	0.661	1.01	0.96	1.03	0.53	0.61	0.91
	Zn 50 ppm	1.099	0.694	1.03	0.98	1.06	0.53	0.63	0.94
	Zn 100 ppm	1.099	0.728	1.06	1.01	1.08	0.53	0.64	0.96
6 ton/fed	No Zn applied	1.056	0.702	1.03	0.99	1.08	0.55	0.60	0.95
	Zn 50 ppm	1.043	0.739	1.06	1.01	1.11	0.56	0.60	0.97
	Zn 100 ppm	1.031	0.777	1.08	1.04	1.15	0.56	0.61	1.00



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Fig. 1a. Mean effect of compost on plant height, no. of branch, no. of pods /plant and 1000 seed wt. of canola plant

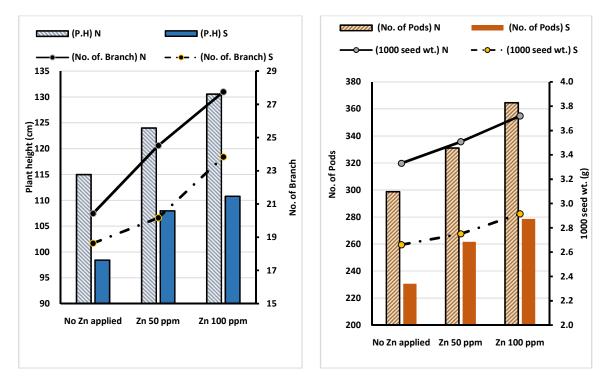


Fig. 1b. Mean effect of zinc sulfate on plant height, no. of branch, no. of pods /plant and 1000 seed wt. of canola plant

	SSI	STI	MP	GMP	YI	YSI	TOL
STI	0.843						
MP	0.859	0.999					
GMP	0.842	0.999	0.999				
YI	0.738	0.984	0.979	0.985			
YSI	-1.000	-0.843	-0.859	-0.842	-0.738		
TOL	0.955	0.962	0.971	0.962	0.901	-0.955	
HM	0.822	0.998	0.997	0.999	0.991	-0.822	0.951

Table 8. Correlation coefficient between stress tolerance indices of canola

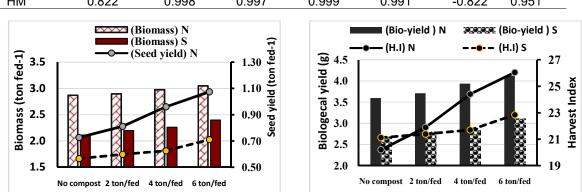


Fig. 2a. Mean effect of compost on biomass, seed yield, biological yield and harvest index of canola plant

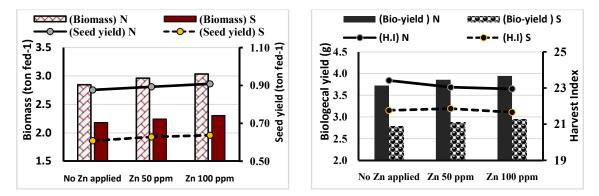


Fig. 2b. Mean effect of zinc sulfate on biomass, seed yield, biological yield and harvest index of canola plant

## 4. CONCLUSION

Soil application of organic fertilizer causes, increased water holding capacity in soil and improve itsphysical properties, besides increasing soil fertility, crop growth and thus the water use efficiency. Under water stress, zinc has an important function in the plant for enhancing Zn uptake by plant, which may affect the yield and Zn content in various plant tissues. The combined application of compost and zinc is important for enhancing the growth parameter and seed production of canola under water stress condition.

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#### **COMPETING INTERESTS**

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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