

**Effectiveness of Some Organic Fertilizers and Bio-Control Agents for Controlling Root-Knot Nematodes *Meloidogyne* spp. in Cowpea Forage (*Vigna unguiculata*) in New Valley, Egypt.**

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**T**he effect of some organic fertilizers viz., Farmyard manure, chicken manure, date palm compost, filter cake mud and the two bio-control agents *Trichoderma viride* and *Bacillus megaterium* alone and/or in a combination against root-knot nematodes *Meloidogyne* spp., infecting cowpea forage plants under field conditions was studied. The combined treatments showed more efficacy for controlling *Meloidogyne* spp., reproduction than individual treatments; the most effective treatment in reducing root galling was the combined treatments between *B. megaterium* or *T. viride* with date palm compost, followed by the combined treatment of *T. viride* with filter cake mud. While, the greatest decrease of the numbers egg-masses per root system, and number of eggs per egg-mass were detected by the combined treatment *B. megaterium* with date palm compost. However, the highest reduction in second stage juvenile  $j_2$  in the soil was the combined *B. megaterium* with chicken manure. The tested treatments increased growth parameters significantly in growing two seasons compared with control treatment. The greatest of plant height, number of branches per plant, and fresh weight were recorded by the combined treatment *B. megaterium* with chicken manure. The combined treatments increased the content of cowpea forage from minerals viz., nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and protein. The highest of nitrogen and protein content of cowpea forage was recorded with the combined treatment *B. megaterium* with filter cake mud. As well as, the combined treatment *B. megaterium* with chicken manure recorded the highest contents of potassium and phosphorus in forage cowpea. The second part of this study studied the effect of the above mentioned treatments on the defense-related enzymes and total phenol contents in cowpea forage plants infected with, *M. incognita* under greenhouse conditions. The combination between organic fertilizers and bio-agents increased activities of defense-related enzyme peroxidase (PO), polyphenol oxidase (PPO), phenylalanine ammonia lyase (PAL), pathogenesis related protein (chitinase and  $\beta$ 1,3 gluconase) and total phenol contents more than applied individually.

**Keywords:** Bio-agents, Cowpea, Defense-related enzymes and Total phenol contents, *Meloidogyne* spp. and Organic fertilizers.

Cowpea forage (*Vigna unguiculata* L. Walp) is regarded as an important food legume and an essential component of the crop system in the tropical and subtropical

drier region. The worldwide cowpea cultivated area was estimated at 34594770 Feddans in 2000 (Singh *et al.*, 2002). Cowpea is being cultivated in vast areas of Asia, and Africa because of its hardy nature to tolerate moderate drought. It can be successfully cultivated on soils with low organic matter and reduced fertility status (Iqbal, 2015). Due to its warm-loving nature, cowpea has the ability to provide green forage in midsummer, when other forages disappear. It was introduced to Egyptian agriculture as a promising double-purpose forage and seed crop, as a green canopy or as a dry seed in animal diets (Hamd Alla *et al.*, 2014).

Root-knot nematodes, *Meloidogyne* spp., are a major problem in most parts of the world where cowpea is grown. (Iheukwumere *et al.*, 1995). The three roots-knot nematode species; *Meloidogyne incognita*, *M. arenaria* as well as, *M. javanica*, are the most destructive on cowpea. Root-knot nematodes are estimated to cause losses ranging from 10% to 69% (Olowe, 2009). Symptoms of root-knot nematodes, *Meloidogyne* spp., damage includes the development of chlorosis of leaves, stunted growth, root galling, and excessive root branching (Adegbite, 2011).

Nematicides are generally recommended for nematode management; however, they are harmful to beneficial flora and fauna in the soil. Moreover, this environment is affected as a result of nematicides application (Fernandez *et al.*, 2001). So it is essential to search for alternative control strategies for the management of root-knot nematodes, *Meloidogyne* spp. The addition of soil organic amendments to the soil is one of the alternative nematode management strategies. An organic amendment has beneficial effects on soil nutrition, soil physics, and soil biology and thus improves plant health and reducing the nematode population (Oka *et al.*, 2000 & Agyarko and Asante, 2005).

Biological control of plant-parasitic nematode is a more safety and inexpensive solution than the chemical control (Gowen and Ahmad, 1990). There are two main microbial groups that abound in soil, fungi, and bacteria. Some of them have great potential as bio-control agents for nematodes (Siddiqui and Mahmood, 1995). While, Sharon *et al.*, 2001 mention that *Trichoderma* spp., are important biological control agents for the reduction of antibiotic and enzymatic hydrolysis root-knot nematode populations. Plant growth-promoting rhizobacteria (PGPR) are promising microorganisms for biological control of plant-parasitic nematodes. There are three bacterial mechanisms for reducing nematode infection: metabolite production that reduces egg hatching and causes juvenile death, the degradation of different root exudates that control nematode behavior and enhancing of plant defense mechanisms which lead to systemic resistance (Siddiqui *et al.*, 2001). *Bacillus megaterium* and *Trichoderma viride* have recently been commonly used to promote plant growth and control plant-parasitic nematodes.

The objective of this study was to determine the effect of two bio-agents (*T. viride*) and plant growth promoting rhizobacteria (*B. megaterium*) singly or in combination with different organic soil amendments on;- (1)- the root-knot nematode *Meloidogyne* spp., reproduction of cowpea forage plants under field conditions. (2) - The effect of treatments on plant growth and yield components, (3) -Their effect on the content of cowpea forage from minerals *viz.*, N, P,

K, and protein, and (4) -The relationships between the application of treatments and biochemical changes were assessed.

### Materials and Methods

#### Source of cowpea forage seeds:

Cowpea forage (*Vigna unguiculata* L. Walp) Cultivar, Balady was obtained from the Legume Crop Research Department, Field Crop Research Institute, Agriculture Research Centre, Ministry of Agriculture, Giza, Egypt.

#### Source of bio-control agents:

*Bacillus megaterium* (BMM5 and *Trichoderma viride* (TVM2), were obtained from Dr. Montaser Fawzy Abdel-Monaim, Department of Plant Pathology, New Valley Research Station. The obtained bacterium was cultured in nutrient broth medium in 250 ml flasks which were incubated at  $25\pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 48h. A cell suspension of bacterium strain was adjusted to  $2.5 \times 10^8$  CFU/ml (colony forming units). *Trichoderma viride* was cultured on potato dextrose agar (PDA) medium on Petri plates according to (Jansson *et al.*, 1985). The fungus spore density was  $1 \times 10^6$  spores/ml.

#### Source of organic fertilizers:

All of the organic fertilizers were obtained from New Valley Research Station, except the filter cake mud from Abu-Qurqas Sugar Factory.

#### Field experiments:

The experiment was conducted during the 2016 & 2017 summer seasons at the New Valley Agriculture Research Station. The previous studies determined that field naturally infested with root-knot nematodes *Meloidogyne* spp. The experiments were divided into 45 plots, each plot ( $3 \times 5 \text{ m}^2$ ), included 5 rows (5 m in length and 60 cm width), and the initial population of nematodes were estimated for each plot. Five days before planting cowpea forage cv. (Balady) treatments were added in the two seasons as follows:-

1. *B. megaterium* (5 litres/fed.),
2. *T. viride* (5 liters/fed.),
3. Farmyard manure (5 ton/fed),
4. Chicken manure (2.5 ton/fed.),
5. Date palm compost (5 ton/fed.)
6. Filter cake mud (5 ton/fed.),
7. *B. megaterium* + farmyard manure,
8. *B. megaterium* + chicken manure,
9. *B. megaterium*+ date palm compost,
10. *B. megaterium* + filter cake mud,
11. *T. viride* + farmyard manure,
12. *T. viride* + chicken manure,
13. *T. viride*+ date palm compost,
14. *T. viride* + filter cake mud,
15. Check treatment (control) without treatment.

All plots were sown in hills 30 cm apart on one side, two seed per hill. All treatments were incorporated at planting row sites at the top of 20 cm of the soil surface. The experiment was conducted in a complete randomized block with three replicates for each treatment for two successive summer seasons (2016 & 2017) using the same field design plots of applied treatments.

At 60 days after cultivation, a sample of twenty randomly plants from each experimental unit (plot) was taken and the following characteristics were recorded; plant length, number of branches. At the same time, a half of plot area was cutting to

determine fresh forage yield (ton/fad.) then dry forage yield (ton/fed.) was determined. The other half of the experimental plot was left to maturity and the following measurements are estimated; No. of the seeds /pod, weight of 100 seeds and total seed yield (Kg /fed).

*Leaf mineral contents:*

Twenty-five mature leaves were collected randomly after 60 days of planting during season 2017. The samples of leaves were washed with tap water, rinsed twice in distilled water and air dried in an oven at 70°C. The dried leaves were ground and digested by H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> according to (Evenhuis and Dewaard, 1980). Suitable aliquots were taken for the determination of the mineral content. Nitrogen was determined by the Kjeldahl method (Anonymous, 1995). Phosphorus was determined according to (Murphy and Riley, 1962). Potassium was determined with a flame photometer. The concentrations of N, P, and K were expressed as percentages.

*Nematode parameters assessment:*

The egg masses have been stained by dipping the roots for 20 min in a solution of 0.015 percent Phloxine B (Daykin and Hussey, 1985) for three plants in each plot. Number of eggs per egg-mass was determined by selecting ten egg-masses randomly from each root system of three plants from each treatment, and shaking in 1% NaOCl solution for three min, the suspension of eggs was sieved through 200 and 500 mesh (Hussey and Barker, 1973). Released eggs were collected in 20 ml water suspension on the sieve of 500 mesh, and the number of eggs was counted in 1 ml by the aid of a light and counting slide (10×). The average number of eggs/egg-mass was calculated. The number of root galls was counted and root gall index (G.I) was carried out according to (Taylor and Sasser 1978) where the scale of galling was 0 = No galling; 1= 1-10 galls; 2 = 11-20; 3 = 21-30; 4 = 31-100 galls and 5 = more than 100 galls/ root. Two hundred and fifty g of soil from each plot was used to extract nematode, using sieving and Baermann pan technique (Barker *et al.*, 1985). The extracted juveniles were counted by using 1ml counting slide under the stereoscopic microscope and the average number of second stage juveniles (j<sub>2</sub>) /250 g soil was calculated for each treatment. Finally, nematode reproduction factor (Rf) was calculated according to the formula  $Rf = Pf \div Pi$ , where Pf is the final nematode populations, and Pi is the initial nematode populations (Oostenbrink, 1966).

*Greenhouse experiments:*

*Effect of organic fertilizers and bio control agents on activity of defence-related enzymes in single and combined treatments under greenhouse conditions:*

Nematode inoculum: Egg- masses of *M. incognita*, were picked up from pure culture pots of infected roots and placed in the sterilized plastic plates with sterile water and kept on the laboratory benches at room temperature (23- 25° C) and allowed to hatch for 3-5 days to use for experiments.

The second part of this study to determine the accumulation of peroxidase (PO), polyphenol oxidase (PPO), phenylalanine ammonia lyase (PAL), pathogenesis related protein (chitinase and  $\beta$ 1,3 gluconase) and total phenol contents during season 2017 was studied under greenhouse conditions. Cowpea forage cv. (Balady)

seeds were planted in clay pots 30 cm in diameter (4 kg soil), filled with a sterilized mixture of clay and sand (4:1w/w). The organic fertilizers and bio-agents were added individually at 1. *B. megaterium* (20 ml/pot.), 2. *T. viride* (20 ml/pot.), 3. Farmyard manure (20 g/pot), 4. Chicken manure (10 g/pot.), 5. Date palm compost (20 g/pot.), 6. Filter cake mud (5 ton/fed.), and in combined as: 7. *B. megaterium* + farmyard manure, 8. *B. megaterium*+ chicken manure, 9. *B. megaterium*+ date palm compost, 10. *B. megaterium*+ filter cake mud, 11. *T. viride* + farmyard manure, 12. *T. viride* + chicken manure, 13. *T. viride*+ date palm compost, 14. *T. viride* + filter cake mud, 15. Check treatment (control). Each treatment was replicated 3 times. The pots were irrigated every three days. After germination, plants were thinned to one plant in each pot. Plants were inoculated with approximately 500 newly hatching second stage juveniles ( $J_2$ ) of *M. incognita* per pot. Three untreated pots kept free to serve as a control. Ten days after nematode inoculation, one gram of plant root was homogenized in 10 ml of ice-cold 50 mM potassium phosphate buffer (pH 6.8) containing 1 M NaCl, 1% polyvinylpyrrolidone, (PVP), 1 mm EDTA and 10 mm  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol (Biles and Martyn, 1993). After filtration through cheesecloth, the homogenates were centrifuged at 8000 rpm at 4°C for 25 min. The supernatants (crude enzyme extract) were stored at -20°C or immediately used for determination PO, PPO, PAL, chitinase and  $\beta$ -1,3-glucanase enzyme activities and total protein. In the case of individual enzyme under investigation, each treatment consisted of three replicates and three spectrophotometric readings using Milton Roy Spectrophotometer (Milton Roy spectronic1201) were taken per replicate. Then the extracts were used for assaying biochemical change associated with the tested treatments.

The activity of peroxidase enzyme was determined according to (Hammerschmidt *et al.*, 1982). The activity of poly phenoloxidase enzyme was determined according to (Gauillard *et al.*, 1993). The activity of Phenylalanine ammonia lyase was assayed according to (Cavalcanti *et al.*, 2007). The Chitinase activity was determined using the method described by (Wirth and Wolf 1992). Activity of  $\beta$ -1,3-glucanase enzyme was assayed according to (Pan *et al.*, 1991).

*Protein concentration:*

The total protein content of the samples were quantified according to the described method (Bradford, 1976).

*Determination of phenolic compounds:*

The total phenol compounds (TPC) were assessed according to (Saikia *et al.*, 2006).

*Statistical analysis:*

All experiments were performed twice. Analyses of variance were carried out using MSTAT-C program version 2.10 (Anonymous, 1991). Least significant difference (LSD) was employed to test for significant difference between treatments at  $P \leq 0.05$  (Gomez and Gomez, 1984).

## Results

*Effect of four organic fertilizers and two bio-agents on the cowpea forage (Balady) on root-knot nematode Meloidogyne spp., reproduction under field conditions:*

The effect of organic fertilizers (farmyard manure, chicken manure, date palm compost, and filter cake mud) and bio-control agents (*T. viride*) and (*B. megaterium*) in single and combined treatments were studied against root-knot nematodes *Meloidogyne* spp., reproduction. The results in Table 1 showed that all treatments reduced nematode infection significantly compared with control treatment under field conditions. The data also revealed that the combined treatments were more efficacious in controlling *Meloidogyne* spp., reproduction than individual treatment during season 2016. The most effective treatment in reducing root galling was the combined treatments *B. megaterium* or *T. viride* with date palm compost with (123) gall /root system, followed by the combined treatments *T. viride* with filter cake mud with a number of galls (127.75)/root system. While the highest reduction of the number of eggs/egg-mass (162), and numbers of egg-masses/ root system (58.61) were detected by combining treatment *B. megaterium* with date palm compost. On the other hand, the highest reduction in second stage juvenile  $j_2$  was (120) /250g soil with the combined *B. megaterium* with chicken manure. While, during the season 2017, the results in Table 2 indicated that highest reduction in root galling was (152) / root system with combined *T. viride* and date palm compost.

The most effective treatments for reducing the number of eggs/egg-masses were the combination of date palm compost with *B. megaterium* (148), and *T. viride* (156). Combined treatments *B. megaterium* with chicken manure, and date palm compost gave the highest reduction of second stage juveniles ( $j_2$ ) /250g soil with (180). While, the gall index was (5) showed an evident susceptibility to nematode infection in the two seasons with all treatments. Consequently, the low reproduction factor (RF) showed that nematode multiplication was negatively affected, the combination of *B. megaterium* with chicken manure or date palm compost were more effective in reducing the final nematode population in two seasons 2016 and 2017.

**Table 1. Effect of four organic fertilizers alone and in combination with the two bio-agents on cowpea forage (Balady) on root-knot nematodes, *Meloidogyne* spp., reproduction during summer season 2016 under field conditions**

Treatment	No. Galls/root	Gall index	No. Eggs/egg-mass	No. Egg mass/root	No. J <sub>2</sub> /250 g soil	R. F.
<i>B. megaterium</i>	175.50cd	5	189h	79.12 fg	240.00 f	0.48
<i>T. viride</i>	179.25 bc	5	250d	120.27 c	300.50 c	0.60
Farmyard manure (A)	192.00 b	5	278c	150.69 b	328.50 b	0.66
Chicken manure (B)	172.50 cd	5	229e	112.88 d	280.25 d	0.56
Date palm compost (C)	170.00 cd	5	200g	62.51 ij	220.5 g	0.44
Filter cake mud(D)	183.00 bc	5	288b	123.20 c	300.25 c	0.60
<i>B. megaterium</i> +A	162.00 de	5	254d	96.36 e	280.25 d	0.56
<i>B. megaterium</i> +B	139.50 fg	5	177i	65.41 i	120.25 i	0.24
<i>B. megaterium</i> +C	123.00 h	5	162j	58.61 j	180.00 h	0.36
<i>B. megaterium</i> +D	135.00 fgh	5	234e	75.44 gh	260.00e	0.52
<i>T. viride</i> +A	129.00 gh	5	214f	81.32 f	300.25 c	0.60
<i>T. viride</i> +B	148.25 ef	5	200g	73.12 h	320.00 b	0.64
<i>T. viride</i> +C	123.00 h	5	197g	66.10 i	280.50 d	0.56
<i>T. viride</i> +D	127.75 gh	5	219f	76.03 fgh	280.00 d	0.56
Control	294.00a	5	365a	212.36 a	720.5 a	1.4

Different letters indicate significant differences among treatments within the same column according to least significant difference test ( $P \leq 0.05$ ).

**Table 2. Effect of four organic fertilizers alone and in combination with the two bio-agents on cowpea forage (Balady) on root-knot nematodes, *Meloidogyne* spp., reproduction during summer season 2017 under field conditions**

Treatment	No. Galls / root	Gall index	No. Eggs / egg-mass	No. Egg mass/root	No. j <sub>2</sub> /250 g soil	R F
<i>B. megaterium</i>	171.50 bcde	5	216e	76.72 gh	240.50 d	0.40
<i>T. viride</i>	172.25 bcd	5	289c	115.35 c	300.00 c	0.50
Farmyard manure (A)	177.50 b	5	301b	140.33 b	400.25 b	0.66
Chicken manure (B)	172.75 bcd	5	196f	112.00 cd	400.75 b	0.66
Date palm compost(C)	174.00 bc	5	187g	66.67 i	200.00 ef	0.33
Filter cake mud(D)	173.00 bcd	5	296b	105.33 d	240.00 d	0.40
<i>B. megaterium</i> +A	167.50 cde	5	268d	94.67 e	220.50 de	0.36
<i>B. megaterium</i> +B	165.00 def	5	165h	76.33 gh	180.00 f	0.30
<i>B. megaterium</i> +C	154.00 g	5	148i	70.33 hi	180.00 f	0.30
<i>B. megaterium</i> +D	163.25 ef	5	214e	88.67 ef	200.25 ef	0.33
<i>T. viride</i> +A	166.25 cde	5	192fg	81.67 fg	220.00 de	0.36
<i>T. viride</i> +B	156.50 fg	5	188g	70.67 hi	240.00 d	0.40
<i>T. viride</i> +C	152.00 g	5	156i	65.67 i	200.50 ef	0.33
<i>T. viride</i> +D	164.50 def	5	211e	80.00 g	240.00 d	0.40
Control	288.00 a	5	379a	200.00 a	880.00 a	1.5

Different letters indicate significant differences among treatments within the same column according to least significant difference test ( $P \leq 0.05$ ).

*The effect of four organic fertilizers alone and in combination with the two bio-agents on plant growth and yield parameters of cowpea forage (Balady) infected with root-knot nematodes, Meloidogyne spp., under field conditions:*

The results in Table 3 indicated that all the tested treatments significantly increased plant growth parameters compared to control treatment. In season 2016, combination of *T. viride* with chicken manure recorded the highest of plant height (123.59cm). While, the number of branches was the highest (13) per plant with the combined *T. viride* with date palm compost, the applied treatment *B. megaterium* with chicken manure gave the highest of fresh and dry weight ton/feddan (14.56) and (3.45) respectively. The results of season 2017 showed that the highest of plant height was (124.3cm) with chicken manure combined with *T. viride*. Date palm compost combined with *T. viride* gave the highest number of branches (12.84) per plant. The results in Table 4 revealed that the weight of 100 seed was the highest



value (9.43g) with combined treatment *B. megaterium* with farmyard manure. While, seed weight/Feddan was recorded the highest value (1228.4 Kg) with combination of *T. viride* with date palm compost in season 2016. Also, chicken manure gave the highest number of seeds/ pod (11.83) in season 2016. While, the highest number of seeds/ pod (13.26) was recorded with the combined treatment *B. megaterium* with farmyard manure in season 2017. The applied treatment *T. viride* with date palm compost gave the highest seed weight /Feddan and gave approximately the same value in the both seasons (2016 and 2017)

**Table 3. Effect of four organic fertilizers on plant growth and yield parameters of cowpea forage alone and in combination with fungal and bacterial bio-agents on root-knot nematodes, *Meloidogyne* spp., under field conditions during seasons 2016-2017**

Treatment	Summer season, 2016				Summer season, 2017			
	Plant height (cm)	No. of branch/plant	Fresh weight ton/feddan	Dry weight ton/feddan	Plant height (Cm)	No. of branch/plant	Fresh weight ton/feddan	Dry weight ton/feddan
<i>B. megaterium</i>	86.36 gh	8.67 ef	10.26 cde	2.33 cdef	85.03 hi	8.96 def	11.02 cde	2.45 e
<i>T. viride</i>	80.14 h	7.33 fg	8.96 ef	1.97 efg	83.25 i	7.86 efg	9.32 ef	2.09 f
Farmyard manure (A)	90.25 fg	9.67 de	11.36 bcd	2.51 bcdef	95.87 fg	10.24 bcde	12.02 bcd	2.75 cd
Chicken manure (B)	89.36 ef	10.67 bcd	11.55 bc	2.61 bcdef	102.60 def	10.89 abcd	11.68 bcde	2.59 de
Date palm compost (C)	88.76 gh	7.67 fg	9.36 def	2.1 defg	93.65 hg	7.82 efg	9.70 def	2.09 f
Filter cake mud (D)	80.14 h	6.33 g	8.02 f	1.83 fg	82.47 i	7.02 fg	8.23 f	1.86 g
<i>B. megaterium</i> +A	105.36 cde	10.33 cde	12.69 ab	2.82 abcd	110.50 bcd	10.24 bcde	12.54 abc	2.76 cd
<i>B. megaterium</i> +B	112.36 bc	12.67 a	14.56 a	3.45 a	115.50 ab	12.47 ab	14.02 ab	3.11 b
<i>B. megaterium</i> +C	102.09 de	11.67 abc	11.89 bc	2.63 bcde	106.40 cde	12.09 ab	12.34 abcd	2.72 cd
<i>B. megaterium</i> +D	95.68 efg	9.67 de	11.36 bcd	2.46 bcdef	99.02 efg	9.36 cdef	11.56 bcde	2.57 de
<i>T. viride</i> +A	112.24 bc	12.33 ab	12.69 ab	2.82 abcd	115.60 ab	12.63 ab	12.47 abc	2.73 cd
<i>T. viride</i> +B	123.59 a	12.00 abc	14.36 a	3.21 ab	124.30 a	11.58 abc	15.02 a	3.31 a
<i>T. viride</i> +C	115.48 ab	13.00 a	12.96 ab	2.9 abc	112.70 bc	12.84 a	12.36 abcd	2.81 c
<i>T. viride</i> +D	110.24 bcd	10.67 bcd	11.36 bcd	2.56 bcdef	108.80 bcd	10.47 abcd	11.02 cde	2.46 e
Control	60.24 i	6.33 g	5.96 g	1.42 g	63.60 j	6.06 g	7.32 f	1.63 h

Different letters indicate significant differences among treatments within the same column according to least significant difference test ( $P \leq 0.05$ ).

**Table 4. Effect of four organic fertilizers alone and combined with bio-agents on cowpea forage yield parameters under field conditions infected with root-knot nematodes, *Meloidogyne* spp., during seasons 2016-2017**

Treatment	Summer season, 2016			Summer season, 2017		
	No seeds/ pod	Weight of 100 seed (g)	Seed weight/Feddian (Kg)	No seeds/ pod	Weight of 100 seed (g)	Seed weight/Feddian (Kg)
<i>B. megaterium</i>	10.30 abc	8.55 ab	777.45 de	9.52 cd	9.59 ab	791.50 h
<i>T. viride</i>	9.80 bcd	8.97 a	732.70 ef	8.47 de	9.25 abc	728.50 j
Farmyard manure (A)	9.80 bcd	8.73 a	617.64 fg	12.52 ab	9.85 ab	605.77 k
Chicken manure (B)	11.83 a	9.2 a	775.42 de	10.69 bcd	10.52 a	717.30 j
Date palm compost(C)	10.17 abcd	8.31 ab	793.42 de	12.58 ab	9.02 abcd	733.95 j
Filter cake mud (D)	8.70 cd	8.69 a	790.37 de	9.45 cd	9.09 abcd	816.55 g
<i>B. megaterium</i> +A	11.57 ab	9.43 a	741.30 def	13.26 a	10.03 ab	769.10 i
<i>B. megaterium</i> +B	8.37 cde	7.94 ab	972.26 bc	8.47d e	7.56 cde	1011.53 c
<i>B. megaterium</i> +C	10.17 abcd	8.87 a	944.20 bc	11.02 abc	9.42 ab	960.90 d
<i>B. megaterium</i> +D	8.57 cde	7.94 ab	876.08 cd	8.96 cd	7.36 de	955.16 d
<i>T. viride</i> +A	9.50 cd	9.29 a	876.58 cd	10.02 cd	10.52 a	917.45 e
<i>T. viride</i> +B	9.87 bcd	8.36 ab	1027.28 b	10.05 cd	8.96 abcd	1144.30 b
<i>T. viride</i> +C	8.27 de	8.03 ab	1228.40 a	9.42 gd	8.25 bcd	1211.45 a
<i>T. viride</i> +D	9.10 cd	7.61 ab	844.24 cde	10.25 bcd	7.36 de	872.69 f
Control	6.69 e	6.25 b	535.50 g	6.26 e	6.25 e	539.50 l

Different letters indicate significant differences among treatments within the same column according to least significant difference test ( $P \leq 0.05$ ).

*The effect of four organic fertilizers and two bio-agents on the content of plant elements and protein in cowpea forage (Balady) plants infected with root-knot nematodes, Meloidogyne spp., under field conditions:*

Table 5 results showed that there were differences among treatments in the content of elements and protein in cowpea forage. Nitrogen content of cowpea forage was the highest when *B. megaterium* was applied with filter cake mud (4.62%), date palm compost (4.51%), or chicken manure (4.48%), compared with control treatment (3.12%). While, the potassium content of cowpea forage was significantly higher than all treatments when combined *B. megaterium* with chicken manure was (2.96), and *T.viride* was (2.92). The combined treatment of chicken

manure with *B. megaterium* gave a high content of phosphorus was (0.28), followed by treatments chicken manure individually or in combined with *T. viride*, as well as combined treatment of *B. megaterium* with farmyard manure gave the same result (0.26). As for the total protein content, the most effective treatments increased the total protein were combination of *B. megaterium* with filter cake mud (28.88), followed by *B. megaterium* with date palm compost (28.19).

**Table 5. Effect of four organic fertilizers, and two bio-agents on cowpea forage elements and protein content infected with root-knot nematodes, *Meloidogyne* spp., under field conditions**

Treatment	N%	K%	P%	Protein %
<i>B. megaterium</i>	4.00 abcd	2.22 def	0.23 bcd	25.00 bcde
<i>T. viride</i>	3.36 de	2.01 efg	0.22 bcde	21.00 f
Farmyard manure (A)	3.52 cde	2.56 bc	0.23 bcd	22.00 ef
Chicken manure (B)	3.98 abcd	2.26 cde	0.26 ab	24.88 cde
Date palm compost(C)	3.88 bcd	1.97 efg	0.22 bcde	24.25 de
Filter cake mud(D)	3.32 de	1.80 g	0.19 de	20.75 f
<i>B. megaterium</i> +A	4.36 ab	2.56 bc	0.26 ab	27.25 abcd
<i>B. megaterium</i> +B	4.48 ab	2.96 a	0.28 a	28.00 abc
<i>B. megaterium</i> +C	4.51 ab	2.44 bcd	0.25 abc	28.19 ab
<i>B. megaterium</i> +D	4.62 a	2.39bcd	0.22 bcde	28.88 a
<i>T. viride</i> +A	3.92 abcd	2.64 ab	0.24 abc	24.50 de
<i>T. viride</i> +B	4.19 abc	2.92 a	0.26 ab	26.19 abcd
<i>T. viride</i> +C	4.08 abc	2.29 cde	0.23 bcd	25.50bcd
<i>T. viride</i> +D	3.96 abcd	1.92 fg	0.21 cde	24.75 de
Control	3.12 e	1.09 h	0.18 e	19.50 f

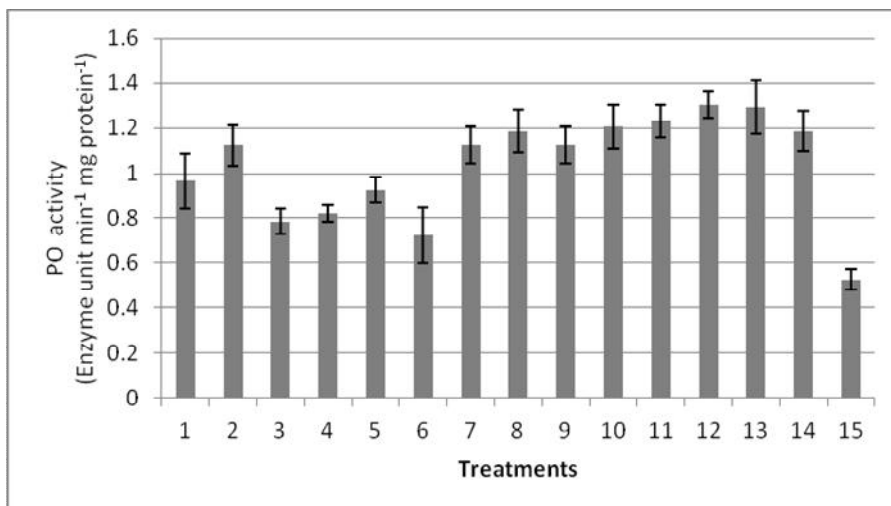
Different letters indicate significant differences among treatments within the same column according to least significant difference test ( $P \leq 0.05$ ).

*Effect of four organic fertilizers, and two bio-agents on the activity of oxidative enzymes on the cowpea forage (Balady) infected with M. incognita under greenhouse conditions:*

The effect of organic fertilizers and bio-agents on the activities of defense-related enzymes viz., PO, PPO, PAL,  $\beta$ -(1,3)-glucanase, and chitinase on cowpea forage (Balady) infected with *M. incognita* under greenhouse conditions was studied alone and in combination with *B. megaterium* and *T. viride* as an inducer resistance. Data in Figures (1-5) showed that all treatments generally increased activities of defense-related enzymes compared to control treatment. The combination between organic fertilizers and bio-agents increased activities of defense-related enzymes more than used any of them, individually. Data in Fig. 1 showed that the treatments (*T. viride* with chicken manure, and *T. viride* with date palm compost) increased the activity level of peroxides enzyme with (1.302), and (1.292) compared with control treatment (0.526). The increase in enzyme poly phenoloxidase activity in Fig. 2 has been resulted by combing treatments of chicken manure with bio-agents, *T. viride* with (1.299) and *B. megaterium* with (1.28) compared with control treatment (0.686). Also, in Fig. 3 the results indicated that combined treatments of chicken manure

with bio-agents increased the activity level of the enzyme of phenylalanine ammonia lyase compared with control treatment and recorded the highest value of the treatments with, *B. megaterium* while, it was (1.899) with *T. viride*.

A results of combined *T. viride* treatment with all organic fertilizers resulted in the highest levels of activity in each of pathogenesis related protein  $\beta$ -(1,3)-glucanase and chitinase enzymes in Fig. 4, as well as, Fig. 5, compared with other treatments and control treatment.



**Fig. 1.** The effect of organic fertilizers treatments and bio-agents on the activity of peroxidase enzyme (enzyme unit mg protein/min) alone and in combination with bio-agents (1-*B. megaterium*, 2- *T. viride*, 3- Farmyard manure (A), 4- Chicken manure (B), 5- Date palm compost (C), 6- Filter cake mud (D), 7- *B. megaterium* +A, 8- *B. megaterium* +B, 9- *B. megaterium* +C, 10- *B. megaterium* + D, 11- *T. viride* +A, 12- *T. viride*+B, 13- *T. viride*+C, 14- *T. viride*+D, and 15- Control).

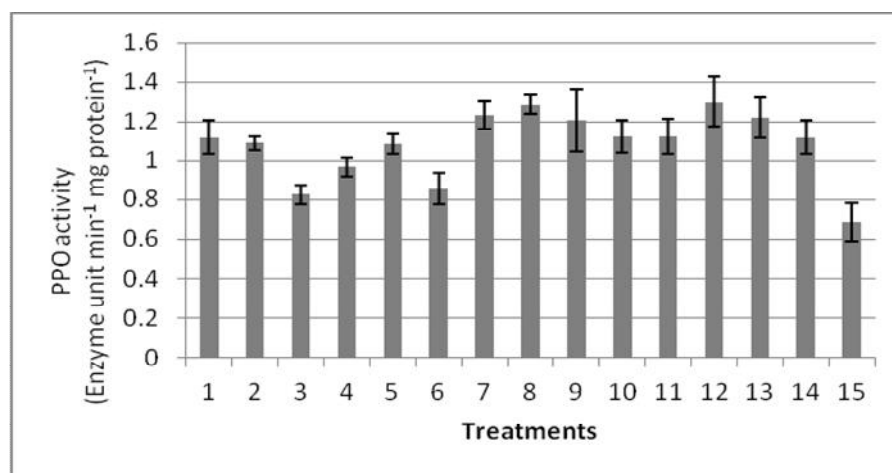


Fig.2. The effect of organic fertilizers treatments and bio-agents on the activity of poly phenol oxidase enzyme (enzyme unit mg protein/min) alone and in combination with bio-agents (1-*B. megaterium*, 2- *T. viride*, 3- Farmyard manure (A), 4- Chicken manure (B), 5- Date palm compost (C), 6- Filter cake mud (D), 7- *B. megaterium* +A, 8- *B. megaterium* +B , 9- *B. megaterium* +C, 10- *B. megaterium* + D, 11- *T. viride* +A, 12- *T. viride*+B, 13- *T. viride*+C, 14- *T. viride*+D, and 15- Control).

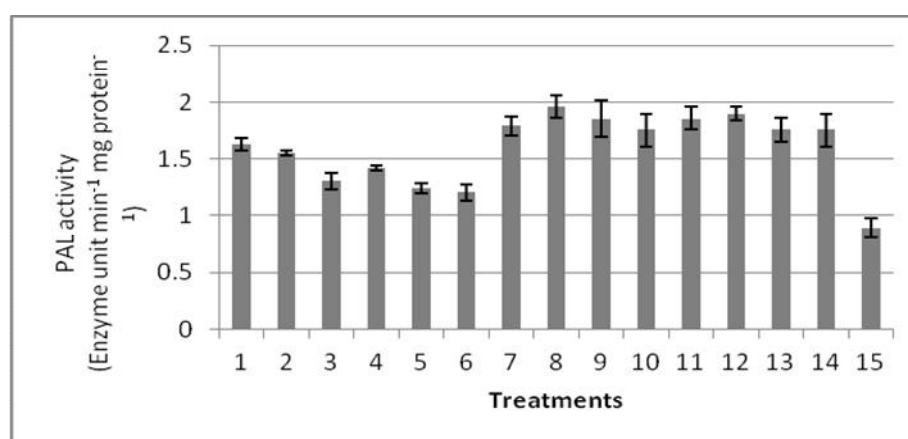


Fig.3. The effect of organic fertilizers treatments and bio-agents on the activity of phenylalanine ammonia lyase enzyme (enzyme unit mg protein/min) alone and in combination with bio-agents (1-*B. megaterium*, 2- *T. viride*, 3- Farmyard manure (A), 4- Chicken manure (B), 5- Date palm compost (C), 6- Filter cake mud (D), 7- *B. megaterium* +A, 8- *B. megaterium* +B , 9- *B. megaterium* +C, 10- *B. megaterium* + D, 11- *T. viride* +A, 12- *T. viride*+B, 13- *T. viride*+C, 14- *T. viride*+D, and 15- Control).

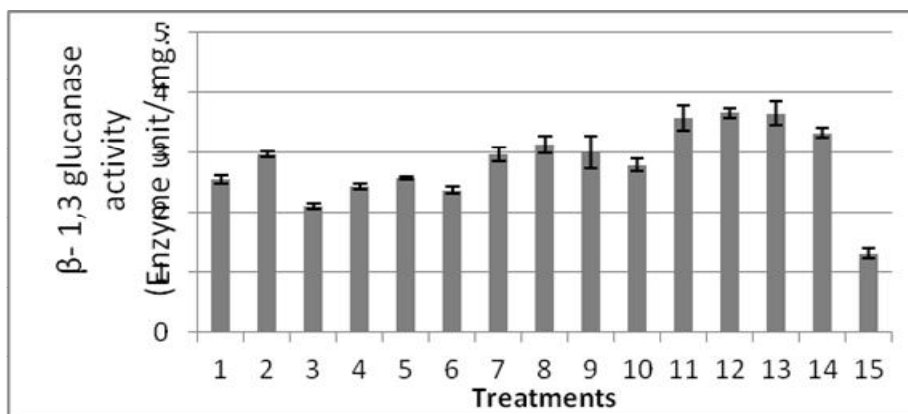


Fig. 4. The effect of organic fertilizers treatments and bio-agents on the activity of  $\beta$ -(1,3) glucanase enzyme (enzyme unit mg protein/min) alone and in combination with bio-agents (1-*B. megaterium*, 2- *T. viride*, 3- Farmyard manure (A), 4- Chicken manure (B), 5- Date palm compost (C), 6- Filter cake mud (D), 7- *B. megaterium* +A, 8- *B. megaterium* +B , 9- *B. megaterium* +C, 10- *B. megaterium* + D, 11- *T. viride* +A, 12- *T. viride*+B, 13- *T. viride* + C, 14- *T. viride*+D, and 15- Control).

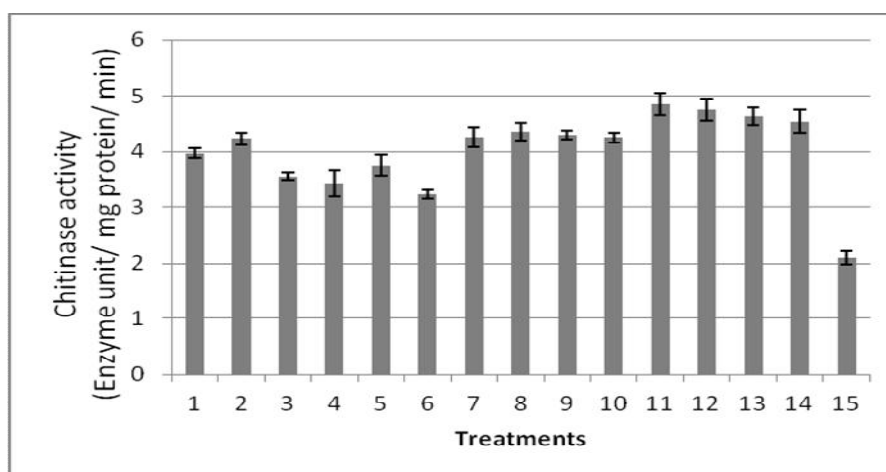
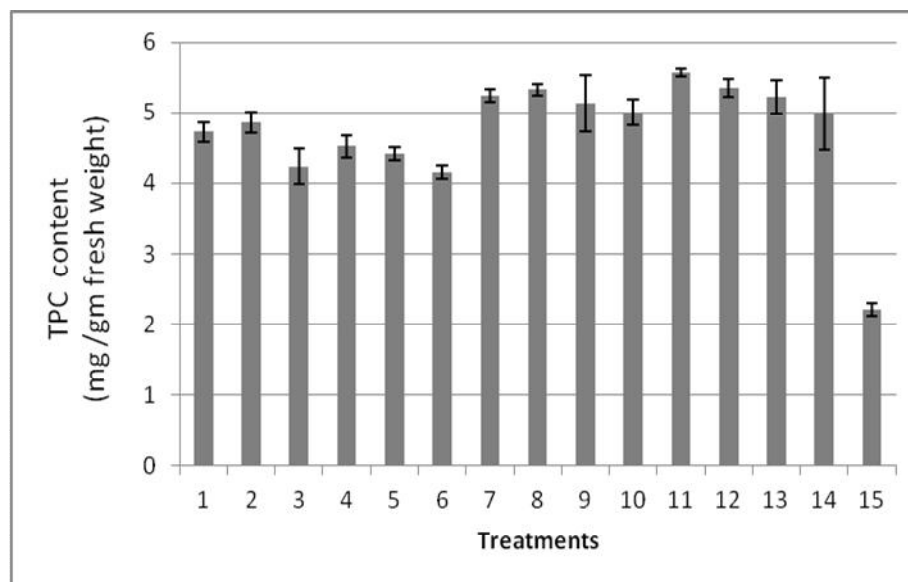


Fig.5. The effect of organic fertilizers and bio-agents treatments on the activity of chitinase enzyme (enzyme unit mg protein/min) alone and in combination with bio-agents (1-*B. megaterium*, 2- *T. viride*, 3- Farmyard manure (A), 4- Chicken manure (B), 5- Date palm compost (C), 6- Filter cake mud (D), 7- *B. megaterium* +A, 8- *B. megaterium* +B , 9- *B. megaterium* +C, 10- *B. megaterium* + D, 11- *T. viride* +A, 12- *T. viride*+B, 13- *T. viride*+C, 14- *T. viride*+D, and 15- Control).

*Effect of organic fertilizers and bio-agents on total phenol compounds (TPC):*

Data in Fig. 6 indicated that all treatments increase total phenol contents in cowpea forage plants compared with untreated plant (control) either applied to individually or in combination. The combination between organic fertilizers and bio-agents recorded higher contents of TPC in cowpea forage plants more than when applied them individually. The combination between *T. viride* with farmyard manure and *T. viride* with chicken manure gave the highest contents of TPC in cowpea forage plants compared with untreated plants as (control).



**Fig. 6.** Effect of organic fertilizers and bio-agents individually and in combination on total phenol compounds (1-*B. megaterium*, 2- *T. viride*, 3- Farmyard manure (A), 4- Chicken manure (B), 5- Date palm compost (C), 6- Filter cake mud (D), 7- *B. megaterium* +A, 8- *B. megaterium* +B , 9- *B. megaterium* +C, 10- *B. megaterium* + D, 11- *T. viride* +A, 12- *T. viride*+B, 13- *T. viride*+C, 14- *T. viride*+D, and 15- Control).

### Discussion

Microorganisms that can grow in the rhizosphere are the front line defense against pathogen attack roots and are ideal for use as bio-control agents. Biological control of soilborne plant pathogens with rhizobacteria have been studied as an alternative to chemical control (Weller, 1988). Some bacteria that live in direct contact with roots at different microsites offered by mucigel, epidermis or cortex, or may even penetrate intercellular spaces so that the metabolites of their production can easily act on root cells.

Results obtained from applying treatments under field conditions indicated that, all tested treatments significantly reduced nematode infection compared with control treatment. The combined treatment *B. megaterium* with chicken manure gave the highest reduction in second stage juveniles ( $j_2$ ) of *Meloidogyne* spp., in soil. These results are in agreement with (Tong-Jian *et al.*, 2013) since they reported that applied of *Bacillus cereus* with bio-organic fertilizer, chicken manure was more effective in control *M.incognita* in tomato. Biological control agents of the soil borne plant pathogens often applied to soils combined with organic materials (Mittal *et al.*, 1995). Organic materials contribute to enhanced biological activity against the target pathogen by providing the necessary nutrients for the initial growth of bio-control agents in the soil. The breakdown of an organic material may release toxic substances and nematicides that contribute to nematode control (Esnard *et al.*, 1998). In the present study, combined treatment of *T. viride* with date palm compost reduced each of numbers of root galls, and number of egg-masses per plant. The tested study was supported by (Olabiyi *et al.*, 2016) they reported that application of neem composts and *T. harzianum* significantly reduced the final nematode population of root-knot nematode in cowpea varieties under field conditions. This may be attributed to the direct parasitism of fungi as bio-control agents that are one of the main mechanisms responsible for the plant-parasitic nematode control (Dababat and Sikora, 2007). Many investigators reported that *Trichoderma* spp., have been used as a bio-control agent against plant-parasitic nematodes, and that fungus can also promote plant and have the ability to colonize the root surface and the cortex (Sharon *et al.*, 2001). *T. viride* in combination with the organic amendment was also known to produce growth hormones, which have been observed to have added responsive in stimulating the plant vigor. The fungus *Trichoderma* has been reported to be produced not only for parasitic nematode and inactive pathogen enzymes, but also to help intolerance to stress conditions through increased root development.

In the current study the application of bio-agents *T. viride*, and *B. megaterium* with organic fertilizers date palm compost or chicken manure increased plant growth parameters *viz.*, plant height, number of branches per plant, and fresh weight compared to control treatment in the two successive seasons. (Siddiqui *et al.*, 2007) they reported that inoculation of any plant growth promoting rhizobacteria (PGPR) species alone or together with Rhizobium increased plant growth by *M. javanica* inoculated on lentil plants. Also, (Mahdy 2002) demonstrated that all plants treated with *Bacillus cereus* S18 combined with *M. incognita*, gave improvement of plant growth, compared with the untreated tomato plants. Enhancing plant development is might be the microbial metabolites of the rhizobacteria under research having a double impact; indirectly by suppressing nematode reproduction resulting in relief of negative effects on plant growth or directly include the production of phytohormones, promotion through the enhanced availability of nutrients, reduction of ethylene levels, production of antibiotics and induced systemic resistance (Holland, 1997).

Obtained data from the present study proved that all tested treatments significantly increased the content of N, P, K, and protein in cowpea forage



compared with control treatments. The application of treatments (*B. megaterium*) alone and combined with other organic fertilizers increased all of N, P, K and protein content in plants. These results are in agreement with (Radhakrishnan and Lee, 2016) when they reported that *B. megaterium* has the ability to increase the solubility of the phosphorous in soil and increase their transport to the maize roots. In addition that, enhancement of plant endogenous proteins, amino acids, sugars, photosynthetic pigments and minerals (K, Mg, Na, P, Fe, Zn, and N) recorded. Also, the beneficial effect of *Bacillus* spp., convert the complex form of an essential nutrients, such as P and N, to a simple available form that is used during uptake by oriental melon roots (Kang *et al.*, 2015).

In the second part of this study, the results showed that all treatments increased the activities of oxidative enzymes (peroxidase, polyphenol oxidase, phenylalanine ammonia lyase, pathogenesis related protein (chitinase and  $\beta$ 1,3 gluconase) but, combined treatments of bio-agents *B. megaterium* and *T. viride* with organic fertilizers increased the levels of an oxidative enzymes than individual treatments under greenhouse conditions. The combinations of (*T. viride* with chicken manure, and *T. viride* with date palm compost) increased the activity level of peroxides enzyme. While, the combined treatments of *B. megaterium* and *T. viride* with chicken manure increased the levels, of poly phenoloxidase and phenylalanine ammonia lyase enzyme activity.

It may seem to, that the role of oxidative enzymes can be explained as oxidation of phenols to oxidized products (quinons), which limit pathogenic activity. The reduction in disease severity was associated with an increase in enzyme activity (peroxides, polyphenoloxidase, chitinous and catalase) in plant pre-treated with biotic and abiotic inducers. Many investigators have demonstrated the ability of various PGPRs for plant protection to induce systemic resistance against various pests and diseases (Lawton and Lamb, 1987). In addition, peroxidase plays a role in the removal of hydrogen peroxide toxic effects from tissues in plant defense systems and in the synthesis of intermolecular bonding, fortifying cell walls at pathogen invasion (Passardi *et al.*, 2004).

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فاعلية بعض الأسمدة العضوية وعوامل مكافحة الحيوية  
لمقاومة نيماتودا تعقد الجذور *Meloidogyne spp.*  
على محصول لوبيا العلف في الوادي الجديد، مصر

منتصر فوزى عبدالمنعم – سحر حسن عبدالباسط - رانيا حامد وهدان  
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تمت دراسة تأثير بعض الأسمدة العضوية مثل ( مخلفات الماشية ، سماد الدجاج ، كمبوست النخيل و سماد عضوى تكاملى مصنع ابو فرقاص للسكر) وبعض عوامل مكافحة الحيوية (*Bacillus* و *Trichoderma viride* و *megaterium*) بمفردها أو مشتركة مع بعضها البعض في مقاومة نيماتودا تعقد الجذور *Meloidogyne spp.* على محصول لوبيا العلف تحت ظروف الحقل في الوادي الجديد. أظهرت المعاملات المشتركة فاعلية أكثر للسيطرة على تكاثر نيماتودا تعقد الجذور من المعاملات الفردية، وكان العلاج الأكثر فاعلية في تقليل اعداد العقد النيماتودية على جذور اللوبيا هو الجمع بين (*B. megaterium* أو *T. viride*) مع كمبوست النخيل ، يليه معاملة *T. viride* مع السماد العضوى التكاملى. واثبتت الدراسة ان افضل النتائج فى تقليل اعداد كتل البيض واعداد البيض لكل كتلة بيض كانت عند استخدام *B. megaterium* مع كمبوست النخيل . اماكثر المعاملات كفاءة فى تقليل اعداد الطور المعدى الثانى فى التربة ( $J_2$ ) كانت معاملة *B. megaterium* مع سماد الدواجن. اما بالنسبة لعوامل النمو ادت المعاملات التي تم اختبارها الى زيادة معدلات النمو بشكل ملحوظ في مواسم النمو مقارنة بالكنترول. ادت المعاملة بـ *B. megaterium* وسماد الدواجن الى تسجيل اعلى معدل من ارتفاع النبات ، عدد الفروع لكل نبات ، والوزن الطازج للنبات. ايضا ادت جميع المعاملات الى زيادة محتوى اوراق لوبيا العلف من العناصر النيتروجين ، الفوسفور، البوتاسيوم ، و كذلك محتوى البروتين. سجلت اعلى نسب من محتويات اوراق اللوبيا من النيتروجين والبروتين عند استخدام معاملة *B. megaterium* مع السماد العضوى التكاملى. اما بالنسبة لاکثر المعاملات كفاءة فى زيادة محتوى اوراق اللوبيا من البوتاسيوم والفوسفور كانت عند استخدام معاملة *B. megaterium* مع الدجاج الدجاج. من ناحية أخرى، زادت جميع المعاملات نشاط الإنزيمات المرتبطة بالدفاع ومحتويات الفينولات الكلية فى نباتات لوبيا العلف فى تحت تأثير العدوى بنيماتودا تعقد الجذور *M. incognita* مقارنة بالكنترول. أدت المعاملات المشتركة بين الأسمدة العضوية والعوامل الحيوية إلى زيادة أنشطة الإنزيمات المرتبطة بالدفاع مثل انزيم البيروكسيديز والبولى فينول اوكسيدزوالكينينز ومحتويات الفينول الكلية أكثر من تطبيقها بشكل فردي.