## Role of Intercropping and Nitrogen Fertilizer on Management of Peanut and Sesame Root-Rot and Wilt Diseases

A.A. Abd El-Baky\* and M.A. Abd El-Galil\*\*

\* Plant Pathol. Res. Inst., ARC, Giza, Egypt.

\*\* Field Crops Res. Inst., ARC, Giza, Egypt.

**eanut** - sesame intercropping was studied under (2:2) and (3:1) pattern with 45, 60 and 75 kg nitrogen/feddan to determine their effect on the total count of bacteria and fungi as well as the incidence of root-rot and wilt diseases (dead plants) and yield components of both crops in Ismailia Agricultural Research Station during 2010 and 2011 growing seasons. Results indicated that intercropping pattern (2:2) increased the total count of bacteria and fungi isolated from the soil than that in (3:1) pattern. Also, it increased the total count of fungi responsible for root-rot and/or wilt diseases (dead plants) of both crops. Increasing nitrogen fertilizer rate from 45 to 75 kg nitrogen/feddan increased the total count of fungi and decreased the total count of bacteria. On the other hand, the increase of nitrogen fertilizer rate resulted in increasing the percentages of dead plants of both crops under both intercropping system during the two growing seasons. The values of land equivalent rate (LER) of (2:2) pattern exceeded than (3:1) pattern. The highest LER was obtained with (2:2) pattern when fertilized with the highest nitrogen fertilizer rate (75 kg N/fed.). Results also indicated that the yield of sesame in (2:2) pattern was the superior and the opposite was recorded for peanut in case of (3:1) pattern. In addition, increasing the dose of nitrogen fertilizer resulted in increasing the values of crop parameters than the other two rates whatever the pattern of the intercropping.

Keywords: Fertilizer, intercropping, nitrogen, peanut, root-rot, sesame and wilt.

Peanut (Arachis hypogaea L.) and sesame (Sesamum indicum L.) are vulnerable to attack by several devastative pathogenic air and soilborne fungi causing considerable losses in the yield. Soilborne pathogenic fungi such as *Fusarium* spp., *Macrophomina phaseolina, Aspergillus* spp. and *Rhizoctonia solani* cause root- and pod-rot during the growing season with drastic quantitative and qualitative losses in the yield all over the world (Hilal *et al.*, 1990; Jacobi and Backman, 1994; Mehan *et al.*, 1995; El-Deeb and Ibrahim, 1998; Hasan *et al.*, 2002). Moreover, El-Shehaby and Morsy (2005) reported that losses in the stand may reach 35% in some fields. Meanwhile, *F. oxysporum* f.sp. sesame, *M. phaseolina* and *R. solani* are soilborne pathogens causing yield losses in sesame ranging from 50 to 100% of several years (Khalifa, 2003; El-Bramawy, 2003; 2006a; and 2006b). The causal of charcoal rot (*M. phaseolina*) can infect sesame plants at all stages, where damage can result in poor seedling establishment, pre- and post-emergence damping-off and reduction the activity and productivity of older sesame plants. Major symptoms on infected plants are stunting, chlorosis, premature defoliation, early maturity and death (Aly *et al.*, 2006).

Intercropping system is believed to be more beneficial for small farmers in the low-input, high risky environment of developing world areas. Intercropping can achieve much larger yield than single crops by using environmental resources more fully over time or more efficiently in space (Willey et al., 1983). Intercropping sesame with peanut is an old practice with main objective to reduce labour peak, minimize crop failure risk, provides higher returns and more important help reduce oil gap. The merits of intercropping sesame with peanut have been well documented by many investigators (Abd El-Galil and Moursi, 2004; Toaima et al., 2004 and Abd El-Zaher et al., 2007). Moreover, Gabr et al. (1993) found also that peanut intercropped with sesame at (1:1) row ratio or with various combinations and grown alone gave the highest yield when grown alone. Peanut pod yield was the highest when grown at a ratio of (1:1) and sown at 100% of the recommended plant density. Land equivalent ratio (LER) was the highest when peanut and sesame were intercropped at (1:1) row ratio. With respect to groundnut attributes and yield/fed., intercropping treatment at (2:2) recorded the highest values followed by (1:1) (El-Mihi et al., 1990). Also, Barabasz et al. (2002) mentioned that high dose of N fertilization increased Arthrobacter and Sterptomyces species by 50% on the average, and resulted in complete inhibition to Rhizobium and Bradythzobium. They added that N fertilization enhanced the numbers of bacteria belonging to genera Eubacterium, Pseudomonas, Bacillus and fungi belonging to genera Aspergillus, Fusarium, Penicillium, Verticillium and others. Meanwhile, Abd El-Baky (2005) reported that urea and potassium sulphate at the rate of 50 kg/fed. significantly reduced basal rot and black mould diseases in onion than 100 kg/fed. Moreover, Hussein et al. (2002) reported that nitrogen application frequency had significant effect on plant height, number of branches/plant, number of pods/plant, weight of pods/plant, 100-seed weight, shelling percent and pod yield /fed. of peanut. The highest values of yield components and pod yield/fed. were obtained when nitrogen application was frequency used every three days. Increasing or decreasing nitrogen application frequency to one or seven days gave the lowest pod yield/fed. Chuan-Chao et al. (2009) found that intercropping treatments recorded greater total microbial quantity, diversity and a higher ratio of bacteria to fungi than the monocropping. Also, Gangwar et al. (2009) reported that intercropping chickpea with each of linseed, mustard and wheat reduced number of spores of F. oxysporum f.sp. *ciceri* compared to the solid chickpea. However, intercropping significantly reduced the wilt incidence with significant increase in crop yield during two seasons.

This work was designed to study the effect of different types of intercropping peanut with sesame as well as the influence of nitrogen fertilizer rates on the count of bacteria and fungi, incidence of dead plants and other crop parameters.

## Materials and Methods

Field experiments were carried out in sandy soil at Ismailia Agric. Res. Station, during the summer of 2010 and 2011 growing seasons. The effects of two intercropping patterns of sesame with peanut, using three rates of nitrogen fertilization (45, 60 and 75kg N/fed.), on the infection by root-rot and/or wilt diseases as well as yield components, were investigated. The field has a history of high infestation with the causal fungal pathogens of root rot and wilt diseases, *i.e. M. phaseolina, F. oxysporum, F. solani* and *R. solani*. Each experiment included 8 treatments of all possible combinations of two intercropping patterns and the abovementioned three rates of nitrogen fertilizer. Sesame (cv. Shandweel 3) and peanut (cv. Giza 6) were planted as follows:

- 1- Intercropping pattern (3 peanut: 1 sesame) where sesame was planted on one row and peanut was planted on three rows (75% peanut: 25% sesame).
- 2- Intercropping pattern (2 peanut: 2 sesame) where sesame was planted on two rows and peanut was planted on another two rows (50% peanut: 50% sesame).

Wheat was, however, the preceding crop in both seasons. Two seeds of peanut were sown in each hill at 10 cm apart and 5-7 seeds of sesame were sown in each hill at 15 cm apart. Thinning was carried out 3 weeks after sowing, into one plant/hill in case of peanut and two plants/hill in case of sesame. Peanut and sesame were sown on  $17^{th}$  and  $25^{th}$  May in 2010 season and  $12^{th}$  and  $22^{nd}$  May in 2011 growing season, respectively. Each plot was  $14.4 \text{ m}^2$  (4.8 m in length x 3 meters in width). Each plot consisted of 8 rows. Split plot design with three replicates was used. Calcium super phosphate 15.5% (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) at the rate of 200 kg/fed. was added during land preparation for sowing. Whereas, nitrogen fertilizer was added to peanut and sesame in the form of ammonium nitrate (33.5%) at the rate of 45, 60 and 75 kg N/fed., just after thinning, just before flowering and at flowering stage. The stand of peanut and that of sesame were calculated at 40 and 60 days after sowing. Peanut and sesame were harvested on  $30^{th}$  and  $25^{th}$  September and  $22^{nd}$  and  $28^{th}$  September in the first and the second season, respectively.

### Determination of total counts of bacteria and fungi in the soil:

Plate count technique was followed to determine the total counts of bacteria and fungi in the field soil following harvesting peanut and sesame plants according to the method of Johansen *et al.* (1960).

In most cases, isolation traits were carried out to through light on the causative fungi. The infected plants were gently up rooted and the roots were examined for symptoms and signs of infection. The roots were washed thoroughly in tap water and cut into small pieces. Root fragments, especially those showing visible lesions were surface sterilized for 3 min. in 1% of NaOCl, rinsed in sterilized water, placed on PDA medium and incubated on 25 °C for 10 days. In most cases, colonies formed on the used media were identified according to their morphology features as described by Ellis (1971); Bergey (1985) and Booth (1985).

### Diseases assessment:

Growing peanut and sesame plants were carefully examined during each tested season and the percentages of dead plants resulted from root rot and/or wilt diseases were recorded and the efficiency of treatment was assessed as follows:

Treatment efficiency (%)=  $A-B/A \times 100$ 

Whereas: A: Number of dead plants due to disease infection of the control. B: Number of dead plants due to disease infection of the treatment.

Also, the reduction of cfu was counted using the following equation:

CFU reduction (%) =  $A-B/A \times 100$ 

Whereas: A: Number of colony form unit in control.

B: Number of colony form unit in treatment.

### *Competitive relationships:*

Land equivalent ratio (LER) was assessed using the following equation as described by Willey (1979):

$$LER = Y_{ab}/Y_{aa} + Y_{ba}/Y_{bb}$$

Whereas:  $Y_{aa}$  is pure stand yield of species a;  $Y_{bb}$  is pure stand yield of species b;  $Y_{ab}$  is mixture yield of a (when combined with b) and  $Y_{ba}$  is mixture yield of b (when combined with a)

#### Statistical analysis:

Data were analysed by M-STAT software for comparison of the mean values and the two seasons by L.S.D. at 5% level. Response equations were calculated according to Snedecor and Cochran (1998).

### Results

### *Effect of intercropping and nitrogen fertilization:*

1- Effect on the total counts of fungi causing root-rot and wilt diseases:

Results in Table (1) indicate that intercropping peanut and sesame in two systems, *i.e.* 3 peanut : 1 sesame and 2 peanut : 2 sesame, resulted in variable effects on the total counts of fungi causing root-rot and wilt diseases. The first pattern was more effective than the second one in this regard during 2010 and 2011 growing seasons. During 2010, results were significantly with *F. oxysporum*, *M. phaseolina* and *R. solani*. The two intercropping patterns reduced the colony forming units (cfu) of *M. phaseolina* and *R. solani* compared to monocropping of peanut and sesame, but this trend was not noticed in case of the two species of the genus *Fusarium*.

Intercropping system (3:1) was more effective than (2:2) system on reduction of cfu of soilborne fungi related to root-rot and wilt diseases. This effect was significant with *F. oxysporum*, *M. phaseolina* and *F. solani*, while it was not significant with *R. solani*. Meanwhile, the two intercropping patterns decreased the cfu of *M. phaseolina* and *R. solani*. Moreover, increasing in the cfu of the two species of genus *Fusarium* was observed, compared to monocropping peanut and sesame plants.

Treatment *	2010				2011			
character &	Cot	Count of CFU (X 10 <sup>3</sup> )			Count of CFU (X $10^3$ )			
intercropping pattern	FO	FS	MPH	RS	FO	FS	MPH	RS
A <sub>1</sub>	16.7	20.2	22.8	26.1	41.3	120.5	239.0	14.8
A <sub>2</sub>	26.0	38.5	42.6	35.9	71.4	346.9	396.5	21.4
LSD at 5%	5.1	18.0	12.8	5.1	7.2	81.8	9.1	n.s
Peanut solid	25.4	31.9	72.2	66.7	37.4	33.9	460.0	36.7
Sesame solid	14.2	30.9	65.2	56.7	27.2	81.6	551.0	24.3
Interaction:								
$A_1F_1$	10.4	10.4	7.4	13.9	6.8	61.2	0.0	6.9
$A_2F_1$	10.9	24.1	7.0	29.6	13.6	234.7	0.0	10.2
Mean	10.7	17.3	7.2	21.8	10.2	148.0	0.0	8.6
$A_1F_2$	13.9	10.4	13.8	20.8	20.4	101.9	346.9	13.9
$A_2 F_2$	25.9	40.7	55.6	30.9	20.4	346.9	583.3	23.8
Mean	19.9	25.6	34.7	25.9	20.4	224.4	465.1	18.9
$A_1 F_3$	25.4	39.9	47.1	43.5	96.6	198.4	370.0	23.6
$A_2 F_3$	41.2	50.7	65.3	47.1	180.3	459.2	606.1	30.3
Mean	33.3	45.3	56.2	45.3	138.4	328.8	488.1	26.9
LSD at 5%	10.1	9.0	13.1	9.3	96.5	141.1	21.9	8.1

 Table 1. Effect of two intercropping systems in an interaction with nitrogen fertilization rates on the total count of some soilborne fungi under field conditions during 2010 and 2011 growing season

\* A<sub>1</sub>= Intercropping 3:1, A<sub>2</sub>= Intercropping 2:2, F<sub>1</sub>= 45 kg/fed., F<sub>2</sub>= 60 kg/fed., F<sub>3</sub>= 75 kg/fed. FO= *F. oxysporum*, FS = *F. solani*, MPH= *M. phaseolina* and RS= *R. solani*.

Results also show that the same trend, being in 2010 for the effect of intercropping systems (3:1) and (2:2), was found in 2011 season with a few differences. The interaction between intercropping pattern and nitrogen fertilization on cfu of the isolated fungi was significant in all traits. Moreover, results of 2010 season showed that within a low dose of N fertilizer (45 kg N/fed.) no significant difference was detected between *F. oxysporum*, and *M. phaseolina* cfu. Meanwhile, this difference was significant in case of *F. solani* and *R. solani*. On the other side, significant differences were found among all fungi, with exception of *R. solani*.

The combination between intercropping pattern and nitrogen fertilization on cfu of isolated fungi was significant in all traits. Results of 2011 season showed that within a low dose of N fertilizer (45 kg N/fed.) no significant difference was detected among all fungi. On the other hand, significant differences were detected within moderate dose of nitrogen (60 kg N/fed.) in all fungi except for *F. oxysporum*, but at a high dose (75 kg/fed.) the effect of interaction was significant in case of *M. phaseolina* and *F. solani* and non-significantly with *F. oxysporum* and *R. solani*. Generally, total count of cfu was increased by increasing the dose of nitrogen fertilizer whatever intercropping system applied.

2- Effect on the total counts of bacteria and fungi isolated from soil:

The effect of different intercropping systems and nitrogen fertilization and their combination on the total of bacterial and fungal counts in the tested field soil are tabulated in Table (2). Concerning the intercropping effects, results show that (3:1) intercropping system decreased the total count of fungi with significant differences in both seasons. Meanwhile, opposite results were found with (2:2) intercropping system, being 749.3 and 558.9 x  $10^3$  during 2010 and 2011, respectively, compared with solid peanut (565.7 x  $10^3$ ). Whereas, both intercropping systems increased the total count of fungi compared with solid sesame plants. Regarding the bacterial cfu count, (3:1) and (2:2) intercropping patterns increased the total count of the isolated bacteria, being 3.9 and 3.5 x  $10^6$  during 2010 and 4.and 4.5 x  $10^6$  during 2011, respectively, compared to solid peanut, being 3.1 and 3.2 x  $10^6$  and to sesame sole, being, 2.8 x  $10^6$  and 2.5 x  $10^6$  during the aforementioned seasons, respectively.

2010 al	2010 and 2011 growing seasons							
	(CFU) of bac	teria and	fungi	(CFU) of bacteria and fungi				
Tractment *	of soil	at 2010		of soi	1 at 2011			
Treatment *	Pastaria v 106	Fungi	$x 10^{3}$	Postaria v 10 <sup>6</sup>	Fung	i x 10 <sup>3</sup>		
	Dacterra x 10	Act.	Trans.	Dacterra x 10	Act.	Trans.		
A <sub>1</sub>	3.9	400.0	2.4	3.5	310.5	2.4		
A <sub>2</sub>	4.9	749.3	2.8	4.5	558.9	2.7		
LSD at 5%	n.s		0.1	n.s		0.1		
Peanut sole	3.1	565.7		3.2	495.7			
Sesame sole	2.8	158.5		2.5	157.2			
Interaction:	Interaction:							
$A_1F_1$	4.9	65.7	1.8	4.6	59.2	1.8		
$A_2F_1$	4.7	185.6	2.7	5.1	180.1	2.6		
Mean	4.8	125.7	2.3	4.8	119.7	2.2		
$A_1F_2$	2.1	483.0	1.8	4.3	352.0	1.7		
$A_2 F_2$	5.6	651.4	2.3	5.0	520.4	2.3		
Mean	3.9	567.2	2.6	4.7	436.2	2.5		
$A_1 F_3$	3.8	927.6	3.0	1.4	632.6	2.8		
$A_2 F_3$	5.4	1135.1	3.1	3.6	863.8	2.9		
Mean	4.6	1031.4	3.1	2.5	748.2	2.9		
LSD at 5%	n.s		0.1	n.s		0.1		

 Table 2. Effect of two intercropping systems and interaction with fertilization rates of nitrogen on the total count of soil bacteria and fungi during 2010 and 2011 growing seasons

\* A<sub>1</sub>, A<sub>2</sub>, F<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>2</sub> and F<sub>3</sub>: As described in footnote of Table (1).

The interaction between intercropping pattern and nitrogen fertilization showed no significant differences in the total count of bacteria. However, cfu count of bacteria was increased at (2:2) intercropping pattern more than (3:1) intercropping pattern at the same dose of nitrogen fertilizer. On the other hand, significant differences were found at different treatments. Generally, cfu of fungi was increased with increasing the nitrogen rate. Opposite results were found with bacterial cfu whatever intercropping pattern.

## 3- Effect on the percentages of dead plants:

Concerning the effect of two intercropping patterns and the three nitrogen doses on the percentages of dead plants due to the infection by root- rot and/ or wilt diseases during 2010 and 2011, results in Table (3) show that intercropping peanut and sesame in (3:1) and (2:2) systems resulted in significant reduction in the percentage of dead plants compared to control treatment. However, sesame was more responded to intercropping system than peanut, where the percentages of dead plants were greatly reduced than the sole crop. In addition, (3:1) system was, to somewhat, more efficient in this regard, being 21.95 and 16.17 % than (2:2) system, being 25.06 and 17.88% for peanut and sesame, respectively. Control treatment recorded 27.47 and 22.17% for both crops, respectively.

	Peanut de	ead plants		Sesame de	Mean	
Intercropping pattern *	(%	6)	Mean	(%		
	2010	2011		2010	2011	
A1 (3:1)	21.11 22.78		21.95	15.67	16.67	16.17
A2 (2:2)	23.67	26.44	25.06	16.65	19.11	17.88
Control	25.60	29.33	27.47	20.67	23.67	22.17
(sole monocropping)						
Mean	23.46	26.18		18.33	19.82	
General mean	24	.82		19.08		
LSD at 5% for:						
Intercropping patterns (I)	2.1				2.2	
Season (S)		2.1		n.s		
IxS		n.s		n.s		

 Table 3. Effect of two intercropping systems on the percentages of dead plants of peanut and sesame

\* A<sub>1</sub> and A<sub>2</sub>: As described in footnote of Table (1).

Results in Table (4) reveal that both nitrogen rates, *i.e.* 45 and 60 kg/fed. resulted in significant reduction to dead plants of both peanut and sesame compared with 75 kg/fed. In addition, rate of 60 kg/fed. more efficient in this regard than 75 kg/fed. Moreover, sesame dead plants were lower than that of peanut.

Results presented in Table (5) show the effect of interaction between intercropping peanut and sesame with 3:1 and 2:2 intercropping systems and nitrogen rates 45, 60 and 75 kg/fed.

In general, in intercropping (2:2) system, whatever the dose of nitrogen used, high number of dead plants was occurred. Moreover, obtained results indicate that the lowest percentages of dead plants for both peanut and sesame were occurred in case of  $A_1F_1$ , being 20.0 and 14.3%, respectively, followed by  $A_1F_2$  in case of peanut, being 21.66% and  $A_2F_2$  in case of sesame, being 16.5%. Meanwhile, the highest percentages of dead plants were occurred in case of  $A_2F_3$ , being 26.8 and 19.5%, respectively, followed by  $A_2F_2$  in case of peanut, being 25.0% and  $A_1F_3$  in case of sesame, being 18.0%.

Nitrogen rate	Peanut dead plants		Mean	Sesame dead plants		Mean
(kg/feddan)	(%	%)		(%)		
	2010	2010 2011		2010	2011	
45	20.7	22.7	21.7	14.0	16.3	15.2
60	22.0	24.5	23.2	16.7	17.5	17.1
75	24.0	26.7	25.6	17.7	19.8	18.7
Mean	22.2	24.6		16.1	17.9	
General mean	23	3.4		17.0		
LSD at 5% for:						
Nitrogen rate (N)		2.7		2.7		
Season (S)		2.1		2.3		
N x S		n.s		n.s		

 Table 4. Effect of three levels of nitrogen fertilizer on the percentages of dead plants of peanut and sesame

# Table 5. Effect of the interaction between intercropping pattern and nitrogen fertilization rates on the percentages of dead plants of peanut and sesame

Intercropping/ *	Peanut dead plants		Maan	Sesame dead plants		Mean	General
Nitrogen rate	2010	2011	wican	2010 2011		wiean	mean
A <sub>1</sub> F <sub>1</sub>	19.3	20.7	20.0	13.7 15.0		14.3	17.2
$A_2F_1$	20.7	24.7	22.7	16.0	17.7	16.8	19.7
A <sub>1</sub> F2	20.0	23.3	22.0	17.3	16.3	16.8	19.4
$A_2F_2$	23.3	26.7	25.0	14.3	18.7	16.5	20.7
A <sub>1</sub> F <sub>3</sub>	23.3	25.3	24.3	17.3	18.7	18.0	21.2
$A_2F_3$	25.7	28.0	26.8	18.0	21.0	19.5	23.2
Mean	22.1	24.8	23.4	16.1	17.9	17.0	
General mean	23.4	42		17.00			
LSD at 5% for:							
Intercropping patterns (I)		2.49			n.s	]	
Nitrogen rate (N)		3.22			]		
Season (S)		2.49			2.65	]	
N x I		n.s			]		
S x I		n.s		n.s			
N x S		n.s			]		
I x N x S		n.s		n.s			

\*  $A_1$ ,  $A_2$ ,  $F_1$ ,  $F_2$  and  $F_3$ : As described in footnote of Table (1).

## 4- Effect on the competitive relationships:

Results presented in Table (6) reveal that the relative yield (RYs) of peanut was higher than sesame in both seasons under the studied intercropping patterns. Meanwhile, the reverse was true for RYs of sesame. These observations were true in both seasons and explain the nature of competition between both components in the intercropping pattern. Also, recorded results of land utilization rate indicate that all

		2010			2011	
Character	RY *	RY* RY LFR		RY	RY	IER
	peanut	sesame	LEK	peanut	sesame	LLK
A1	0.83	0.54	1.37	0.81	0.41	1.22
A2	0.80	0.64	1.44	0.79	0.52	1.31
$A_1F_1$	0.80	0.51	1.30	0.77	0.39	1.16
$A_2F_1$	0.82	0.54	1.36	0.81	0.41	1.22
$A_1F_2$	0.81	0.56	1.37	0.79	0.44	1.23
$A_2F_2$	0.81	0.61	1.42	0.80	0.48	1.28
$A_1F_3$	0.81	0.63	1.44	0.79	0.51	1.30
$A_2F_3$	0.83	0.67	1.50	0.81	0.57	1.38
* RY= relative	vield:	LER= Land	equivalen	t rate: A	= Intercro	oping 3:1.

 Table 6. Effect of the interaction between intercropping patterns and nitrogen fertilization rates on competitive relationships and yield advantageous during 2010 and 2011growing seasons

 $A_2$ = Intercropping 2:2;  $F_1$ = 45 kg/fed.;  $F_2$ = 60 kg/fed. and  $F_3$ = 75 kg/fed.

intercropping patterns gained yield advantage, since the estimated values exceeded the unit. However, LER values of (2:2) pattern exceeded (3:1) pattern in both seasons. This indicates that increasing sesame population to reach 50% of solid population did not exert heavy competition between both components. On the other hand, results of the interaction effect between intercropping pattern with nitrogen fertilization rate indicate that the interaction effect was tenaciously bounded by the main variables (the intercropping pattern and the fertilization rate). The values of RYs peanut and sesame and land utilization rate increased gradually and consistently with increasing nitrogen fertilization rate. These values were also greater when peanut was oriented in (2:2) pattern. As a consequence highest land utilization rate was obtained when the equal alternative pattern (2:2) was fertilized with the highest rate of nitrogen fertilizer rate (75 kg N/fed.), whereas, least LER values were associated when (3:1) pattern was fertilized with lowest rate of nitrogen fertilizer (45 kg N/fed.). These observations were valid in both seasons. The relative crowding coefficient followed the same trend of change as LER values. However, it is noteworthy mentioning that k values of sesame were always higher than those of peanut.

## 5. Effect on the yield and its components:

## 5.1. Effect on the yield of peanut and its components:

Results in Table (7) indicate that peanut traits were associated with regular trend when sesame and peanut were orientated in two patterns. Results also reveal that the height of peanut plants was higher in the equal alternative pattern rather than peanut: sesame in (3:1) pattern. The results were similar in both seasons. Nevertheless, difference between the two intercropping patterns was significant in the second season but insignificant in the first season. Pod yield/fed. of peanut in (3:1) pattern was significantly higher than that in the equal alternative system (2:2). Superiority might owe much to the increase in peanut percentage in the intercropping.

	Peanut yield and its components during						
		201	0	2011			
Treatment*	Plant height (cm)	Number of pods /plant	Pod yield (Erdab/fed.)	Plant height (cm)	Number of pods / plant	Pod yield (Erdab/fed.)	
A1	45.0	26.5	14.2	43.0	31.1	13.4	
A <sub>2</sub>	47.6	24.0	13.8	46.5	23.9	13.1	
L.S.D. at 0.05	n.s	*	*	*	*	n.s	
Solid crop (control)	51.6	33.7	17.2	54.2	37.2	16.5	
N. fertilizer:							
F <sub>1</sub>	44.4	24.5	13.4	41.3	27.4	12.5	
$F_2$	45.8	24.2	14.0	45.0	28.8	13.2	
F <sub>3</sub>	48.6	27.0	14.6	47.7	29.2	13.9	
L.S.D. at 0.05	0.99	n.s	0.24	1.46	2.14	0.40	
Interaction:	-				-		
$A_1F_1$	42.2	20.9	13.8	39.0	33.8	12.7	
$A_2F_1$	44.6	23.6	14.0	43.1	33.8	13.9	
Mean	43.4	22.2	13.9	41.0	33.8	13.1	
$A_1F_2$	48.2	27.5	14.7	46.4	25.7	14.0	
$A_2F_2$	46.6	28.1	13.0	43.6	21.0	12.3	
Mean	47.4	27.8	13.9	45.0	23.3	13.2	
$A_1F_3$	47.1	24.9	13.8	46.9	23.9	13.0	
$A_2F_3$	49.0	26.6	14.4	49.0	26.7	13.9	
Mean	48.1	25.7	14.1	47.9	25.3	13.4	
L.S.D. at 0.05	1.40	n.s	0.33	2.06	3.02	0.56	

Table 7. Effect of two intercropping patterns, nitrogen fertilization rates and<br/>their interactions on peanut yield and its components during 2010 and<br/>2011 growing seasons

\* A<sub>1</sub>, A<sub>2</sub>, F<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>2</sub> and F<sub>3</sub>: As described in footnote of Table (1).

Also, obtained results (Table 7) indicate that there was consistent and gradual increase in growth, yield and yield components of peanut with increasing the rate of nitrogen fertilization from 45 kg N/fed. to 75 kg N/fed. Differences were significant in both seasons within all traits. Results also indicate that the efficiency of nitrogen fertilization increase with increasing the dose of nitrogen fertilization up to the highest rate in both seasons.

The interaction effect between the intercropping patterns and nitrogen fertilization on growth, yield and yield components of peanut was significant in all traits in both seasons, except in case of the average number of pods. Nevertheless, it is evident that peanut plant heights increased gradually with increasing the nitrogen fertilizer rate up to the highest rate (75 kg N/fed.) whatever the intercropping pattern. Similar trend was also observed for pod yield/fed. Also, results of the interaction revealed that the maximum pod yield/fed. was obtained when peanut received the moderate rate of nitrogen and arranged in (3:1) pattern, whereas, minimum yield was obtained when peanut received the same rate of nitrogen fertilizer (60 kg N/fed.) and the plants were arranged in (2:2) pattern.

## 5.2. Effect on the yield of sesame and its components:

Results presented in Table (8) indicate that intercropping pattern significantly affected sesame plant heights. Also, sesame and peanut orientated in the alternative system (2:2) resulted in higher sesame plant rather than arranging both components in (3:1) system. In most cases, nitrogen fertilizer rate significantly affected the crop parameters. Results also indicate that the values of all traits were increased with increasing the rate of nitrogen fertilizer. In the first season, sesame yield recorded 162.4, 170.8 and 179.5 kg/fed., whereas it was 164.3, 175.2 and 191.2 kg/fed. in the  $2^{nd}$  season under the three levels of nitrogen fertilization (45, 60 and 75 kg N/fed.). The effect of interaction between the intercropping pattern and rate of N fertilization was significant in all yield components. Values of yield/fed. were increased with increasing nitrogen fertilizer rate whatever the intercropping pattern was carried out. On the other hand, maximum yield/fed. was associated with the highest rate of nitrogen fertilization (75 kg N/fed.) and sesame and peanut were arranged in (2:2) pattern, whereas, the minimum yield was obtained when the lowest rate of nitrogen (45 kg N/fed.) was used and both crops were arranged in (3:1) pattern.

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	Sesame yield and its components								
		2010		2011					
Treatment*	Plant	Number of	Seed	Plant	Number of	Seed			
	height	capsules	yield/fed.	height	capsules	yield/fed.			
	(cm)	/plant	(kg)	(cm)	/plant	(kg)			
A <sub>1</sub>	72.7	24.5	155.8	71.6	17.4	155.6			
A <sub>2</sub>	77.2	27.4	186.0	86.6	22.5	198.2			
L.S.D. at 0.05	*	n.s	*	*	n.s	*			
Solid crop (control)	90.0	36.4	291.4	96.7	35.6	379.3			
N. fertilizer rates									
F <sub>1</sub>	67.9	23.1	162.4	73.4	17.9	164.3			
F <sub>2</sub>	74.4	25.9	170.8	78.9	21.7	175.2			
F <sub>3</sub>	82.5	28.9	179.5	85.1	20.3	191.2			
L.S.D. at 0.05	1.3	1.2	4.4	1.3	n.s	3.4			
Interaction:									
$A_1F_1$	64.7	21.6	147.3	65.1	14.1	145.3			
$A_2F_1$	72.5	24.4	157.0	71.7	17.8	155.5			
Mean	68.6	23.0	152.1	68.4	16.0	150.4			
$A_1F_2$	80.7	27.4	163.1	78.0	20.2	165.9			
$A_2F_2$	71.0	24.6	177.5	81.6	21.7	183.2			
Mean	75.9	16.0	170.3	79.8	20.9	174.6			
A <sub>1</sub> F <sub>3</sub>	76.3	27.4	184.6	86.1	25.5	194.9			
$A_2F_3$	84.3	30.3	196.0	92.2	20.4	216.5			
Mean	80.3	28.9	190.3	89.2	22.9	205.7			
L.S.D. at 0.05	n.s	1.68	6.26	1.83	n.s	4.81			

Table 8.	. Effect of two intercropping patterns, nitrogen fertilization rates and
	their interaction on yield and its components of sesame during 2010
	and 2011 growing season

\* A<sub>1</sub>, A<sub>2</sub>, F<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>2</sub> and F<sub>3</sub>: As described in footnote of Table (1).

## Discussion

Cultivation a single crops continually may playing a role of negative impact on crop production, microbial activity of soil, microbial diversity and soil fertility. Therefore, intercropping can control crop diseases besides improving the productivity. Obtained results showed that intercropping decreased the spore counts of soilborne fungi in soil. This reduction may be due to the increase in height of sesame plants in case of (2:2) pattern than (3:1) pattern, which intern resulted in dramatic change in microclimate within and under the plants, *i.e.* temperature and relative humidity. This microclimate is an incubator to the pathogens, which led to increase the density of soil microorganisms in case of (2:2) pattern. Meanwhile, (cfu) of F. oxysporum and F. solani were increased compared to solid peanut and sesame plants. Both Fusarium species are considered cosmopolitan species and have been reported to occur in a wide range of climatic regions such as tropical, arid, Mediterranean regions and the Arctic (Sangalang et al., 1995). Besides forest soils, F. solani can also be found in native soils such as in subtropical, semi-arid and grassland soils (Burgess and Summerell, 1992) and in desert soils (El-Gindy and Saad, 1990). The effect of N fertilization rate on the spore count of fungi causing root rot and wilt diseases of peanut and sesame plants showed that all fungi were significantly increased gradually with increasing nitrogen fertilizer rate. These results are in line with those obtained by Barabasz et al. (2002) who found that increasing nitrogen fertilizer rates led to increase the count of some fungi belonging to genera Aspergillus, Fusarium, Penecillium, Verticillium and others. They also stated that mineral fertilization strongly affected the number of microorganisms and qualitative selection of whole communities of soil microorganisms.

Soil microbial communities play an important role of competition against pathogens (Chuan-Chao et al., 2009). Cultivation of continuous monocropping may result unbalance ratio between fungi and bacteria, therefore expedite copiousness of soilborne pathogens in soil and rhizosphere (Ryszkowski et al., 1998). These results are in agreement with those obtained by Gangwar et al. (2009) and Mahmoud et al. (2008) who studied the influence of intercropping soybean and maize on soybean damping-off and relevant effect on the rhizosphere microorganisms .They found that high numbers of microorganisms were found in the (2:2) pattern followed by (2:1). In addition, Botros (1988) mentioned that root exudates of crops under intercropping conditions may contain some vitamins regulators which increase the number and activity of soil microorganisms. On the other hand, N fertilization effects caused increasing in the total count of fungi and decreasing in the total count of bacteria. These effects may be associated with the changes in soil pH. These results are in agreement with those reported by Barabasz et al. (2002) who stated that higher nitrosamine concentrations were observed in acid soils with low pH value (4.0- 6.0) than in soils characterized by higher pH values (5.0-7.0). In acid soils, nitrosamines are readily produced and various bacteria and fungi actively participate in this process. He added that high using of NPK fertilization rates over a 20-year period significantly increased the number of bacteria, actinomycetes and fungi with 2, 2.5 and 2 fold, respectively, in comparison with control. These results are, to somewhat,

similar in both seasons and are in harmony with those of many researchers (Abd El- Baky, 2005; Mahmoud *et al.*, 2008 and Chuan-Chao *et al.*, 2009).

Percentage of dead plants due to root-rot and or wilt was increased in solid plants compared with any of intercropping pattern. This result was observed in both seasons. In this respect, Abdel-Monaim and Abo-Elyousr (2012) studied the effect of intercropping lentil with anise, cumin, onion and garlic, and they mentioned that anise has the superior effect of decreasing damping-off and root-rot diseases and increased seed yield than other crops, while intercropping onion showed the lowest effect. Meanwhile, addition of nitrogen fertilization gradually increased Percentage of dead plants. These results are in line with those obtained by Barabasz *et al.* (2002) who found that increasing nitrogen fertilizer rates increased the counts of some fungi belonging to genera *Aspergillus, Fusarium, Penecillium, Verticillium* and others.

Also, Barabasz et al. (2002) found that mineral fertilization strongly affected the number of microorganisms and qualitative selection of whole communities of soil microorganisms. This may be due to the increase in height of sesame plants in case of (2:2) pattern rather than (3:1) pattern which intern resulted in dramatic changes in microclimate within and under plants, *i.e.* temperature and relative humidity. This microclimate plays as an incubator, which led to increase the density of soil microorganisms in case of (2:2) pattern. These results are in harmony with those obtained by Ismail (1994 and 2004) who found that disease incidence of cotton damping -off was increased under intercropping cotton with each of wheat and faba bean compared to cotton sole and/or intercropping with onion and garlic. However, it was noticed an increase in the percentage of dead plants in the individual case of peanut and sesame. The presence of other species of fungi and bacteria in soil of intercropping system may be playing a role in the inhibition of some pathogenic fungi (Eisa et al., 2006 and Ali et al., 2007). Competitive relationships which included the relative yield (RYs) and land equivalent ratio (LER) indicate that increasing sesame population to reach 50% of solid population did not exert heavy competition between both components. These results are coincided with those obtained by many researchers (El-Mihi et al., 1990; Gabr et al., 1993; Dahatonde et al., 1996; Badran, 2002 and Toaima et al., 2004).

More shading by sesame plants on peanut in the equal alternative pattern (2:2) might be the causal of peanut stem elongation. These results were similar in both tested seasons and in agreement with those obtained by many researchers (El-Mihi *et al.*, 1990; Gabr *et al.*, 1998 and Toaima *et al.*, 2004).

A very interesting result is that both maximum and minimum pod yield values were obtained when the plant received the same rate of nitrogen indicating the paramount effect of intercropping pattern on yield of peanut. In this respect, Greish (1998) studied the effect of nitrogen fertilizer rates on peanut in monoculture and in association. He found that increasing N dose up to 45 kg N/fed. was associated with the highest average of all studied traits of peanut. These results are in accordance with those obtained by many researchers (Willey, 1979; Astatke *et al.*, 1995; Mandimba, 1995; Pilbeam *et al.*, 1995; Greish, 1998 and Ahmed *et al.*, 2008). It is evident that the higher reduction in peanut intercropping systems as compared to

sole peanut may be associated with the above ground competition for light between sesame and peanut in the mixture as reported by Willey (1979). The intra and inter competition for light may be attributed to the extremely higher growth vigour of sesame in (2:2) pattern, which over shaded the peanut and suppressed the yield quantity of peanut. Intercropping generally resulted in suppressing growth of the smaller companion plants because they intercept only a small fraction of photosynthetically active radiation as a result of competition of both components for light during initiation of growth and developing. It caused an inadequate supply of assimilates to the root because of shading and thus it limited root growth, and this might affect nodule formation and further N2 fixation. Nevertheless, it is evident that peanut heights increased gradually with increasing the nitrogen fertilizer rate up to the highest rate (75 kg N/fed.) whatever the intercropping pattern. Similar trend was also observed for pod yield/fed. These results are in agreement with those obtained by many researchers (Willey, 1979; Abd El-Galil and Moursi, 2004 and Ahmed et al., 2008). Therefore, the researchers believe that infection of peanut by root-rot and/or wilt (dead plants) depended on the increase or decrease of N fertilizer rate than the intercropping system. Also, they recommended the application of intercropping system with a fertilization rate of 60 kg/fed. as a better productivity with less root-rot and/or wilt (dead plants) percentages. This could be considered when designing an effective integrated pest management program for the studied diseases and also for high and healthy peanut and sesame yield.

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# التحميل والتسميد النيتروجينى فى مكافحة

\* عبدالجليل محمد الجليل\*\*

\* معهد بحوث أمراض النباتات – مركز البحوث الزراعية – الجيزة.
 \*\* معهد بحوث المحاصيل الحقلية – مركز البحوث الزراعية – الجيزة.

تحميل الفول السوداني مع السمسم تحت نظامي میل ( : ) ( : ) وثلاث مستویات تسمید نیتروجینی ( / ) وتأثیر ذلك علی ا الميتة) / ) وتأثير ذلك على ا وكذلك بعض الصفات المحصولية لكل من المحصولين ظهرت الدراسة تأثر ا سماعيلية من الفطريات والبكتيريا المعزولة من التربة بكل من نظامي التحميل المتبعين حيث كان العدد الكلى من الفطريات يزيد بزيادة معدل السماد المضاف الفطريات المسببة عفان الجذور والذبول، مع نقص مقابل في تعداد البكتيريا. من الفطريات والبكتيريا في نظام التحميل (:) ه في نظام التحميل (:). ظهرت النتائج ن الزياد لى زيادة نسبة النباتات الميتة نتيحة ا / . وكانت هذ النسبة تزيد في نظام التحمي (:) له في نظام التحميل (:) وانخفضت هذ التحميل المتبعين مقارنة بالنباتات المنفردة . ه فى نظام التحميل (:) ام التحميل ( : ) وكان معدل الزيادة يزيد بزيادة معدل السماد المضاف. نتاجية الفدان من الفول السوداني زادت في نظام التحميل ( : ) وكانت الزيادة في كلا المحصولين تزيد بزيادة معدل ۹ (:) / . كذلك حدثت زيادة في الصفات المحصولية

ى من نظامي التحميل المتبعين .