



## Effect of Different Phosphate Fertilizers on the Availability of some Heavy Metals in El-Gabal El Asfer Soil under Maize and Wheat Cropping System



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**T**HE AIM of this study was to investigate the influence of phosphorus fertilizers, on the availability of some heavy metals in soil El-Gabal- El Asfer (irrigated with wastewater for 80 years). Two pots experiments were conducted under greenhouse conditions at Sakha Agriculture Research Station using maize (*Zea mays* L.) during growing summer season of 2020 and wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) during growing winter season 2020/21. Soil and plants samples were analyzed for their concentration of Zn, Ni and Cd. Furthermore, the immobilized metal percent, bioaccumulation factor (BAF) and translocation factors (TF) of the heavy metal were calculated. The treatments were, control, Super phosphate Sup<sub>1</sub> (71.4 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>), Sup<sub>2</sub> (142.8kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>), diammonium phosphate DAP<sub>1</sub> (71.4 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>) and DAP<sub>2</sub> (142.8kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>) for maize, and for wheat the treatments were, control, Sup<sub>1</sub> (36.89P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>), Sup<sub>2</sub> (73.78 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>), DAP<sub>1</sub> (36.89 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>) and DAP<sub>2</sub> (73.78 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>). The immobilized metal percent for the studied metals in the experiments soil can be arranged in the descending order Zn > Cd > Ni. The values of bioaccumulation factor (BAF) of Zn, Ni and Cd for maize roots and shoots can be arranged in the following order Cd > Ni > Zn. Data of translocation factor (TF) for the studied metal in maize and wheat, can be arranged in the following order Ni > Cd > Zn.

**Keywords:** El-Gabal- El Asfer, heavy metals, *Zea mays* L., *Triticum aestivum* L., immobilized metal%, Bioaccumulation factor, Translocation factor.

### 1. Introduction

In recent years, increasing attention has been paid to the issue of excessively high levels of heavy metals in agricultural products due to heavy metal pollution in the soil (Wang et al. 2017). These contaminants can't undergo degradation; therefore, possess serious potential risk for both human and animal (Hashim et al. 2017). Using low quality water for irrigation is probably one of the main reasons for contaminating the arable lands with potentially toxic elements (Farid et al. 2020). Nzihous and Sharrock (2010) reported that soluble phosphate was widely investigated as a means of chemical treatment for the conversion of heavy metals into insoluble compounds. Phosphate compounds have been used to immobilize Pb, Cd and Zn metal by reducing their bioavailability. Seshadri et al. (2017) suggested that the super phosphate reactive (SPR) significantly reduced Pb, Cd and Zn leaching. While soluble diammonium phosphate (DAP) increased their leaching concentration, they also indicated that the differential effect of P- induced immobilization among P- compounds and metals is due to the variation in the solubility characteristics of P compounds and nature of metal phosphate

compounds formed. Chen et al. (2007) reported that, hydroxyapatite (HA), phosphate rock (PR), triple super phosphate (TSP) and diammonium phosphate (DAP) were evaluated for their ability to reduce Cd, Pb and Zn bioavailability in an artificially metal-contaminated soil with three addition levels. The results showed that HA was superior to all other materials for reducing Pd, Zn and Cd uptake in shoot of plant (*Brassica Campestris* L.). Yan et al. (2015) studied the efficiency of four phosphate fertilizers, including Diammonium phosphate (DAP), Monobasic potassium phosphate (MPP), Calcium super phosphate (SSP) and Tribasic Calcium phosphate (TCP) in terms of the toxicity and bioavailability of Cd in contaminated soils. Results showed that the immobilization efficiency were in order MPP > DAP > SSP > TCP.

Mousavi et al. (2012) recorded that phosphorus is important element that interferes on Zn uptake, as Zinc uptake by plants reduces by increasing phosphorus in soil. In this respect, Soltangheisi et al. (2013) came to the conclusion that, Zn and P have antagonistic effect on the absorption and translocation of each other in plant. P- induced Zn

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deficiency is more common than Zn- induced P deficiency because growers commonly apply large amounts of P fertilizer as compared to Zn fertilizer. These results have to led the appearance of rosetting phenomenon. This phenomenon was evident in maize and did not appear in wheat, this could be explained by **Sirvastava (1996)**, who reported that maize is sensitive to Zn deficiency while wheat is insensitive one.

Maize (*Zea mays L.*) and wheat (*Triticum aestivum L.*) were chosen for the green house pots experiments, whereas maize and wheat are the most important grain crops in north Africa. **Epule et al. (2022)** reported that maize is the main cereal crop in Africa accounted for over 60 percent of Africa wheat production. **Hang et al. (2018)** carried out a long-term field experiments with a wheat- maize rotation system to investigate the accumulation and bioavailability of heavy metals in calcareous soil at different rate of sewage sludge amendment. Bioconcentration factors (BCFS) can be used to indicate the transfer ability of heavy metal from soil to plant, they found that the (BCFS) of the heavy metal in wheat and maize grains were in order Zn > Cu > Cd > Hg > Ni > Cr > Pb > As.

This investigation amid to study the influence of phosphorus fertilizers levels and sources on bioaccumulation and translocation of Zn, Ni and Cd from contaminated soil to different parts of maize and wheat

## Materials and Methods

### 1. Soil sampling

Soil samples were collected from 0-25 cm surface layer at the agricultural farm of El-Gabal El-Asfer located the North of Cairo, Al Qalyubia Governorate,

**Table 1. Some physical and chemical characteristics of the experimented soil.**

Soil properties	value
Soil physical property	
	Sand (%)
	82.55 %
Particle size distribution	Silt (%)
	5.02 %
	Clay (%)
	12.43 %
	Soil texture
	Loamy sand
Soil chemical properties	
pH ( 1- 2.5 Soil water suspension)	6.88
EC, dS/m, soil paste extract	2.49
Organic matter , %	3.83
Total carbonate, %	3.02
Soluble cations (cmolc kg <sup>-1</sup> soil) Soil- past extract	Ca <sup>++</sup>
	11.316
	Mg <sup>++</sup>
	4.934
	Na <sup>+</sup>
	7.75
	K <sup>+</sup>
	0.80
	CO <sub>3</sub> <sup>--</sup>
	-
Soluble anions (cmolc kg <sup>-1</sup> soil). Soil- past extract	HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>
	4.06
	Cl <sup>-</sup>
	8.64
	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>--</sup>
	12.1
DTPA- extractable metal (available) mg kg <sup>-1</sup> soil	Cd
	0.470
	Ni
	3.73
	Zn
	67.00
P available (mg/kg soil)	P
	9.30

Egypt, and continuously irrigated with sewage effluent for about 80 years. The sample was dried, ground sieved through 2 mm sieve. Some physical and chemical analysis was carried out according to the standard methods including Sparks et al. (2020) and Dane and Topp (2020). The soil was uniformly packed in plastic pots each of 23 cm height and 27 cm diameter at rate of 9 kg soil / pot.

### 2. Pot experiments

Two pot experiments were conducted under greenhouse conditions at Sakha Agriculture Research Station farm, Kafr El-Sheikh, Egypt during growing summer season of 2020 using (*Zea maize L.*, cross 168 hybrid cultivar) and wheat (*Triticum aestivum L.*, Sakha 94 cultivar) during growing winter season of 2020/21. Each experiment was conducted in a completely randomized block design with four replicates. The treatments for maize were control (without phosphorus fertilizers), Sup<sub>1</sub> (71.4 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>, 2.12 g/pot), Sup<sub>2</sub> (142.8 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>, 4.24 g/pot), DAP<sub>1</sub> (71.4 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>, 0.62 g/pot) and DAP<sub>2</sub> (142.8 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>, 1.23 g/pot). The treatments for wheat were control, Sup<sub>1</sub> (36.89 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>, 1.06 g/pot), Sup<sub>2</sub> (73.78 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>, 2.12 g/pot), DAP<sub>1</sub> (36.89 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>, 0.31g/pot), DAP<sub>2</sub> (73.78 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>, 0.62 g/pot). Phosphorus fertilizers were incorporate into soil before sowing. All pots of maize and wheat were treated with the recommended doses of potassium fertilizer, in the form of potassium sulphate (48% K<sub>2</sub>O) at rate of 119k ha<sup>-1</sup> (0.55g/pot) before sowing.

The recommended dose of nitrogen fertilizer for maize 285.6 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup> in form of urea (46% N) (2.84, 2.84, 2.7 and 2.57 g/pot,) for Sup<sub>1</sub>, Sup<sub>2</sub>, DAP<sub>1</sub> and DAP<sub>2</sub> treatments; respectively) splatted in three doses, the first dose after thinning, the second and third doses were applied after three and four weeks from planting. The recommended dose of nitrogen fertilizer for wheat 166.66 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup> in form of urea (46%N) (1.77, 1.77, 1.70 and 1.64 g/pot for Sup<sub>1</sub>, Sup<sub>2</sub>, DAP<sub>1</sub> and DAP<sub>2</sub> treatments respectively) was applied in three equal doses. The first dose after thinning, the second and third doses were applied after 30 and 60 days from sowing. Six maize seeds and twelve wheat were planted in each pot at the 21<sup>th</sup> of July 2020 and the 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2020 / 21 respectively, pots were irrigated and just their moisture content at field capacity. After 15 days seeding were thinned to three and four Per pot of maize and wheat respectively, After 45 and 75 days from planting for maize and wheat respectively, plants height (cm) were measurement and then plant shoots and roots were harvested and washed by tap water followed by distilled water, oven dried at 70C for 48 hours. Dry matter was digested by using a mixture of sulphonic and perchloric acids. P, Zn, Ni and Cd were determined in digested plant material using atomic absorption spectrophotometer. Representative sample were collected from each pot after plant harvesting. The collected soil samples were air dried and prepared for chemical analysis according to the standard methods.

### 3. Calculation of immobilize metal, bioaccumulation and translocation factors

The effect of P fertilizer on bioavailability of Zn, Ni and Cd in the two experiments was evaluated by calculating of the immobilize metal% (Seshari et al. 2017). Bioaccumulation factor BAF (Teshfaham et al. 2021) and translocation factor TF (Zheng et al. 2019).

$$\text{Immobilized metal}\% = \frac{\text{DTPA extractable metal in control} - \text{DTPA extractable metal in sample}}{\text{DTPA extractable metal in control}} \times 100 \quad \text{Eq. (1)}$$

$$\text{BAF} = \frac{\text{plant tissue metal concentration}}{\text{soil metal concentration}} \quad \text{Eq. (2)}$$

$$\text{TF} = \frac{\text{shoot metals}}{\text{Root metals}} \quad \text{Eq. (3)}$$

Where, the soil and plant concentration are expressed in mg kg<sup>-1</sup> dry weight.

### 4. Statistical analyses

The experiments were conducted in a completely randomized block design (two phosphorus fertilizers, two levels from each one with four replications and control treatment). Data was statistically analysed according to Gomez and Gomez (1984). Treatment

means were compared by using the least significant difference (LSD) at 0.05 level of probability, all statistical analysis using IRRITSTAT software.

## Results and Discussion

### 1-Vegetative growth parameters:

Data of plant height, roots, shoots and biomass in maize and wheat plants significantly affected by phosphorus fertilizer treatments (Table 2).

Low values of EC and pH Table (1), this agrees with Abbas and Bassouny (2018) they explained that the values of EC and pH were 2 dS/m and 6.53 respectively on some sits in El- Gabal-El Asfar soil. Available p in the experimental soil is generally very high, this agrees with Abuzaid (2018) who explained that the wastewater irrigation improved fertility status, causing significant increases in total N and available P compared to the reference soil. Also, the high available P is due to the reductions occurred in soil pH owing to organic matter decomposition (Abdelhafez et al. 2018).

#### 1-A- Maize

Plant height of maize as affected by P treatments can be arranged in the following descending order Sup<sub>1</sub> > Sup<sub>2</sub> > DAP<sub>1</sub> > DAP<sub>2</sub> = control. While the sequence of dry weight of root, shoot and biomass were in this order Sup<sub>2</sub> > Sup<sub>1</sub> > DAP<sub>1</sub> > DAP<sub>2</sub> = control, Sup<sub>2</sub> treatment was increased root, shoot and biomass by 24.98%, 32.59% and 31.13% respectively, as compared to control treatment. The positive effect of P-treatment on plant growth may be attributed to either the effect of P on decreasing metal toxicity, as estimated with tissue metal analyse, or improves P nutrition, or combination of both mechanisms. These results emphasized the effectiveness of Sup<sub>2</sub> treatment for increasing dry weight of maize plant. These results are similar to those of Zein et al. (2009) who reported that an increases in maize yield upon applying super phosphate at rate of 71.4 and 142.8 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>.

The lowest dry weight root, shoot and biomass were obtained by application of DAP<sub>2</sub> treatment. This may be attributed to the fact that high available P can cause P- induced Zn deficiency, a considerable increase occurred in the soil available phosphorus Table (3) upon applying DAP<sub>2</sub> at the same rate of Sup<sub>2</sub>. This is probably due to its higher solubility. These results have led to the appearance of rosetting phenomenon. Many authors explained this phenomenon in Fig.1 like Soltangheisi et al (2013), who reported that zinc and phosphorus have antagonistic effect on the absorption and translocation of each other in plants. Mian et al. (2021) reported that, concentration of Zn in soil shows antagonistic effect with p and its concentration became linearly decreased with the increase in P rats. Singh et al. (1988) concluded that high P-concentration in root causes Zn to be tied up within the root cells. Zn becomes part of the fabric of the root and thus, becomes unavailable for transport to

the leaves P may circumvent Zn in root by the formation of Zn- phytate. **Dwivedi et al. (1975)**, in a pot experiment with maize suggested that at high P levels, Zn is immobilized not only with in the roots but also with in the nodes of stem. This is

phenomenon was evident in maize and did not appear in wheat, This could be explained by **Srivastava (1996)** who reported that maize is sensitive to Zn deficiency while wheat is insensitive one.

**Table 2. Yield and its components of maize (at the age of 45 days) and wheat (at the age of 75 days) as affected by levels and sources of phosphorus fertilizers.**

Maize				
Treatment	Plant height (cm)	Dry weight g /plant		Biomass g/ plant
		Root	shoot	
Control	104.500 d	3.403 c	14.400 d	17.803 d
Sup <sub>1</sub>	129.198 a	3.973 b	17.550 b	21.523b
Sup <sub>2</sub>	127.180 b	4.253 a	19.093 a	23.346 a
DAP <sub>1</sub>	116.405 c	3.421 c	16.660 c	20.081 c
DAP <sub>2</sub>	106.415 d	3.326 c	14.003 d	17.329 d

  

Wheat				
Treatment	Plant height (cm)	Dry weight g/plant		Biomass g/ plant
		Root	shoot	
Control	72.000 c	0.690 d	4.580 e	5.270 d
Sup <sub>1</sub>	78.500 b	0.790 c	6.410 d	7.210 c
Sup <sub>2</sub>	80.500 b	1.450 a	7.380 a	8.830 a
DAP <sub>1</sub>	85.250 a	1.290 b	6.880 b	8.170 b
DAP <sub>2</sub>	78.250 b	1.280 b	6.720 c	8.000 b

Means followed by a common letter are not significantly different at level 5% according to DMRT. For Maize: Sup<sub>1</sub>=71.4 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>, Sup<sub>2</sub>= 142.8kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup> DAP<sub>1</sub>=71.4kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>, DAP<sub>2</sub>= 142.8kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>. For Wheat: Sup<sub>1</sub>=36.89 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>, Sup<sub>2</sub>= 73.78 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup> DAP<sub>1</sub>=36.89kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>, DAP<sub>2</sub>= 73.78 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>



**Fig 1. Vegetative growth of maize plant at 45 days after sowing as affected by levels and sources of phosphorus fertilizers.**

**Table 3. Available phosphorus in soil as affected by levels and sources of phosphorus fertilizers.**

Treatment	After Maize		After Wheat
	P mg Kg <sup>-1</sup> soil		
Control	8.76 d		6.25 e
Sup <sub>1</sub>	9.87 b		6.64 d
Sup <sub>2</sub>	9.41 c		7.46 c
DAP <sub>1</sub>	9.31 e		7.88 b
DAP <sub>2</sub>	10.74 a		8.25 a

Means followed by a common letter are not significantly different at level 5% according to DMRT. For Maize: Sup<sub>1</sub>=71.4 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>, Sup<sub>2</sub>= 142.8kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup> DAP<sub>1</sub>=71.4kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>, DAP<sub>2</sub>= 142.8kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>. For Wheat: Sup<sub>1</sub>=36.89 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup> Sup<sub>2</sub>= 73.78 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup> DAP<sub>1</sub>=36.89kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>, DAP<sub>2</sub>= 73.78 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>

### 1-B- Wheat

The effectiveness of applied P- treatment on plant height of wheat can be in sequence of  $DAP_1 > Sup_2 = Sup_1 = DAP_2 > control$ , While this arrangement of roots, shoots and biomass can be as follows  $Sup_2 > DAP_1 > DAP_2 > Sup_1 > control$ . This result prove that  $Sup_2$  treatment is superior to other on maize and wheat plants  $Sup_2$  treatment increased roots, shoots, and biomass of wheat plant by 61.3%, 110.64% and 67.75% respectively, as compared with control treatment. This could be attributed to the functions of phosphorous in plants, a part of the protein molecule, necessary for transfer of energy during metabolic processes (ATP) and improving seedling vigor. These results reflect the beneficial influence of the P fertilizer in reducing the absorption of heavy metals, **Chen et al. (2007)** explain the effectiveness of different P sources in reducing the bioavailability of Pb, Zn and Cd in soils.

### 2- Effect of applied P- fertilizers on heavy metals immobilization in soil

Data in Table 4 show that available Zn, Ni, and Cd in the experimental soil significantly affected by Sup and DAP treatments, these materials have proven to be effective at reducing the solubility and bioavailability of heavy metal through the formation of metal-Phosphate minerals and /or Precipitates (**Chen, et al. 2007**).

#### 2-A- Zn

Available Zn in soil after maize and wheat as affected by P-fertilization treatments can be arranged in this order control >  $DAP_1 > DAP_2$  and  $Sup_1 = Sup_2$ . The effectiveness of the P- treatments in decreasing metal availability can be assessed using immobilized metal % Table (5). Data of immobilized Zn % in soil sample maize Table (5) be can arranged in the following

decreasing sequence  $Sup_1 > Sup_2 > DAP_2 > DAP_1$  the corresponding values in soil samples wheat  $Sup_2 > Sup_1 > DAP_2 > DAP_1$ .

Data in Table 4 indicated that Sup was more effective than DAP in reducing Zn bioavailability. This can probably by attributed to the application of DAP increasing metal availability due to its effect on decreasing soil PH. **Seshadri et al. (2017)** demonstrated that the differential effect of P induced Zn immobilization between P compounds and metal is due to the variation in the solubility characteristics of P-compounds and nature of metal phosphate compounds formed, the precipitation of  $Zn_3(PO_3)_2$  has not been implicated with P-induced Zn deficiency because it has higher solubility than soil Zn (**Srivastava 1996**). Phosphorus fertilization increase specific sorption of Zn on crystalline Fe oxides **Xie and Mckenzie (1989)**.

#### 2-B- Nickel

Table (4) indicates that significant increases in the available Ni is affected by P- treatments in soil after maize harvested with an increasing percentage of 35.04%, 32.85%, 83.21% and 86.86% in  $Sup_1$ ,  $Sup_2$ ,  $DAP_1$  and  $DAP_2$  treatment, respectively compared with control treatment. While the data of available Ni concentration in soil after wheat was non significantly decreased by applying P- treatment. **Valipour et al. (2016)** reported that significant-decline in the availability of Pb and Cd after the application of triple super phosphate (TSP) but they found mobilization of Ni in soil, they explained that TSP treatment changed the Ni partition from most resistant fractions (Mn+Fe oxides, organic matter, and residual) to more mobile fraction (soluble + exchangeable and carbonate bound). The finding of **Majs (2011)** confirmed the redistribution of stable Ni to mobile fraction in the presence of P-treatments.

**Table 4. DTPA extractable contents of Zn, Cd and Ni in soil as affected by levels and sources of phosphorus fertilizers.**

Treatment	Maize mg kg <sup>-1</sup>			Wheat mg kg <sup>-1</sup>		
	Zn	Ni	Cd	Zn	Ni	Cd
Control	63.850 a	1.370 c	0.300 a	90.850 a	2.570 a	0.380 a
SuP <sub>1</sub>	54.650 d	1.850 b	0.230 b	75.250c	2.430 a	0.350 b
Sup <sub>2</sub>	55.450 d	1.820 b	0.283 a	69.850 d	2.340 a	0.310 c
DAP <sub>1</sub>	61.250 b	2.510 a	0.290 a	79.850 b	2.500 a	0.340 b
DAP <sub>2</sub>	58.050 c	2.560 a	0.28. a	76.450 c	2.300 a	0.300 c
*Critical concentration in soil mg kg <sup>-1</sup>	70 - 400	2 - 50	0.01- 0.70	70 - 400	2 - 50	0.01 - 0.70

Means followed by a common letter are not significantly different at level 5% according to DMRT. For Maize:  $Sup_1=71.4 \text{ kg P}_2\text{O}_5 \text{ ha}^{-1}$ ,  $Sup_2= 142.8\text{kg P}_2\text{O}_5 \text{ ha}^{-1}$ ,  $DAP_1=71.4\text{kg P}_2\text{O}_5 \text{ ha}^{-1}$ ,  $DAP_2= 142.8\text{kg P}_2\text{O}_5 \text{ ha}^{-1}$ . For Wheat:  $Sup_1=36.89 \text{ kg P}_2\text{O}_5 \text{ ha}^{-1}$ ,  $Sup_2= 73.78 \text{ kg P}_2\text{O}_5 \text{ ha}^{-1}$ ,  $DAP_1=36.89\text{kg P}_2\text{O}_5 \text{ ha}^{-1}$ ,  $DAP_2= 73.78 \text{ kg P}_2\text{O}_5 \text{ ha}^{-1}$

\*According to (**Kapata- Pendas and Pendas 2001**).

**Table 5. Effect of Phosphate fertilizers on mobility, bioaccumulation and translocation factors of Zn, Ni and Cd.**

Heavy metal	P- treatment	Immobilized metal%		Bioaccumulation factor				Translocation factor	
		Maize	Wheat	Maize		Wheat		Maize	Wheat
				Root	shoot	Root	shoot		
Zn	control	NA	NA	1.72	0.50	0.46	0.29	0.29	0.64
	Sup1	14.41	17.17	1.29	0.27	0.48	0.28	0.21	0.61
	sup2	13.15	23.11	0.82	0.44	0.47	0.35	0.54	0.75
	DAP1	4.07	12.10	1.06	0.44	0.49	0.29	0.42	0.60
	DAP2	9.08	15.85	1.02	0.42	0.45	0.32	0.43	0.72
	Mean		10.17	17.05	1.18	0.41	0.47	0.29	0.57
Ni	control	NA	NA	35.18	34.85	10.39	12.15	0.99	1.17
	Sup1	NA	5.45	18.51	22.98	14.40	14.71	1.24	1.02
	sup2	NA	8.95	20.47	24.03	17.73	16.80	1.17	0.94
	DAP1	NA	2.72	8.76	16.73	17.00	17.08	1.90	1.00
	DAP2	NA	10.50	10.74	17.57	14.49	12.06	1.63	1.13
	Mean			6.90	18.73	23.24	14.80	14.56	1.38
Cd	Control	NA	NA	63.56	61.66	35.74	33.21	0.97	0.92
	Sup1	23.33	7.89	74.26	73.95	32.62	40.31	0.99	0.98
	sup2	6.67	18.42	65.75	62.22	49.74	53.74	0.95	1.08
	DAP1	3.33	10.52	42.00	56.37	49.47	43.05	1.35	0.87
	DAP2	6.67	21.05	51.64	62.67	48.03	30.06	1.21	1.32
	Mean		10	14.47	59.44	63.36	43.12	40.07	1.09

Means followed by a common letter are not significantly different at level 5% according to DMRT. For Maize: Sup<sub>1</sub>=71.4 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>, Sup<sub>2</sub>= 142.8kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup> DAP<sub>1</sub>=71.4kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>, DAP<sub>2</sub>= 142.8kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>. For Wheat: Sup<sub>1</sub>=36.89 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup> Sup<sub>2</sub>= 73.78 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup> DAP<sub>1</sub>=36.89kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>, DAP<sub>2</sub>= 73.78 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>.

## 2- C- Cadmium

Data in Table 4 showed that the P- treatments had non significantly effect on decreasing the available Cd in soil after maize, except for Sup<sub>1</sub> treatment, while applying P-treatments caused a significant decrease in available Cd in soil after wheat in all treatments, the concentration of available Cd in Sup<sub>1</sub>, Sup<sub>2</sub>, DAP<sub>1</sub> and DAP<sub>2</sub> treated soil after wheat decreased from 0.38 mg Cd\ kg soil (in control) to 0.35, 0.31 , 0.34 and 0.30 mg Cd kg soil<sup>-1</sup> respectively, with immobilization efficiency in order DAP<sub>2</sub> > Sup<sub>2</sub>> DAP<sub>1</sub>> Sup<sub>1</sub>, Table (5).

These results revealed that, the addition of P treatment increased the soil available P, which mainly influences immobilization efficiency. This is agreement the finding of Yan *et al.* (2015), who reported that DAP was highly effective in stabilizing Cd extracted from contaminated soil with a reduction of 44.05% and soil available Cd decreased by increasing addition DAP dose. On the other hand **Bogdanovic *et al.* (1999)**, recorded that the application of increasing rates of P- fertilizer did not affect significantly the concentration of Cd in the soil.

**Hong *et al.* (2010)** showed that Cd solubility can be controlled using Cd<sub>3</sub>(PO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> in p- amended soils. The high solubility of Cd<sub>3</sub>(po<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> decreasing the efficiency of P-fertilizers in Cd immobilization. Our results are in agreement with those obtained by **Andrunik *et al.* (2020)**. They conducted that phosphate amendments could effectively decrease Zn, pb, and Cd Leachability from soils. The concentration of these metals in contaminated soil was found to be in sequence of Zn >Ni > Cd.

## 3- Tissues concentration of Zn, Ni and Cd in roots and shoots of maize and wheat plants as affected by levels and sources of phosphorus fertilizers

Data in Table 6 showed that tissue Zn, Cd and Ni concentration of roots and shoots for maize and wheat was significantly affected with P- treatments.

## 3.1. Zn

Data in Table (6) revealed that P- treatments, Sup<sub>1</sub>, Sup<sub>2</sub>, DAP<sub>1</sub> and DAP<sub>2</sub> decreased Zn concentration in maize roots by 35.87%, 58.97%, 40.80% and 46.15% respectively compared to control treatment, for maize shoots by 53.6%, 22.5%, 14.3% and 21.16%. The corresponding values for wheat roots were, 14.76%, 21.59%, 6.19% and 18.81%, for shoots wheat were, 19.70 %, 8.38 %, 12.07 % and 8.086 %, the decreases in Zn concentration resulting from p addition could be attributed to increase biomass (dilution effect) and decreased bioavailability of Zn (**Seshari *et al.* (2017)**).

The efficiency of P- treatments to reduce Zn uptake by maize (roots and shoot) was more pronounced than by wheat, this is due to plant physiological factors **Mousavi *et al.* (2012)** and also to the crops differ in their susceptibility to Zn deficiency, corn is sensitive to Zn deficiency while wheat is insentive one (**Sirvastava, 1996**). Data in Table (6) showed that Zn concentration in roots plants greater than in shoots. The values of BAF for Zn in roots were greater than for those shoots in maize and wheat Table (5). These results are in agreement with those of **Rezapour *et al.* (2019)** they concluded that the bioaccumulation and translocation factors of wheat showed heavy metals quantitatively accumulated in roots. This is mainly due to the slowly translocation of Zn from root to shoot which could be due to the formation of insoluble Zn-Phosphates (**Cao *et al.* (2009)**). The results in Table (6) implicated that Sup<sub>2</sub> treatment could efficiently in decreasing Zn concentration in maize roots and shoot in the

contaminated soils, Zn concentration in roots and shoots of maize plant decreased by increasing addition Sup and DAP dose. These results are similar to those of **Bogdanovic et al. (1999)** who reported that the uptake of Zn corn plants was significantly higher in the unfertilized check plot than plots fertilized with increasing P- rate.

### 3.2 Ni

Data in Table 6 indicate that P- treatments Sup<sub>1</sub>, Sup<sub>2</sub>, DAP<sub>1</sub> and DAP<sub>2</sub> decreased Ni concentration percentage significantly in maize roots by 28.93%, 22.7%, 54.35% and 42.93%, respectively compared to control treatment, The corresponding percentage of decrease in maize shoots were 10.95%, 8.37%, 12.04% and 5.67% respectively compared to control treatment., while P- treatments increased significantly Ni- concentration percentage in wheat roots and shoots. P- Treatment Sup<sub>1</sub>, Sup<sub>2</sub>, DAP<sub>1</sub> and DAP<sub>2</sub> increased the uptake of Ni in wheat roots by 31.08%, 55.43%, 59.18% and 24.83% respectively, compared to control treatment, the corresponding values by wheat shoots were 14.40%, 25.85%, 36.64% and 20.83%. These results could be explained that, maize plant is insensitive to Ni toxicity whereas wheat is firly resistant to Ni excess (**Luzzati and Siragusa 1986**). These results of Ni uptake in maize and wheat are in contrast with the results of available Ni in soil samples. **Sadiq, (1985)** reported that lead and Ni concentration in corn were not significantly correlated to their respective DTPA- extractable concentration in the experimental soils.

Table (6) reflects that the values of Ni in tissues plants ranging from 22.00 to 48.19 mg Ni kg<sup>-1</sup> dry matter. However it did not appear toxicity symptoms on maize and wheat plants, these can be explained by **Jones and**

**Hutchinson, (1988)** they observed that increasing phosphate in plants resulted in an increase in the tolerance of plants for Ni toxicity by formation of a potential binding site for detoxification of absorbed Ni.

### 3.3 Cd

The obtained results in Table 6 indicated that P- treatments Sup<sub>1</sub>, Sup<sub>2</sub>, DAP<sub>1</sub> and DAP<sub>2</sub> decreased Cd concentration in maize roots by 10.55%, 3.59%, 36.21% 24.27% respectively compared to control treatment. The corresponding values in maize shoots were 7.95%, 4.71%, 11.53% and 5.03%. This decrease in Cd concentration maize tissue could be attributed to increased biomass (dilution effect) in fertilized treatments and decreased bioavailability of metals (**Seshadri et al. 2017**). The concentrations of Cd in corn were significantly correlated to the DTPA- extractable concentration in the experimental soils (**Sadiq 1985**). While P- treatments Sup<sub>1</sub>, Sup<sub>2</sub>, DAP<sub>1</sub> and DAP<sub>2</sub> increased significantly Cd-uptake in wheat roots by 6.18%, 13.55%, 23.86% and 6.11% respectively, compared to control treatment, the corresponding values in wheat shoot were 11.81%, and 32.01%, 16.00% and 50.79%. Results of our finding are similar to those reported by **Cao et al. (2011)** they observed an immediate increase in Cd concentration when phosphate is applied and elevated Cd accumulation in wheat may be attributed to the competition between Zn and Cd for adsorption into plants **Grant et al. (2013)**, revealed that Cd in phosphate fertilizer increase Cd availability for plant uptake and they reported that is discrepancy in the results related to Cd availability in long term P applied soil. **Grant e al. (2008)** reported that crop species and cultivars differ widely in their ability to take up and accumulation Cd, this is due to the genetic variation among cultivars

**Table 6. Tissue concentration of Zn, Ni and Cd in roots and shoots of maize and wheat as affected by levels and sources of phosphorus fertilizers.**

Treatment	Maize (mg kg <sup>-1</sup> )					
	Zn		Ni		Cd	
	Root	Shoot	Root	Shoot	Root	Shoot
Control	110.180 a	32.000 a	48.190 a	47.750 a	19.095 a	18.48 a
SuP1	70.730 b	14.840 d	34.250 c	42.520 d	17.080 b	17.010 bc
Sup2	45.200 e	24.800 c	37.25 b	43.750 c	18.410 a	17.610 ab
DAP1	65.230 c	27.400 b	22.00 e	42.000 d	12.180 d	16.350 c
DAP2	59.330 d	25.230 c	27.500 d	45.000 b	14.460 c	17.550 ab
Treatment	Wheat (mg kg <sup>-1</sup> )					
	Zn		Ni		Cd	
	root	shoot	root	shoot	root	shoot
Control	42.00 b	27.100 e	26.700 e	31.250 e	13.580 c	12.620 c
SuP1	35.800 c	21.000 c	35.000 c	35.750 d	14.420 d	14.110 b
Sup2	32.930 e	24.830 b	41.500 b	39.330 b	15.420 b	16.660 a
DAP1	39.400 a	23.830 d	42.500 a	42.700 a	16.820 a	14.640 b
DAP2	34.00 d	24.700 b	33.330 d	37.760 e	14.410 bc	9.020 d
<b>*Critical concentration in plant (mg kg<sup>-1</sup>)</b>	<b>100- 400</b>		<b>10- 100</b>		<b>5- 30</b>	

Means followed by a common letter are not significantly different at level 5% according to DMRT. For Maize: Sup<sub>1</sub>=71.4 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>, Sup<sub>2</sub>= 142.8kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup> DAP<sub>1</sub>=71.4kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>, DAP<sub>2</sub>= 142.8kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>. For Wheat: Sup<sub>1</sub>=36.89 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>, Sup<sub>2</sub>= 73.78 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup> DAP<sub>1</sub>=36.89kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>, DAP<sub>2</sub>= 73.78 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>

\*According to **Kapata- Pendas and Pendas (2001)**.



#### 4-Bioaccumulation and Translocation factor

Bioaccumulation factor (BAF) can be used to indicate the transfer ability of heavy metals from soils to plants (Tefaham *et al.* 2021).  $BAF = C_p / C_s$  where  $C_p$  ( $\text{mg kg}^{-1}$ ) is the heavy metal content in maize or wheat roots or shoots,  $C_s$  is the content of the corresponding heavy metal in soil.

Plants are categorized as excluder if the, BAF values are  $<1.0$ , as influencers if the BAF = 1 and as accumulator if their BAF values  $>1$  (Dessale welet *et al.* 2018).

The BAF values of Zn in maize roots, BAF values of Ni and Cd in roots and shoots in maize and wheat Table (5) were  $>1$  which indicates that the plants in all treatment accumulated the heavy metals, while the BAF values of Zn in maize shoots, wheat roots and shoots were  $<1.0$  which indicate that the plants in all treatments absorbed but did not accumulated the heavy metals.

The values of BAF of heavy metals for maize roots and shoots in all treatments were greater than those of wheat Table (5) indicating that maize is more sensitive than wheat and could be used as an indicator plant, on the other hand Hang *et al.* (2018) found that wheat is more sensitive than maize in calcareous.

The Translocation factor (TF) is one of the key parameters representing the migration capacity of heavy metal in plants (Zheng *et al.* 2019). Translocation factor (TF) was calculated as the ratio of transfer of heavy metal from root to shoot.

$TF = C_s / C_r$  where  $C_s$  ( $\text{mg kg}^{-1}$ ) is the heavy metal content in maize or wheat shoots,  $C_r$  ( $\text{mg kg}^{-1}$ ) is the heavy metal content in maize or wheat roots.

TF values of Zn in maize Table (5) ranged between 0.54 and 0.21 with an average of 0.37, The corresponding TF values of Zn in wheat were ranged between 0.75 and 0.61. The high values of TF of Zn in maize and wheat were obtained by Sup<sub>2</sub> treatment, the values of Ni in maize in Table (5) were ranged between 1.90 and 0.99 with an average of 1.38 the corresponding TF values of Ni in wheat were ranged between 1.17 and 0.94 with an average of 1.05. The high values of TF of Ni in maize and wheat were obtained by DAP<sub>1</sub> and control treatments respectively. TF values of Cd in maize Table (5) were ranged between 1.35 and 0.95 with an average of 1.09, The corresponding TF Values of Ni in wheat were ranged between 1.32- 0.87 with an average of 1.03. The high values of TF for Ni in maize and wheat were obtained by DAP<sub>1</sub> and DAP<sub>2</sub> treatment respectively.

The average of TF values of Zn in wheat higher than in maize this indicated that the movement of Zn in wheat was higher, while the average of TF values of Ni and Cd in maize higher than values of wheat.

Data of translocation coefficient can be arranged according to mean values for maize and wheat in the following decreasing sequence Ni  $>$  Cd  $>$  Zn.

#### Conclusion

It can be concluded that under the condition of the applied research, the effect of phosphate fertilizers in the immobilization of heavy metal and its

bioavailability on a contaminated soil with heavy metal (El- Gabal El- Asfer), may differ with type of phosphate fertilizers, plant and heavy metal element. The immobilized metal% for the studied metal in the experiments soil can be arranged in the descending order Zn  $>$  Cd  $>$  Ni. The values of bioaccumulation factor (BAF) of Zn, Ni and Cd for maize roots and shoots were greater than those of wheat, indicating that maize is more sensitive than wheat. Data of translocation factors (TF) for studied metal in maize and wheat according to mean values can be arranged in the following order Ni  $>$  Cd  $>$  Zn. High grade of field experiments are essential to determine whether phosphate fertilizers can be used to reduce the pollution of a contaminated soil with heavy metals.

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