



Evaluating the Response of Peanuts Plant Irrigated with Agricultural Drainage Water to Organic Fertilization and Foliar Application of Magnesium and Selenium, Along with Soil Property Assessment



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UTILIZING agricultural drainage water for irrigation purposes poses significant challenges, yet it's an unavoidable necessity driven by water scarcity in Egypt. Lately, the government's focus has shifted towards establishing a self-sustained vegetable oil industry within the country. This involves expanding the cultivation of oil-rich crops under stress conditions, like peanuts, which are a valuable source of oil and beneficial fatty acids. So, a research trial was performed during the seasons of 2022 and 2023 to evaluate the effect of some treatments on the growth performance and productivity of peanuts plants irrigated with agricultural drainage water. The impact of organic fertilizers [T_1 : Control (without organic fertilizer), T_2 : Plant compost PC (banana residues and sugar beet at ratio of 50:50), T_3 : Farmyard manure compost FYMC, at rate of 10 Mg ha⁻¹ for each one, was evaluated as main plots. Also, the foliar application of magnesium (Mg) and selenium (Se) elements [F_1 : Control, F_2 : Mg at rate of 840 g ha⁻¹, F_3 : Mg at rate of 1680 g ha⁻¹, F_4 : Se at rate of 5.0 mg L⁻¹, F_5 : Se at rate of 10.0 mg L⁻¹, F_6 : As a combined treatment ($F_2 + F_4$) F_7 : As a combined treatment ($F_3 + F_4$)] was assessed as sub-main plots. The results indicate that the superior organic fertilization treatment for obtaining the highest values of growth performance (e.g., plant height and chlorophyll content) and yield parameters (e.g., seed oil yield and protein yield) was T_2 treatment (PC) followed by T_3 treatment (FYMC), surpassing the control group (T_1). Among the foliar spraying treatments, the combined treatment of magnesium and selenium (F_7) demonstrated the highest efficacy in promoting growth and yield, as the order sequence from the most effective to less was F_7 ($F_3 + F_4$) > F_6 ($F_2 + F_4$) > F_3 > F_2 > F_4 > F_1 (control) > F_5 . Regarding antioxidant production, the trend of catalase (CAT) looks just like the trend of growth performance. On the contrary, the plants grown without organic fertilizer possessed the highest values of proline, while the lowest values were achieved with PC treatment. Also, spraying of selenium at a rate of 10.0 mg L⁻¹ (F_5 treatment) led to the highest content of proline in leaves compared to other foliar treatments and the control group (F_1) which came in the second order. Regarding soil properties, both types of compost positively affected soil fertility (N, P, K, CEC), with the superiority of PC. Notably, the combined approach of using plant compost (T_2) along with the foliar application of magnesium and selenium (F_7) showed the most favorable outcomes in terms of growth performance and both quantitative and qualitative yield of peanut plants. Generally, it is recommended that farmers and agricultural practitioners in Egypt consider adopting the effective combinations of organic fertilization and beneficial foliar treatments identified in this study. By implementing these recommendations, Egypt can enhance its agricultural sustainability, mitigate the challenges posed by water scarcity, and establish a robust and self-sufficient vegetable oil industry.

Keywords: Plant compost, Farmyard manure compost, magnesium, selenium.

1. Introduction

In Egypt, the reliance on agricultural drainage water for irrigation purposes has reached a point of undeniable necessity (Abbas *et al.* 2020). The scarcity of freshwater resources has driven agricultural practices towards utilizing agricultural drainage water, despite the formidable challenges it presents (Abuzaid and Jahin 2021). The use of such water introduces complexities stemming from the water's composition. However, given the nation's

water scarcity, this approach has become an inescapable reality (Ashour *et al.* 2021). The process of employing agricultural drainage water for irrigation is not devoid of issues. The challenges associated with it include the potential detrimental effects on plants due to the presence of salts, toxins, and other contaminants in the water (Eltarabily, 2022). Moreover, the exposure of plants to such water can lead to the generation of free radicals (ROS), causing oxidative stress and negatively

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impacting plant growth and productivity (**Moursi *et al.* 2023**).

To address these challenges and enhance the adaptability of plants to irrigation with agricultural drainage water, innovative strategies have been explored. Among these approaches, organic fertilization has emerged as a promising technique (**Tzortzakis *et al.* 2020**). Organic fertilizers offer a multifaceted approach to improving plant tolerance to any environmental stress (**Elsherpiny and Helmy 2022**). Through their positive influence on soil structure, nutrient availability, root growth, gene expression, and defence mechanisms, organic fertilizers contribute to plant resilience in the face of both abiotic and biotic stressors (**Elsherpiny *et al.* 2023**). In addition to its supply of nutrients to the grown plant under stress conditions. Incorporating organic fertilization practices can help optimize plant health, productivity, and sustainability in diverse agricultural systems (**Elsherpiny 2023**).

Concurrently, the application of specific elements such as selenium (Se) and magnesium (Mg) through foliar spraying has gained attention. Selenium serves as an essential antioxidant, counteracting the adverse effects of oxidative stress on plants (**Elsherpiny and Kany 2023**). It bestows considerable benefits upon various plants by affording protection against oxidative stress through the interception of free radicals and the reduction of reactive oxygen species (ROS) within cellular environments (**Xiang *et al.* 2022**). Its prowess as an efficient antioxidant extends to safeguarding cell integrity, bolstering defense mechanisms, and heightening stress tolerance (**Mansoor *et al.* 2022**). Nevertheless, it is imperative to acknowledge that an excess of selenium can exert detrimental effects on plants. Hence, a cautious approach is necessary, encompassing precise dosage and vigilant monitoring, to ensure both the safety and effectiveness of selenium application (**Mahmoud *et al.* 2023**).

Magnesium plays a vital role in various physiological processes, including its coenzyme participation in oil formation (**Elsherpiny *et al.* 2023**). Moreover, Mg, a fundamental constituent of chlorophyll, assumes a vital role not only in photosynthesis but also in contributing to the structural integrity of cell walls through the formation of magnesium pectates (**Chen *et al.* 2018**). It's important to note that a dynamic interaction exists between potassium and magnesium, wherein they exhibit antagonistic behavior. Consequently, the utilization of potassium-

based fertilizers may potentially necessitate supplementary magnesium foliar spraying on the plant's vegetative parts (**Xie *et al.* 2021**). Oil crops are considered the primary source of vegetable oils, which are essential commodities for human consumption in Egypt. Additionally, they serve as vital productive elements that contribute to numerous industries (**Ahmed and El-Karamity 2020**). Oil crops hold a significant position within the Egyptian agricultural belief, deriving their importance from the fact that the demand for them stems from the demand to produce edible vegetable oils. These oils constitute a prevalent dietary pattern and a fundamental component for Egyptian consumers (**Elsherpiny *et al.* 2023**). There are many oil crops, which are often multi-usage, but also are grown for the purpose of producing oils, most notably cotton, sunflower, olive, and sesame (**El-Hamidi and Zaher 2018**). Oils have recently been extracted from peanuts due to the oil crisis in Egypt. For the highest oil-extracting crops, peanuts are at the top of the list, as the highest percentage of oil extraction is about 60%, followed by the sesame crop with a very high extraction rate of 55%, then the sunflower and canola crops with an extraction rate of about 45%, then come cotton seed and soybean with an extraction rate of 20% oils for each (**Gavrilova *et al.* 2020**). In this context, the cultivation of peanuts (*Arachis hypogaea* L.) gains particular significance. Peanuts are a valuable oil crop and hold the potential to contribute significantly to Egypt's oil production, which faces recurring crises (**Zahran and Tawfeuk, 2019; Elbaalawy 2020**). Expanding the cultivation of peanuts could provide a viable solution to address the annual oil shortages in the country (**Osman *et al.* 2020**). Additionally, exploring the adaptability of leguminous crops like peanuts to thrive under conditions of low-quality water (agricultural drainage water) is essential, given their agricultural importance and potential for sustained production.

Therefore, the main objective of this research work is to evaluate the response of peanut plants to the challenges posed by agricultural drainage water irrigation. Specifically, the research investigates the potential of organic fertilization and foliar application of selenium and magnesium to enhance peanut plant resilience and oil production. By understanding the intricate relationships between plant physiology, water quality, and nutrient availability, this study contributes to the advancement of sustainable agricultural practices in Egypt and potentially in similar water-scarce regions

worldwide. The findings of this research work hold the potential to inform practical strategies that can facilitate agricultural sustainability and address the pressing challenges posed by water scarcity in Egypt.

2. Material and Methods

A research trial was carried out during the seasons of 2022 and 2023 to evaluate the effect of some treatments on the growth performance and productivity of peanuts plants irrigated with agricultural drainage water having EC and pH values of 3.15 dS m⁻¹ and 7.85, respectively.

- Experimental location

This work research was executed in a private farm (31°4'54"N - 31°24'4"E) located in Met Antar village, Talkha district, El-Dakahlia Governorate, Egypt.

- Soil sampling

Prior to the commencement of the experiment, a soil specimen was gathered from a depth ranging between 0 to 30 cm. This sample was then subjected to analysis through conventional procedures. The outcomes of the soil examination are detailed in Table 1.

- Studied substances

Plant residues, such as banana tree components (peels, stems, leaves), along with the uppermost fresh parts of sugar beet plants (50:50), were collected

from farms near the experimental area. Additionally, farmyard manure sourced from a nearby cow farm was also gathered. These two types of organic fertilizers were subjected to a composting process for a period of five months at the experimental location, utilizing the procedure detailed by **El-Hammady *et al.* (2003)**. The analysis of both compost varieties was conducted according to the guidelines outlined by **Tandon (2005)**, and the specific attributes of these composts are provided in Table 1. Sodium selenite (Na₂SeO₃, 45.56 %Se) as selenium source was obtained from Sigma Company. It had a molecular mass of 172.49 g mol⁻¹, while its density was measured at 3.10 g cm⁻³.

Magnesium sulphate (MgSO₄, consisting of 20.19 Mg % by mass) was gotten from Agro Egypt for Agricultural Development Company, Egypt. It had a molecular mass of 120.366 g mol⁻¹, boasting a purity level of 99 %. Its melting point stood at 1.124°C, while its density was measured at 2.66 g cm⁻³. A stander solution was prepared for both selenium (Se) and magnesium (Mg) separately, utilizing a specific concentration. This was achieved by dissolving an exact quantity of sodium selenite or magnesium sulfate in the chosen solvent, separately. Subsequently, these standard solutions were employed to prepare the different concentrations required for the research.

Table 1. Properties of the initial soil, plant compost and farmyard manure compost.

Property	Initial soil	*PC	**FYMC
pH	7.2 (Suspension 1:2.5)	6.16 (Suspension 1:10)	6.4 (Suspension 1: 10)
EC, dSm ⁻¹	2.23 (Soil paste)	3.54 (Extract 1:10)	4.5 (Extract 1:10)
Total C, %	/	18.30	20.4
C:N ratio	/	11.02	14.06
Organic matter, %	1.56	31.5	35.16
Nitrogen	44.2 (Available, mg kg ⁻¹)	1.66 (Total, %)	1.45 (Total, %)
Phosphorus	10.9 (Available, mg kg ⁻¹)	1.47 (Total, %)	0.89 (Total, %)
Potassium	222 (Available, mg kg ⁻¹)	1.33 (Total, %)	1.02 (Total, %)
Fe, mg kg ⁻¹	2.50	1.21	1.20
Zn, mg kg ⁻¹	1.30	29.0	19.0
CEC, cmol kg ⁻¹	42.6	145	139
Sand	22.0	/	/
Clay	34.0	/	/
Silt	44.0	/	/
Textural	Clay loam	/	/

Note: The data presented in this Table is the combined data over both studied seasons

*PC: Plant compost (banana residues and sugar cane at ratio of 50:50)

**FYMC: Farmyard manure compost

- Peanuts seeds

The seeds used in the experiment were specifically "Giza 6, early cultivar". Prior to sowing, these seeds were treated with the Rizolex-T antiseptic, applying a rate of 3.0 grams per kilogram of seeds. These seeds were sourced from the Agriculture Research Center (ARC) in Giza, Egypt.

- Treatments and experimental design

The current research trial was executed under a split-plot design with three replicates. The impact of organic fertilizers treatments were studied as the main factor as follows;

T₁: Control (without organic fertilizer)

T₂: Plant compost at rate of 10 Mg ha⁻¹

T₃: Farmyard manure compost at rate of 10 Mg ha⁻¹

While the foliar application of magnesium (Mg) and selenium (Se) elements were studied as the sub-main factor as follows;

F₁: Control (without exogenous application)

F₂: Mg at rate of 840 g ha⁻¹

F₃: Mg at rate of 1680 g ha⁻¹

F₄: Se at rate of 5.0 mg L⁻¹

F₅: Se at rate of 10.0 mg L⁻¹

F₆: As a combined treatment (F₂ + F₄)

F₇: As a combined treatment (F₃ + F₄)

- Experimental set up

The sub-plot area was 12.25 m² with dimensions of 3.5 m × 3.5 m. Peanuts seeds were sown at a rate of 110 kg ha⁻¹ on 14th April in both studied seasons. These seeds underwent Okadean inoculation at rate of 1.5 kg inoculant per hectare and were subsequently hand-sown directly into hills. Each hill received one seed and was positioned on the shoulder bed within the lower third of the row ridge. Effective nitrogen dose as ammonium nitrate (33.5% N) was applied at a rate of 48 kg N ha⁻¹ before the irrigation as a starter dose. Immediate irrigation followed the sowing process. After one week of sowing, a reseeded procedure was executed under a flooding irrigation system.

After 25 days from planting, the success of inoculation was identified. This was achieved by examining the roots of several plants in various locations across the inoculated field. The plants were uprooted with a portion of the soil to prevent losing nodules while extracting them. There were 10 or more nodules per plant with reddish color from the inside, thus the inoculation was deemed successful. In this case, it is enough to add the starter nitrogen dose only, as exceeding this nitrogen amount could

hinder the inoculant's effectiveness and suppress its function.

The application of the designated compost treatments, as previously indicated, was carried out one month before sowing on the respective plots. Potassium sulfate (48 % K₂O, at a rate of 120 kg ha⁻¹) and calcium superphosphate (6.6%P, at a rate of 360 kg ha⁻¹) were applied before ploughing (during preparation) according to the recommendations of Ministry of Agriclural and Soil Reclamation in Egypt. The exogenous application of both Se, Mg was performed 35 days after planting and then repeated three times at 15-day intervals with a volume of 1050 L ha⁻¹ for each treatment, by hand sprayer. The harvesting was manually conducted on August 5th in both seasons.

- Measurements

a- At 70 days from sowing

- Plant height (cm), fresh and dry weights (g plant⁻¹)
- Chlorophyll a and b (mg g⁻¹ FW)
- N, P, K, Mg (% DW) and Se (mg kg⁻¹ DW)
- Catalase (CAT, unit g⁻¹ protein⁻¹) and proline (μmol.g⁻¹ FW)

b- At harvest stage (110 days from planting)

- No. of pods plant⁻¹, weight of pods g plant⁻¹, weight of 100 pods (g), pods and seeds yield (Mg ha⁻¹).
- Seeds N, P and K content (%)
- Oil (%), oil yield (kg ha⁻¹), protein (%), Protein yield (kg ha⁻¹) and carbohydrates (%)
- Soil available nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium (mgkg⁻¹) as well as cation exchange capacity of soil (CEC, cmol kg⁻¹) were determined as formerly mentioned with the initial soil.

- Methods

a- Analysis of initial soil and soil samples at harvest

Particle size distribution was done using the pipette method, while the soil texture was identified *via* a soil texture triangle (Kroetsch and Wang 2008). Soil available N, P, K were determined *via* Kjeldahl, spectrophotometric and flame photometer, respectively, while soil available Fe and Zn were determined *via* atomic absorption spectrophotometer (Dewis and Freitas 1970). Cation exchange capacity was assessed following the method outlined by Black (1965), employing ammonium acetate at a pH

of 7.0. Organic matter was identified by Walkly and Balck method (Miyazawa *et al.* 2000). Electric conductivity was measured using EC-meter, Model TDS can 3 while soil reaction (pH) was measured using a Gallen Kamp pH-meter.

b- Analysis of leaves and seeds

To digest the plant samples (either leaves or seeds) for determining the content of N, P, K and Mg, mixed of $\text{HClO}_4 + \text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ was used as described by Peterburgski (1968), while to digest the plant samples (leaves) for determining the content of Se, mixed of $\text{HF} + \text{HNO}_3 + \text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ was used as described by Kumpulainen *et al.* (1983).

The nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium content in the plant samples (leaves or seeds) were evaluated using distinct techniques. Nitrogen levels were determined using the Kjeldahl method, phosphorus levels were analyzed through the spectrophotometric method, and potassium levels were ascertained using the flame photometer method. These chosen methods were in accordance with Ashworth *et al.* (1997). Meanwhile, the levels of selenium and magnesium in the leaves were gauged using Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy (AAS) as per the protocol by the Soil Science Research Institute of Sinica (1983).

Leaves chlorophyll (a and b) was measured using methanol (100%) as described by Aminot and Rey (2000). Catalase enzyme (CAT) activity was assessed by observing the breakdown of hydrogen peroxide at a wavelength of 240 nm through a spectrophotometer as described by Alici and Arabaci (2016). The determination of proline was achieved using a colorimetric approach, following the methodology outlined by Ábrahám *et al.* (2010).

The seeds oil, total carbohydrate and protein content within the peanut seed samples were assessed in accordance with the instructions provided by AOAC (2000). The seed protein percentage was derived by multiplying the total nitrogen percentage by a factor of 6.25. To determine the seed oil and protein yields per hectare, the seed oil percentage and protein percentage were multiplied by the seed yield per hectare.

- Statistical analysis

To comparing the means among various treatments, Duncan's Multiple Range Test was executed with a significance threshold set at $P \leq 0.05$. This analysis was carried out utilizing the CoStat computer software package (Version 6.303, CoHort, USA, 1998-2004) based on Gomez and Gomez (1984).



Fig. 1. Some photos in different stages were taken by El-Sherpiny and Baddour.

3. Results

1. Peanuts performance at 70 days from sowing - Growth criteria and photosynthetic pigment

Table 2 points out the impact of applying organic fertilization via two different types (PC and FYMC) and foliar application of magnesium and selenium on

the growth performance of peanuts plants at the period of 70 days from sowing expressed in plant height (cm), fresh and dry weights (g plant⁻¹), chlorophyll a and b (mg g⁻¹ FW) during two successive seasons of 2022 and 2023. The results indicate that the superior organic fertilization treatment for obtaining the highest values was T₂ treatment (PC) followed by T₃ treatment (FYMC), surpassing the control group (T₁). Among the foliar spraying treatments, the combined treatment of magnesium and selenium (F₇) demonstrated the highest

efficacy in promoting growth performance, as the order sequence from the most effective to less was F₇ (F₃ + F₄) > F₆ (F₂ + F₄) > F₃ > F₂ > F₄ > F₁ (control) > F₅. Notably, the combined approach of using plant compost (T₂) along with the foliar application of magnesium and selenium (F₇) showed the most favorable outcomes in terms of plant height (cm), fresh and dry weights (g plant⁻¹), chlorophyll a and b (mg g⁻¹ FW) compared to the other interventions. The same trend was found for both studied seasons.

Table 2. The impact of applying organic fertilization *via* two different types (PC and FYMC) and foliar application of magnesium and selenium on the growth criteria and photosynthetic pigments of peanuts plants at the period of 70 days from sowing during two successive seasons of 2022 and 2023.

Treatments	Plant height, cm		Fresh weight, g plant ⁻¹		Dry weight, g		Chlorophyll a, mg g ⁻¹ FW		Chlorophyll b, mg g ⁻¹ FW		
	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd	
	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	
Main factor: Organic fertilization											
T ₁	43.24c	45.01c	54.08c	55.92c	16.22c	16.53c	0.807c	0.841b	0.603c	0.628c	
T ₂	54.26a	56.99a	65.35b	67.92a	20.34a	20.79a	0.886a	0.921a	0.702a	0.731a	
T ₃	50.88b	53.53b	62.13a	64.63b	19.07b	19.44b	0.877b	0.915a	0.681b	0.708b	
LSD at 5%	1.30	2.36	2.85	0.22	0.49	0.07	0.009	0.015	0.007	0.004	
Sub main factor: Foliar applications of Mg and Se											
F ₁	46.50e	48.62d	57.86cd	59.80d	17.38e	17.73e	0.830e	0.865e	0.638d	0.664d	
F ₂	50.04cd	52.42bc	60.99b	63.43c	18.78cd	19.19cd	0.890a	0.927a	0.666c	0.693c	
F ₃	50.82bc	53.45abc	61.85ab	64.33bc	19.12bc	19.49bc	0.862c	0.897c	0.675b	0.703b	
F ₄	49.32d	51.89c	60.40bc	62.67c	18.41d	18.76d	0.850d	0.885d	0.659c	0.686c	
F ₅	45.02f	46.83d	55.98d	57.95e	16.87f	17.22f	0.820f	0.854f	0.626e	0.652e	
F ₆	51.78ab	54.18ab	62.65ab	65.31ab	19.46ab	19.87ab	0.869bc	0.906bc	0.683a	0.711a	
F ₇	52.73a	55.52a	63.91a	66.29a	19.80a	20.19a	0.875b	0.912b	0.689a	0.716a	
LSD at 5%	1.21	2.25	2.64	1.68	0.46	0.51	0.009	0.009	0.008	0.008	
Bilateral interaction (TxF)											
T ₁	F ₁	41.39	42.41	52.03	53.33	15.36	15.66	0.791	0.823	0.579	0.605
	F ₂	43.34	45.23	53.87	55.57	16.32	16.64	0.808	0.845	0.601	0.626
	F ₃	44.06	46.28	54.96	57.24	16.66	16.94	0.813	0.847	0.616	0.640
	F ₄	42.46	44.83	53.51	55.60	15.87	16.19	0.800	0.835	0.592	0.618
	F ₅	40.38	40.49	50.92	51.90	14.91	15.19	0.786	0.817	0.570	0.595
	F ₆	44.93	47.29	56.00	58.50	17.05	17.40	0.819	0.857	0.628	0.653
	F ₇	46.12	48.57	57.28	59.34	17.36	17.72	0.828	0.862	0.637	0.661
T ₂	F ₁	49.42	52.41	61.27	63.44	18.51	18.91	0.853	0.888	0.670	0.696
	F ₂	55.63	58.41	66.81	69.57	20.87	21.39	0.896	0.931	0.713	0.741
	F ₃	56.47	59.35	67.43	70.04	21.12	21.56	0.901	0.934	0.717	0.745
	F ₄	55.06	57.61	65.92	68.35	20.54	20.92	0.889	0.924	0.708	0.737
	F ₅	47.71	50.62	58.94	61.28	18.01	18.42	0.839	0.874	0.657	0.685
	F ₆	57.33	59.59	68.01	70.84	21.52	22.00	0.909	0.944	0.723	0.755
	F ₇	58.20	60.94	69.06	71.94	21.83	22.31	0.913	0.950	0.726	0.757
T ₃	F ₁	48.69	51.04	60.28	62.62	18.28	18.62	0.847	0.885	0.663	0.690
	F ₂	51.17	53.62	62.30	65.15	19.16	19.53	0.965	1.006	0.684	0.712
	F ₃	51.92	54.70	63.16	65.73	19.56	19.96	0.870	0.908	0.691	0.722
	F ₄	50.44	53.22	61.77	64.06	18.82	19.18	0.861	0.895	0.675	0.703
	F ₅	46.98	49.39	58.08	60.68	17.69	18.05	0.834	0.873	0.650	0.676
	F ₆	53.07	55.66	63.95	66.60	19.82	20.22	0.879	0.916	0.699	0.726
	F ₇	53.88	57.05	65.39	67.60	20.19	20.55	0.884	0.924	0.703	0.730
LSD	2.09	3.91	4.57	2.91	0.79	0.88	0.017	0.016	0.013	0.015	

Means within a column followed by a different letter (s) are statistically different at 5%

T₁: Control (without organic fertilizer), T₂: Plant compost (banana residues and sugar beet at ratio of 50:50) PC, T₃: Farmyard manure compost FYMC, F₁: Control, F₂: Mg at rate of 840 g ha⁻¹, F₃: Mg at rate of 1680 g ha⁻¹, F₄: Se at rate of 5.0 mg L⁻¹, F₅: Se at rate of 10.0 mg L⁻¹, F₆: As a combined treatment (F₂ + F₄) F₇: As a combined treatment (F₃ + F₄).

- Leaf chemical constituents

Table 3 illustrates the effects of two different types of organic fertilizers (PC and FYMC) and the foliar application of magnesium and selenium on the chemical composition of peanut leaves [N, P, K, Mg (%) and Se (mg kg⁻¹)] at the period of 70 days from sowing, during both the 2022 and 2023 seasons. Concerning the individual impact of organic fertilization treatments, it is evident that the T₂

treatment (PC) resulted in the highest recorded values for the chemical constituents in the leaves, followed by the T₃ treatment (FYMC). Conversely, the corresponding peanut plants that were grown without the application of organic fertilizers (control group which has been given T₁ code) exhibited the lowest levels of N, P, K, Mg (%), and Se (mg kg⁻¹).

Table 3. The impact of applying organic fertilization via two different types (PC and FYMC) and foliar application of magnesium and selenium on the chemical composition of peanut leaves at the period of 70 days from sowing during two successive seasons of 2022 and 2023.

Treatments	N, %		P, %		K, %		Mg, %		Se, mg kg ⁻¹		
	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd	
	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	
Main factor: Organic fertilization											
T ₁	3.48c	3.66c	0.362c	0.380c	2.03c	2.14c	0.87c	0.91c	1.91c	1.96c	
T ₂	4.23a	4.45a	0.487a	0.512a	2.96a	3.11a	1.16a	1.21a	2.93a	3.01a	
T ₃	4.02b	4.22b	0.447b	0.471b	2.71b	2.84b	1.03b	1.08b	2.81b	2.91b	
LSD at 5%	0.10	0.01	0.005	0.005	0.12	0.07	0.02	0.02	0.09	0.06	
Sub main factor: Foliar applications of Mg and Se											
F ₁	3.69f	3.88e	0.397f	0.421f	2.34e	2.45d	0.73e	0.76e	1.70f	1.76g	
F ₂	3.96d	4.17cd	0.437d	0.460d	2.60cd	2.73c	1.17c	1.22c	2.21e	2.26f	
F ₃	4.02c	4.22bc	0.450c	0.472c	2.69bc	2.83b	1.22b	1.28b	2.30e	2.37e	
F ₄	3.91e	4.10d	0.429e	0.450e	2.55d	2.67c	0.79d	0.83d	2.62d	2.71d	
F ₅	3.59g	3.77f	0.381g	0.400g	2.20f	2.31e	0.67f	0.70f	3.21a	3.31a	
F ₆	4.08b	4.28ab	0.460b	0.483b	2.76ab	2.90a	1.25ab	1.31ab	2.80c	2.88c	
F ₇	4.14a	4.34a	0.470a	0.493a	2.83a	2.97a	1.29a	1.36a	3.01b	3.11b	
LSD at 5%	0.004	0.11	0.005	0.006	0.12	0.07	0.04	0.04	0.11	0.07	
Bilateral interaction (TxF)											
T ₁	F ₁	3.28	3.45	0.335	0.353	1.83	1.93	0.61	0.64	1.40	1.47
	F ₂	3.53	3.71	0.361	0.379	2.01	2.12	1.01	1.05	1.58	1.61
	F ₃	3.57	3.73	0.375	0.393	2.13	2.23	1.05	1.10	1.67	1.72
	F ₄	3.51	3.68	0.354	0.371	1.97	2.06	0.64	0.67	2.03	2.10
	F ₅	3.21	3.37	0.331	0.348	1.82	1.91	0.60	0.63	2.30	2.36
	F ₆	3.62	3.80	0.384	0.404	2.21	2.33	1.08	1.14	2.10	2.15
	F ₇	3.69	3.87	0.393	0.411	2.26	2.37	1.11	1.17	2.27	2.34
T ₂	F ₁	3.93	4.15	0.433	0.457	2.64	2.75	0.81	0.85	1.89	1.94
	F ₂	4.31	4.53	0.501	0.528	3.03	3.18	1.34	1.40	2.64	2.70
	F ₃	4.38	4.61	0.514	0.540	3.13	3.29	1.40	1.47	2.75	2.81
	F ₄	4.25	4.44	0.495	0.518	2.96	3.11	0.90	0.94	2.95	3.05
	F ₅	3.81	4.01	0.410	0.431	2.46	2.57	0.73	0.77	3.66	3.78
	F ₆	4.46	4.67	0.524	0.550	3.22	3.38	1.44	1.50	3.19	3.27
	F ₇	4.51	4.72	0.533	0.558	3.31	3.48	1.46	1.54	3.42	3.52
T ₃	F ₁	3.88	4.05	0.423	0.453	2.55	2.67	0.76	0.80	1.80	1.87
	F ₂	4.05	4.27	0.450	0.473	2.75	2.90	1.16	1.22	2.42	2.48
	F ₃	4.10	4.32	0.461	0.485	2.83	2.97	1.22	1.28	2.49	2.58
	F ₄	3.98	4.18	0.437	0.460	2.73	2.85	0.84	0.88	2.87	2.97
	F ₅	3.74	3.93	0.402	0.422	2.33	2.45	0.68	0.71	3.66	3.77
	F ₆	4.16	4.36	0.473	0.497	2.85	3.00	1.24	1.30	3.12	3.23
	F ₇	4.21	4.44	0.485	0.510	2.92	3.04	1.30	1.38	3.34	3.45
LSD at 5%	0.08	0.19	0.009	0.011	0.20	0.12	0.08	0.08	0.19	0.11	

Means within a column followed by a different letter (s) are statistically different at 5%

T₁: Control (without organic fertilizer), T₂: Plant compost (banana residues and sugar beet at ratio of 50:50) PC, T₃: Farmyard manure compost FYMC, F₁: Control, F₂: Mg at rate of 840 g ha⁻¹, F₃: Mg at rate of 1680 g ha⁻¹, F₄: Se at rate of 5.0 mg L⁻¹, F₅: Se at rate of 10.0 mg L⁻¹, F₆: As a combined treatment (F₂ + F₄) F₇: As a combined treatment (F₃ + F₄).

Furthermore, the findings reveal that the application of F_7 treatment (a combination of F_3 and F_4) displayed superior results in terms of achieving elevated levels of N, P, K and Mg. Notably, the content of Se in leaves increased proportionally with its application rate, and a similar pattern was observed for Mg. In simpler terms, all foliar application treatments, except for F_5 , led to significant enhancements in the chemical composition of peanut leaves when compared to the control group. The F_5 treatment demonstrated the lowest values across all essential and beneficial elements under investigation, excluding Se content. Additionally, the same Table highlights that the combined treatments involving both Mg (at both studied doses) and Se (at 1st studied dose) outperformed all single applications. Generally, when excluding the leaf content from the investigated elements (Se and Mg), it becomes evident that F_7 ($F_3 + F_4$) was the most effective in achieving the highest levels of N, P, K,

followed by F_6 ($F_2 + F_4$), F_3 , F_2 , F_4 , F_1 (control) and F_5 treatments, respectively. As for the bilateral interaction, the applying plant compost (T_2) along with the foliar application of magnesium and selenium (F_7) realized the best peanuts leaves chemical constituents, surpassing the outcomes of other interventions. The same trend was found for 1st and 2nd seasons.

- Catalase (CAT) and proline

Table 4 and Figs 2, 3, 4 and 5 indicate the individual and interaction effects of the different types of organic fertilizers (PC and FYMC) and the foliar application of magnesium and selenium on the plant's self-production from antioxidants [either enzymatic (CAT) or non-enzymatic (proline)]. It is worth mentioning that the trend of catalase (CAT) looks just like the trend of growth performance parameters, as the T_2 treatment (PC) recorded the maximum values as well as F_7 treatment led to the highest values of CAT.

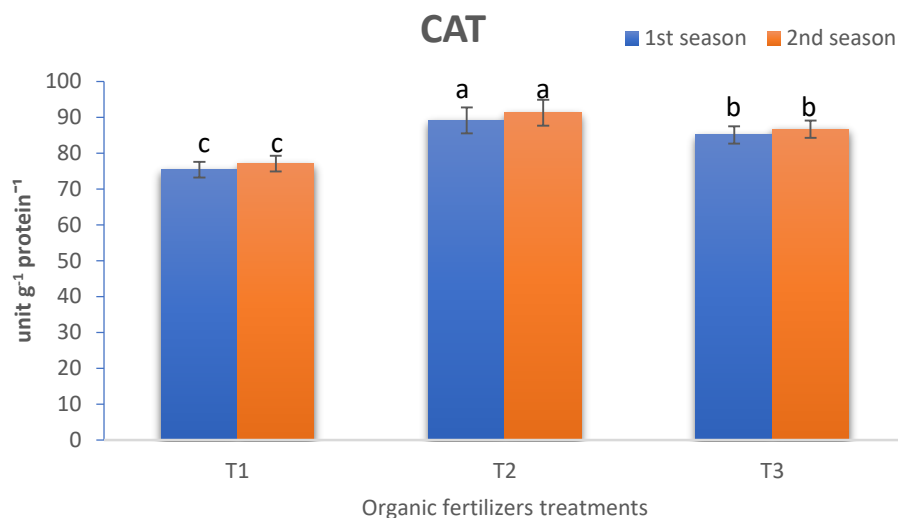


Fig. 2. The individual impact of applying organic fertilization *via* two different types (PC and FYMC) on the content of CAT in peanut leaves at the period of 70 days from sowing during two successive seasons of 2022 and 2023. T_1 : Control (without organic fertilizer), T_2 : Plant compost (banana residues and sugar beet at ratio of 50:50) PC, T_3 : Farmyard manure compost FYMC.

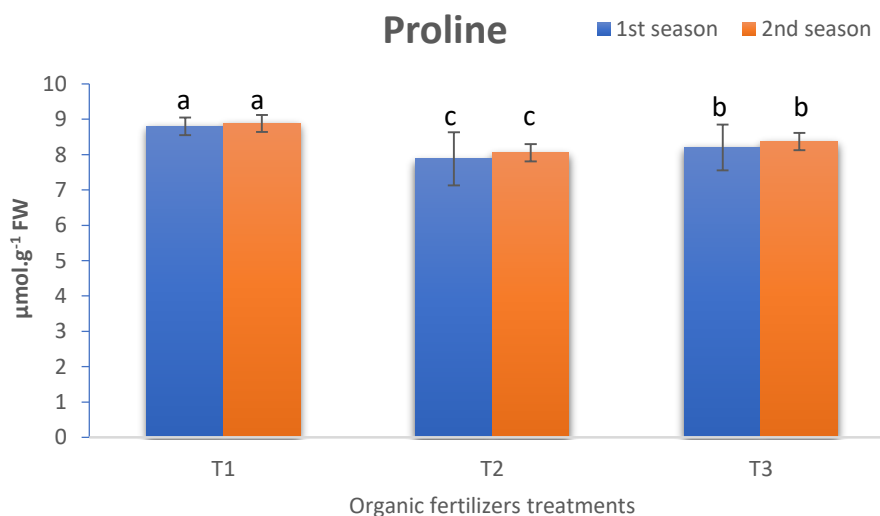


Fig. 3. The individual impact of applying organic fertilization *via* two different types (PC and FYMC) on the content of proline in peanut leaves at the period of 70 days from sowing during two successive seasons of 2022 and 2023. T_1 : Control (without organic fertilizer), T_2 : Plant compost (banana residues and sugar beet at ratio of 50:50) PC, T_3 : Farmyard manure compost FYMC

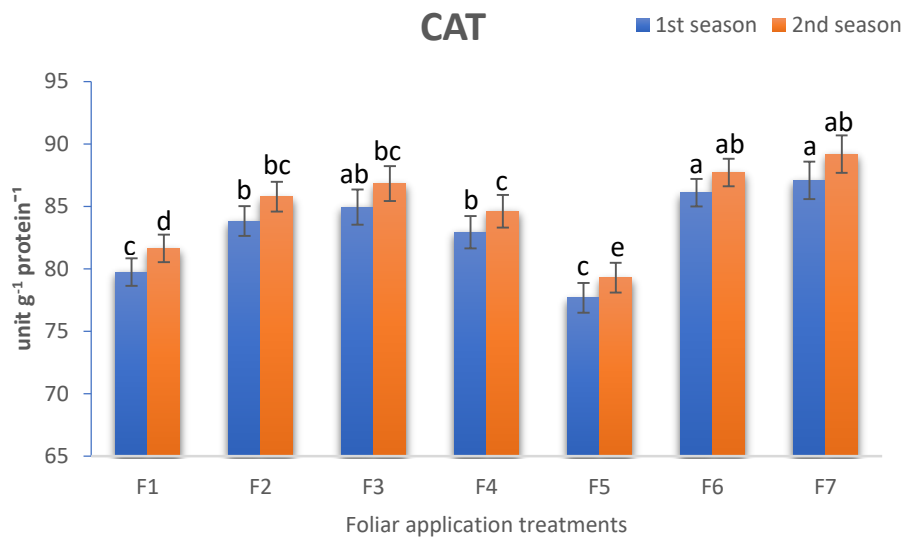


Fig. 4. The individual impact of foliar application of magnesium and selenium on the content of CAT in peanut leaves at the period of 70 days from sowing during two successive seasons of 2022 and 2023. F₁: Control, F₂: Mg at rate of 840 g ha⁻¹, F₃: Mg at rate of 1680 g ha⁻¹, F₄: Se at rate of 5.0 mg L⁻¹, F₅: Se at rate of 10.0 mg L⁻¹, F₆: As a combined treatment (F₂ + F₄) F₇: As a combined treatment (F₃ + F₄).

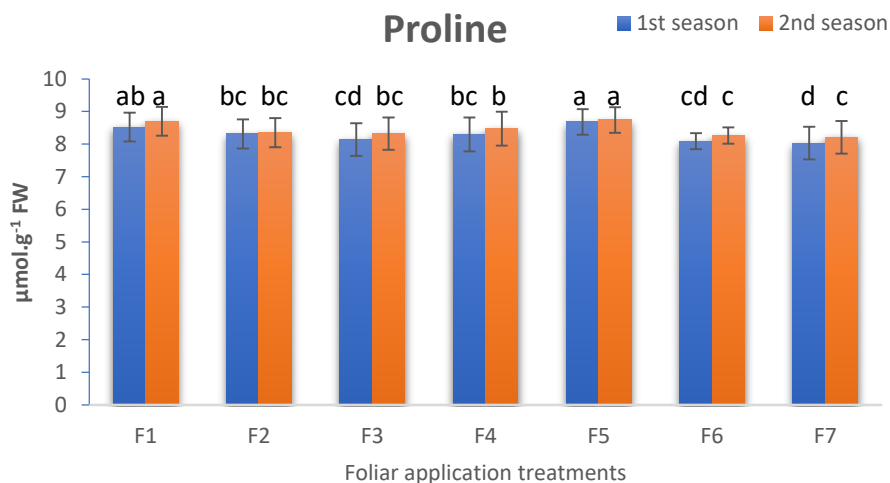


Fig. 5. The individual impact of foliar application of magnesium and selenium on the content of proline in peanut leaves at the period of 70 days from sowing during two successive seasons of 2022 and 2023. F₁: Control, F₂: Mg at rate of 840 g ha⁻¹, F₃: Mg at rate of 1680 g ha⁻¹, F₄: Se at rate of 5.0 mg L⁻¹, F₅: Se at rate of 10.0 mg L⁻¹, F₆: As a combined treatment (F₂ + F₄) F₇: As a combined treatment (F₃ + F₄).

On the contrary, the plants grown without organic fertilizer possessed the highest values of proline, while the lowest values were achieved with PC treatment. Also, spraying of selenium at a rate of 10.0 mg L⁻¹ (F₅ treatment) led to the highest content of proline in leaves compared to other foliar treatments and the control group (F₁) which came in the second order. generally, it can be

noticed that the application of magnesium (at both tested doses) and selenium (at a concentration of 5.0 mg L⁻¹ only), whether they were sprayed solely or in combinations, significantly enhanced the production of CAT (catalase) and reduced the necessity for the synthesis of proline in substantial quantities as an osmoprotectant. Similar trend was found for both studied seasons.

Table 4. The interaction impact of applying organic fertilization *via* two different types (PC and FYMC) and foliar application of magnesium and selenium on the content of antioxidants in peanut leaves at the period of 70 days from sowing during two successive seasons of 2022 and 2023.

Treatments	Catalase (CAT, unit g ⁻¹ protein ⁻¹)		Proline (μmol.g ⁻¹ FW)		
	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd	
	Season	Season	Season	Season	
T ₁	F ₁	73.45	75.14	8.84	9.05
	F ₂	74.93	76.42	9.05	8.86
	F ₃	76.08	77.90	8.68	8.86
	F ₄	74.44	75.93	8.76	8.95
	F ₅	71.83	73.56	9.04	8.86
	F ₆	77.32	78.86	8.64	8.81
	F ₇	79.53	81.76	8.61	8.80
T ₂	F ₁	83.52	85.69	8.32	8.48
	F ₂	90.91	93.37	7.75	7.90
	F ₃	92.24	94.36	7.66	7.82
	F ₄	89.92	91.81	7.87	8.03
	F ₅	81.19	83.21	8.43	8.62
	F ₆	92.87	95.09	7.62	7.79
	F ₇	93.31	95.37	7.53	7.70
T ₃	F ₁	82.27	84.08	8.38	8.55
	F ₂	85.65	87.54	8.14	8.28
	F ₃	86.52	88.25	8.06	8.27
	F ₄	84.45	86.14	8.26	8.44
	F ₅	80.02	81.14	8.57	8.74
	F ₆	88.14	89.20	8.01	8.17
	F ₇	88.45	90.47	7.96	8.13
LSD at 5%	3.85	3.94	0.43	0.29	

T₁: Control (without organic fertilizer), T₂: Plant compost (banana residues and sugar beet at ratio of 50:50) PC, T₃: Farmyard manure compost FYMC, F₁: Control, F₂: Mg at rate of 840 g ha⁻¹, F₃: Mg at rate of 1680 g ha⁻¹, F₄: Se at rate of 5.0 mg L⁻¹, F₅: Se at rate of 10.0 mg L⁻¹, F₆: As a combined treatment (F₂ + F₄) F₇: As a combined treatment (F₃ + F₄).

- Yield and its components

The application of various organic fertilization treatments and foliar spraying of magnesium and selenium, whether applied individually or in combination, had a significant impact on multiple factors related to peanut yield and composition such as No. of pods plant⁻¹, weight of pods (g plant⁻¹), weight of 100 pods (g), pods and seeds yield (Mg.ha⁻¹) (Table 5) as well as seeds N, P and K content, (%) (Table 6) and oil (%), oil yield (kg ha⁻¹), protein (%), protein yield (kg ha⁻¹) and carbohydrates (%) (Table 7). These effects were observed during the harvest stage in both the 2022 and 2023 growing seasons. The outcomes reveal that among the organic fertilization treatments, the most effective in achieving the highest values was the T₂ treatment (PC), followed closely by the T₃ treatment (FYMC), both of which surpassed the control group (T₁). In terms of foliar spraying treatments, the combined application of magnesium and selenium (F₇) demonstrated the most favorable results, ranking first for all the mentioned characteristics. The sequence of effectiveness from the most to the least impactful was found to be: F₇ (F₃ + F₄) > F₆ (F₂ + F₄)

> F₃ > F₂ > F₄ > F₁ (control) > F₅. Remarkably, the synergistic approach involving the use of plant compost (T₂) in conjunction with the foliar application of magnesium and selenium (F₇) showed the most favorable outcomes in terms of No. of pods plant⁻¹, weight of pods (g plant⁻¹), weight of 100 pods (g), pods and seeds yield (Mg.ha⁻¹), seeds N, P and K content (%), oil (%), oil yield (kg ha⁻¹), protein (%), protein yield (kg ha⁻¹) and carbohydrates (%) compared to the other interventions. Similar trend was found for both studied seasons.

- Post-harvest analyses

Table 8 shows the effects of utilizing organic fertilization through two types (PC and FYMC) and the application of magnesium and selenium *via* foliar spraying on the soil's nutrient availability (N, P, and K, mg kg⁻¹) and cation exchange capacity (CEC, cmol kg⁻¹) following the peanut harvest in the 2022 and 2023 seasons. The data reveal that the values of available N, P, K, and CEC during the harvest stage exceeded those of the initial soil (before sowing). Furthermore, Table 8 demonstrates that incorporating plant compost into

Table 6. The impact of applying organic fertilization *via* two different types (PC and FYMC) and foliar application of magnesium and selenium on the seeds chemical constitutes (macronutrients) of peanut at harvest stage during two successive seasons of 2022 and 2023.

Treatments	N, %		P, %		K, %		
	1 st Season	2 nd Season	1 st Season	2 nd Season	1 st Season	2 nd Season	
Main factor: Organic fertilization							
T ₁	3.27c	3.34c	0.326c	0.343c	1.74c	1.83c	
T ₂	3.84a	3.93a	0.393a	0.412a	2.20a	2.30a	
T ₃	3.69b	3.76b	0.373b	0.392b	2.06b	2.16b	
LSD at 5%	0.05	0.07	0.004	0.004	0.09	0.06	
Sub main factor: Foliar applications of Mg and Se							
F ₁	3.48e	3.55e	0.346e	0.364f	1.90d	1.98e	
F ₂	3.63cd	3.72c	0.368c	0.387d	2.02bc	2.12cd	
F ₃	3.66bc	3.74bc	0.375b	0.393c	2.05abc	2.16bc	
F ₄	3.59d	3.67d	0.362d	0.379e	1.99c	2.09d	
F ₅	3.40f	3.47f	0.335f	0.353g	1.82d	1.91f	
F ₆	3.70ab	3.78b	0.378b	0.398b	2.08ab	2.18ab	
F ₇	3.74a	3.83a	0.384a	0.402a	2.12a	2.23a	
LSD at 5%	0.04	0.04	0.004	0.004	0.09	0.05	
Bilateral interaction (TxF)							
T ₁	F ₁	3.21	3.25	0.316	0.333	1.67	1.75
	F ₂	3.28	3.35	0.328	0.344	1.76	1.84
	F ₃	3.30	3.38	0.334	0.350	1.77	1.87
	F ₄	3.25	3.32	0.320	0.335	1.71	1.80
	F ₅	3.15	3.22	0.306	0.323	1.62	1.70
	F ₆	3.35	3.42	0.337	0.355	1.80	1.88
	F ₇	3.38	3.46	0.342	0.358	1.86	1.96
T ₂	F ₁	3.65	3.74	0.366	0.386	2.02	2.11
	F ₂	3.90	4.00	0.400	0.421	2.25	2.35
	F ₃	3.95	4.04	0.407	0.427	2.28	2.39
	F ₄	3.86	3.93	0.395	0.413	2.21	2.32
	F ₅	3.56	3.65	0.353	0.371	1.96	2.06
	F ₆	3.98	4.07	0.412	0.433	2.31	2.42
	F ₇	4.02	4.10	0.418	0.436	2.33	2.45
T ₃	F ₁	3.60	3.68	0.356	0.373	2.00	2.09
	F ₂	3.72	3.80	0.377	0.396	2.06	2.18
	F ₃	3.74	3.81	0.383	0.403	2.11	2.22
	F ₄	3.68	3.75	0.371	0.390	2.05	2.15
	F ₅	3.48	3.52	0.347	0.364	1.88	1.97
	F ₆	3.79	3.84	0.386	0.405	2.14	2.26
	F ₇	3.83	3.92	0.392	0.412	2.17	2.28
LSD at 5%	0.07	0.07	0.008	0.007	0.15	0.09	

Means within a column followed by a different letter (s) are statistically different at 5%

T₁: Control (without organic fertilizer), T₂: Plant compost (banana residues and sugar beet at ratio of 50:50) PC, T₃: Farmyard manure compost FYMC, F₁: Control, F₂: Mg at rate of 840 g ha⁻¹, F₃: Mg at rate of 1680 g ha⁻¹, F₄: Se at rate of 5.0 mg L⁻¹, F₅: Se at rate of 10.0 mg L⁻¹, F₆: As a combined treatment (F₂ + F₄) F₇: As a combined treatment (F₃ + F₄)

Table 8. The impact of applying organic fertilization via two different types (PC and FYMC) and foliar application of magnesium and selenium on the soil nutrient availability and CEC following peanuts plant during two successive seasons of 2022 and 2023.

Treatments	Available-N, mg kg ⁻¹		Available-P, mg kg ⁻¹		Available-K, mg kg ⁻¹		CEC, cmol kg ⁻¹		
	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd	
	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	
Main factor: Organic fertilization									
T ₁	45.00c	45.75b	11.06c	11.62b	223.73c	230.68b	42.69c	43.52b	
T ₂	46.89a	47.54a	11.66a	12.24a	231.84a	238.96a	44.64a	45.57a	
T ₃	46.54b	47.22a	11.56b	12.13a	230.43b	238.19a	43.99b	44.82a	
LSD at 5%	0.10	0.42	0.05	0.14	0.53	1.2	0.38	0.82	
Sub main factor: Foliar applications of Mg and Se									
F ₁	46.61a	47.27a	11.57a	12.16a	230.70a	238.02a	43.77a	44.62a	
F ₂	45.92b	46.65b	11.37ab	11.96ab	227.94b	234.87b	43.74a	44.69a	
F ₃	45.93b	46.54b	11.35ab	11.93ab	227.73bc	234.77b	43.54a	44.40a	
F ₄	46.51a	47.24a	11.55ab	12.09ab	230.31a	237.70a	43.74a	44.55a	
F ₅	46.71a	47.47a	11.59a	12.17a	230.67a	238.81a	43.79a	44.65a	
F ₆	45.70b	46.51b	11.29ab	11.87ab	226.99cd	233.99b	43.90a	44.82a	
F ₇	45.60b	46.18b	11.26b	11.79b	226.36d	233.44b	43.93a	44.73a	
LSD at 5%	0.53	0.53	0.31	0.31	0.91	2.72	N.S	*N.S	
Bilateral interaction (TxF)									
T ₁	F ₁	45.23	45.90	11.16	11.74	225.18	232.39	42.64	43.45
	F ₂	44.97	45.68	11.07	11.63	223.84	231.01	42.47	43.39
	F ₃	44.86	45.57	11.01	11.56	223.16	229.79	42.26	43.04
	F ₄	45.07	45.83	11.12	11.64	224.56	231.14	42.76	43.54
	F ₅	45.35	46.20	11.19	11.77	224.71	232.49	42.90	43.68
	F ₆	44.77	45.72	10.95	11.52	222.72	229.32	42.83	43.73
	F ₇	44.72	45.32	10.95	11.45	221.98	228.60	42.98	43.83
T ₂	F ₁	47.38	48.03	11.80	12.44	233.62	240.44	44.56	45.47
	F ₂	46.75	47.43	11.62	12.23	231.48	238.04	44.54	45.62
	F ₃	46.64	47.26	11.59	12.15	231.01	238.06	44.44	45.33
	F ₄	46.91	47.57	11.66	12.21	232.03	239.31	44.70	45.49
	F ₅	47.71	48.43	11.88	12.49	234.74	242.75	44.84	45.87
	F ₆	46.47	47.16	11.54	12.14	230.41	236.99	44.58	45.57
	F ₇	46.36	46.92	11.51	12.03	229.61	237.14	44.79	45.64
T ₃	F ₁	47.23	47.89	11.75	12.31	233.28	241.24	44.09	44.93
	F ₂	46.06	46.84	11.42	12.01	228.50	235.56	44.20	45.07
	F ₃	46.28	46.78	11.45	12.07	229.02	236.47	43.92	44.82
	F ₄	47.56	48.31	11.86	12.44	234.34	242.64	43.75	44.62
	F ₅	47.06	47.77	11.70	12.26	232.56	241.18	43.63	44.39
	F ₆	45.87	46.64	11.38	11.94	227.84	235.65	44.29	45.17
	F ₇	45.70	46.29	11.33	11.90	227.48	234.59	44.03	44.73
LSD at 5%	0.91	0.92	0.53	0.53	1.59	4.71	0.90	0.87	

Means within a column followed by a different letter (s) are statistically different at 5%.

T₁: Control (without organic fertilizer), T₂: Plant compost (banana residues and sugar beet at ratio of 50:50) PC, T₃: Farmyard manure compost FYMC, F₁: Control, F₂: Mg at rate of 840 g ha⁻¹, F₃: Mg at rate of 1680 g ha⁻¹, F₄: Se at rate of 5.0 mg L⁻¹, F₅: Se at rate of 10.0 mg L⁻¹, F₆: As a combined treatment (F₂ + F₄) F₇: As a combined treatment (F₃ + F₄).

*NS is not significant

4. Discussion

The underperformance observed in the control groups can be attributed to the adverse effects of agricultural drainage water on peanuts plants, encompassing several detrimental factors (Ashour *et al.* 2021). These harmful effects include salinity stress, nutrient imbalances, altered soil conditions, toxicity from heavy metals and ions, poor water quality, disease susceptibility, and disruptions in essential physiological processes (Eltarabily, 2022; Moursi *et al.* 2023). These factors collectively impeded the peanuts plant's growth and development, resulting in suboptimal performance under control treatments compared to treatments involving organic fertilization and targeted foliar applications of magnesium and selenium.

The results highlight that the application of organic fertilization had a significant impact on the growth performance and yield of peanuts. Notably, the treatment involving plant compost exhibited superior effects, followed closely by the farmyard manure compost treatment, both outperforming the control group that lacked organic fertilization. This suggests that the addition of organic fertilizers positively influenced the growth of peanuts plants during this period by providing a range of nutrients and improving soil health. Also, they may have contributed to improving soil structure. Both studied organic fertilizers enhanced the soil's water-holding capacity, drainage, aeration, and microbial activity, creating an optimal environment for root growth and nutrient uptake (Tzortzakis *et al.* 2020). On the other hand, both studied organic fertilizers might foster beneficial soil microorganisms that form symbiotic relationships with peanuts' plant roots. These relationships enhance nutrient uptake and provide plants with growth-promoting substances (Elsherpiny and Helmy 2022). These facts reflected on the peanut's performance and its yield.

The superiority of plant compost over farmyard manure compost can be attributed to several factors, including differences in nutrient content, nutrient release rates, soil structure improvement, and potential for disease suppression (Singh *et al.* 2020). Plant compost can be tailored to have a more balanced nutrient composition compared to

farmyard manure, which can vary widely in nutrient content depending on the diet of the animals producing the manure. Also, plant composting can involve selected plant residues that are rich in essential nutrients required for plant growth. This can result in a higher concentration of nutrients like nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium in the plant compost compared to farmyard manure, leading to a more efficient nutrient supply to plants (Elsherpiny 2023). Also, perhaps the plant compost tends to break down more rapidly than farmyard manure, releasing nutrients at a faster rate. This faster nutrient release can provide a timely supply of nutrients during critical growth stages, potentially leading to enhanced plant growth and yield (Zhou and Yao 2020). Plant composting allows for the inclusion of materials that can help adjust soil pH to more optimal levels for plant growth. Farmyard manure might not have the same pH-modifying capabilities. Plant materials used in composting tend to break down more readily compared to tougher materials like straw or bedding found in farmyard manure. This faster breakdown releases nutrients more quickly into the soil, enhancing their availability to plants (Elsherpiny *et al.* 2023).

The favorable outcomes observed in the case of the selenium treatment (F₄) and magnesium treatments (F₂, F₃) can be attributed to their roles as essential micronutrients tailored for the specific needs of peanut plants. In appropriate concentrations, selenium and magnesium serve as catalysts for a range of vital physiological and biochemical processes, effectively bolstering plant growth. For instance, selenium, when provided at lower concentrations, assumes a pivotal role as a component within specific enzymes that actively engage in antioxidant defense mechanisms. By effectively counteracting the harmful impact of reactive oxygen species (ROS), selenium acts as a guardian, shielding plant cells from oxidative damage and, in turn, elevating the plant's capacity to endure stressors (Wu *et al.* 2020). Notably, selenium's involvement extends to chloroplasts and photosynthetic enzymes, orchestrating improvements in photosynthetic efficiency. This enhancement culminates in heightened energy generation and the accumulation of biomass (Rady

et al. 2020). Selenium further facilitates the uptake and distribution of essential nutrients within the plant system, thus augmenting the overall availability of vital nutrients crucial for plant health and function (Xiang *et al.* 2022). Moreover, the supplementation of selenium empowers plants to effectively confront a spectrum of challenges, including drought, salinity, and heavy metal exposure. This is achieved by instigating the activation of stress-responsive genes and metabolic pathways, a response that empowers plants to tackle diverse stressors more adeptly. Additionally, selenium's involvement in protein synthesis emerges as a cornerstone for growth and development (Elsherpiny and Kany 2023). It actively contributes to the production of proteins integral to a multitude of cellular functions. Furthermore, selenium's role as an enhancer of plant resistance to specific diseases emerges as a significant attribute. This action is orchestrated through the stimulation of the production of defense compounds that bolster the plant's ability to fend off disease-causing agents (Mansoor *et al.* 2022). By harnessing these diverse mechanisms, selenium contributes to the overall health and vigor of peanut plants, fostering a more robust growth trajectory and a heightened ability to withstand environmental challenges. On the other hand, magnesium is a central component of chlorophyll molecules, essential for photosynthesis (Peng *et al.* 2020). Therefore, the peanuts plant performance gradually increased with increasing magnesium dose. Adequate magnesium levels ensure efficient energy production and carbohydrate synthesis. Mg is required as a cofactor for numerous enzymes involved in various metabolic processes. Its presence enhances enzyme activity, leading to improved nutrient uptake and utilization (Elsherpiny *et al.* 2023). Also, it is crucial for the synthesis of adenosine triphosphate (ATP), the energy currency of cells (Wang *et al.* 2020). Adequate ATP production supports essential cellular functions and growth. Moreover, its vital role as a co-enzyme in oil formation and these explains the improvement in oil and protein yield (Chen *et al.* 2018; Xie *et al.* 2021).

The synergistic approach involving the use of magnesium and selenium (F₆ and F₇) implies that the simultaneous application of both magnesium and selenium has a combined effect that is greater than the sum of their individual effects. In other words, when magnesium and selenium are applied

together, their interactions create a positive influence on the plant that goes beyond what each nutrient would achieve independently. This could manifest as enhanced growth, improved physiological functions, increased stress tolerance, or other desirable outcomes that are more pronounced when magnesium and selenium are used together compared to their separate application. This synergistic approach seeks to optimize plant responses and achieve more efficient and effective results by leveraging the combined benefits of different elements or treatments.

The negative effect observed with the application of selenium at a concentration of 10.0 mg L⁻¹ (F₅ treatment) on peanuts can be attributed to selenium toxicity. While selenium is an essential micronutrient for plants, it is required in very small amounts. Excess selenium can become toxic and detrimental to plant growth (Hasanuzzaman *et al.* 2020). It's important to note that the concentration of selenium that is beneficial or toxic can vary depending on the plant species, soil conditions, and environmental factors (Elsherpiny and Kany 2023). In the case of the F₅ treatment, the concentration of 10.0 mg L⁻¹ appears to have exceeded the threshold for selenium's beneficial effects and resulted in toxic effects on the peanuts, contributing to the observed negative impact on their growth and health (Mahmoud *et al.* 2023).

The trends observed in the catalase (CAT) activity closely parallel the patterns witnessed in the growth performance parameters and this may be the vital role of the studied treatments in raising the peanut's self-production of enzymatic antioxidants to scavenge the free radicals resulting due to the irrigation with agricultural drainage water (Elsherpiny and Kany 2023).

Regarding proline as an osmoprotectant, the plants cultivated without the aid of organic fertilizer showed elevated proline content, while the plant's need for significant proline synthesis as an osmoprotectant reduced due to the studied organic fertilizers, which raised the peanut's tolerance to harmful effects of agricultural drainage water. Notably, the application of selenium at a concentration of 10.0 mg L⁻¹ (F₅ treatment) induced the highest proline content in leaves, outpacing other foliar treatments as well as the control group (F₁), which ranked second in proline production. Conversely, the application of the best treatments

resulted in the lowest proline levels. Remarkably, the inclusion of magnesium (at both tested doses) and selenium (at a concentration of 5.0 mg L⁻¹) substantially augmented catalase (CAT) production, consequently reducing the plant's need for significant proline synthesis as an osmoprotectant. Generally, the notable contribution of magnesium and selenium in enhancing catalase production, while simultaneously mitigating the need for extensive proline synthesis, underscores their potential roles in bolstering the plant's stress tolerance mechanisms.

The concentrations of available nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), potassium (K), and cation exchange capacity (CEC) in the soil were higher during the harvest stage compared to the initial soil conditions before sowing. This increase could be attributed to various factors, including organic matter decomposition, and the release of nutrients especially N due to beneficial soil microorganisms that form symbiotic relationships with peanuts roots. Perhaps the success of the process of bacterial inoculation with Okadean led to an increase in symbiotic N fixation, and this reflected positively on the soil's nitrogen content. Moreover, the activity in the root zone may lead to reduce the soil pH value and cause the raising of nutrient availability (**Baddour et al. 2021**).

The incorporation of plant compost into the soil resulted in the most substantial improvements in all measured soil properties across both seasons. This effect was followed using farmyard manure compost (FYMC), and the least improvement was seen in the control group. This trend may be attributed to that the studied organic fertilizers contributed organic matter and essential nutrients to the soil, enhancing its fertility and CEC. Foliar treatments had a limited impact on soil nutrients. Foliar treatments generally have a direct effect on the plant's nutrient uptake through its leaves and this positively affected the general status of the peanuts plant. This behavior led to reducing the nutrient residues in soil due to plant uptake. So, the most effective treatment (**F₇**) for achieving optimal growth performance and yield also coincided with a reduction in the availability of N, P, and K in the soil. The foliar treatments did not lead to significant changes in the cation exchange capacity (CEC) of

the soil. CEC relates to the soil's ability to retain and exchange nutrients for plant uptake. While organic fertilizers can impact CEC by enhancing soil structure and organic matter content, the foliar treatments might not have influenced this particular property (**Elsherpiny and Kany 2023**).

5. Conclusion

The combined strategy that combines the utilization of plant compost along with the application of selenium (at a low concentration) and magnesium demonstrated the most advantageous results in terms of growth performance and various yield attributes. Notably, this approach exhibited significant enhancements in oil yield. Moreover, this approach displayed a noteworthy capability in augmenting soil nutrient availability and cation exchange capacity (CEC). Generally, continuous research and innovation in water-efficient irrigation practices and stress-tolerant crop varieties should be prioritized to enhance agricultural sustainability and mitigate the challenges posed by water scarcity. By implementing these recommendations, Egypt can enhance its agricultural sustainability, mitigate the challenges posed by water scarcity, and establish a robust and self-sufficient vegetable oil industry.

Conflicts of interest

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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