STUDY ON THE MECHANIZATION OF BEAN (Phaseolus vulgaris) CROP UNDER EGYPTIAN CONDITIONS

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to select the proper system of bean crop mechanization to achieve high yield, low grain losses with high field efficiency. The experiments were carried out using pneumatic planter and seed drill in planting operations in addition to the manual method, and tractor mounted mower was used in harvesting operation under different forward speeds and moisture contents compared to the manual method. Also, a Turkish threshing machine was used for threshing the crop at different drum speeds and seed moisture contents. From the obtained data it was concluded that; the pneumatic planter followed by tractor mounted mower and threshing by Turkish machine was considered the proper system for producing dry bean under Egyptian conditions, where as required minimum cost compared to the others. The seed moisture content of 14.86% and forward speed of 2.9 km/h were the proper conditions for harvesting dry bean crop. The threshing drum speed of 10.47m/s and seed moisture content of 11.33 % considered the proper values for threshing bean.

Keywords: Bean, planting, harvesting, threshing, drum speed

INTRODUCTION

B ean is considered one of the important legume crops all over the world. it is currently used in human feeding more over, bean residues are used as a filling material for animal feed. The total planted area in Egypt devoted for dry seeds at 2010 was 47000 feddan with production of about 53000 Mg with (an average yield of 1.13 Mg/feddan).

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Also the production was 63000 feddan for green pods with total production of about 271000 Mg (an average yield of 4.3 Mg/ feddan) according to Agricultural Economics Bulletin (2010). The dry bean procedures face many problems such as labor shortage as well as high wages in new lands. Sabreen et al., (2002) used pneumatic and mechanical planter for planting soybean at four forward speeds (3.6, 4.7, 5.6 and 6.9 km/h) at three levels of soil moisture contents (34.22, 28.60 and 22.30%). The field experiments showed that the proper planting method producing the highest germination ratio, uniformity of seed distribution, adequate depth planting and the highest productivity was pneumatic planter. They stated that the optimum soil moisture content and forward speed that gave the highest germination ratio, uniformity of seed distribution and total yield were 34.60% and 3.6 km/h, respectively. Neagu et al., (2002) determined that the degree of kidney bean [Phaseolus vulgaris] plant dislocation and grain losses at the running speed of 5.3 km/h using three equipments with different active parts: special unilateral action knives, toothed swivel disc and double knife mower. The best results were recorded in the case of using the special unilateral action knives while the least was observed on the toothed swivel disc. Gomaa (2003) compared the performance of two types of planters (pneumatic and mechanical) in cowpea planting. The best seed germination, seed scattering, planting depth and total yield were obtained under planting forward speed of 3.16 Km/h. he found also the best results of planting uniformity and total yield were obtained using pneumatic planter compared to mechanical planter. Herbek and Bitzer (2004) reported that the acceptable range for harvesting soybeans was between 11 and 20 % of moisture content. A good rule is to start as soon as the moisture content reaches 14 to 16 % and continue until the field is harvested. They suggested harvesting promptly when moisture content reaches 13 % and to finish before moisture content drops to 11 %. Below that level, shatter losses and seed damage losses increase substantially. On the other hand, the cylinder speeds ranging from 400 to 800 rpm were normally adequate and that higher cylinder speeds of 700 to 800 rpm caused greater seed damages than slower speeds, and use a cylinder speed lower than 500 rpm recorded seed damage .Yehia et al., (2005) reported that the highest grain emergence percentage of cowpea was recorded in the case of using pneumatic planter comparing with manual planting, seed drill and mechanical planter in flat and furrow soil. They added that the maximum grain emergence of 99.1% was obtained by using pneumatic planter in furrow while the minimum of 62.44 % was obtained by using manual planting in flat soil. They reported also, the highest seed productivity of (1313 kg/fed) was obtained by using pneumatic planter in furrow soil in comparison to the others. **Morad** *et al.* (2007) showed that the average values of yield of cowpea production were 408.7, 567.3 and 472.5 kg/fed under manual planting, pneumatic planter and seed drill, respectively.

As mentioned before, dry bean production still depends mainly on manual methods especially in small holdings with consuming more time and cost. For this reason, the objectives of this study concerned as follow:

- 1. Selecting the proper system for planting and harvesting bean crop to reach to high yield, low grain losses with high field efficiency.
- 2. Selecting the optimum seed moisture content and operating speed to minimize the harvesting and threshing losses.
- 3. Reducing the total cost and energy requirement through selecting the proper system for bean mechanization.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The main experiments were carried out during the agricultural season of 2009/2010 at Diarb Negm, Sharkia Governorate,Egypt to investigate some different mechanization systems for producing Bean (Giza 6 variety) under Egyptian conditions. The experimental area was about 1.5 fed divided into 27 equal plots with dimensions of (3x78 m) for each. The mechanical analysis of the experimental soil was classified as clay soil as indicated in Table (1).

A-Materials:

The following equipment were used in the research:

- Roman tractor "Universal 650-M" with power of 55.93 kW.
- Nasr Tractor " M34/T diesel water cooled" with power of 44.1 kW.
- Four rows pneumatic planter, model GAMMA 90 with working width of 240 cm.
- 21 rows seed drill, model COLORADO with working width of 240 cm.
- Tractor mounted mower model B.M.1102 with cutting width of 150 cm.

- Self-propelled harvester model 4G-120A with cutting width of 120cm and 8.82 kW engine power.
- Turkish threshing machine consists of two components; threshing and winnowing units. The threshing drum of 120 cm length, 73 cm diameter and number of fingers is 40. The winnowing unit having a fan, vibrating screen and air elevator.

Clay %	Silt %	Sand %	Textural class
52.9	24.55	22.55	clay

B-Methods:

- Planting operation

The rows spacing and hills in the same row were almost adjusted to be 60 cm and 15 cm in both manual and mechanical methods respectively. The manual planting requires about 45 kg/fed of seeds and the mechanical planting (planter and seed drill) requires about 15 and 26 kg/fed respectively. The average number of seeds was 3-5 seed per hill under manual planting. Meanwhile, this was only done in the mechanical planting. Plots in different planting operations were thinned to one plant per hill after three weeks from planting. The planting depth was adjusted to be 4 cm at average forward speed of 3.75 km/h. Fertilizing, irrigation and weed control were the same in all treatments according to the technical recommendations.

- Harvesting operation

The harvesting operation was carried out through three different levels of seed moisture contents of 10.87, 14.86 and 20.43% (db) at different operating speeds of 2.9, 3.8 and 5.1 km/h.

- Threshing operation

The threshing operation was conducted on plants which obtained from the proper planting and harvesting treatments under three different drum speeds of 400, 500 and 600 rpm [8.37, 10.47 and 12.56 m/s] at four moisture contents of [8.61, 11.33 and 17.82 %(db)] at a constant feed rate of 185 kg/h.

-Treatments

Nine treatments, namely A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H and I were carried out and replicated three times in a completely randomized block design. The

preliminary experiment including treatments of C, F and I that ignored because this experiment was carried out by self-propelled harvester and found that the harvesting losses was more than 50% so this method not used during the basic experiment.

A.: Manual planting + manual harvesting + threshing machine.

- **B**.: Manual planting + Rear-tractor mounted mower + threshing machine.
- **D.:** Pneumatic planter + manual harvesting + threshing machine.
- **E.:** Pneumatic planter + Rear-tractor mounted mower + threshing machine.

G. : Seed drill + manual harvesting + threshing machine.

H. : Seed drill + Rear-tractor mounted mower + threshing machine.

-Measurements:

-Plant measurements

Germination ratio: A sample of (1000 seed) was germinated and replicated three times before and after planting to investigate seed germination.

Coefficient of variation: The coefficient of variation was measured using the following method. Deviation in row from recommended distance (%) that considered indicator to distribution uniformity. The deviation of hills on row from average distance (CV) was estimated according to the following equation:

$$C.V = \frac{\sigma_{n-1}}{\overline{x}}$$
, $\sigma_{n-1} = \sqrt{\frac{\sum (x - \overline{x})^2}{n-1}}$

Where:

 σ_{n-1} : Standard deviation.

x : Distance between hills on row.

 \overline{x} : The recommended distance.

n : number of readings.

Crop yield: Random samples of plant with 1 m^2 of area for each one were taken from different places in each treatment and seeds mass of plants was measured then, average weight seeds of plants / m² were calculated from next equation:

 $Average weight seeds of \ plants = \frac{weight of \ seeds in \ all \ samples}{Number of \ samples}$

-Machine measurements:

Theoretical Field capacity (*TEC*); It was determined by the following relationship:

$$TEC = \frac{SxW}{4200} \qquad , (fed / h)$$

Where:

S = Travel speed, (m/h).

W =Rated width, (m).

The actual field capacity *(EFC)*: It was calculated from the following formula:

$$EEC = \frac{60}{Tu + Ti} \qquad , (fed / h)$$

Where:

Tu = The utilized time per feddan in minutes.

Ti =The summation of lost time per feddan in minutes.

Field efficiency (η_{t}) : It was calculated by using the following formula:

$$\eta_f = \frac{EFC}{TFC} x100$$

Where:

EFC = The effective field capacity of the machine, (fed/h).

TFC = Theoretical field capacity of the machine, (fed/h).

-Harvesting and threshing losses

Harvesting losses percentage: It was measured as follows:

 $Harvesting \ losses, \% = \frac{Harvesting \ losses \ (kg \ / \ fed)}{Total \ yield \ (kg \ / \ fed)} \times 100$

Threshing losses: the cracking and damaged seeds was estimated by taking sample of 1 kg of seeds that collected from the threshed seeds to determine the seed damage cracked percent, and the cleaning efficiency was considered.

Threshing efficiency (η_{th}):

It can be calculated by using the following equation:

$$\eta_{\scriptscriptstyle th} = rac{W-W_1}{W} imes 100$$

Where:

W = The total weight of the seeds (gm).

 $W_1 = Mass$ of un-threshed from the seeds (gm).

Cleaning efficiency (η_{cl}) :

It can be determined using the following equation:

$$\eta_{cl} = \frac{W_1}{W_o} x100$$

Where:

 W_l = Weight of seeds from the main output opening after cleaning (gm).

 W_O = Weight of the seeds small chaff from the main output opening (gm).

Fuel consumption (*Fc*):

It was determined by measuring the volume of fuel required to refill the tank after operation time per each treatment, using a graduated glass cylinder 1000 cm^3 . It was calculated using the following equation:

$$Fc = \frac{V_f}{T} \times 3.6$$
 , (L/h)

Where:

 V_{f} : Volume of fuel consumption, (cm³).

T: Time of operations,(s)

Engine power:

The required power was calculated using the following formula (**Barger**, et al.,1963):

$$P = Wf \times c.v. \times \eta_{th} \times \frac{427}{75} \times \frac{1}{1.36}, (kW)$$

Where:

Wf = Rate of fuel consumption, (kg/s)

c.v. = Calorific value of fuel in Kcal/kg of fuel.

427 = Thermo-mechanical equivalent, (Kg.m/ Kcal).

 η_{th} = Thermal efficiency of the engine.(%).

Specific Energy Requirement: It can be calculated by the following equation:

Specific energy requirements =
$$\frac{Power required (kw)}{Effective field capacity (fed / h)}$$
, (kW.h/ fed)

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-Costs

The cost of mechanized process was based on the initial cost of machine, interest on capital, cost of fuel and oil consumed, cost of maintenance, and wage of operator according to the following formula (Awady, 1978):

$$C = \frac{p}{h} \left(\frac{1}{a} + \frac{i}{2} + t + r \right) + \left(0.9W \times s \times f \right) + \frac{m}{144}$$

Where:

C= Hourly cost, L.E/h.

P= price of machine, L.E

h = Yearly working hours, h/year.

a = Life expectancy of the machine, year.

i = Annual interest rate, %.

t= Annual taxes, over heads rate, %.

r = Annual repairs and maintenance rate, %.

f = fuel price, L.E.

0.9= A factor including reasonable estimation of the oil consumption in addition to fuel.

W= Engine power, hp.

S= Specific fuel consumption, L/hp. h.

m= Monthly average wage, L.E.

144= Reasonable estimation of monthly working hours.

Hence, the creterion cost can be determined as following:

The creterion costs,L.E/Mg = $\frac{\text{Machine cost},(\text{L.E/h})}{\text{Machine productivity},(Mg/h)}$

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1-Effect of different planting methods on some plant characteristics and germination ratio:

The obtained results in Table (2) showed that the highest germination ratio of 96 % was recorded under the manual method, while it decreased to 94 and 91.5 % under pneumatic planter and seed drill respectively. This is may be due to the effect of the friction and compact forces between seeds and feeding system that may be caused a damage on the seeds and that leads to reduce the germination ratio in case of using seed drill and pneumatic planter.

Coefficient of variation

The obtained results in Table (2) show that the values of distribution uniformity were 11.32, 17.01 and 23.9 % for the pneumatic planter, seed drill and manual planting, respectively. That is because the distance between seeds in the same row can be controlled in the case of using pneumatic planter better than the others.

-Crop yield

It is cleared from Table (2) that the obtained values of yield were 1206.24, 1440.81, and 1337.99 kg/fed under manual planting, pneumatic planter, and seed drill, respectively. The high total yield with the use of pneumatic planter was attributed to the high number and weight of seed per plant. So, the mechanical planting using pneumatic planter is the advisable method for planting bean because of its high resulting yield.

2-Effect of harvesting method on field capacity and efficiency:

Fig.(3) shows that the effect of forward speed of the harvesting machine on both field capacity and efficiency for manual and mechanical methods of harvesting. The obtained results for mechanical methods showed a drop in field efficiency with a consequent sharp rise in the field capacity as the forward speed increased. The increase of forward speed from 2.9 to 5.1 Km/h was followed with an increase in field capacity values from 0.870 to 1.210 fed/h for rear-mounted mower and a decrease in field efficiency values from 84.04 to 66.42 % under the same previous condition was occurred. The major reason for the reduction in field efficiency is due to the less consumption of the theoretical operation time in comparison with the other items of time losses. The average forward speed of 2.9 Km/h is recommended because increasing it more than 2.9 will decrease the field efficiency, while decreasing it less than 2.9 Km/h will decrease the field capacity and increase the field efficiency.

Donting mothods	C.V	Germination ratio	Crop yield
r lanting methous	(%)	(%)	(kg/fed)
Manual planting	23.9	96	1206.24
Pneumatic planter	11.32	94	1440.81
seed drill	17.01	91.5	1337.99

Table (2):Effect of planting methods on some plant characteristics



Fig.(3):The effect of forward speed on field capacity and field efficiency at moisture content of 14.86 %.

3-Effect of different operating parameters on harvesting losses:

Fig.(4) showed that the manual harvesting at forward speed of 0.19 Km/h., and seed moisture content of 14.86% gave seed losses of 0.76, 1.00, and 0.65% under the manual planting, pneumatic planter, and seed drill, respectively. For the mechanical harvesting by using tractor-mounted mower, it was found that increasing forward speed from 2.9 to 5.1 Km/h., moisture content of 14.86% increased seed losses from 6.44 to 10.45%, from 5.45 to 8.36%, and from 6.18 to 9.26% under manual planting, pneumatic planter and seed drill, respectively. The increase of grain losses by increasing forward speed may be attributed to the excessive load of plants on the cutter bar and in the same time, increasing the impact times of cutter bar with plants per unit of time. On the other hand, it noticed that the lowest harvesting losses were occurred with the manual harvesting. Relating to the effect of seed moisture content on harvesting losses, Fig.(5) Show that, the increase of seed moisture content caused a clear decrease in harvesting losses.



Fig.(4):Effect of harvesting methods and forward speeds on harvesting losses under different planting methods at moisture content of 14.86%.





For the manual harvesting, increasing moisture content from 10.87 to 20.43 %, at forward speed of 0.19 km/h decreased the harvesting losses from 1.31 to 0.53 %, from 1.64 to 0.71 %, and from 1.19 to 0.47% under manual planting, pneumatic planter, and seed drill, respectively.

Regarding to the mechanical harvesting using rear mounted mower, the increase of moisture content from 10.87 to 14.86 % at forward speed of 2.9 Km/h, decreased harvesting losses from 8.59 to 6.44 %, from 7.36 to 5.45 %,

and from 8.03 to 6.18 % under manual planting, pneumatic planter, and seed drill, respectively. Also, increasing the moisture content from 14.86 to 20.43 % at the same speed increased harvesting losses from 6.44 to 7.3%, from 5.45 to 6.26% and from 6.18 to 6.91% under the same previous treatments. So, the moisture content of 14.86% and the average of forward speed of 2.9 km/h will be recommended for harvesting the bean crop by using the tractor mounted mower.

4-Effect of different operating parameters on threshing losses and threshing efficiency:

- Un-threshed pods

Fig.(6) show the relationship between un-threshed pods and different drum speeds at different seed moisture contents. The obtained results revealed that both drum speed and seed moisture content affected deeply on the percentage of un-threshed pods. The highest value of un-threshed pods of 6.25 %, was observed under the high level of seed moisture content of 17.82 %, and the low drum speed of 8.37 m/s, while the lowest value of 0.64 %, was recorded under the low seed moisture content of 8.61% and the high drum speed of 12.56 m/s.

-Mechanical seed damage

Fig. (7) Show the relationship between seed damage and different drum speeds at different seed moisture contents. It is noticed that minimum values of mechanical seed damage were recorded at low drum speeds of 8.37 m/sec (400r.p.m.), and high seed moisture content of 17.82%.

-Total threshing losses

Fig. (8) show the relationship between total losses (including un-threshed pods and damaged seeds) and different drum speeds at different seed moisture contents. It is noticed that the minimum threshing losses of 7.06% can be achieved at a drum speed of 10.47 m/s (500 r.p.m.) and seed moisture content of 11.33%.

-Effect of different operating parameters on threshing efficiency:

Threshing efficiency was affected by many variables such as drum speed and seed moisture content. Fig.(9) indicated that the threshing efficiency increased from 93.75 to 96.42%, 96.83 to 98.38%, and 98.33 to 99.36% by increasing drum speed from 8.37 to 12.56 m/s, at average seed

moisture content of 17.82, 11.33 and 8.61%, respectively. On the other hand, threshing efficiency decreased by increasing seed moisture content, where the seeds cannot be separated easily as results, the percentage of un-threshed grains increased.



Fig.(6):Effect of drum speed and different seed moisture contents on the un-threshed pods.



Fig. (7): Effect of drum speed and different seed moisture contents on the mechanical seed damage.



Fig. (8):Effect of drum speed on threshing losses using different seed moisture contents.





5-Effect of different operating parameters on cleaning efficiency:

Fig.(10) show the relation between cleaning efficiency and different drum speeds at different seeds moisture contents. The cleaning efficiency increased from 90.68 to 94.33, 93.45 to 96.2, and 95.36 to 98.39 %, at seed moisture content of 17.82, 11.33, and 8.61 %, respectively by increasing drum speed from 8.37 to 12.56 m/s.From the previous data of the threshing process, it can be concluded that, the range of moisture content from 8.61 to 11.33 % and the drum speed of 10.47 m/s, are considered the optimum operating conditions to minimize the losses percentage.



Fig. (10): Effect of drum speed on cleaning efficiency under different seed moisture contents

6-Energy requirement for different bean mechanization systems:

Fig.(11) show that the total energy requirement to produce one mega gram of dry bean for the used treatments can be arranged in descending order as follows: H, B, E, G, D, and A. It is clear that the treatment (H) (mechanical planting by seed drill + mechanical harvesting by tractor mounted-mower + threshing by threshing machine) required the highest value of energy (47.90 kW.h/Mg), while treatment (A) (manual planting + manual harvesting + threshing by threshing machine) required the lowest value of energy (22.90 kW.h/Mg).

6-Cost analysis for bean production

The cost of the field machinery is dependent on many factors due to the machine conditions and the mechanization system.Fig.(12) represents the cost per unit of production for the different treatments. The cost of production per ton of yield can be arranged in descending order of the treatments as follows: A (305.38 L.E. /Mg), G (206.25 L.E. /Mg), D (188.01 L.E/ton), B (171.65 L.E/Mg), H (80.55 L.E/Mg), and E (70.64 L.E./Mg), respectively. Treatments B, D, E, G, and H reduced the cost of operation by 43.79, 38.43, 76.86, 32.46, and 73.623 %, respectively, comparing to the conventional treatment A (305.38 L.E. /Mg). From this results, it is evident that treatment E (mechanical planting by pneumatic planter + mechanical harvesting by tractor mounted mower + mechanical threshing by threshing machine) recorded the lowest value of cost per unit production (70.64 L.E./Mg).



Fig.(11):Energy requirement for produce 1Mg of bean under the different treatments.





CONCLUSION

The obtained results showed that:

1- Treatment(E) that including the mechanical planting by Pneumatic planter + Rear-tractor mounted mower + mechanical threshing by threshing machine is recommended for production dry bean crop under Egyptian conditions as it requires minimum cost (70.64 L.E./Mg) and a high percent of return (profit 76.86 %) comparing with the other treatments.

2- Seed moisture content of 14.86 % and forward speed of 2.9 km/h are recommended for harvesting the dry bean crop to minimize seed losses.

3- Drum speed of 10.47 m/s (500 r.p.m.) and seed moisture content of 11.33 % are recommended for threshing dry bean crop as it recorded both the minimum losses and consumed energy of 7.06 % and 23.13 kW.h./fed respectively.

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الملخص العربي

دراسة عن ميكنة محصول الفاصوليا تحت الظروف المصرية

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أجريت التجربة لزراعة وحصاد ودراس محصول الفاصوليا تحت الظروف المصرية خلال موسم ٢٠٠٩- ٢٠١٠ في مساحة ١,٥ فدان في أرض طينية خفيفة (صفراء) بمركز ديرب نجم -محافظة الشرقية. كانت أهداف الدراسة هي اختيار أنسب طريقة لزراعة وحصاد ودراس محصول الفاصوليا للحصول على أعلى إنتاجية و أعلى كفاءة حقلية ممكنة مع در اسة تأثير كل من المحتوى الرطوبي للحبوب والسرعات الامامية المختلفة على الفواقد الحقلية عند الحصاد وكذلك دراسة تأثير كل من المحتوى الرطوبي للحبوب والسرعات المختلفة للدرفيل على الفواقد الحقلية عند الدر إس مع العمل على خفض كل من التكاليف و الطاقة المستخدمة و ذلك من خلال إختيار النظام الامثل لمبكنة محصول الفاصوليا وقد أجريت التجرية بإ ستخدام المعاملات الآتية: (A) زراعة يدوى + حصاد يدوى + در اس بآلة الدر اس الثابتة. (B) زير اعة يدوى + حصاد بالمحشة الخلفية للجر إر + در اس بآلة الدراس الثابتة. (D) زراعة آلية في جور (البذارة الهوائية) + حصاد يدوى + دراس بألة الدراس الثابتة. (E) زراعة آلية في جور (البذارة الهوائية) + حصاد بالمحشة الخافية للجرار + دراس بآلة الدراس الثابتة. (G) تسطير آلى (السطارة) + حصاد يدوي + دراس بآلة الدراس الثابتة. (H) تسطير آلى (السطارة) + حصاد بالمحشة الخافية للجرار + دراس بآلة الدراس الثابتة ،حيث تم تقييم المعاملات من حيث تأثير طرق الزر اعة على بعض صفات النبات و إنتاجية المحصول و ايضـاً تـأثير طرق الحصاد والسرعات الامامية للآلة ونسبة رطوبة البذور على فواقد الحصاد بالإضافة إلى تأثير بعض العوامل على عملية الدراس (نسبة الرطوبة للبذور – سرعة الدرفيل) مع الأخذ في الإعتبار كل من الطاقة المطلوبة لعمليات الميكنة المختلفة لمحصول الفاصوليا و التكاليف المطلوبة لهذة العمليات. ومن خلال النتائج التي تم التوصل إليها ، يوصبي باستخدام المعاملة (E) (زراعة آلية في جور (البذارة الهوائية) + حصاد بالمحشة الخلفية للجرار + دراس بالة الدراس الثابتة) لإنتاج الفاصوليا تحت الظروف المصرية ، حيث أنها سجلت أقل قيمة للتكاليف مقارنة بباقي المعاملات المستخدمة. كما يوصبي بحصباد محصول الفاصوليا عند نسبة رطوبة (١٤,٨٦ ٪) وسرعة أمامية لآلة الحصاد (٢,٧ كم/ساعة) حيث أنها سجلت أقل قيمة للفواقد الحقلية للبذور وكذلك يوصى بدراس محصول الفاصوليا عند نسبة رطوبة (١١,٣٣٪) وسرعة در فيل ٥٠٠ لفة/ دقيقة (٤٧، ١، <٢٠) حيث أنها سجلت القيم المناسبة من القدرة وفواقد البذور

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