

## RESEARCH REGARDING THE INFLUENCE OF MINERAL FERTILISATION ON THE WHEAT PRODUCTION UNDER PEDOCLIMATIC CONDITIONS IN THE ALMĂJ DEPRESSION

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**Abstract.** *The research covered the reaction to fertilisation of an autumn wheat variety assortment, on an alluvial soil type. The study results highlighted the fact that in the area where the research was carried out, panification wheat can be obtained from all researched varieties. The yield increase insured by nitrogen fertilisers, applied on a P<sub>60</sub>K<sub>60</sub> background resulted in an average of 13.2 kg grains/1 kg N s.a. at a N<sub>75</sub> dosage and 13.6 kg grains/1 kg N s.a. at a N<sub>150</sub> dosage for all 5 varieties during the 3 experimental years. When applying a N<sub>75</sub> dose, the protein quantity increased by 42%, leading to a 163 kg/ha difference when compared to the control variant. Upon doubling the nitrogen dose to N<sub>150</sub>, the protein quantity was increased by 113%, determining a 337 kg/ha difference, in comparison with the No variant. Both differences were insured as highly significant.*

**Key words:** *wheat, fertilisation, technology, pedoclimatic conditions*

### INTRODUCTION

The special importance of wheat for the food industry is given by the fact that it is nutritional, concentrated and can easily be turned to suitable food. More than any other plant, wheat has been used as human food since ancient times, remaining inseparable from civilised man during the course of his history. Wheat is one of the most important crop plants, and represents the food basis for the majority of the world's population (BILTEANU, 1991, IMBREA, 2014).

Due to the fact that wheat represents an old crop, man managed to improve its production and other agronomical characteristics, at first through selection. Only recently did we bestow a special attention to its nutritional quality. The wheat's nutritional value was improved by a continual increase in protein content of the grain and by improving the protein quality through raising the insufficient amino-acid content, especially lysine (PIRSAN, 2016, DAVID, 2016).

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The experimental field was located on a typical alluvial soil, on fluvial clay-sandy deposits, humid phreatic, clay – sandy in Ap, with a depth of 3 – 5 m of the underground water level. The research objectives were to contribute in the establishment of variety structure and the optimization of their fertilisation, as well as of the effects of this important technological link on the grain quality.

We studied the influence of variable nitrogen fertiliser doses, applied on a constant P<sub>60</sub>K<sub>60</sub> background on common wheat varieties, all pertaining to the species *Triticum aestivum* vulgare:

Factor A –cultivated variety

- A<sub>1</sub> – Alex
- A<sub>2</sub> – Ciprian
- A<sub>3</sub> – Dropia
- A<sub>4</sub> – NS 40S
- A<sub>5</sub> – Renesansa

Factor B – fertilisation level

- b<sub>1</sub> – N<sub>0</sub>P<sub>60</sub>K<sub>60</sub>
- b<sub>2</sub> – N<sub>75</sub>P<sub>60</sub>K<sub>60</sub>
- b<sub>3</sub> – N<sub>150</sub>P<sub>60</sub>K<sub>60</sub>

The preceding plant was grain corn, the most frequent rotation in the area. Waste incorporation in the soil was achieved through 23-25 cm furrowing, and the seedbed was prepared with the disc harrow. Phosphorus and potassium fertilisers were applied under the furrow, and the nitrogen ones, half a dose upon preparing the seedbed and the other half in spring. Seeding happened during the second decade of October, with 600 w.g./m<sup>2</sup> at a 12.5 cm distance. During vegetation, we used Granstar Super 50 SG herbicide, 40 g/ha.

Physical analyses regarding the mass of 1000 grains (MMB) and hectolitre mass (MH) were carried out, as well as chemical analyses regarding the gross protein weight (%); humid gluten content (%); deforming indices (mm) and fall indices (sec.). We used international determination methods, accepted by I.S.T.A.

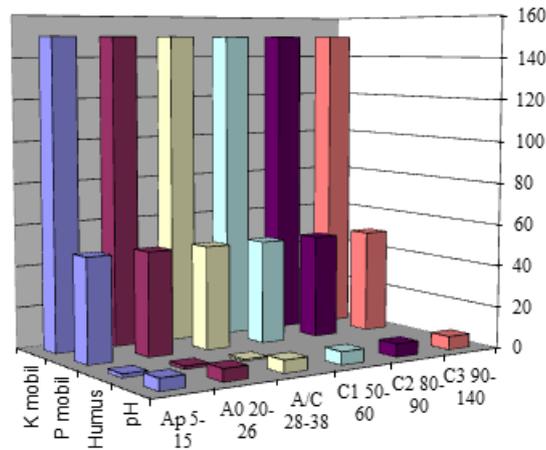


Figure 1. Results of soil chemical analysis in experimental field

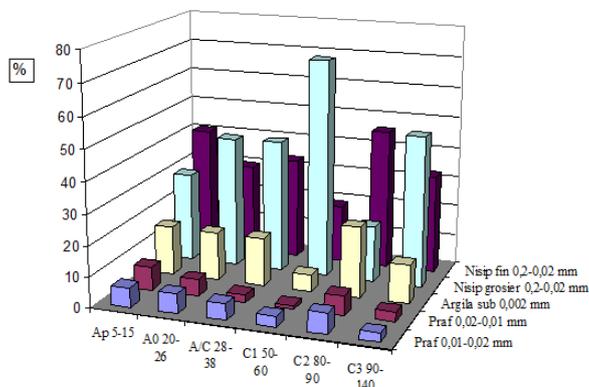


Figure 2. Results of soil physical analysis in experimental field

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

Synthesis results from a two year experimental cycle, which, under climatic aspects, presented important deviations from the multiannual averages, presented in table 1, highlight the fact that by proper variety selection and fertilisation one may obtain yields of over 5500 kg/ha in panification wheat. At this level, the wheat crop is economically motivating for the cultivars in the area.

As an average, at the tested fertilisation levels, the varieties Alex, Ciprian și iDropia produced harvests of over 4400 kg/ha. Yield differences between the three varieties were small, insignificant.

Table 1

Synthesis of results obtained during the experimental cycle 2016-2017

| Factor A<br>Experimental<br>variety | Factor B – Nitrogen dose                       |   |  | Factor A averages |     |                     |              |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|--|-------------------|-----|---------------------|--------------|
|                                     | N <sub>0</sub> P <sub>60</sub> K <sub>60</sub> | N <sub>75</sub> P <sub>60</sub> K <sub>60</sub> | N <sub>150</sub> P <sub>60</sub> K <sub>60</sub> | Yield<br>kg/ha    | %   | Difference<br>kg/ha | Significance |
| Alex                                | 3202   | 4181  | 5272   | 4418              | 100 |                     |              |
| Ciprian                             | 3442   | 4542  | 5544   | 4509              | 102 | 91                  |              |
| Dropia                              | 3341   | 4469  | 5417   | 4409              | 100 | -90                 |              |
| NS 40S                              | 2657   | 3538  | 4757   | 3650              | 83  | -768                | 0            |
| Renesansa                           | 3047   | 3920  | 4955   | 3974              | 90  | -444                |              |

DL5% = 651 kg/ha DL1% = 926 kg/ha DL0,1% = 1341 kg/ha

Factor B averages

| Specification    | N <sub>0</sub> P <sub>60</sub> K <sub>60</sub> | N <sub>75</sub> P <sub>60</sub> K <sub>60</sub> | N <sub>150</sub> P <sub>60</sub> K <sub>60</sub> |
|------------------|--|---|--|
| Yield kg/ha      | 3137   | 4130  | 5189   |
| %                | 100  | 132   | 165  |
| Difference kg/ha |  | 993   | 2050   |
| Significance     |  | XXX   | XXX  |

DL5% = 376 kg/ha DL1% = 534 kg/ha DL0,1% = 774 kg/ha

The Serbian varieties under study under the conditions of the Almăj depression proved less adaptable, average yields with these varieties amounting to under 4000 kg/ha, respectively 3974 kg/ha with the Renesansa variety and 3650 kg/ha with the NS 40S variety.

Regarding the nitrogen fertilisers applied on a constant P<sub>60</sub>K<sub>60</sub> background, the results indicate a good capitalization by the studied varieties.

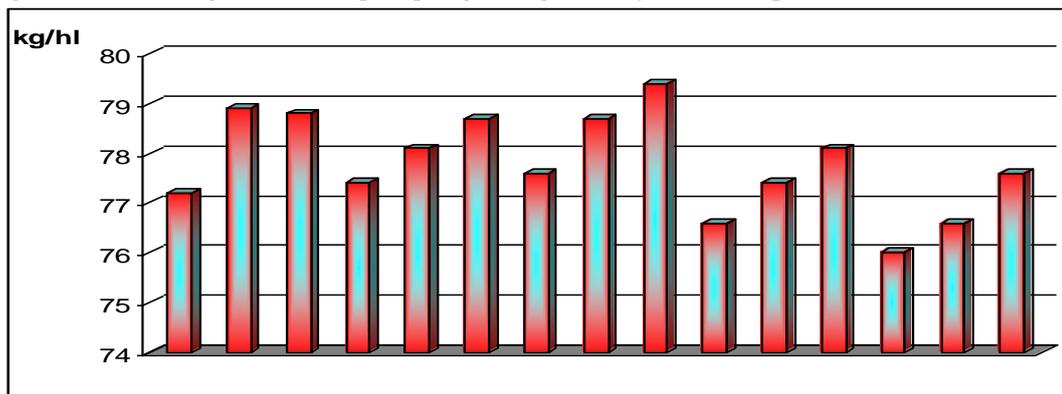
As an average, for the 5 varieties under study, the application of a N<sub>75</sub> dose, increased the harvest by 32%, determining a 993 kg/ha yield difference, statistically insured as very significant. When doubling the nitrogen fertiliser dose to N<sub>150</sub>, on the same P<sub>60</sub>K<sub>60</sub> background, a yield increase of 65% resulted, which coincides with a yield difference of 2052 kg/ha from the control variant, insured statistically as very significant.

It is remarkable, that with the variant fertilised with N<sub>150</sub>P<sub>60</sub>K<sub>60</sub>, the average for the experimental cycle with less than favourable climatic conditions, the Romanian varieties resulted in a harvest of over 5000 kg/ha (Ciprian 5544 kg/ha, Dropia 5417 kg/ha and Alex 5272 kg/ha). Among the Serbian varieties, the Renesansa variety was singled out, where the average yield per experimental cycle was of 4955 kg/ha, for the variant fertilised with N<sub>150</sub>P<sub>60</sub>K<sub>60</sub>.

In conclusion, in the studied area, among the experimental varieties we recommend Ciprian, Alex and Dropia which can produce harvest of 5500-6000 kg/ha when fertilised with N<sub>150</sub>P<sub>60</sub>K<sub>60</sub>.

The hectolitre mass variation depending on variety and nitrogen dose applied on a P<sub>60</sub>K<sub>60</sub> background.

The hectolitre mass is an important index, which allows us to appreciate the wheat quality based on a physical criterion. In conclusion, all varieties presenting values over 75 kg/hl, will deliver a good flour output upon grinding and may be used in panification.



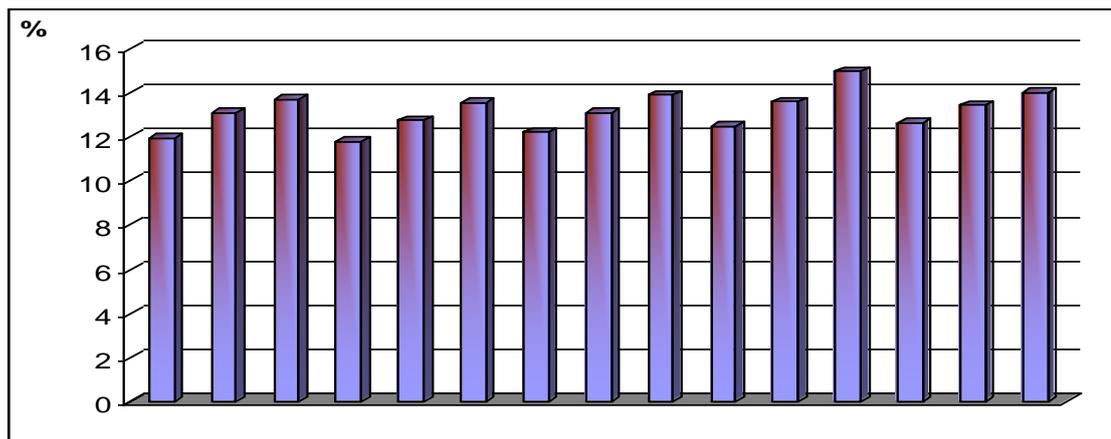
|                | Alex                            |                 |                  | Ciprian                         |                 |                  | Dropia                          |                 |                  | NS 40S                          |                 |                  | Renesansa                       |                 |                  |
|----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
|                | N <sub>0</sub>                  | N <sub>75</sub> | N <sub>150</sub> | N <sub>0</sub>                  | N <sub>75</sub> | N <sub>150</sub> | N <sub>0</sub>                  | N <sub>75</sub> | N <sub>150</sub> | N <sub>0</sub>                  | N <sub>75</sub> | N <sub>150</sub> | N <sub>0</sub>                  | N <sub>75</sub> | N <sub>150</sub> |
|                | P <sub>60</sub> K <sub>60</sub> |                 |                  | P <sub>60</sub> K <sub>60</sub> |                 |                  | P <sub>60</sub> K <sub>60</sub> |                 |                  | P <sub>60</sub> K <sub>60</sub> |                 |                  | P <sub>60</sub> K <sub>60</sub> |                 |                  |
| Mean (H) kg/hl | 77.2                            | 78.9            | 78.8             | 77.4                            | 78.1            | 78.7             | 77.6                            | 78.7            | 79.4             | 76.6                            | 77.4            | 78.1             | 76.0                            | 76.6            | 77.6             |
| X              | 78.3                            |                 |                  | 78.3                            |                 |                  | 78.5                            |                 |                  | 77.3                            |                 |                  | 76.7                            |                 |                  |

Figure 3. Hectolitre mass variation according to variety and nitrogen dose determined during the experimental cycle 2016-2017

Protein content variation and production depending on variety and nitrogen dose

Since the protein content is specific to every variety, but also highly influenced by the applied technology and climatic conditions, it ranged, in the field researched during the experimental cycle, between extreme the values of 10.9% and 14.80%.

Nitrogen fertilisers, applied in doses of N<sub>75</sub> and N<sub>150</sub> on a P<sub>60</sub>K<sub>60</sub> background, were well capitalized by the studied varieties, and contributed to the increase in protein content under the conditions of a soil with good natural fertility, on which the research were carried out.



|           | Alex                            |                 |                  | Ciprian                         |                 |                  | Dropia                          |                 |                  | NS 40S                          |                 |                  | Renesansa                       |                 |                  |
|-----------|---------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
|           | N <sub>0</sub>                  | N <sub>75</sub> | N <sub>150</sub> | N <sub>0</sub>                  | N <sub>75</sub> | N <sub>150</sub> | N <sub>0</sub>                  | N <sub>75</sub> | N <sub>150</sub> | N <sub>0</sub>                  | N <sub>75</sub> | N <sub>150</sub> | N <sub>0</sub>                  | N <sub>75</sub> | N <sub>150</sub> |
|           | P <sub>60</sub> K <sub>60</sub> |                 |                  | P <sub>60</sub> K <sub>60</sub> |                 |                  | P <sub>60</sub> K <sub>60</sub> |                 |                  | P <sub>60</sub> K <sub>60</sub> |                 |                  | P <sub>60</sub> K <sub>60</sub> |                 |                  |
| % protein | 11.96                           | 13.07           | 13.69            | 11.76                           | 12.73           | 13.51            | 12.20                           | 13.10           | 13.88            | 12.49                           | 13.58           | 14.95            | 12.63                           | 13.43           | 14.00            |
| X         | 12.90                           |                 |                  | 12.66                           |                 |                  | 13.06                           |                 |                  | 13.67                           |                 |                  | 13.35                           |                 |                  |

Figure 4. Variation in crude protein content according to variety and nitrogen dose determined during the experimental cycle 2016-2017

Table 2. provides the result synthesis regarding the protein quantity during the experimental cycle 2016-2017, depending on variety and nitrogen fertilisation level on a constant P<sub>60</sub>K<sub>60</sub> background.

The data presented show that the extreme values ranged between 331 kg/ha in the control variant (N<sub>0</sub>P<sub>60</sub>K<sub>60</sub>) with the NS 40S variety and 769 kg/ha, with the fertilised variant N<sub>150</sub>P<sub>60</sub>K<sub>60</sub>, with the Ciprian variety.

Nitrogen fertilisers applied on a P<sub>60</sub>K<sub>60</sub> background increased the protein content and grain production, and as such also increased the protein quantity per hectare which grew at the same time as the dosage, in the researched field.

*Table 2*

Synthesis of results on the amount of protein (kg /ha) obtained during the experimental cycle 2016-2017

| Factor A<br>Variety | Factor B – Nitrogen doses                            |   |   | Average factor A    |     |                  |              |
|---------------------|--|---|---|---------------------|-----|------------------|--------------|
|                     | N <sub>0</sub> P <sub>60</sub> K <sub>60</sub><br>60 | N <sub>75</sub> P <sub>60</sub> K <sub>60</sub><br>60 | N <sub>150</sub> P <sub>60</sub> K <sub>60</sub><br>0 | Protein yield kg/ha | %   | Difference kg/ha | Significance |
| Alex                | 384  | 545   | 721   | 550                 | 100 |                  |              |
| Ciprian             | 408  | 579   | 769   | 585                 | 106 | 35               | XX           |
| Dropia              | 408  | 585   | 745   | 579                 | 105 | 29               | XX           |
| NS 40 S             | 331  | 494   | 672   | 499                 | 91  | -51              | 00           |
| Revensansa          | 383  | 526   | 694   | 534                 | 97  | -16              | 0            |

DL5% = 13 kg/ha DL1% = 29 kg/ha DL0,1% = 92 kg/ha

Average factor B

| Specification       | N <sub>0</sub> P <sub>60</sub> K <sub>60</sub> | N <sub>75</sub> P <sub>60</sub> K <sub>60</sub> | N <sub>150</sub> P <sub>60</sub> K <sub>60</sub> |
|---------------------|--|---|--|
| Protein yield kg/ha | 383  | 546   | 720  |
| %                   | 100  | 142   | 213  |
| Difference kg/ha    |  | 163   | 337  |
| Significance        |  | XXX   | XXX  |

DL5% = 38 kg/ha DL1% = 52 kg/ha DL0,1% = 71 kg/ha

### CONCLUSIONS

The study results highlighted the fact that in the area where the research was conducted, with all studied varieties, one can obtain panification wheat.

The yield increase determined by nitrogen fertilisers, applied on a P<sub>60</sub>K<sub>60</sub> background led to an average of 13.2 kg grains/1 kg N s.a. at a N<sub>75</sub> dose and 13.6 kg grains /1 kg N s.a. at a N<sub>150</sub> dose for the 5 varieties during the 3 experimental years.

On applying a N<sub>75</sub> dose, the protein quantity increased by 42%, revealing a 163 kg/ha difference as compared to the control variant. When doubling the nitrogen dose to N<sub>150</sub>, the protein quantity increased by 113%, revealing a 337 kg/ha difference as compared to the variant N<sub>0</sub>.

Also, the protein quantity per hectare represents an important quality indices for wheat, and depends on the cultivated variety, fertilisation level and climatic conditions from the cultivation area.

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