toxicity of excessive sodium of rooting medium. Amendments of Vermicompost and Biogas slurry have shown some reduction of sodium induced inhibitory effects, in present investigation. Chlorophyll analysis of leaves and production of carbohydrate protein etc with respect of various above-mentioned treatments have been undertaken. Vermicompost amendments improved net yield, fresh and dry weight of aerial and underground parts of plants, their chlorophyll, carbohydrate and protein contents both under the saline and non-saline conditions. Keeping in mind economical feasibility one can still obtain permissible economic returns from moderately saline soil, which was so far considered not suitable for ginger production.

ICPS-404 - SALINE AGRICULTURE AND ITS NECESSITY IN IRAN

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Abstract: The rapidly increasing human population in the arid and sub-arid regions of the world has tremendously increased the pressure on the availability of good quality water for human consumption and for agriculture. It is becoming increasingly difficult to grow conventional crops in some saline ecosystems and therefore it is imperative to look for other solutions. In more than 70% of the Iran plateau, people are facing shortage of rainfall, receding the groundwater level, salinisation of soil and water resources, growing demand of water from other sections such as industry, desertification of their lands (rangelands, and arable lands) and day to day pressure in the natural resources is also increasing. On the other side, population of the country is growing rapidly, living standards of society is improving, with advancement of better utilization of resources. In Iran thousand hectares of land are left unused because of accumulation of excess salt on them, or due to dryness of the water resource. The plant coverage of rangelands and forests of Iran particularly in desert areas is reducing regularly. Many villages left due to inefficient agricultural activities. Salinity of groundwater is more serious than that of surface waters. This has been increasing in recent years due to the overdraft and intrusion of the surrounding saline bodies of water. Considering the fact that nearly half of the water used in Iran's agriculture comes from the groundwater, the threat of the effects caused by salinity on the sustainability of crop production in the country becomes evident. This is not limited to Iran; the situation is the same on many other countries in the region. What we are able to do for our nations as agricultural specialists? I think we should looking for the key of this lock in nature of the region, how, the camel adapted to the desert conditions and how did human explore that camel could be used as a mode of transportation in the harsh desert conditions, how did human find date palm trees, in the hot and saline desert? There are thousand of plants and animals species that which have became acclimatized to such conditions and these can be more effectively utilized as crops, forages or domestic animals. The production of halophytes using saline waters and soils, and feeding livestock with them, is one of the most sustainable ways of conservation desert ecosystems and food production for people living in these areas. In this paper I will discuss in reference to Iran about the extent of degradation due to salinity, various approaches adopted to address salinity problems and efforts to introduce cash crop halophytes to sustained management of saline areas.

ICPS-405 - EFFECT OF DROUGHT STRESS AT DIFFERENT TIMES AFTER ANTHESIS ON PHYSIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS IN DIFFERENT WHEAT (*TRITICUM AESTIVUM* L.) CULTIVARS

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