

Comparative effects of poultry manures and mycorrhiza on growth parameters and yields of Peanut (*Arachis hypogea* (L.)) in a Sudano-Sahelian area of Cameroun (Yagoua, Far-North region)

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Abstract: The use of poultry manure as organic amendment and mycorrhiza inoculation to increase plants productivities is increasing. This study was carried out at the SVRA of Yagoua, Far-North of Cameroon. The main objective was to examine the efficiency of mycorrhiza and poultry manure on peanut plant growth and yield. Treatments were: mycorrhiza (20g) and poultry manure (50g) and a control without any substrate. The experimental design was a completely randomized blocks with 3 repetitions. The evaluated parameters were: the germination rate, the plants growth parameters and yield.

Findings in general revealed that, the application of mycorrhiza and poultry manure affected almost all variables observed on growth and yield of peanut. The germination rate was important in amended plots compared to the nonamended control plots. Plants were higher in amended plots compared to control. Moreover, all the amendments increased the numbers of leaves, pods and ramification per plants. Statistical analysis showed that all treatments significantly affected leaves, pods and ramification number per plants at some stage of the peanut plants development ($P < 0.05$). However, only treatments with mycorrhiza significantly increased seeds weight ($p < 0.05$).

Key words: Mycorrhiza, organic fertilizers, Yield, Peanut, poultry manure.

I. INTRODUCTION

Peanuts (*Arachis hypogea* (L.)) are leguminous plants, of the family of Papilionaceae (Fabaceae) used generally as income of resources and food for subsistence (Schilling, 1996, Betdogo *et al.*, 2015). In Africa, peanuts are the first leguminous plants in term of production and human consumption. Leaves rich in phosphorous are highly used for animal feeding and are considered as green manure (Debbabie and Shafchak, 2008). Peanut pulp are applied as organic amendment on salty soil, to improve fertility by increasing carbon, nitrogen, phosphorous contents of soil (Maodo, 2018).

Optimal valorization of this agricultural sub-product may present a benefit in stock farming (Bougoum, 2000). In a rotation crop system, peanut plants are considered as important source of nitrogen incomes for cereals cultures like Millet, Sorghum and Maize (Karimata, 2001).

In Cameroon, peanut is produced in all regions, but the yields remains low (Rapport projet C2D, 2013; Mandimba *et al.*, 1996). The excellent cropping area of peanut in Cameroon is the Soudano-Sahelean zone (Betdogo *et al.*, 2015). However this cultivation is now threatened due to climate change, drastic soil degradation, insect's attacks and rain reduction (Granier *et al.*, 2000; Kasongo *et al.*, 2013). Moreover, the poor knowledge of soils qualities, and the intensives uses of chemical fertilizers is destabilizing this cultivation. In degraded area like the Sudano-Sahelean zone of Cameroon and specially the Sahelean area of Yagoua, mycorrhiza and organic manures maybe useful to improve soil health and soil fertility.

Mycorrhizas are beneficial associations between soils fungi and plants roots. Appear as an alternative to improve soil nutrients availability for plants growth without impacting the environment and human's health. Leguminous plants roots are easily colonized by fungi and the effect of mycorrhiza on leguminous crops is potentially most important than the other groups of plants (Razakatiana, 2019). Moreover, studies showed that mycorrhiza inoculation in poor soils is vital for leguminous plants (Roger *et al.* 2001, Cavagnaro and Martin, 2010, Lü *et al.* 2018, Huang *et al.* 2020). Mycorrhiza inoculation may improve plants growth and productivity by increasing total root length and volume thus, the soil nutrients uptake by plants roots (Wu and He 2010, Cameron *et al.*, 2013, Yang *et al.*, 2015, Heinonsalo *et al.*, 2016, Shao *et al.*, 2018, Li *et al.*, 2019, Huang *et al.*, 2020).

Organic manures like poultry manure also play important role on maintaining soils fertility. Their availability on the soil increase nutrients element like N, P, K, S. Physical, chemical, biological properties of soils and productivities of plants are also improved (Agbede *et al.*, 2008, Lompo *et al.*, 2009, Somda *et al.*, 2017). Some studies revealed that application of poultry manure could enhance soil fertility and improves plants growth and productivity (Dikinya and Mufwanzala, 2010, Yerima *et al.*, 2014). In soil, the decomposition process of poultry manure is faster than the other organic manure and may release higher quantities of plants nutrients in soil, good for plants growth and productivity (Widowati *et al.*, 2005, Dikinya and Mufwanzala, 2010, Yerima *et al.*, 2014, Martin *et al.*, 2014, Adekiya *et al.*, 2016, Fatin *et al.*, 2019).

Thus, the main objective of this research is to evaluate the effects of mycorrhiza and poultry manure amendments on Peanut plants growth and productivity in a degraded and dry area characterized by a very short rainy season (three month), the Sahel zone of Cameroon.

II- MATERIALS AND METHODS

II.1. the study site

The study was conducted at the Valorization Station of Agricultural Research (PSAR) of Yagoua, Mayo-Danay in the Far North region of Cameroon (10°19'45.4" North and 15°15'35.7" East. Altitude of the area is 255 m).

The area is covered by the Sudano-sahelian climate type, characterized by 2 seasons: a rainy season from May to September period, with heavy rains from July to August, followed by a cold season (October to January) and a warm dry season (February to April). Temperatures range from 15°C to 35°C The Vegetation in the area is dominated by *Acacia seyal*, *Butyrospermum parkii*, *Faidherbia albida*, *Anogeissus leocarpus*, *Balanites aegyptiaca*, *Tamarindus indica* and herbaceous like *Andropogon spp.*, *Loutedia togoensis*, *Schoenefel diagracilis* (GIZ, 2017; MINTP, 2017).

The main cultivated crops are Millet (*Pennisetum glaucum*), Sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor*), Maize (*Zea mays*), Peanut (*Arachis hypogea*), Fonio (*Digitaria sp.*), Cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata*) and vegetable crops like Carrot (*Daucus carota*), Watermelon (*Citrullus lanatus*), Tomato (*Lycopersicum esculentum*), Onion (*Allium cepa*), Gombo (*Albelmoschus esculentus*), Lettuce (*Lactuca sativa*), Black nightshade (*Solanum scabrum*) (GIZ, 2017).

II.2 Peanut seeds

For the present study, Peanut (variety JL 24) seeds were collected from Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD) of Yagoua. This variety is considered like late with the cycle of development around 80 to 100 days.

II.3 Mycorrhiza and chicken manures

The selected fungi material for this investigation is a mixture of 04 stumps, *Rhizophagus irregularis* (50 %), *Scutellospora gregaria* (10 %), *Gigaspora margarita* (20 %), *Glomus hoi* (20 %), provided by the GIC AGRIBIO CAM. it is adapted for local sols and is generally in many leguminous ant cereals cropping system in Yagoua. Poultry manure was collected from local farmers.

II.4 Experimental design

A block completely randomized with 3 replications was used with mycorrhiza inoculation and chicken manure. Each block is divided in sub-blocks arranged at distance of 1m and each unit is 2.4 m × 2.5 m = 6 m² (Figure 1). Before sowing, soil was hand mixed at 25 cm of depth. Sowing process was done two weeks after with 40 cm distances between lines and 25 cm between pockets. The total number of plants per unit was 60. Seeds were sowed in soil approx. at 5 cm depth. Weeding has been made every two weeks during the rainy season.

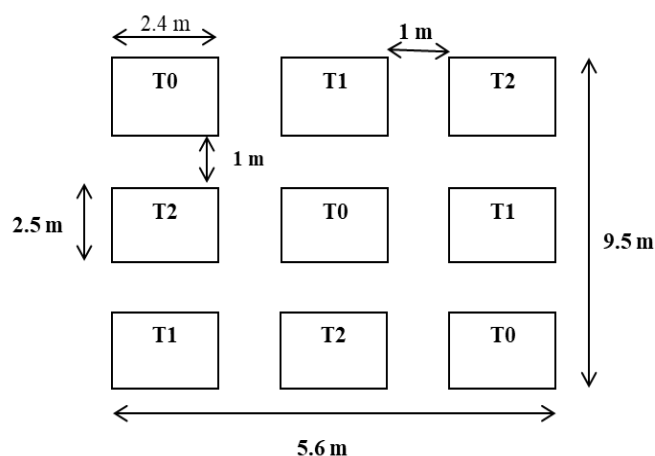


Figure 1: Experimental design (a block completely randomized with 3 replications, each block is divided in sub-blocks arranged at distance of 1m and each unit is 2.4 m × 2.5 m = 6 m²)

II.5 Treatments

The applied quantities of different substrate were measured with an electronic scale (2000*0.1g). Different treatments are indicated in **Table 1**. Treatments are mycorrhiza (T1) and poultry manure (T2) and control without any substrate (T0).

Table 1: Applied treatments and control.

Treatments	Doses
Control (T0)	0g
Mycorrhiza (T1)	20g
poultry manure (T2)	50g

The inoculation processes was done as describe by GIC AGRO-BIOCAM, which consist to coating each seeds with mycorrhiza one hour before sowing. Before sowing, seeds were mixed at 20 g of mycorrhiza with water. Poultry

manure treatments (T2) was applied 2 weeks after sowing at the quantities of 50 g per seeds holes.



a) Water dilution with myco manures.



b) Seeds drying after coating



c) Coating of myco+chicken manures.

Picture 1: Coating peanut seeds with mycorrhiza and applications of mycorrhiza + organic manures on field.

II. 6 Parameters assessment

Germination rate

Germinated seeds and not germinated seeds were counted in order to evaluate the germination rate for the

different treatments and control. Data were collected from 5th day after sowing (DAS) to the 10th day after sowing (DAS).

Germination rate

$$= \frac{\text{Number of seeds germinated}}{\text{number of seed on the try}} \times 100$$

$$\text{Total numbers of pocket} = \text{number of germinated pocket} + \text{number of empty pocket.}$$

Growth parameters

Data on plants height, number of leaves and number of ramification were collected on five plants for each treatment and control, on four sampling campaigns, 20° DAS, 30° DAS, 40° DAS, and 50° DAS at 10 days interval.

Varietal precocity

To evaluate the varietal precocity, parameters were collected on five plants for each treatment starting from the first flowering of the plants (DAS) until the 50 % of plants flowering.

Plants Yields

The yield of plants was evaluated at the end of the cropping season (84 DAS). The number of pods per plant for each treatments and control was evaluated on five plants. For each treatment and control, 100 seeds in total were weighed with an electronic scale (2000*0.1g).

II.7 Statistical analysis

Data analyses were performed using R-cmdr in R software. Significances were tested with ANOVA and subsequent Tukey test for pairs (p<0.05).

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Germination rates

The germination rate of the peanut seeds in the amended plots was higher compared to the nonamended control plots (**Figure 2**). The significantly highest germination rate was recorded on chicken manures treatment followed by the mycorrhiza treatment respectively (P ≤ 0.05). Germination rate at 100 % was not observed, this can be due to the rustic effect of the natural environment of the investigated area.

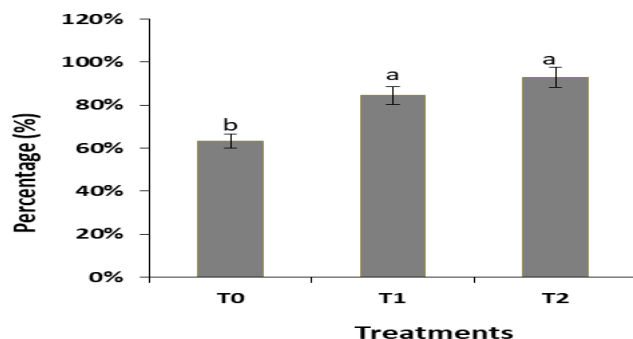


Figure 2: Effects of different types of fertilization on the germination rates. Histograms with the same letter are not significantly different ($P \leq 0.05$; T0 = control; T1 = mycorrhiza; T2 = poultry manures).

3.2 Growth of plants

3.2.1 Effect of treatments on plants height

All treatments applied positively affected peanut plants growth (**Figure 3**). All over the sampling period, peanut plants were higher in amended plots with mycorrhiza and poultry manures compared to nonamended control plots (**Figure 3**). However, the significantly highest plants were recorded in poultry manures treatment ($p < 0.05$).

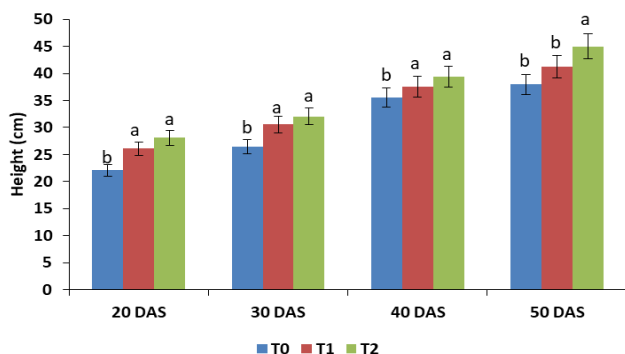


Figure 3: Effect of treatments on plants height. Treatments with the same letter (a or b) are not significantly different at the level of probability considered ($P \leq 0.05$). T0 = control; T1 = mycorrhiza; T2 = poultry manures.

3.2.2 Effect of treatments on the number of leaves

Leaves number per plant in the beginning of the vegetative stage at 20^o DAS and 30^o DAS was higher in amended plots compared to the nonamended control plots (**Figure 4**). At this stage, the significant highest leaves numbers ($p < 0.05$) were recorded in poultry manures followed by mycorrhiza treatment. At 40^o and 50^o DAS leaves number in poultry manures treatment dropped down compared to control plots and mycorrhiza treatments (**Figure 4**). Same result was observed at 40^o DAS in mycorrhiza treatment where leaves number per plant was lower compared to control. For the whole sampling period, mycorrhiza inoculation positively affected the number of leaves per plant better than the poultry manure treatment.

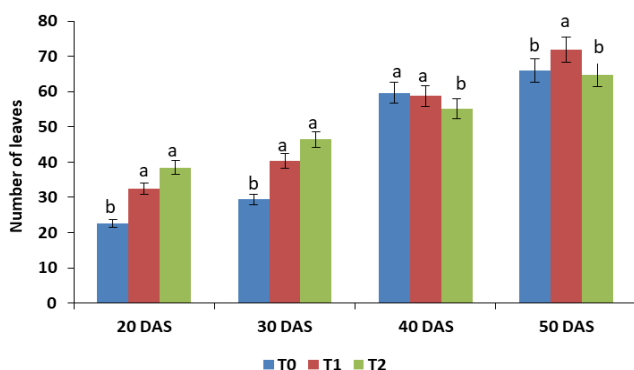


Figure 4: Effect of treatments on leaves number per plants. Treatments with same letter (a or b) are not significantly different at the level of probability considered ($P \leq 0.05$). T0 = control; T1 = mycorrhiza; T2 = poultry manures.

3.2.3 Effect of the treatments on the ramification

The effects of the different treatments on the ramification of peanut plants are showing on **Figure 5**. Compared to the nonamended control plots, mycorrhiza and poultry manure treatments increased the ramification number on peanut plants. Poultry manures compared to mycorrhiza and control plots, in most instances significantly increased the ramification of plants ($p < 0.05$). At the earlier stage of plants growth (20^o and 30^o DAS), poultry manures treatment significantly increased the ramification number on plants ($p < 0.05$). At 40^o and 50^o DAS, the number of ramification per plant was again slightly higher in amended plots compared to control plots excepted at 50^o DAS where it was lower in mycorrhiza treatment. The application of poultry manure as treatment increased the ramification number on peanut plants over the sampling period better than mycorrhiza inoculation.

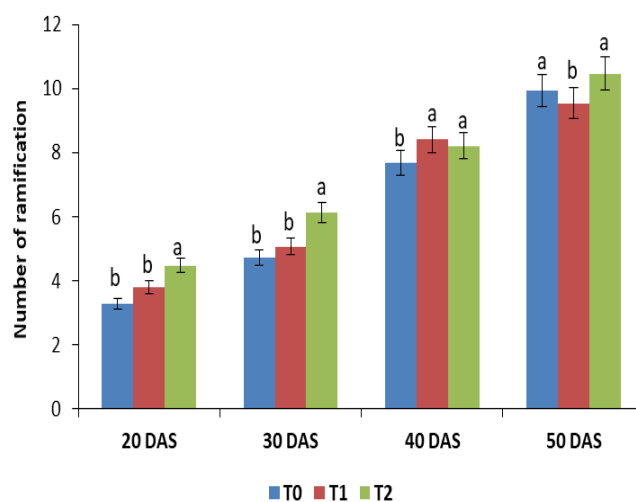


Figure 5: Effect of the different treatments on plants ramification. Treatments same letter (a or b) are not significantly different at the level of probability considered ($P \leq 0.05$). T0 = control; T1 = mycorrhiza; T2 = poultry manures.

3.3 Phenological stages

3.3.1 Effect of treatments on plants flowering

Peanut plants in amended plots flowered earlier than in the nonamended control plots. Compared to control plots and even mycorrhiza treatment, poultry manure treatment reduced the flowering time of peanut plants as the first flower was observed on peanut plants from poultry manure treatment earlier at 23 DAS (**Figure 6a**). In mycorrhiza treatments, first flower appeared at 25 DAS. While, in the nonamended control plots, flowering started a bit later at 27 DAS (**Figure 6a**). Same results were recorded at 50 % of flowering stage (**Figure 6b**). Plants in poultry manure treatment reached 50 % of flowering earlier at 26 DAS compared to mycorrhiza treatment as well as the nonamended control plots in which

peanut plants reached 50 % of flowering at 28 and 31 DAS respectively (**Figure 6b**).

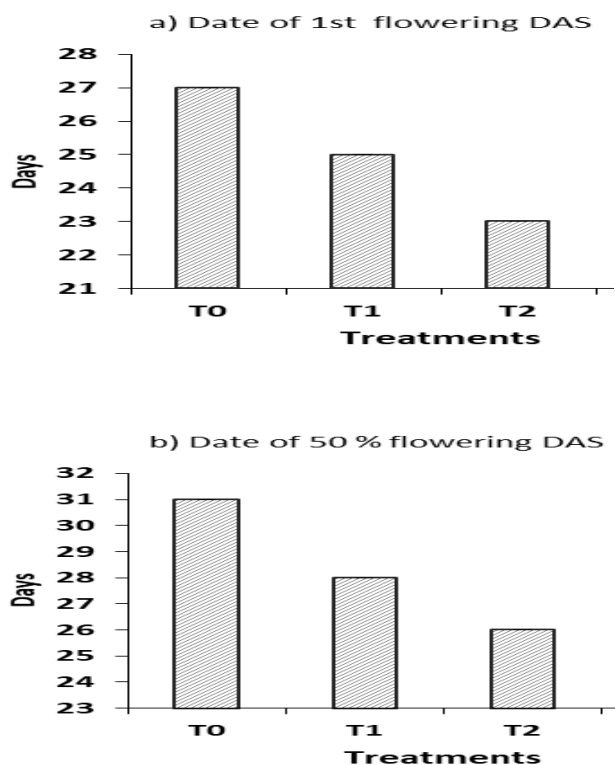


Figure 6: Effect of different amendments on the peanut plants flowering (T0 = control; T1 = mycorrhiza; T2 = poultry manures).

3.4. Yield parameters

3.4.1. Effect of treatments on number of pods per plants.

Mycorrhiza inoculation as well as poultry manure application considerably increased the number of pods per plants (**Figure 7**). ANOVA revealed that, the number of pods per plant was significantly higher in amended plots compared to the nonamended control plots ($p < 0.05$). The highest number of pods per plant was recorded in plots amended with poultry manure followed by mycorrhiza treatment. The lowest number of pods per plant was obtained in control plots ($p < 0.05$).

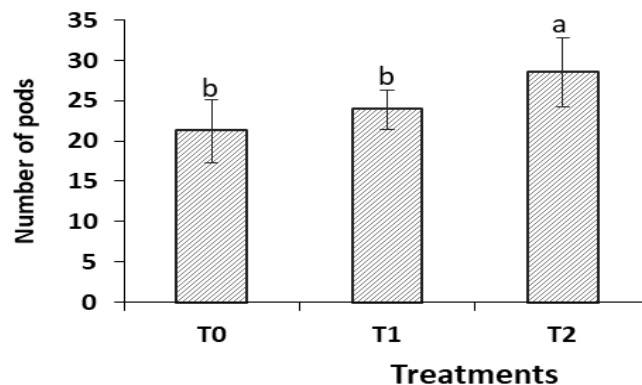


Figure 7: Effect of different types of fertilization on flowering of plants at 50 % (T0 = control; T1 = mycorrhiza; T2 = chicken manures).

3.5 Seed Weight

Seed weight was positively affected only by mycorrhiza inoculation (**Figure 8**). Compared to the nonamended control plots and the poultry manure treatment, significant highest seeds weight was recorded in mycorrhiza treatment ($p < 0.05$). Although non significant, seeds weight in poultry manure treatment was surprisingly lower compared to the nonamended control plots.

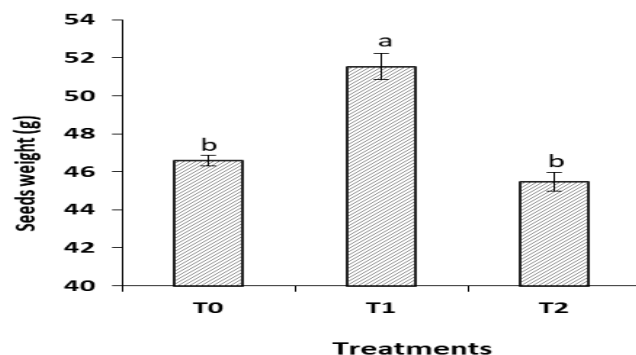


Figure 8: Effect of different types of fertilization on the weight of seeds (T0 = control; T1 = mycorrhiza; T2 = poultry manures).

IV. DISCUSSIONS

First evaluation in field began by the germination rate of peanut seeds and then some growth parameters of the plants and also the productivity. This study showed that the germination rate was greater in amended plots compared to the nonamended control plots. Between the applied treatments, the highest germination rate was observed in poultry manure treatment.

The applied treatments: mycorrhiza and poultry manure increased more or less the peanut plant height compared to the nonamended control plots. This may be due to the positive effect of the poultry manure and mycorrhiza on the physical and chemical properties of soil. Similarly results of Azangue et al. (2019) and Agbede et al. (2008) showed also a positive effect of poultry manure on plant height. Poultry

manure remain rich in nutrient elements (Yerima *et al.*, 2014; Tchuenteu, 2017; Kobierski *et al.*, 2017), hence the degradation of soil. Poultry manure applied in soil may have released good quantities of nutrient elements and that is why, peanut plants grew faster in poultry manure treatment compared to those in mycorrhiza inoculation treatment. This result prove also that mycorrhiza inoculation may stimulate plants growth height and this was proved earlier Haro *et al.* (2012) and Doley and Jite (2012) studies.

Leaves number per peanut plants compared to control plots was significantly higher respectively in poultry manure and mycorrhiza treatment only at the beginning of the vegetative stage at 20° and 30° DAS. While, at 40° and 50° DAS, the counted leaves number per plants in poultry manure treatment dropped down. The same phenomenon was also observed in mycorrhiza treatment but only at 40° DAS. Although Lü *et al.* (2018), reported occasional no positive or depressed effect of mycorrhiza on plants development, similar investigation on poultry manure and mycorrhiza by Agbede *et al.* (2008), Yerima *et al.* (2014), Azangue *et al.* (2019) and Haro *et al.* (2012) and Doley and Jite (2012) revealed opposite results.

Compared to the nonamended control plots, both mycorrhiza inoculation and poultry manure application increased the ramification number on peanut plants. In most instances poultry manures compared to mycorrhiza and control plots, significantly increased the ramification of plants ($p < 0.05$). For the whole sampling period poultry manure treatment increased the ramification number on peanut plants better than mycorrhiza inoculation. These findings show that poultry manure amendment may increase plants biomass, as indicated in previous investigation by Perkasa *et al.* (2016), Biratu *et al.* (2018) and Li *et al.* (2019) respectively, but poultry manure better than mycorrhiza inoculation.

Mycorrhiza inoculation and poultry manure application both positively affected the peanut plants flowering compared to the nonamended control plots. Peanut plants in mycorrhiza and poultry manure treatment flowered and reached the 50 % of flowering earlier than in control plots. However, peanut plants in poultry manure treatment flowered and reached the 50 % of flowering earlier than in mycorrhiza inoculation treatment. Poultry manure amendment boosted all most all the plants growth parameters since the earlier stage of the plants development and consequently the earlier flowering of plants. These results are similar to those of Ndubuaku *et al.* (2015) and Fatin *et al.* (2019).

The number of pods per plants was comparatively higher in mycorrhiza and poultry manure than in the nonamended plots. The significant highest pods number per plant was recorded in poultry manure treatment. Results of Aipa and Michael (2018) prove also positive effect of poultry manure application on peanut yield.

Seed weight was significantly increased in mycorrhiza treatment compared to poultry manure treatment

and control plots. The significant lowest seed weight recorded in poultry manure treatment compared to the control and mycorrhiza treatment was not expected. However, similar studies by Balkcom *et al.* (2003) and Lin *et al.* (2010) with high quantities of poultry manure revealed positive effect of poultry manure on peanut yield. This may be due to the low quantity of the applied poultry manure (50g). This finding may suggest that soil amendment with low quantity of poultry manure may not be long lasting in soil like mycorrhiza. Moreover, study by Li *et al.* (2019) showed that mycorrhiza inoculation in soil had long lasting effect on peanut plants growth and development under continuous cropping systems.

V. CONCLUSION

Results of this investigation showed that, mycorrhiza inoculation [(*Rhizophagus irregularis* (50 %), *Scutellospora gregaria* (10 %), *Gigaspora margarita* (20 %), *Glomus hoi* (20 %)] and poultry manure amendment may be beneficial for peanut plants growth parameters in a sahel area characterized by low organic matter. The expected high yield following soil amendment with poultry manure was not recorded. This was probably due to the low quantity of the applied organic manure. Thus, more researches are needed to check which quantities are more suitable for peanut plants yield in such degraded soil. However, the inoculation of peanut (variety JL24) with a mixture of *Rhizophagus irregularis*, *Scutellospora gregaria*, *Gigaspora margarita* and *Glomus hoi* has to be considered particularly in degraded soils like in the Sahel zone of Cameroon.

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