



The Effect of Cytokinin and Iron on Seed Yield and Accumulation some Elements in Seed of Chickpea Genotypes under Dry land Conditions

Kianoush Hamidian*

Agronomy Expert, Jahad-Agriculture Organization of Lorestan, Khorramabad, Iran.

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND: Chickpea is the second most important legume with numerous economic and nutraceutical properties. Therefore, chickpea production needs to be increased from the current level.

OBJECTIVES: Considering that the amount of nutrients in the seeds of each plant is one of its positive nutritional characteristics, this research was conducted to investigate the role of iron and cytokinin on the increase of iron, zinc and manganese elements.

METHODS: This research was conducted in a factorial experiment using randomized complete blocks design (RCBD) with four replications in Grit Agricultural Services Center located in Eastern-North of Khorramabad of Lorestan province in 2011-12 and 2012-13 cropping seasons. The treatments consisted of three cultivars: (Hashem, Azad and local mass), four levels of iron application [control (lack of consumption), 5, 10 and 15 ppm] and four levels of cytokinin (6-Benzyl aminopurin) [control (lack of consumption), 5, 10 and 15 ppm].

RESULT: The reaction of cultivars regarding the accumulation of iron, zinc and manganese elements in the seed was different compared to iron and cytokinin. The effect of iron and cytokinin was positive on the accumulation of iron in the seed, and the highest amount of iron (with an average of 72.7 mg.kg⁻¹) belonged to the Hashem cultivar and the application of 10 mg.l⁻¹ of iron and 15 mg.l⁻¹ of cytokinin. While with the increase of iron and cytokinin concentration, the amount of zinc and manganese accumulation in the seed decreased and the highest amount of zinc and manganese accumulation was obtained by usage of 5 ppm of iron and cytokinin.

CONCLUSION: The highest seed yield belonged to the local mass with a concentration of 15 mg.l⁻¹ of iron and cytokinin with an average of 179.6 grams per square meter.

KEYWORDS: *Magnesium, Microelements, Protein, Pulse, Zinc.*

1. BACKGROUND

Peas are an inexpensive source of high-quality protein in the diet of millions of people in developing countries who cannot access animal protein for a balanced diet. The percentage of protein varies from 12.4 to 31% in different cultivars and its quality is affected by cultivar and environmental conditions (Mansur *et al.*, 2009). The amount of minerals varies significantly between plant organs and its changes in the vegetative parts of the plant such as leaves, stems and roots are much more than its changes in fruits, seeds and tubers (Salardini and Mojtahedi, 1993). The amount of mineral elements of legumes is more than that of cereals, and seeds are usually rich in mineral elements (Zarinkafsh, 1997). Cytokinins mainly play a role in the formation of two-way cooperation between the plant and the symbiotic bacteria and mycorrhiza and facilitate the transfer of nutrients between the plant and the symbiont (Kraigher *et al.*, 1991). Considering the role of iron in the construction of chlorophyll, spraying iron solution increases the photosynthesis of the plant and more carbohydrates are transferred to the roots, therefore the absorption of nutritional elements by the root increases and as a result the concentration of elements in plant increases (Marshner, 1995). Although most soils contain adequate total iron, the amount that is available for plants is insufficient due to various factors such as low or high soil temperature, high organic matter, low ventilation and soil compaction, high pH, and the amount of bicarbonate and calcium carbonate depends, in addition

to inappropriate soil physical properties, iron deficiency can be attributed to PO_4^- and NO_3^- anions and the concentration of heavy elements such as manganese, zinc, copper, cobalt, nickel and cadmium (Lucena, 2000). Foliar application of an element can improve the root absorption of that element or other elements through root growth and increase the absorption of nutrients, and it is probably 6 to 20 times more useful than soil application, depending on the soil texture (Ziaeyan and Malakouti, 1999). Iron deficiency occurs in different plants depending on several soil, environmental and genetic factors and causes a significant decrease in yield and product quality (Goos and Johnson, 2001). Naeve (2006) stated that foliar feeding of iron is a suitable method to eliminate iron deficiency, but this method is only effective for plants with mild yellowing symptoms (chlorosis) or in a short period of time. Spraying of iron solution and a combination of iron and zinc increased the concentration of iron in black cumin (*Nigella sativa*) leaves (Mousa *et al.*, 2004). Foliar spraying of zinc and iron increased the yield and absorption of nutrients in peanut plants compared to the control, and the combined application of iron and zinc had a greater effect (Attia, 2004). The consumption of sulfur together with iron and zinc increased plant dry matter, seed yield and absorption of nutrients nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, sulfur, iron and zinc in sunflower (Ravi *et al.*, 2008). With the use of zinc sulfate and iron sulfate, seed yield, zinc and iron concentration in wheat seed increased

(Pol Shekane Pahlavan *et al.*, 2006 and Soleimani, 2006). El-Masri *et al.* (2002) reported that iron foliar application increased the concentration of iron in the leaves and stems of beans.

2. OBJECTIVES

Considering that the amount of nutrients in the seeds of each plant is one of its positive nutritional characteristics, this research was conducted to investigate the role of iron and cytokinin on the increase of iron, zinc and manganese elements.

3. MATERIALS AND METHODS

3.1. Field and Treatments Information

This study was performed at Grit Agricultural Services Center (48° 18' long. E; 33°32' lat. N, and 1175 m above sea level) located in 35kilometers Eastern-North of Khorramabad of lorestan province in 2011 and 2012. Experiment was conducted as a factorial experiment in randomized complete block design in four replications. The treatments consisted of three cultivars (Azad (V₁), Hashem (V₂) and Grit local mass (V₃)), four levels of cytokinin hormone [including control (no use, C0), 5 (C1), 10 (C2) and 15 (C3) milligrams per liter] and four levels of iron included(control (no consumption, F0), 5 (F1), 10 (F2) and 15 (F3) milligrams per liter). Each plot consisted of five rows with 6 m length that space between rows and plants space on rows were considered 25 and 15 cm, respectively.

3.2. Farm Management

Planting was done according to current planting date in area and atmospheric conditions in March 23, 2011 and March 13, 2012. Before planting, soil sample prepared from the 0-30 cm depth and were measured the physical and chemical properties of soil (Table 1). In this study, neither macro and nor micro fertilizers were applied. The iron (FeSO₄.7H₂O) was sprayed in 3-4 leaf stage (45 DAP) and cytokinin (6-Benzil aminopurine) sprayed 10 days later.

Table 1. Physical and chemical properties of soil test site (2010-2011: A, 2010-2011:B)

Year	N (%)	P (ppm)	K (ppm)
A	0.085	14.8	342.2
B	0.069	11.4	367.3
Year	Mn (ppm)	Zn (ppm)	S (ppm)
A	8.68	1.58	80.62
B	6.65	0.95	92.45
Year	Fe (ppm)	Humus (%)	pH
A	8.88	1.1	7.6
B	7.42	0.9	7.3

3.3. Measured Traits

In the harvest stage, two side rows and half a meter from the beginning of each plot were removed as marginal effects, then 6 plants were removed and 20 of their seeds were randomly selected and the amount of micro elements was measured in the laboratory using atomic absorption method (AAS) were measured (Bremner, 1996).

3.4. Statistical Analysis

Data were combined analyzed using MSTAT-C software and graphs were drawn using Excel software (Ver.2010). Means were compared using Duncan's Multiple Range Test.

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The results of analysis of variance showed that the triple interaction effects of genotype \times iron \times cytokinin on iron, zinc and manganese accumulation in seed was significant (Table 2).

Table 2. Summary of variance analysis results of treatment effects on studied traits

S.O.V	df	Fe	Zn	Mn	Seed yield
Year (Y)	1	0.137 ^{ns}	0.158 ^{ns}	0.007 ^{ns}	54.39 ^{ns}
Year*Replicate	6	902.35 ^{**}	2.137 ^{ns}	0.09 ^{**}	254.76 ^{ns}
Cultivar	2	3926.35 ^{**}	3.025 ^{**}	34.45 ^{**}	927.4 ^{**}
Year*Cultivar	2	0.0001 ^{ns}	0.0001 ^{ns}	0.0001 ^{ns}	0.006 ^{ns}
Iron	3	1206.09 ^{**}	821.412 ^{**}	33.688 ^{**}	11918.5 [*]
Year*Iron	3	0.0001 ^{ns}	0.001 ^{ns}	0.0001 ^{ns}	0.118 ^{ns}
Iron*Cultivar	6	337.03 ^{**}	64.819 ^{**}	3.857 ^{**}	2158.65 ^{**}
Year*Cultivar*Iron	6	0.0001 ^{ns}	0.0001 ^{ns}	0.0001 ^{ns}	0.052 ^{ns}
Cytokinin	3	241.22 ^{**}	552.052 ^{**}	51.639 ^{**}	11032.09 ^{**}
Year*Cytokinin	3	0.0001 ^{ns}	0.001 ^{ns}	0.0001 ^{ns}	0.07 ^{ns}
Cultivar*Cytokinin	6	23.62 ^{**}	1.121 ^{ns}	0.316 ^{**}	281.27 ^{**}
Year*Cultivar*Cytokinin	6	0.0001 ^{ns}	0.0001 ^{ns}	0.0001 ^{ns}	0.002 ^{ns}
Fe*Cytokinin	9	3.38 ^{**}	11.621 ^{**}	1.389 ^{**}	331.87 ^{**}
Year*Fe*Cytokinin	9	0.0001 ^{ns}	0.0001 ^{ns}	0.0001 ^{ns}	0.003 ^{ns}
Cultivar*Fe*Cytokinin	18	15.28 ^{**}	5.35 ^{**}	0.825 ^{**}	399.18 ^{**}
Year*Cultivar*Fe*Cytokinin	18	0.0001 ^{ns}	0.0001 ^{ns}	0.0001 ^{ns}	0.007 ^{ns}
Error	182	0.662	2.48	1.108	72.72
CV(%)		1.3	4.75	1.5	5.54

^{ns}, * and ** : non-significant, significant at 1 and 5 percent probability level, respectively.

4.1. Iron

The treatment combination of Hashem cultivar with a concentration of 15 mg.l⁻¹ of iron and 5 mg.l⁻¹ of cytokinin with 72.8 mg.kg⁻¹ had the highest amount of iron in seed (Table 3). The Hashem cultivar showed a better reaction in all applied treatments and stored a higher percentage of iron, this ratio was lower in case of Azad cultivar, but response of local mass was very weak. According to modification of new cultivars for more production in high-input conditions (Nooden *et al.*, 1990), the higher accumulation of iron in seeds of Hashem and Azad modified cultivars

can be justified. According positive correlation between cytokinin and delay in aging, as well as the correlation between concentration of cytokinin in roots and aerial organs and significant growth of aerial organs (Lilov and Andonova, 1976), cytokinin through increasing growth period and growth amount was effective on amount of iron accumulation in seed. The positive effect of iron treatment on seeds and aerial parts of various crops, including Sunflower (Ravi *et al.*, 2008), Black cumin (Mousa *et al.*, 2004), Wheat (Pol Shekane Pahlavan, 2006), and Bean (El-Masri *et al.*, 2002) has been reported.

Table 3. The interaction effect of cultivar, iron and cytokinin on the amount of iron element accumulation in the seed based on two-year mean squares

Iron (ppm)	Cytokinin (ppm)	Seed iron concentration (mg.kg ⁻¹)		
		V1	V2	V3
F ₀	C ₀	58.3 ^s	63.19 ^{kl}	50.49 ^{wx}
	C ₁	60.26 ^{pq}	64.02 ^{jk}	49.93 ^x
	C ₂	62.58 ^{lm}	64.48 ^j	51.3 ^w
	C ₃	63.22 ^{kl}	64.84 ^{ij}	52.8 ^v
F ₁	C ₀	64.61 ^j	71.54 ^{no}	50.55 ^{wx}
	C ₁	65.57 ^{hi}	63.12 ^l	50.8 ^w
	C ₂	66.93 ^f	64.89 ^{ij}	52.92 ^v
	C ₃	67.97 ^e	64.3 ^j	53.42 ^v
F ₂	C ₀	70.24 ^c	64.29 ^j	60.04 ^{qr}
	C ₁	71.9 ^{ab}	66.24 ^{fgh}	61.19 ^{no}
	C ₂	72.7 ^a	66.53 ^{fg}	63.29 ^{kl}
	C ₃	72.58 ^a	69.09 ^d	64.93 ^{ij}
F ₃	C ₀	65.94 ^{gh}	61.1 ^{nop}	55.42 ^u
	C ₁	72.8 ^{de}	61.89 ^{mn}	57.38 ^t
	C ₂	71.6 ^b	60.71 ^{opq}	61.76 ^{mn}
	C ₃	71.09 ^b	59.27 ^r	64.6 ^j

*Mean which have a least once common letter are not significant different at the 5% probability level.

V₁: Hashem cultivar, V₂: Azad cultivar and V₃: local mass.

F₀: nonuse of iron, F₁: use 5 mg.l⁻¹ iron, F₂: use 10 mg.l⁻¹ iron and F₃: use 15 mg.l⁻¹ iron.

C₀: nonuse of cytokinin, C₁: use 5 mg.l⁻¹ cytokinin, C₂: use 10 mg.l⁻¹ cytokinin and C₃: use 15 mg.l⁻¹ cytokinin.

Basharat *et al.* (2014) found that the consumption of 1.5% iron in two stages of flowering and branching increased the amount of iron in leaves, stems and seeds of Cowpea. Pahlavan-Rad and Pessaraki (2009) reported a 21% increase in iron in wheat seed due to iron solution spraying.

4.2. Zinc

Treatment combinations of Hashem and Azad cultivars at concentrations of 5 mg/l of iron and cytokinin with an average of 40.75 mg.kg⁻¹ had the highest amount of zinc accumulation in

seeds. In this study, up to the concentration of 5 mg.l⁻¹ of iron and cytokinin, the amount of zinc accumulation in the seed increased and then decreased (Table 4). According to the negative interaction of iron and zinc (Malakouti, 2004), it is expected that the consumption of iron will decrease the concentration of zinc in the plant, but as it can be seen, at a concentration of 5 mg.l⁻¹, an increase in the accumulation of zinc in the seed was observed, that probably due to the additive effect of cytokinin with iron, which facilitated the absorption of zinc by the plant. The increase in

zinc concentration is not only related to the decrease in plant weight under deficiency conditions, but also the phenomenon of compensatory absorption is effective in increasing the concentration of this element (Koleli *et al.*, 2004). Singh *et al.* (2004) by studying the effect of three low-consumption nutrients separately and in combination on C-233 chickpea cultivar, reported that iron

consumption decreased the amount and absorption of zinc in chickpeas, they attributed this decrease to the antagonistic effect of iron with zinc. They gave. De Olivira *et al.* (2010) showed that the amount of zinc accumulation in the aerial organs was influenced by different sources of cytokinin and their difference was significant compared to the control.

Table 4. The interaction effect of cultivar, iron and cytokinin on the amount of zinc element accumulation in the seed based on two-year mean squares

Iron (ppm)	Cytokinin (ppm)	Seed zinc concentration (mg.kg ⁻¹)		
		V1	V2	V3
F ₀	C ₀	36.51 ^c	33.73 ^{fg hij}	34 ^{efghi}
	C ₁	39.16 ^{ab}	36.64 ^c	35.36 ^{cdef}
	C ₂	35.33 ^{cdef}	31.22 ^{lmno}	33.35 ^{ghijk}
	C ₃	34.26 ^{defgh}	29.24 ^{pq}	28.43 ^q
F ₁	C ₀	39.96 ^{ab}	38.5 ^b	34.44 ^{defgh}
	C ₁	40.75 ^a	40.75 ^a	36.39 ^c
	C ₂	38.33 ^b	36.53 ^c	33.39 ^{ghijk}
	C ₃	35.73 ^{cde}	35.87 ^{cd}	30.7 ^{mno}
F ₂	C ₀	35.46 ^{cdef}	31.75 ^{klm}	31.81 ^{klm}
	C ₁	35.99 ^{cd}	31.23 ^{lmno}	33.46 ^{ghijk}
	C ₂	34.93 ^{cdefg}	29.9 ^{nopq}	30.87 ^{mno}
	C ₃	31.88 ^{klm}	28.45 ^q	29.27 ^{pq}
F ₃	C ₀	32.16 ^{ijklm}	31.22 ^{lmno}	31.63 ^{klmn}
	C ₁	33.87 ^{fg hij}	32.8 ^{hijkl}	32.29 ^{ijklm}
	C ₂	28.58 ^q	29.64 ^{opq}	28.39 ^q
	C ₃	26.46 ^r	25.4 ^r	26.1 ^r

*Mean which have a least once common letter are not significant different at the 5% probability level.

V₁: Hashem cultivar, V₂: Azad cultivar and V₃: local mass.

F₀: nonuse of iron, F₁: use 5 mg.l⁻¹ iron, F₂: use 10 mg.l⁻¹ iron and F₃: use 15 mg.l⁻¹ iron.

C₀: nonuse of cytokinin, C₁: use 5 mg.l⁻¹ cytokinin, C₂: use 10 mg.l⁻¹ cytokinin and C₃: use 15 mg.l⁻¹ cytokinin.

4.3. Manganese

The treatment combination of Azad cultivar at concentration of 0 mg.l⁻¹ of iron and 5 mg.l⁻¹ of cytokinin with an average of 14.28 mg.kg⁻¹ had the highest amount of manganese accumulation in seeds (Table 5). Hogston (1984) showed that in most cases iron causes a decrease in manganese in the plant, it seems that in this research, cytokinin partially reduced the negative interaction effect of Fe on Mn. Most of the manganese is found in the leaves and stems of plants, and its amount is negli-

gible in the plant seeds. At the during of seed filling period, only a small fraction of manganese is directly absorbed from the soil, the majority of manganese is present in the vegetative organs, especially the flag leaf, which is transferred to the seed due to the phenomenon of retranslocation (Malakouti, 2000). In the study of Hamzhepour *et al.* (2010), iron consumption decreased the concentration of manganese in the spike and stem and increased it in the root.

Table 5. The interaction effect of cultivar, iron and cytokinin on the amount of manganese element accumulation in the seed based on two-year mean squares

Seed manganese concentration (mg.kg ⁻¹)				
Iron (ppm)	Cytokinin (ppm)	V1	V2	V3
F ₀	C ₀	12.52 ^{d-l}	13.8 ^{abc}	13.13 ^{a-h}
	C ₁	13.74 ^{abc}	14.28 ^a	13.77 ^{abc}
	C ₂	12.03 ^{f-m}	12.7 ^{c-j}	12.77 ^{c-i}
	C ₃	11.48 ⁱ⁻ⁿ	12.28 ^{e-l}	12.22 ^{e-l}
F ₁	C ₀	14.1 ^{ab}	13.13 ^{a-h}	12.7 ^{c-j}
	C ₁	13.67 ^{a-d}	13.74 ^{abc}	13.38 ^{a-e}
	C ₂	13.74 ^{abc}	13.25 ^{a-f}	12.09 ^{f-l}
	C ₃	13.13 ^{a-h}	12.15 ^{e-l}	11.31 ^{lmn}
F ₂	C ₀	13.19 ^{a-g}	13.67 ^{a-d}	12.58 ^{c-k}
	C ₁	12.52 ^{d-l}	14.22 ^{ab}	13.06 ^{b-h}
	C ₂	12.03 ^{f-m}	12.62 ^{c-j}	12.15 ^{e-l}
	C ₃	10.9 ^{mn}	11.49 ^{j-n}	11.67 ⁱ⁻ⁿ
F ₃	C ₀	12 ^{g-m}	12.22 ^{e-l}	11.91 ^{h-n}
	C ₁	12.7 ^{c-j}	12.52 ^{d-l}	12.45 ^{e-l}
	C ₂	11.37 ^{klmn}	11.8 ⁱ⁻ⁿ	11.48 ^{j-n}
	C ₃	10.76 ⁿ	11.47 ^{j-n}	10.88 ^{mn}

*Mean which have a least once common letter are not significant different at the 5% probability level.

V₁: Hashem cultivar, V₂: Azad cultivar and V₃: local mass.

F₀: nonuse of iron, F₁: use 5 mg.l⁻¹ iron, F₂: use 10 mg.l⁻¹ iron and F₃: use 15 mg.l⁻¹ iron.

C₀: nonuse of cytokinin, C₁: use 5 mg.l⁻¹ cytokinin, C₂: use 10 mg.l⁻¹ cytokinin and C₃: use 15 mg.l⁻¹ cytokinin.

While in Soni *et al.* (2001) research, iron consumption had a positive effect on manganese concentration in wheat seed, in the mentioned research, the effect of iron on manganese absorption was attributed to the acidity conditions of the plant root environment and the amount of manganese in environment. Wierzbowska and Bowszys (2008) in investigating the effect of plant hormones on the absorption and accumulation of micronutrient elements in spring wheat concluded that quintine increased 11% of manganese in the seed compared to the control. In the research conducted by Pazurkiwiz *et al.* (2011), with the increase in the concentration of quintine, the accumulation of manganese in corn leaves had a downward trend. Wierzbowska and Nowak (2002) stated that growth regulators are more effective than mineral fertilizers on Mn absorption in vegetative parts and seeds.

4.4. Seed yield

The triple interaction effect of cultivar \times iron \times cytokinin on seed yield was significant (Table 1). The highest seed yield belonged to the local mass with a concentration of 15 mg.l⁻¹ of iron and cytokinin with an average of 179.6 grams per square meter (Table 6). This situation shows that high levels of iron and cytokinin have the greatest effect on increasing yield, and perhaps considering the complementary role of iron and cytokinin in plant growth and development and yield components, this result is expected. Cultivar, environment and length of growth period are important factors that affect plant growth and development (Khattak *et al.*, 2006 and

James *et al.*, 2007). Different genotypes in the same species are also different in terms of sensitivity to iron deficiency, and among the traits that are affected by the ability of genotypes to use soil iron, are the amount of dry matter and seed yield. James *et al.* (2007) in the study of two cultivars Sarah and 2Iccv- showed that the dry weight of the aerial part of chickpea was significantly affected by the genotype. By examining 40 chickpea genotypes, Biabani and Carpenter (2011) reported that commercial cultivars had lower shoot dry weight than indigenous cultivars. Ziaeiian and Malakouti (1998) reported that soil and foliar application of micronutrients iron, zinc, manganese and copper increased corn yield. In this study, the positive role of iron and zinc in increasing yield was greater than that of manganese and copper. In a study, Khodarahmi *et al.* (2013) investigated the effect of different strains of rhizobium bacteria on the yield and yield components of Hashem, Arman and Azad modified chickpea cultivars. In this study, Azad variety had the highest yield and harvest index. The use of hormones has a great effect on achieving high yield, cytokinins are plant hormones that, as regulators of growth and development, play an important role in preventing the aging of organs and the mobility of tissues (Argueso *et al.*, 2009). The increase in the dry weight of the aerial part of the plant can be due to the regulatory effect of the cytokinin hormone on the photosynthetic capacity and the delay in plant aging (Fatima *et al.*, 2005) and the increase in plant height (Rabie, 1996).

Table 6. The interaction effect of cultivar, iron and cytokinin on the seed yield based on two-year mean squares

Iron (ppm)	Cytokinin (ppm)	Seed yield (gr.m ⁻²)		
		V1	V2	V3
F ₀	C ₀	122.7 ^{k-o}	117.7 ^{pq}	141.4 ^{f-i}
	C ₁	127.1 ^{j-m}	131.3 ^{i-m}	143.0 ^{fgh}
	C ₂	128.4 ^{i-m}	148.3 ^{fgh}	144.8g-j
	C ₃	152.6 ^{def}	162.1 ^{cde}	149.9 ^{efg}
F ₁	C ₀	150.6 ^{efg}	147.5 ^{e-h}	124.9 ^{j-m}
	C ₁	155 ^{def}	159.2 ^{cde}	148.1 ^{fgh}
	C ₂	157 ^{cdef}	170.0 ^{bcd}	159.0 ^{cde}
	C ₃	164.5 ^{cde}	169.7 ^{bcd}	164.0 ^{b-e}
F ₂	C ₀	144.9 ^{fgh}	124.5j-n	149.0 ^{fgh}
	C ₁	157.4 ^{c-f}	141.1f-i	152.2 ^{def}
	C ₂	169.2 ^{bcd}	145.6fgh	158.2 ^{cde}
	C ₃	167.5 ^{cde}	161.2cd	170.3bc
F ₃	C ₀	144.5 ^{g-j}	148.5 ^{fgh}	171.0 ^{bc}
	C ₁	148 ^{fgh}	160.6 ^{cde}	172.7 ^{bc}
	C ₂	178.7 ^{ab}	174.3 ^{bc}	179.6 ^a
	C ₃	165.9 ^{bcd}	170.6 ^{bc}	179.6 ^a

*Mean which have a least once common letter are not significant different at the 5% probability level.

V₁: Hashem cultivar, V₂: Azad cultivar and V₃: local mass.

F₀: nonuse of iron, F₁: use 5 mg.l⁻¹ iron, F₂: use 10 mg.l⁻¹ iron and F₃: use 15 mg.l⁻¹ iron.

C₀: nonuse of cytokinin, C₁: use 5 mg.l⁻¹ cytokinin, C₂: use 10 mg.l⁻¹ cytokinin and C₃: use 15 mg.l⁻¹ cytokinin.

5. CONCLUSION

The results of this research showed that iron and cytokinin have a positive effect on the concentration of micro-elements in seeds and the response of genotypes to their use is different. Modified cultivars stored more elements. Cytokinins through the reduction of free radicals and increasing the capacity of plant tissues for the sink activity in order to transport sugars and nutrients (especially nitrogen), delayed the senescence of the leaves and improve the source-sink ratio in the plant. Consider-

ing the role of iron in the production of chlorophyll, spraying of iron solution increased the photosynthesis of the plant, so more carbohydrates are transferred to the roots, therefore the growth and absorption of nutritional elements by the root increases and as a result, the concentration of elements in the plant increases. The highest seed yield belonged to the local mass with a concentration of 15 mg.l⁻¹ of iron and cytokinin with an average of 179.6 gr.m⁻².

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FOOTNOTES

AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTION: All authors are equally involved.

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