

CONTENTS

Subject	Page
1- INTRODUCTION.....	1
2- REVIEW OF LITERATURE.....	3
2.1. Blue-green algae (cyanobacteria).....	3
2.1.1. Effect of blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) inoculation on rice and wheat.....	4
2.1.2. Effect of blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) on soil properties.....	8
2.2. Azolla.....	11
2.2.1. Importance of Azolla in agriculture.....	12
2.2.2. Azolla as a green manure.....	12
2.2.3. Effect of Azolla on soil properties.....	24
2.3. Effect of iron and zinc forms on plant.....	27
2.3.1. Iron.....	27
2.3.2. Zinc.....	29
2.3.2. Iron enriched Azolla.....	31
3- MATERIALS AND METHODS.....	33
3.1. Materials.....	33
3.1.1. Seeds.....	33
3.1.2. Soil.....	33
3.1.3. Sand culture.....	33
3.1.4. Blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) inoculum.....	33
3.1.5. Azolla strain.....	35
3.1.6. Fertilizers used.....	35
3.1.6.1. Rice.....	35
3.1.6.2. Wheat.....	35

3.1.6.3. Maize.....	35
3.1.6.3.1. Azolla enriched with iron and zinc ..	35
3.1.6.3.2. Iron and zinc chemical fertilizers....	36
3.1.6.3.2. Hoagland solution	36
3.2. Methods.....	38
3.2.1. Rice experiments.....	38
3.2.1.2. Wheat experiment.....	40
3.2.1.3. Iron and zinc-enriched Azolla as a slow-release biofertilizer for maize plants grown in a sand culture system	40
Iron experiment	40
Zinc experiment	41
3.3. Chemical analysis.....	41
3.3.1. Soil chemical analysis.....	41
3.3.2. Plant analysis.....	42
4- RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.....	43
4.1. Effect of cyanobacteria and Azolla inoculation on rice growth, rice yield components, nitrogen and phosphorus uptake and soil chemical properties	
4.1.1. Effect of cyanobacteria inoculation	43
4.1.1.1. Effect on Plants.....	44
A- Straw and grain yields.....	44
B- Plant height.....	47
C- 1000-grain weight.....	48
D- Protein percentage in grains	51
E- Total nitrogen uptake.....	51
F- Total phosphorus uptake.....	53
G- Overall effect on plant.....	54

4.1.1.2. Effect of SBI and urea on some chemical properties of soil after harvest.....	55
A- Total nitrogen.....	55
B- Total phosphorus.....	58
C- Available phosphorus.....	58
D- Organic matter percentage.....	60
4.1.2. Effect of Azolla inoculation.....	62
4.1.2.1. Effect of Azolla on plant.....	62
A- Straw and grain yields.....	62
B- Plant height.....	65
C- 1000-grain weight.....	65
D- Protein percentage	65
E- Total nitrogen uptake.....	68
F- Total phosphorus uptake.....	68
G- Overall effect on plant.....	70
4.1.2.2. Effect of Azolla and urea on soil chemical properties.....	70
A- Total nitrogen.....	72
B- Total phosphorus.....	72
C- Available phosphorus.....	74
D- Organic matter percentage.....	74
E- Overall effect on plant.....	77
4.2. Residual effect of cyanobacteria (SBI and/or Azolla on wheat plant and some soil chemical properties...	78
4.2.1. Residual effect of (SBI) and urea on plant	78
A- Straw and grain yields.....	78
B- Plant height.....	81

C- 1000-grain weight.....	81
D- Protein percentage	81
E- Total nitrogen uptake.....	83
F- Total phosphorus uptake.....	86
G- Overall effect on plant.....	86
4.2.2. Residual effect of SBI and urea on soil chemical properties.....	86
A- Total nitrogen.....	88
B- Total phosphorus.....	88
C- Available phosphorus.....	90
D- Organic matter percentage.....	90
E- Overall effect on plant.....	93
4.2.3. Residual effect of Azolla inoculation and/or urea application on yield components and some chemical properties of soil	93
4.2.3.1. Residual effect of Azolla and urea on wheat plant	95
A- Straw and grain yields.....	95
B- Plant height.....	97
C- 1000-grain weight	97
D- Protein percentage	97
E- Total nitrogen uptake.....	100
F- Total phosphorus uptake.....	100
G- Overall residual effect on plant.....	102
4.2.3.2. Residual effect of Azolla and urea on soil chemical properties after wheat harvesting.....	103
A- Total nitrogen	103
B- Total phosphorus.....	103

C- Available phosphorus	106
D- Organic matter content	106
E- Overall residual effect on soil	106
4.3. Effect of iron and zinc-enriched Azolla as a slow- release biofertilizer on maize plants grown in a sand culture system.....	109
4.3.1. Effect of iron	109
4.3.1.1. Dry matter yield of shoots and roots.....	113
4.3.1.2. Iron concentration	113
4.3.1.3. Iron uptake	114
4.3.2. Effect of zinc	115
4.3.2.1. Dry matter weight of shoots and roots.....	115
4.3.2.2. Zinc concentration.....	115
4.3.2.3. Zinc uptake	119
4.3.3. Overall effect of Fe- or Zn enriched Azolla on plant.....	119
5- SUMMARY	123
6- REFERENCES.....	131
7- ARABIC SUMMARY	