



# Salicylic Acid Alleviates the Adverse of Salinity Stress in Fenugreek (*Trigonella foenum-graecum*)

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## Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. Author EAL-M contributed to the manuscript as experimental applying and methodology, data record, and original draft preparation. Author IAL-M supervised the study and investigated the work, did formal analysis, software analysis, wrote, reviewed and edited the manuscript. Author KAL-M supervised the study. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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## ABSTRACT

**Aims:** To discover the resistance of the Yemeni genotype of fenugreek to salt stress and the impact of salicylic acid on alleviating salt stress.

**Study Design:** The experimental design adopted a completely randomized block design (RCBD), with pots filled with a 1:2 mixture of sand and soil serving as the experimental units.

**Place and Duration of Study:** in a mini greenhouse covered with white polyethylene plastic sheet at Taiz University during the spring season 2021. The average temperature ranged from 32 °C during the day to 29 °C at night. chemical analyses were performed at the pharmaceutical laboratory in Al-Saeed University.

**Methodology:** The fenugreek genotype was subjected to varying salinity levels (0, 50, 100, 150, and 200 mM) and the impact of salicylic acid (at concentrations of 0, 0.1, and 0.5 mg/l) in alleviating salt stress effects was examined at two time points: 15 and 30 days after 2 weeks of germination.

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**Results:** Increasing salinity significantly reduced shoot and root length and exhibited slight fluctuations influenced by salinity levels above 100 mM. Salicylic acid (SA) significantly reduced shoot length but had no effect on root length. Salinity had no appreciable effect on shoot dry matter (SDM%), while the application of SA significantly decreased it. Root dry matter percentage (RDM%) showed a notable and sharp increase with salinity. However, no appreciable changes in RDM% were observed in response to the SA application. In response to salinity, the ratio of SDM% to RDM% in treated plants decreased sharply, with the lowest ratio achieved when 0.1 SA was used for treatment. There were no significant modifications observed in the amounts of photosynthetic pigments in fenugreek leaves, including chl a, chl b and total chl. Nevertheless, using high concentration of NaCl led to a significantly reduced in the carotenoids and the chl. b. The protein content of fenugreek plants treated with salt was much higher than that of control plants. Also, protein levels increased with SA treatment across all NaCl concentration. Proline levels sharply increased with rising salinity, reaching a peak in approximately 22.28 ug/g DW. Application of 0.1 SA led to the highest proline level in comparison to other treatments, which was the highest level of NaCl in the second measurement time. Proline levels in plants treated with 200 NaCl and 0.1 SA were the highest, averaging roughly recorded 49.95 ug/g DW. APX significantly affected on fenugreek plants, the highest APX content was found in plants treated with 50 mM NaCl, the application of 0.1 SA produced the highest level of APX (0.373nm/g protein/minute) in fenugreek. Catalase (CA) levels significantly decreased, but SA application did not affect CA levels. The data obtained may help in determining fenugreek cultivation areas and in managing breeding programs.

**Keywords:** Fenugreek; salinity; salicylic acid; osmotic stress; antioxidant stress.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Salinity refers to the amount of dissolved substances known as aggregate salts. These salts encompass dissolved solids resulting from the weathering of rocks and soil by water. They freely move in soil and water and are taken up by the plants [1]. Under natural conditions, abiotic stresses, particularly salt stress, has a triple effect on plant growth. First, it decreases water absorption due to the osmotic effect, caused by low water potential in saline soils, inhibiting water absorption into plant tissues. Second, it leads to ion imbalance or turbulence in ion homeostasis. Third, it results in plant toxicity (ionic effects); Ion toxicity occurs when salt accumulates to toxic concentration in leaves. Excessive levels of Na<sup>+</sup> ion accumulation in plant tissues are one of the major factors causing salinity damage, reducing the plant's ability to absorb water from the soil [2-13].

According to FAO, more than 800 million hectares of world's agricultural land are seriously affected by salinity [4]. Salinity is the major abiotic stress and significant factor affecting crop production worldwide [7], especially in arid and semi-arid region. About 23% of the world's cultivated lands is saline, and 37% are sodic [14]. Environmental stresses, including salinity, effect on numerous characteristics of plant including morphological, physiological, biochemical, molecular and anatomical aspects

[15-18], as well as secondary metabolites [6,19-22].

Increasing salt concentration inevitably affects the productivity in medicinal plants such as fennel, cumin, *Ammi majus*, *Trachyspermum ammi* and milk thistle. The fruit yield per plant, as well as the number of umbels, significantly decreases in stress-exposed plants [23]. Total carbohydrates affected throughout reduction of photosynthesis, hyperosmotic stress and nutritional imbalance as observed in fennel [24]. Although salt stress affects all growth stages of a plant, seed germination and seedling growth stages are known to be more sensitive for most plant species[25].

Salicylic acid (SA) is a growth regulator that improves plant tolerance under salt stress [26-27], enhancing physiological traits and alleviate salt stress effects by influencing physiological processes such as increasing antioxidant activity enzymes and soluble sugars content in plants [28]. It regulates plant processes, including seed germination and plant growth and development [29]. Additionally, it may impact ion absorption and transport, stomatal conductance, the rate of photosynthetic activity, and transpiration [30-31].

Nevertheless, the daily utilization of *Trigonella foenum-graecum* is prevalent in Yemeni households, the resilience of local genotypes of this plant to withstand salinity remains uncertain.

Additionally, previous studies specifically targeting these plants are lacking, underscoring the significance of this study.

## 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 2.1 Experimental Lay Out

Pots were filled with a medium containing a mixture of normal soil and sand in a ratio 2:1 (v: v). Seeds were planting in the post and irrigated with normal water until germination. After 15 days of germination, the pots were irrigated with salinity treatments, with or without Salicylic Acid. Some pots were harvested after 15 days from the beginning of the treatments, while others continued until they were harvested after 30 days of treatments.

### 2.2 Dry Matter and Morphology Using Tomato Analyser

The method described by Al-Madhagi and Al-Sharagi, [32] was employed., 3 Plants harvested from the plots and directly wished, and separated to the shoot and root then the fresh weight was recorded to the each part in digital balance. After weighting the fresh plants, they were spread on a labeled square black sheet. Plant photographs were taken with a mobile digital camera (Redmi not 10), and JPEG format photographs transferred to a laptop for processing. Images were enhanced using Photoshop software to blacken the background, saved at 200 resolutions, and corrected for size according to calibration ruler. Plants height (cm) was analyzed using the Tomato Analyser 3.0 software developed by Ohio State University ([http://oardc.osu.edu/vanderknaap/tomato\\_analyzer.htm](http://oardc.osu.edu/vanderknaap/tomato_analyzer.htm)).

The dry matter was recorded after drying in normal room temperature using the following formula: (Dry Weight/ Fresh Weight) / 100 [33]

### 2.3 Estimation of Photosynthetic Pigments

The extraction of chlorophyll followed the method outlined by Wasaya et al. [34]. Initially, 0.1g of fresh plant leaves was homogenized in a prechilled mortar using cold 85% (v/v) aqueous acetone. The resulting extract underwent centrifugation at 6000 rpm for 5 minutes. The supernatant was adjusted to specific volume using 85% acetone. The absorbance of the extract was spectrophotometry measured against a blank of pure 85% acetone at three different

wavelengths of 470 nm, 644 nm, and 663 nm using a JENWAY 6305 Spectrophotometer. The concentration of Chlorophyll a, Chlorophyll b, and total Chlorophyll were determined using the following formulas:

- i. Chlorophyll a (mg/g FW) =  $[1.07 (\text{OD } 663) - 0.094 (\text{OD } 644) \times V/1000 \times W]$
- ii. Chlorophyll b (mg/g FW) =  $[1.77 (\text{OD } 644) - 0.28 (\text{OD } 663) \times V/1000 \times W]$
- iii. Total Chlorophyll (mg/g FW) =  $[0.79 (\text{OD } 644) + 1.076 (\text{OD } 663) \times V/1000 \times W]$

Here V represents the volume of the leaf extract (mL), and W denotes the weight of fresh leaf tissue (g). Additionally, the total carotenoids was calculated using the formula :

Carotenoids =  $1000 (\text{OD}470) - 1.82\text{Chl a} - 85.02 \text{Chl b} / 198 \times V/1000 \times W$  [35].

### 2.4 Biochemical Parameters

#### 2.4.1 Estimation of proteins (µg/g FW)

The method used to determine the shoot protein content was developed from Lowry et al. [36] The three steps were carried out as follows: . i- 8.33 ml of di potassium phosphate  $\text{K}_2\text{HPO}_4$  (8ml + 330µ) and 1.67ml of mono potassium phosphate  $\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$  (1ml +670µ) were combined to create the extraction solution and buffer, and the volume was then completed to 200 ml of distilled water. The dye was prepared by dissolving 0.1 g of Coomassie blue dye in a mixture of 50ml 95% ethanol and 100 ml phosphoric acid. Once the dye was completely dissolved, the mixture was poured into 1 litter, allowed to settle and then filtered. After homogenized 0.1gm of frozen tissues with 1 ml of solution buffer that had been previously prepared, the sample was centrifuged for 10 minutes at 6000 rpm. The measuring tubes were filled with a mixture. exactly amount 1000 µ of prepared (Coomassie blue dye) to 800 µ of Buffer solution and added 200 µ of supernatant, then the absorbance was read at 575 nm in A JENWAY 6305 spectrophotometer. The measuring tubes done by mixed exactly amount 1000 µ of prepared (Coomassie blue dye) to 800 µ of Buffer solution and added 200 µ of supernatant, then the absorbance was read at 575 nm in A JENWAY 6305 spectrophotometer.

#### 2.4.2 Estimation of proline (µg/g DW)

The proline content in the shoot was measured using the protocol established by Bates et al.

[37]. The reaction solution was prepared under dark condition by dissolving 1gm of ninhydrin with 60 ml of glacial acetic acid, followed by the addition of 20 ml ethanol of 70% and 20 ml of distilled water and kept cool until used. Proline of the shoot tissue extracted by homogenised 0.1 g of dry weight in mortar and pestle with 2 ml of 70% ethanol, which was then centrifuged at 6000 rpm for 10 mints. The supernatant was combined with reaction solution in a 1:2 v: v (supernatant: reaction solution) and incubated for 20 mints at 95 °C in water bath. The mixture was then cooled in an ice bath. Absorption was measured using a JENWAY 6305 Spectrophotometer, which has radiation at 520 -nanometre wavelength.

## 2.5 Estimation of Antioxidants Enzymes

The Velikova et al. [38] method was employed to assess enzyme activation in the shoot. The preparation of solutions involved dissolving 34.836 grams of K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> in 200 millilitres of distilled water for the K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> solution, and 27.218 grams of KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> in 200 ml of distilled water for the KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> solution. For the enzyme extraction solution, 0.184 ml of mono potassium phosphate KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (184 μ) and 1.8 ml of dipotassium phosphate K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> (1 ml + 800 μ) were combined and adjusted to a final volume of 20 ml with distilled water.

The extraction process involved homogenizing 0.1 g of frozen tissues with 1 ml of the previously prepared extraction solution, followed by centrifugation at 6000 rpm for 10 minutes. The resultant extract was kept on ice until further measurements. A buffer solution was prepared by mixing 1.230 ml of dipotassium phosphate K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> (1 ml + 230 μ) with 0.77 ml of mono potassium phosphate KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (770 μ) and adding 40 ml of distilled water. Additionally, 0.834 ml of CAT H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> was prepared and adjusted to a final volume of 10 ml. For the APX H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> solution, 1.70 ml of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> was brought up to a volume of 10 ml. The ascorbate solution was created by dissolving 0.0158 grams of ascorbate in 20 millilitres of purified water.

## 2.6 Setup of Measurement Tubes

Catalase (CAT) activity was evaluated following Aebi, [39] by mixing 2.7 ml of the prepared buffer solution with 0.05 ml of the supernatant. The absorbance was measured at 240 nm using a JENWAY 6305 Spectrophotometer at a rate of 0-30sens -1 min.

APX activation was determined according to Asada, [40] by combining 1.8 ml of the prepared buffer solution with 0.1 ml of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> solution, 1 ml of ascorbate solution, and 0.1 ml of the supernatant. Absorbance was measured at 290 nm using a JENWAY 6305 Spectrophotometer at a rate of 0-30 s within one minute.

The enzyme activity in nano-moles per gram of protein was calculated using the specified formulas, with the extinction coefficient for peroxidases being 26.6 mM<sup>-1</sup>cm<sup>-1</sup> and for catalase being 39.4 mM<sup>-1</sup>cm<sup>-1</sup>

$$\text{Change in OD} / (\text{time mine}) \times 1$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\div \text{extiniation cofficinttotal reaction volume} \\ &\div \text{volume of enzyme extract} \times \text{total volume of} \\ &\text{enzyme} \\ &\div \text{fresh wt.} \times \text{total protein (mg – 1ml)} \times 100 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Change in OD} / (\text{time mine}) \times 1$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\div \text{extiniation cofficinttotal reaction volume} \\ &\div \text{volume of enzyme extract} \\ &\times \text{total volume of enzyme} \\ &\div \text{fresh wt.} \times \text{total protein (mg – 1ml)} \times 100 \end{aligned}$$

## 2.7 Statistical Analysis

The data were evaluated using Gene sat 12 software as a factorial experiment (RCBD), taking into account the concentration of salt, salicylic acid, and measuring period of time as factors. The significance of individual factor means was determined using the least significant difference (LSD) at a significant level of less than 0.05. Interactions means were evaluated using the Duncan's multiple range test (DMRT) method. Microsoft Excel was also used to estimate regression equations for linear effects.

## 3. RESULTS

### 3.1 Morphological Characteristic Affected by Concentration of Nacl and SA

The influence of sources of variation of individual factors and their interactions on vegetative growth parameters. are presented in Table 1.

#### 3.1.1 Shoot Length (cm) Affected by Concentration of Nacl and SA

The fenugreek plant's shoot length (in cm) exhibited a significant decrease dramatically with

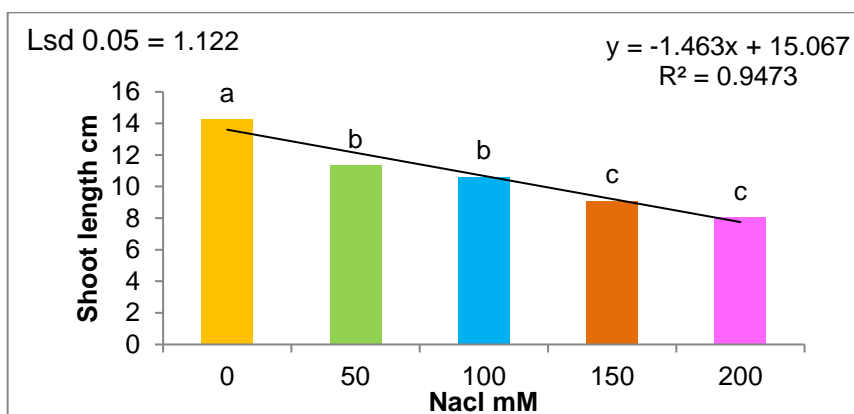
rising salinity levels. Comparing the control and 50 mM NaCl, there was a reduction of about 20% in shoot length, followed by an additional 10% decline for every 50 mM increment beyond 100 mM (Fig. 1). The regression equation illustrated a reduction of approximately 1.463 cm for every 50 mM increase in NaCl (Fig. 1).

Application of SA significantly diminished fenugreek shoot length. Plants treated with 0.1 SA and 0.5 SA showcased reductions in length by approximately 25% and 11%, respectively, compared to control plants (Fig. 2). Remarkably, time did not significantly influence shoot length (Table 1, probability value  $\approx$  0.994).

**Table 1. Displays the F probability for the effect of salicylic acid (SA) at different levels NaCl (N) and measurement Times (T) on fenugreek plant morphological characters**

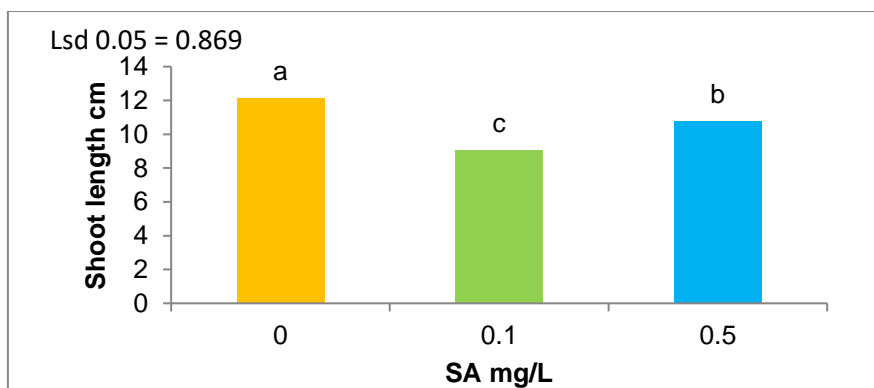
	Shoot length cm	Root length cm	Shoot DM%	Root DM%	Shoot: Root ratio
NaCl (N)	<.001	0.01	0.914	<.001	<.001
Salicylic acid (SA)	<.001	0.986	<.001	0.214	0.024
Time (T)	0.994	0.828	<.001	0.69	0.257
15	10.68	10.7	12.69 <sup>b</sup>	13.69	1.24
30	10.68	10.57	17.4 <sup>a</sup>	14.2	1.41
N x SA	0.01	0.256	0.808	0.881	0.423
N x T	0.648	0.645	0.02	0.4	0.979
SA x T	0.551	0.834	0.709	0.001	0.125
N x SA x T	0.594	0.084	0.478	0.451	0.116

*F probability at the value less than 0.05 consider significant according to multiple ANOVA analysis*



**Fig. 1. Effect of salt on fenugreek shoot length (cm)**

*Different letters over bar indicates significant difference between treatment according to L.S.D test  $p \leq 0.05$*



**Fig. 2. Effect of SA on fenugreek shoot length cm**

*Means with different litter indicate significant at less than 0.05*

Except for the interaction between salt and SA (N×SA), other studied factors' interactions had no significant effect on shoot length (Table 1). The N×SA impact is depicted in Fig. 3.

Under most salinity levels, Plants treated with 0.1 or 0.5 SA did not display significant differences, except at 100 and 150 mM, where a notable distinction emerged between the application of 0.1 and 0.5 of SA. Specifically, plants treated with 0.1 SA under 150 mM exhibited the shortest shoots (6.21 cm), while the control plants had the longest shoots (15.62cm).

### 3.1.2 Root Length (cm) Affected by Concentration of Nacl and SA

Fenugreek's root length exhibited slight fluctuations influenced by salinity levels above 100 mM. Control plants or thoes treated with 50 or 100 mM Nacl displayed the longest roots, while the 150 mM treated plants resulted in the

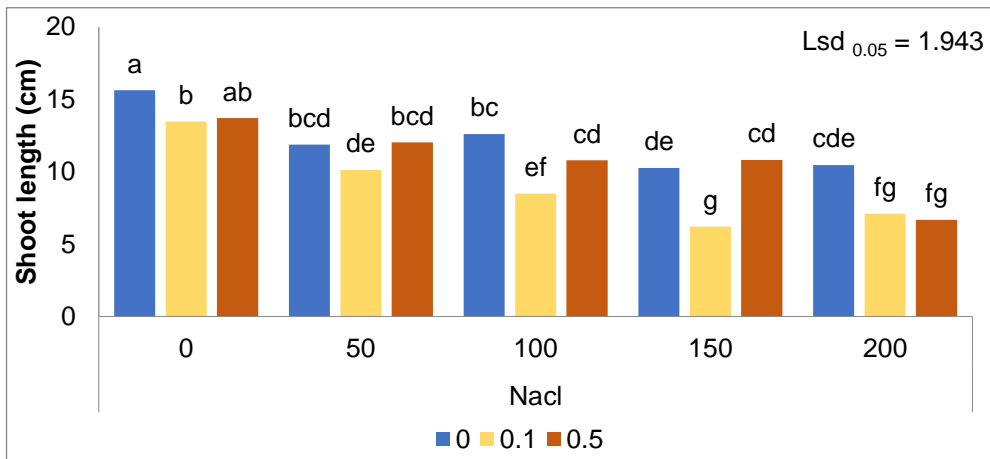
shortest roots, measuring, 8.6 cm, representing a which declined of approximately 36% compared to the control plants (not treated plants) (Fig. 4).

Interestingly, fenugreek the root length remained largely unchanged unchange due to SA application of or variations in time factor, as indicated by *F* probability value of approximately 0.986 and 0.828, respectively (Table 1).

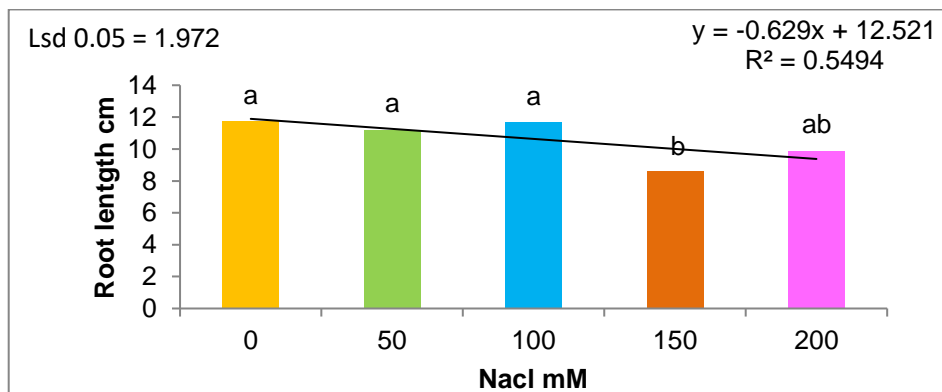
The interaction between study factors showed no significant impact on fenugreek root length, with all interaction types the *F* probability greater than 0.05. (Table 1).

### 3.1.3 Shoot dry Matter (S.D.M %) Affected by Concentration of Nacl and SA

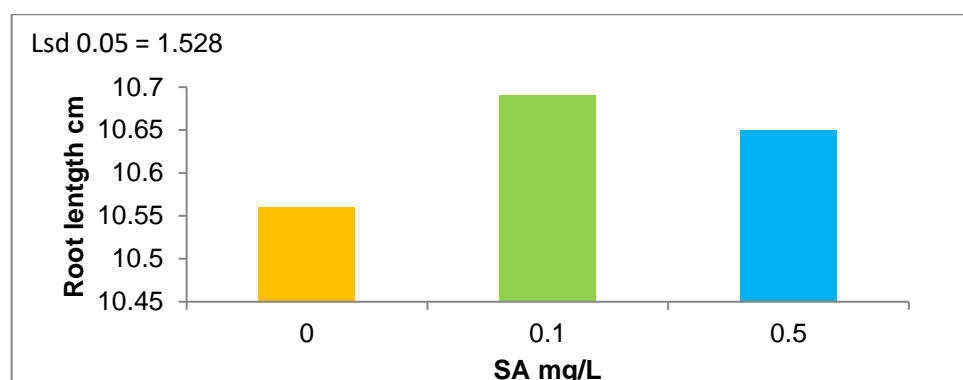
salinity overall, demonstrated no significant effect on the percentage of SDM% in fenugreek plant, with a probability value of about 0.914 (Table 1 and Fig. 6).



**Fig. 3. Effect of interaction between Nacl and SA on fenugreek shoot length (cm)**  
Column with different alphabet indicate significant at the level less than 0.05



**Fig. 4. Effect of salt on fenugreek root length cm**  
Different letters over bar indicates significant difference between treatment according to L.S.D test  $p \leq 0.05$



**Fig. 5. Effect of SA on fenugreek root length cm**  
Means with different litter indicate significant at less than 0.05

However, the application of SA, particularly at the highest level of 0.5 mg/L, notably reduced the SDM% content in plants treated with 0.5 SA showing around a 28.4% decrease compared to the control. Conversely, there were no significant differences between plants treated with 0.1 SA and the control group (Fig. 7).

The time factor exhibited significance difference, with the second measurement recording a higher SDM% compared to the first (Table1).

Except for the interaction between NaCl and Time Factors (N×T), the other interactions (second and third) did not significantly impact SDM% (Table 1).

the interaction effect between NaCl and Time (N×T) is depicted in Fig. 8, where plants treated with NaCl accumulated more dry matter over time, particularly at the second measurement time (30 days) than the first (15 day). Notably, there were no significant differences in dry matter content observed between different measurement times in the control plants.

The maximum accumulation of SDM% (19.30%) occurred in plants treated with 150 NaCl at 30 days, showing no significant differences from other salinity treatments (50 - 200 mM). during the first observation period, no significant difference were found between the control and salinity treatments ( Fig. 8).

### 3.1.4 Root Dry Matter Percentage (RDM%) Affected by of Concentration of NaCl and SA

Fenugreek RDM% demonstrates a significant increase dramatically with rising salinity levels. Plants receiving 200 mM of irrigation exhibited

the highest RDM% (20.91%), marking an approximately 180% increase compared to the control treatment. Another interpretation suggests that fenugreek RDM% increases by about 4.384 % for every addition 50 mM of NaCl above the control. Control plants had the lowest RDM%, averaging around 7.46% (Fig. 9).

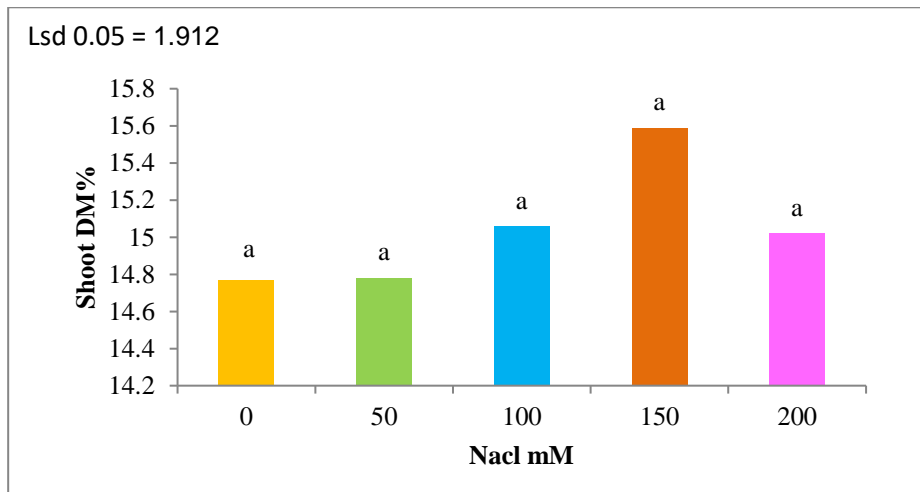
There were no significant differences observed in RDM% related to the application of SA, with an *F* probability of about 0.214 (Table 1). Additionally the means of RDM% are presented in Fig. 10.

The time factor also did not significantly affect fenugreek RDM%, with an *F* probability of about 0.96 (Table1 ).

Among the study factors, only the second interaction between SA and Time (S×T) demonstrated a significant effect on root dry matter (RDM%). The results of S×T are depicted in Fig. 11 During the first measurement period, plants treated with 0.1 SA showed the highest the greatest average RDM% value (18.64%), while those with 0.5 SA exhibited the lowest average value (10.51%). nosignificantly different was detected during the second measurement between the RDM% related to the application of SA and that of control plants.

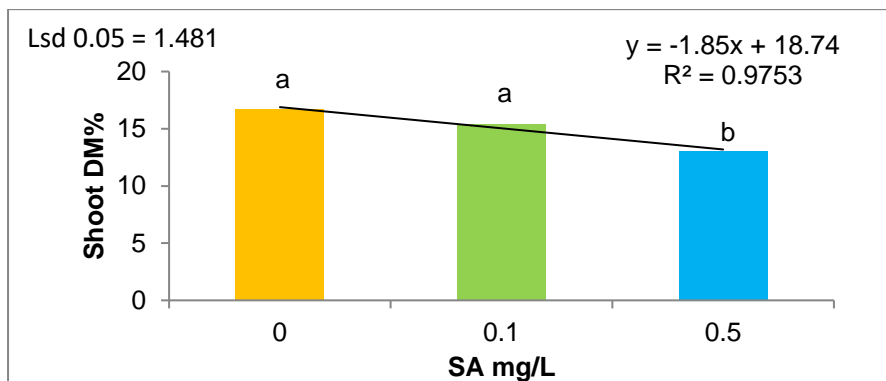
### 3.1.5 Root: Shoot Ratio (SDM%: RDM%) Affected by Concentration of NaCl and SA

In general, excessive salinity significantly and sharply reduces the ratio of SDM% to RDM%, with the highest ratio (2.16) observed in control plants and the lowest ratio (0.68) in plants receiving 200mM NaCl of irrigation (Fig. 12). Alternatively, for every addition of 50 mM NaCl, the ratio decreases by about 0.3397.



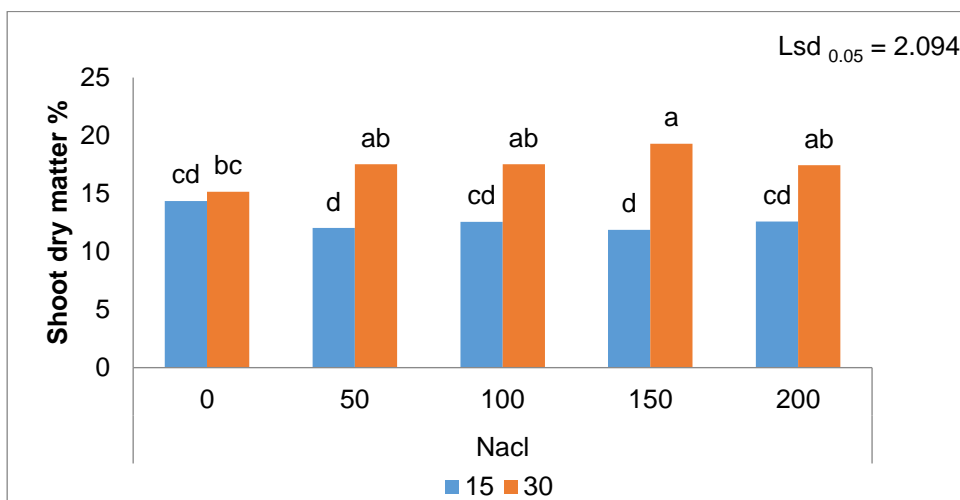
**Fig. 6. Effect of salt on fenugreek shoot dry matter (SDM%)**

Different letters over bar indicates significant difference between treatment according to L.S.D test  $p \leq 0.05$



**Fig. 7. Effect of SA on fenugreek shoot DM%**

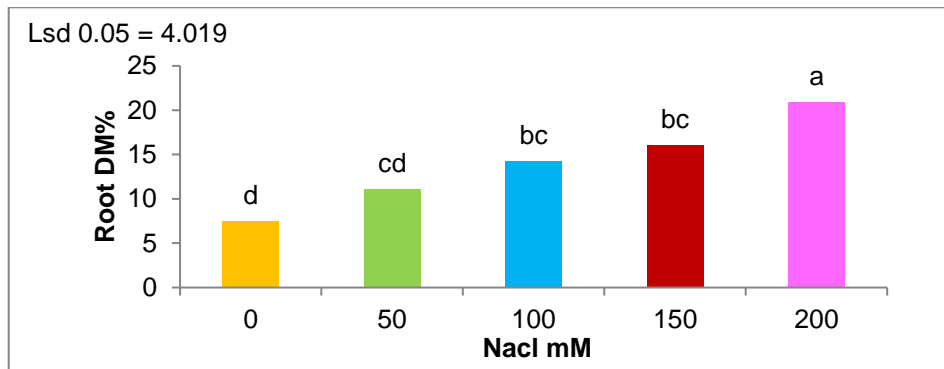
Means with different litter indicate significant at less than 0.05



**Fig. 8. The effect of interaction between NaCl and Time on fenugreek shoot dry matter (SDM %)**

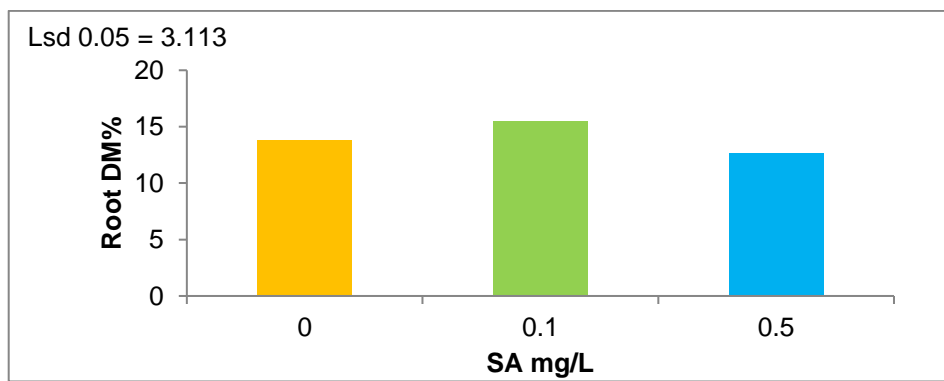
Column with different alphabet indicate significant at the level less than 0.05





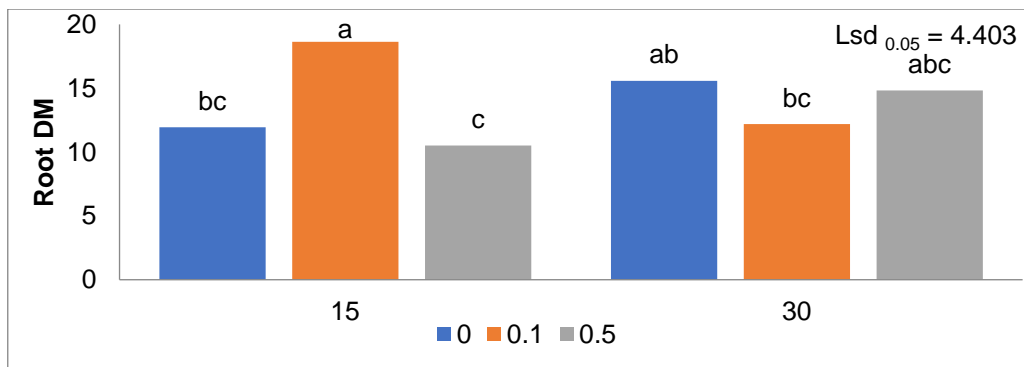
**Fig. 9. The effect of salt on fenugreek root DM%**

Different letters over bar indicates significant difference between treatment according to L.S.D test  $p \leq 0.05$



**Fig. 10. The effect of SA on fenugreek root DM%**

Means with different litter indicate significant at less than 0.05



**Fig. 11. The effect of interaction between SA and Time (SA × T) on fenugreek Root dry matter (RDM %)**

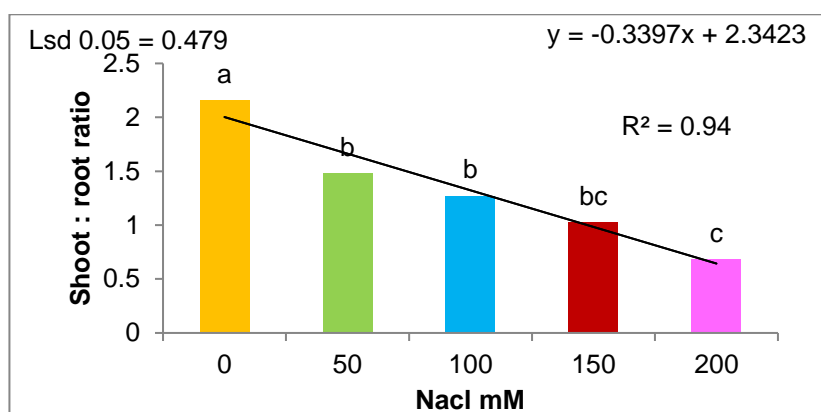
Column with different alphabet indicate significant at the level less than 0.05

The ratio of shoot to root was significantly influenced by SA application. When using 0.1 SA in comparison to other treatments, the ratio between SDM% and RDM% was in the lower range. Application of 0.5 SA resulted in a control-like SDM%: RDM% ratio (Fig. 13).

There was no significant difference in term of SDM%: RDM% ratio, related to the time

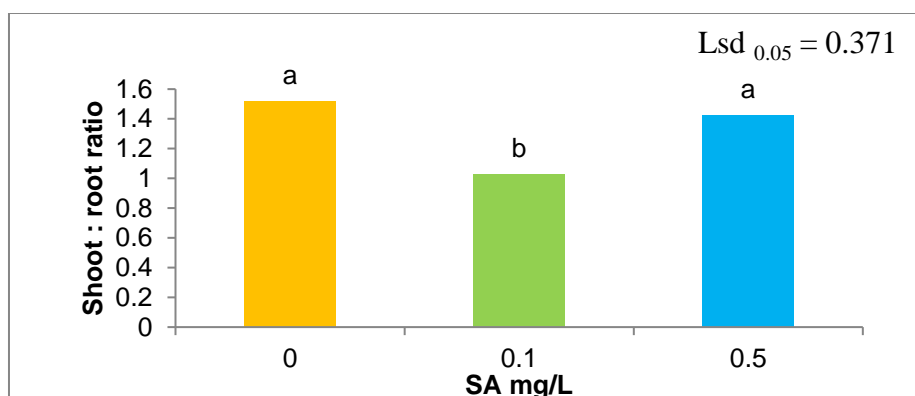
factor with an F probability of about 0.257 (Table 1).

No significant effects were observed for the second and third interactions between study factors, where the F probability was greater than 0.05 in all interaction effects (Table 1).



**Fig. 12. The effect of salt on shoot: root ratio**

Different letters over bar indicates significant difference between treatment according to L.S.D test  $p \leq 0.05$



**Fig. 13. The effect of SA on fenugreek shoot: root ratio**

Means with different litter indicate significant at less than 0.05

### 3.2 Photosynthesis Pigments mg/g FW Affected by Concentration of NaCl and SA

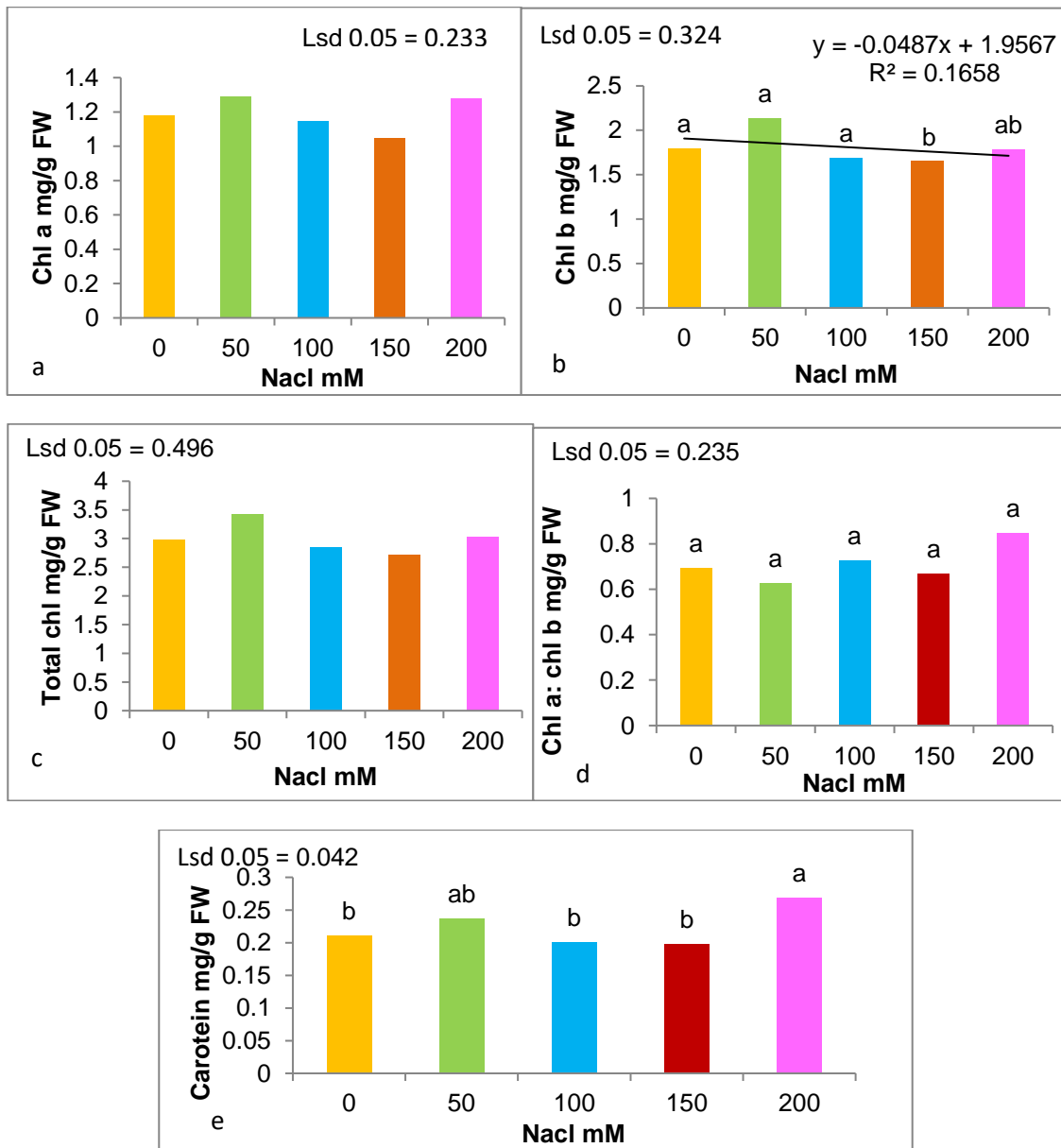
Overall, the amount of photosynthetic pigments in fenugreek leaves remained relatively stable, with no significantly changes observed in chl a,

total chl, or chl a: chl b (Fig. 14 a,c and d). However, the levels of chl b and carotenoids significantly decreased with increasing NaCl levels (Table 2). Specifically, chlorophyll b (chl b) peaked at at 50 mM NaCl (Fig. 14 b), in carotene content became apparent only at higher NaCl levels, notably at 150 mM (Fig. 14 e).

**Table 2. The F probability for the effect of salicylic acid (SA) at different levels NaCl (N) and measurement Times (T) on photosynthesis pigment of fenugreek plant**

	chl_a mg/g FW	chl_b mg/g FW	Total_Ch mg/g FW	chl a: chl b mg/g FW	Carotein mg/g FW
NaCl (N)	0.221	0.038	0.062	0.397	0.006
Salicylic acid (SA)	0.071	0.017	0.013	0.346	0.038
Time (T)	<.001	<.001	<.001	0.106	0.322
15	0.91	1.27	2.18	0.773	0.23
30	1.48	2.35	3.81	0.651	0.22
N xSA	0.037	<.001	0.001	0.332	0.345
NxT	0.028	0.004	0.002	0.752	0.001
SA x T	<.001	<.001	<.001	0.791	<.001
Nx.SAxT	0.005	<.001	<.001	0.554	0.213

F probability at the value less than 0.05 consider significant according to multiple ANOVA analysis



**Fig. 14. The effect of salt on photosynthesis pigments [a]: chlorophyll a (Chl a, [b]: is chlorophyll b, [c]: is total chlorophyll (Tchl), d: is the ratio between chlorophyll a to chlorophyll b (Chla / Chlb) and [e] is the total carotenoids**

Means with different alphabet in the same figure indicate significant different at the level of LSD less than 0

SA treatment did no effect chlorophyll a, chl a: chl b, or carotenoids in fenugreek leaves (Table 2). However, chl b and total chl, exhibited the significant impact, with F probability values of 0.017 and 0.013 respectively (Table 2). Notably, the application of 0.1 SA significantly increased Chl b and total Chl, whereas 0.5 SA did not significantly differ from the control (Fig. 15 b and c).

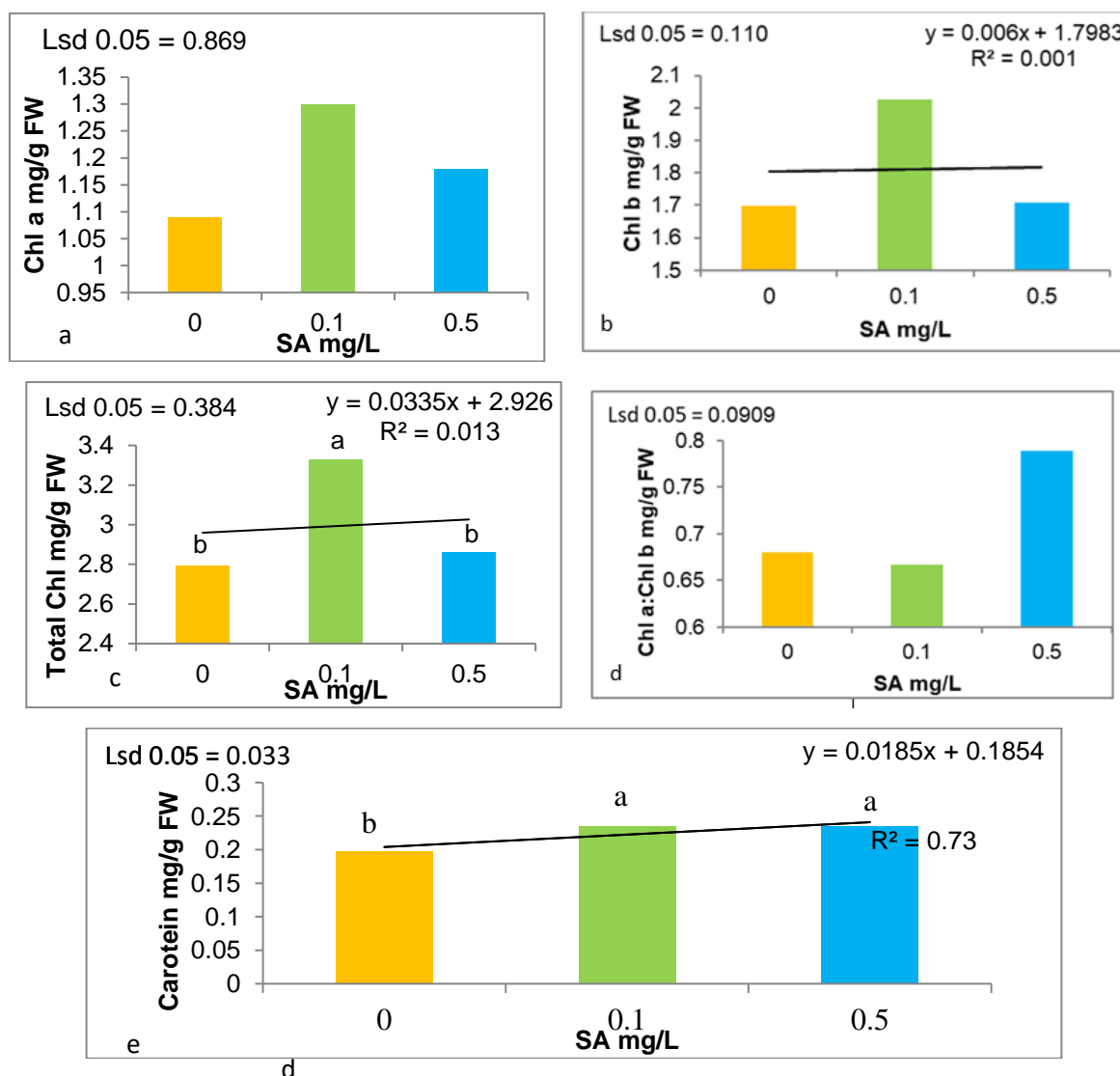
Unlike chl a: chl b and carotenoids, all photosynthetic pigments including chl a, chl b

total Chl, showed significant variation over time, with the second measurement period (which lasted 30 days) recording the highest values for these pigments (Table 2).

Interactions between study factors had a significant effect on chla, chlb, and total chl were notably in the second and third interactions (Table 2). No significant effect on chl a: chl b. For carotenoids, the NaCl × Time and SA × Time interaction were significant (Table 2).

Specifically, the third interaction (N× S× T) indicated that the plant receiving 0.1 SA less than 100 mM Nacl or 0.5 SA under 50mM Nacl

showed the highest values of chl a, chl b and total chl in the second measurement time (Table 3, 4 and 5).



**Fig. 15.** The effect of SA on fenugreek photosynthesis pigments [a]: chlorophyll a (Chl a, [b]: is chlorophyll b, [c] : is total chlorophyll (Tchl) , d : is the ratio between chlorophyll a to chlorophyll b ( Chla / Chlb) and [e] is the total carotenoids.

Means with different alphabet in the same figure indicate significant different at the level of LSD less than 0.05

**Table 3.** Means of the interaction effect of N×.SA×T on the chl a of fenugreek plant

SA	Time	Nacl				
		0	50	100	150	200
0	15	0.502hij	1.161 <sup>b</sup> bcdefgh	0.424ij	0.29j	1.032 <sup>c</sup> defghi
	30	1.442 <sup>a</sup> bcdef	1.451 <sup>a</sup> bcdef	1.652 <sup>a</sup> abcd	1.413 <sup>a</sup> bcdef	1.571 <sup>a</sup> abcde
0.1	15	1.052 <sup>c</sup> defghi	1.067 <sup>c</sup> defghi	1.015 <sup>d</sup> efghi	0.412ij	1.072 <sup>c</sup> defghi
	30	1.716 <sup>a</sup> abc	1.531 <sup>a</sup> bcdef	1.968 <sup>a</sup>	1.438 <sup>a</sup> bcdef	1.774 <sup>a</sup> b
0.5	15	1.144 <sup>b</sup> bcdefgh	0.866 <sup>f</sup> ghij	1.249 <sup>b</sup> cdefg	0.933 <sup>e</sup> fghij	1.394 <sup>a</sup> bcdef
	30	1.218 <sup>b</sup> bcdefg	1.689 <sup>a</sup> abcd	0.594 <sup>g</sup> hij	1.825 <sup>a</sup> b	0.847 <sup>f</sup> ghij

Different lowercase letters within a row and column indicate significant differences among the treatments according to Duncan's multiple range test  $p \leq 0.05$

**Table 4. Means of the interaction effect of Nx.SAxT on the chl b of fenugreek plant**

SA	Time	NaCl				
		0	50	100	150	200
0	15	0.627ijk	1.719defgh	0.607jk	0.358k	1.305hij
	30	2.17bcdefgh	2.303abcdefg	2.872ab	2.223abcdefgh	2.785abc
0.1	15	1.427ghij	1.53fghij	1.332hij	0.619ijk	1.91cdefgh
	30	2.472abcde	2.784abc	2.92ab	2.804abc	2.454abcdef
0.5	15	1.521fghij	1.311hij	1.756defgh	1.454ghij	1.56efghi
	30	2.534abcd	3.142a	0.624ijk	2.493abcde	0.697ijk

*Different lowercase letters within a row and column indicate significant differences among the treatments according to Duncan's multiple range test  $p \leq 0.05$*

**Table 5. Means of the interaction effect of Nx.SAxT on the total chl of fenugreek plant**

SA	Time	NaCl				
		0	50	100	150	200
0	15	1.129hij	2.88cde	1.031ij	0.649j	2.336defghi
	30	3.611abcde	3.754abcd	4.524a	3.636abcd	4.356ab
0.1	15	2.479defgh	2.597defg	2.348defghi	1.031ij	2.981bcde
	30	4.188abc	4.315abc	4.888a	4.243abc	4.228abc
0.5	15	2.665def	2.177efghi	3.005bcde	2.387defghi	2.955bcde
	30	3.752abcd	4.831a	1.218ghij	4.318abc	1.267fghij

*Different lowercase letters within a row and column indicate significant differences among the treatments according to Duncan's multiple range test  $p \leq 0.05$*

carotenoid content, regarding carotenoid content, the NaCl  $\times$  Time effect (Fig. 16) showed that plants treated with 200 mM had significantly higher carotenoid levels during the first measurement time as compared with control. At the second measurement period, plants treated with 100mM had the lowest levels of carotenoid in comparison to other salinity treatments, but statically similar to the control (Fig. 16).

The SA  $\times$  time effect on the carotenoid content (Fig. 17) revealed distinct patterns. The control treatment showed the naturally occurring rise in carotenoid content of the leaves over time, but the SA treatment changed it. The highest carotenoid levels were found in plants treated with 0.5 SA mg/L at first measurement, while the lowest levels were found in the same plants at the second measurement. No significant differences were observed between time on plants treated with 0.1 mg/l SA, which gave the same value with control at the second measurement time.

### 3.3 Biochemical Content Affected by Concentration of NaCl and SA

The influence of sources of variation of individual factors and their interactions on Biochemical Content growth parameters. are presented in Table 6.

#### 3.3.1 Ptoein mg/g FW Affected by Concentration of NaCl and SA

Generally, plants treated with salt exhibited considerably higher protein content compared to control fenugreek plants, when compared to control plants. As salt concentration increased, protein concentration followed similar rise. Plants treated with 200 mM showed the highest protein concentration (31.63 mg/g/FW), while the control plants, (non-salinity plants) had the lowest concentration (17.62 mg/g/FW) (Fig. 18).

The protein content in Fenugreek was significantly affected by SA application. Plants treated with 0.1 SA exhibited the highest protein level (29.87 mg/FW) compared to controls or those treated with 0.5 SA, where no significant difference was observed between the control and 0.5 SA (Fig. 19).

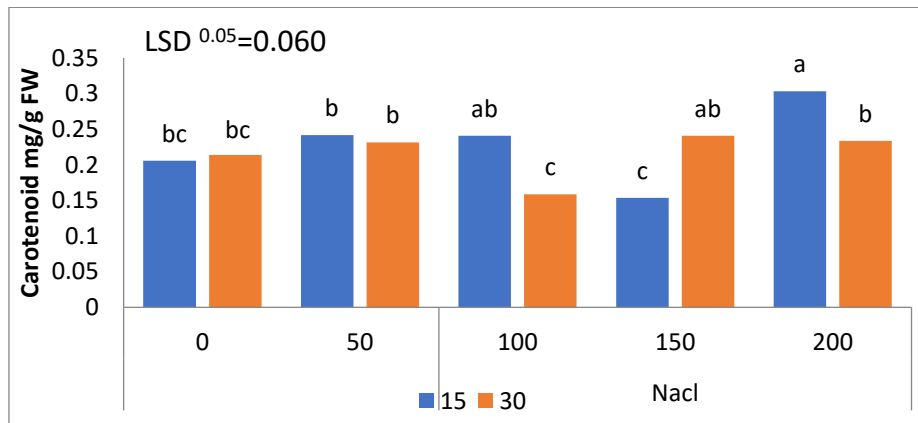
Notably, time measurements showed no discernible impact on protein content, ( $F$  probability about 0.329) (Table 6).

However, all levels of interaction impact had significant impact on fenugreek protein content (Table 6). Specifically, the interaction across all study factors (NxSAxT) (Table 7) indicated that plants treated with 0.1 SA under 100 NaCl (100 NaCl  $\times$  0.1 SA  $\times$  30 day) exhibited the highest

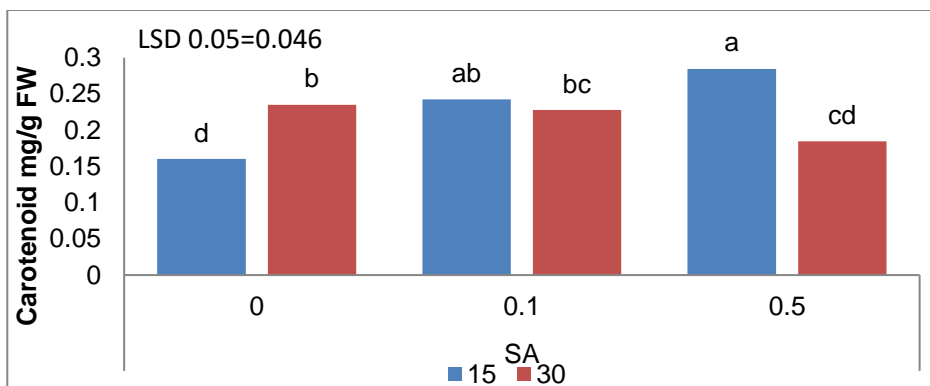
average of protein content (around 51.06 mg/g /FW). Conversely, control plants under 0.1 SA x 15 days had the lowest protein value (7.62 mg/g /FW).

One notable finding was the decrease in protein content between the two measurement dates in control plants (without salinity and SA). Similarly,

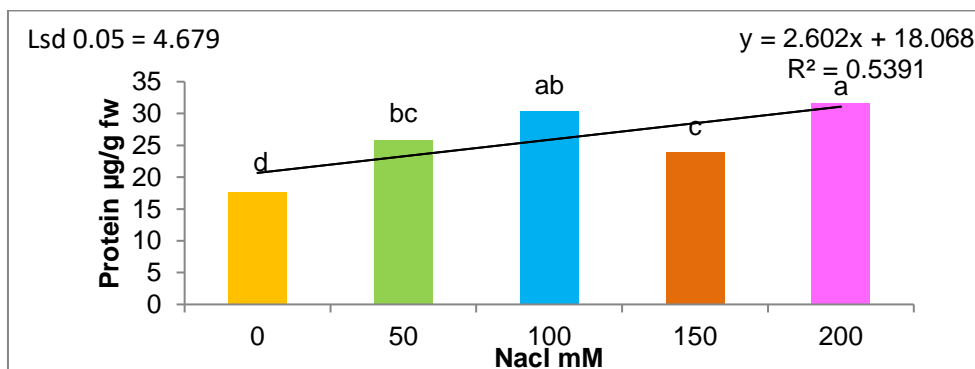
the protein levels in control plants with salinity treatments (without SA) followed this declining pattern, up to the treatment with 200 mM NaCl. However, the application of salicylic acid (except for treatments 0.5 and 0) reversed this declining trend in protein content.



**Fig. 16. The effect of interaction between NaCl and SA on fenugreek carotenoid**  
Column with different alphabet indicate significant at the level less than 0.05



**Fig. 17. The effect of interaction between NaCl and SA on fenugreek carotenoid**  
Column with different alphabet indicate significant at the level less than 0.05

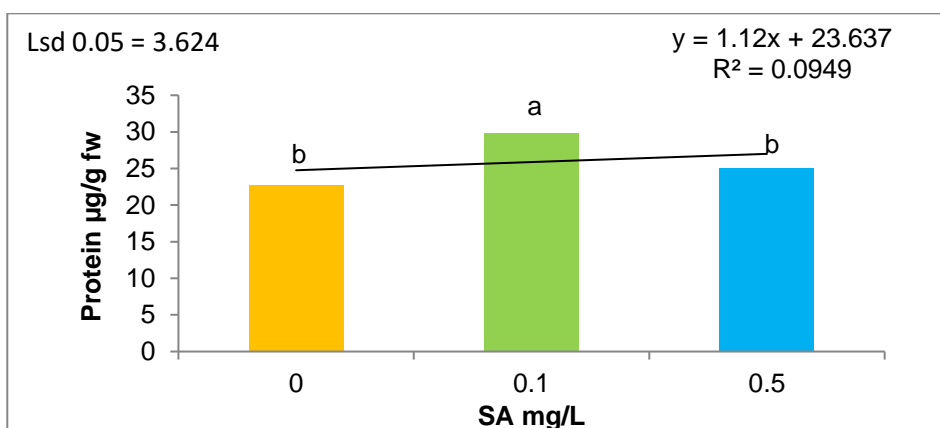


**Fig. 18. Effect of salt on fenugreek protein mg/g /FW**  
Different letters over bar indicates significant difference between treatment according to L.S.D test  $p \leq 0.05$

**Table 6. Shows the F probability for the effect of Salicylic acid (SA) under different concentration of Nacl (N) at different measurement Time (T) on chemical analysis of fenugreek plant**

	Protein Mg/g/FW	Proline Mg/DW	A Peroxides Nanomole/min/ mg of protein	Catalase Nanomole/min/ mg of protein
Nacl (N)	<.001	<.001	0.05	0.317
Salicylic acid (SA)	<.001	<.001	0.002	0.903
Time (T)	0.329	0.153	0.214	0.124
15	26.6	12.63	0.25	0.02
30	25.15	11.49	0.4	0.01
N xSA	<.001	<.001	0.057	0.322
NxT	<.001	<.001	0.07	0.183
SA x T	<.001	0.401	0.354	0.235
Nx.SAxT	<.001	<.001	0.116	0.774

F probability at the value less than 0.05 consider significant according to multiple ANOVA analysis



**Fig. 19. Effect of SA on fenugreek protein mg/g /FW**  
Means with different litter indicate significant at less than 0.05

**Table 7. Means of the interaction effect of Nx.SAxT on the protein of fenugreek plant**

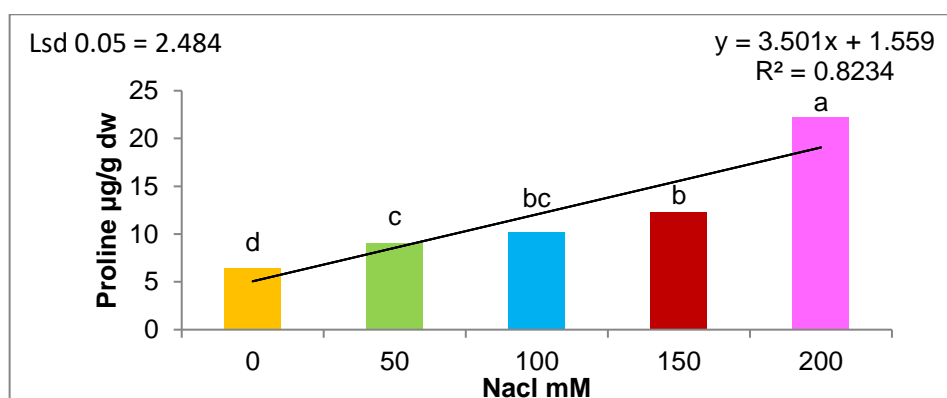
SA	Time	Nacl				
		0	50	100	150	200
0	15	48.51 a	45.17 abc	35.34 bcdef	15.47 hijk	15.8 hijk
	30	7.02 k	9.48 ik	11.68 ijk	12.82 hijk	26.3 fgh
0.1	15	7.62 k	9.63 ik	25.08 fghi	31.74 def	47.56 ab
	30	17.08 ghijk	30.2 efg	51.6 a	33.6 cdef	44.55 abcd
0.5	15	10.4 ik	42.62 abcde	24.73 fghi	16.77 hijk	22.58 fghij
	30	15.11 hijk	18.12 ghijk	33.83 cdef	32.85 cdef	32.98 cdef

Different lowercase letters within a row and column indicate significant differences among the treatments according to Duncan's multiple range test  $p \leq 0.05$

### 3.3.2 Proline Content mg/g DW Affected by Concentration of Nacl and SA

Proline content in fenugreek leaves displayed a linearly increase corresponding to the salinity levels, peaking at 22.28 mg/DW in plants treated with 200 mM, while in control plants recorded a lower level at 6.39 mg/DW. The increase in

Proline content was approximately 248.7% higher in plants treated with 200 mM- compared to the control. Alternatively, the proline level exhibited an increase of approximately 3.5 mg for every additional 50 mM NaCl above the control. Notably, plants treated with 50 and 100 mM Nacl or 100 and 150 mM Nacl did not show significant differences from each other (Fig. 20).



**Fig. 20. Effect of salt on fenugreek proline mg /DW**  
 Different letters over bar indicates significant difference between treatment according to L.S.D test  $p \leq 0.05$

by the SA application significantly affected proline content, with 0.1 SA leading the highest proline level compared to other treatments (0 and 0.5 SA). However, there was no statistically significant difference in proline content between 0.1 SA and control plants (Fig. 21).

The proline content of fenugreek leaves did not show significantly variation over time (Table 6).

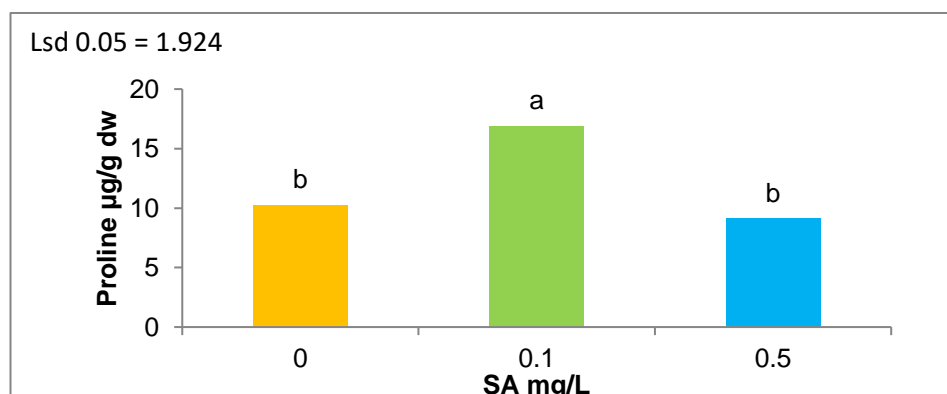
All levels of interaction factors showed significance (Table 6). The interaction effect between all study factors (NaCl x SA x Time) is presented in Table 8. At the first measurement time (15 days), plants treated with 200 NaCl and 0.1 SA exhibited the the highest proline content, averaging about 49.95 mg/g DW. However, the proline content dramatically dropped for the same treatment at the second measurement time (30 days). On the other hand, the lowest proline value approximately 2.73 mg/g DW was

observed in a non-saline plant treated with 0.5 SA at 30 days.

### 3.3.3 APX <sup>nanomole/min/gm</sup> of Portion Affected by NaCl Concentration and SA

Overall, APX concentration in fenugreek plants exhibited significant variation due to sodium chloride. The highest APX content was observed in plants treated with 50 mM NaCl, averaging 0.419 nanomole/min/mg of protein, with no significant difference between those treated with 200 mM NaCl. The control plant showed the lowest value at 0.238 nanomole/min/mg of protein (Fig. 22).

The level of APX was significantly influenced by SA application, where, 0.1 SA led to the highest level of APX (0.373nanomole/min/mg of protein) compared to other treatments (0 and 0.5 SA). However, there was no significant difference in APX levels between 0.5 SA and control plants (Fig. 23).



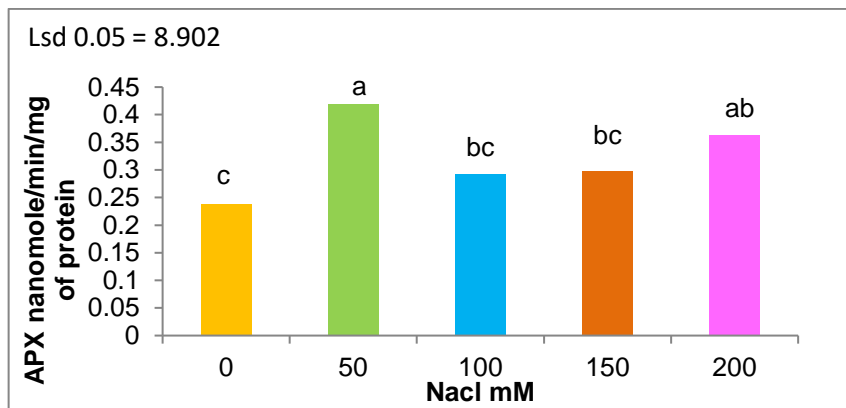
**Fig. 21. Effect of SA on fenugreek proline µg /g dw**  
 Means with different litter indicate significant at less than 0.05



**Table 8. Means of the interaction effect of N<sub>x</sub>SA<sub>x</sub>T on the proline of fenugreek plant**

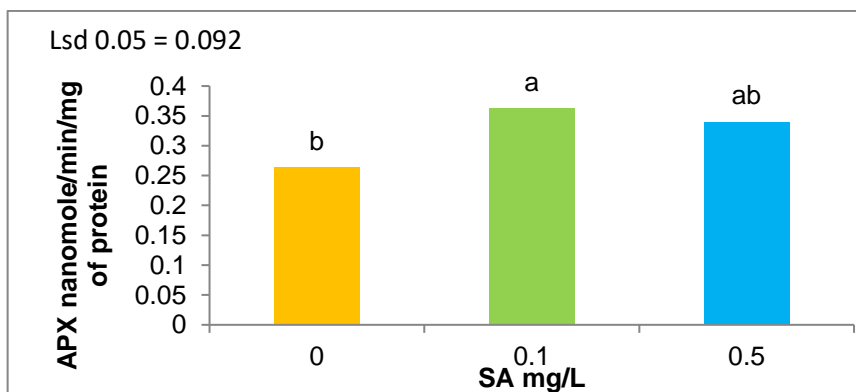
SA	Time	NaCl mM				
		0	50	100	150	200
0	15	6.61 <sup>hijk</sup>	9.92 <sup>efghijk</sup>	8.34 <sup>fghijk</sup>	9.74 <sup>efghijk</sup>	15.47 <sup>cdef</sup>
	30	4.87 <sup>ijk</sup>	9.75 <sup>efghijk</sup>	8.26 <sup>fghijk</sup>	8.29 <sup>fghijk</sup>	20.65 <sup>c</sup>
0.1	15	9.18 <sup>efghijk</sup>	10.59 <sup>efghijk</sup>	14.73 <sup>cdefg</sup>	5.35 <sup>ijk</sup>	49.95 <sup>a</sup>
	30	6.72 <sup>hijk</sup>	14.52 <sup>cdefg</sup>	8.57 <sup>fghijk</sup>	30.05 <sup>b</sup>	19.34 <sup>cd</sup>
0.5	15	8.23 <sup>fghijk</sup>	5.05 <sup>ijk</sup>	11.16 <sup>efghij</sup>	12.83 <sup>defgh</sup>	12.29 <sup>efghi</sup>
	30	2.73 <sup>k</sup>	4.77 <sup>jk</sup>	10.17 <sup>efghij</sup>	7.72 <sup>ghijk</sup>	15.96 <sup>cde</sup>

Different lowercase letters within a row and column indicate significant differences among the treatments according to Duncan's multiple range test  $p \leq 0.05$



**Fig. 22. Effect of salt on fenugreek APX nanomole/min/mg of protein**

Different letters over bar indicates significant difference between treatment according to L.S.D test  $p \leq 0.05$



**Fig. 23. Effect of SA on fenugreek APX nanomole/min/mg of protein**

Means with different litter indicate significant at less than 0.05

APX did no significant difference across both measurement times (Table 6). Among the examined factors, the second and third interactions did no display significant influence on APX (Table 6).

### 3.3.4 Catalase nanomole/min/mg of proten Affected by NaCl Concentrarion and SA

Though the rise in salinity seems to lead to a linear reduction in catalase levels, this decline is

not statistically significant at a level less than 0.05, indicated by an *F* probability of approximately 0.317 (Table 6). Fig. 24 illustrates the average catalase values influenced by salinity.

Overall, applying SA at varying concentrations (0, 0.1, and 0.5) did not yield a significantly change in catalase levels, with an *F* probability of about 0.903 (Table 6). The averages are depicted in Fig. 25. Similarly, the time factor

showed no significant influence on catalase too, with an *F* probability around 0.124 (Table 6). Additionally, the interaction among all study factors (second and third) did not yield significant difference on catalase (Table 6).

#### 4. DISCUSSION

The impact of salinity on plant growth, particularly in shoot length, was consistent across the studied plants compared to the control group. This aligns with previous findings [22,41-46].

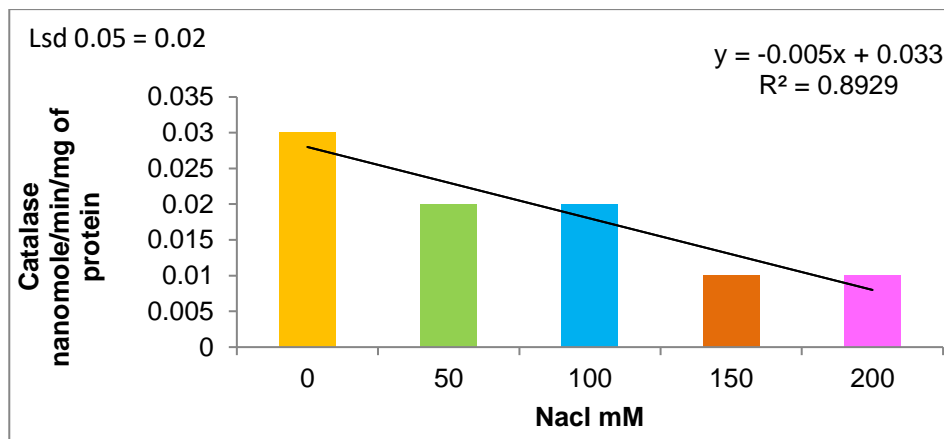
Fenugreek treated with salt saw a reduction in root length. This finding concurs with research [47] specifically on fennel.

Comparatively, the fenugreek appeared resilience. Studies by Banakar et al. [48] and Beyk-Khormizi et al. [47] highlighted fenugreek's

ability to tolerate environmental stresses by increasing endogenous trigonelline and triggering general physiological responses.

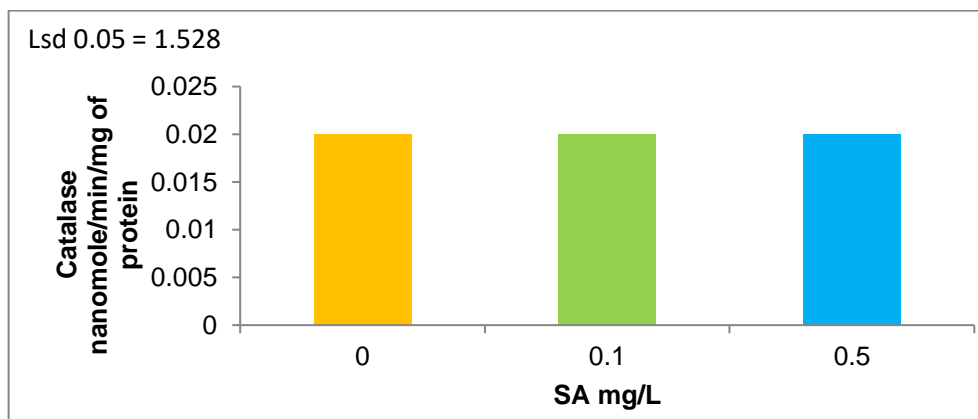
Salinity poses a significant challenge to plant growth, hindering water absorption due to osmotic stress from Na and Cl ions. This, in turn, reduces shoot length and development. Additionally, salt stress disrupts cell division, growth, and nutrient absorption, leading to ionic imbalances. Additionally, sodium accumulation can result in toxicity and competition with potassium ions, further aggravating ionic imbalances and hindering vital nutrient absorption like Ca and K [10,49-52].

The detrimental effects of salinity on plant growth and development have also been shown by additional studies [53-55]. salinity-induced oxidative stress might also have a deleterious impact on root and vegetative growth [15].



**Fig. 24. Effect of salt on fenugreek catalase nanomole/min/mg of protein**

Different letters over bar indicates significant difference between treatment according to L.S.D test  $p \leq 0.05$



**Fig. 25. Effect of SA on fenugreek catalase nanomole/min/mg of protein**

Different letters over bar indicates significant difference between treatment according to L.S.D test  $p \leq 0.05$

A reduction in plant development under salt stress conditions coincides with an elevated lipid peroxidation and a decrease in MDA levels. This signifies heightened vulnerability of membrane [16-17,56-58]. Additionally, ion toxicity, osmotic imbalance, and disruptions in nutrient and ion equilibrium have adverse effects on photosynthetic pigments, leading to a decline in photosynthetic rate, on rice [59-60], and on soybean [61].

Dry matter, a pivotal physiological parameter, represents the cumulative effect of photosynthesis by the leaf and ion absorption by the root. The alteration in the ratio between shoot dry matter (SDM%) and root dry matter (RDM%) compared to control plants signifies a plant's response to salinity. During this experiment, the response of experimental plants to mitigate NaCl toxicity was observed.

In fenugreek, SDM% in plants treated with NaCl remained similar to the control, whereas RDM% sharply increased with rising NaCl levels. This indicates root accumulation of Na ions without their substantial transfer to the shoot, resulting in a significant decrease in the shoot-to-root ratio compared to the control.

Furthermore, the changes in root SDM% to RDM% compared to the control plants showed correlations. In fenugreek, this correlated with shoot height ( $r=0.38$ ), these correlations highlight how plants redistribute biomass under salt stress, emphasizing either root or shoot growth, reflecting species-specific strategies. The decrease in dry matter accumulation is positively connected with the amount of photosynthetic pigment, and is a result of the chlorophyllase enzyme's suppression of Chl production and acceleration of pigment degradation. While fenugreek's distinct effect may be caused by the root's direct contact with salinity. Ion toxicity and oxidative stress may also be to blame for the decline in photosynthetic rate and dry matter [62-64].

In the present investigation, the application of salicylic acid resulted in a reduction of the impact of salinity on the root and vegetative growth characteristics. This function could be attributed to the boost in dry matter in plants under salt stress after being subjected to SA, thereby elevating the plant's resistance and mitigating damage to the membrane [65]. Additionally, this could be due to the amelioration of the

membrane, which reduces the deterioration in plants under salt stress, facilitating their maintenance and preserving the activity and functions of the membrane [66]. Furthermore, it might also be due to an escalation in the soluble sugar content [67], and proline [68], or the curtailment of MDA content [69-71].

The increase in the concentration of salt negatively affected the outputs of photosynthesis [72]. In this study, the increase in sodium chloride had a significant effect on reducing the content of photosynthesis pigments. It decreases in the content of all pigments (chl a and chl b, total chlorophyll, and carotenoids). This finding took the same trend found by [73-74], and, as stated in the results on parsley of [75] and [76] on the fennel plant. While the fenugreek plant showed more resistance to increasing the concentration of NaCl in the irrigation water, the effect of increasing the salt concentration was not significant except with Chl b and carotenoids, in contradiction with the result of [26] regarding the content of carotenoids. This conflict may be mainly due to the genetic factor, as local cultivars were used in our experiments. Our results in fenugreek plant were consistent with [74] on parsley and in chickpea [50].

The results from these experiments indicate that the chlorophyll a to chlorophyll b ratio no significant change was observed in fenugreek plants. Interestingly, there was no effect on the Chl a : Chl b ratio when application of SA in fenugreek plants.

Chlorophyll a play an essential role in photochemistry, while chlorophyll b is crucial for stabilizing major light-harvesting chlorophyll-binding proteins. It's synthesized from chlorophyll a and later catabolized after reconversion to chlorophyll [77]. A reduced Chl a/b ratio often signifies disruption in the photosynthetic apparatus, indicating the plant's sensitivity or stress response to saline conditions. This shift in ratio may suggest changes in pigment composition or physiological adaptations to cope with the saline environment.

The decline in the Chl a/b ratio occurs due to unequal destruction of chlorophylls, with relatively more Chl a than Chl b affected, resulting from their reaction with singlet oxygen produced under stress conditions. Therefore, monitoring alterations in the Chl a/b ratio offers valuable insights into these plants' sensitivity to salt stress [78].

The effect of salinity on deterioration photosynthesis pigments may be due to damage and impaired biosynthesis [79], additionally the high salinity led to instability of chlorophyll associated with the protein complex and the accelerated decomposition of chlorophyll due to the activities of chlorophyllase [22], an indication of the presence of photo protection by reducing light absorption by reducing the chlorophyll content [80]. Moreover, the lack of pigment is due to the low content of carbohydrates, which when reduced gives a positive effect on salt stress tolerance [81], where salinity reduces the activity of ribulose 1,5-diphosphate (Rubisco) carboxylase, which affects the process of carbohydrate synthesis and thus reduces its formation in leaves exposed to salt stress [82]. Also, the increase in salts affects the process of photosynthesis and the closure of the stoma, thus inhibiting biochemical reactions, and therefore the feedback prevents the process of carbon metabolism and is reflected on growth, as described by Munns et al. [83].

The level of carotenoids in fenugreek increased in plant under 200 mM NaCl. This different response between those genus of plant is related to the genetic. In the case of carotenoids, the increase in its content is explained by its role in reducing oxidative damage, because this pigment acts as an antioxidant, destroys pigments and decreases their synthesis [22]. It is also mechanism to protect chloroplasts from Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS) [84]. Meanwhile, the low content of carotenoids is due to the inability of the plant to resist various stresses [85-86].

Application of SA enhanced the chlorophyll content in all plants used in this study. In fact the application of SA inhibit the harmful effects of salinity and maintained the optimal nutrition of minerals, improved the water content of cells, and led to an increase in the antioxidant response, as well as membrane protection [87-93] and protecting pigment from ion toxicity as well as oxidation [94].

The application of SA increased the plant content of Chl as in the mustard plant [95], as the SA led to reduce the salinity stress in chlorophyll by enhancing the production of its enzymes and led to curb the defect in the photosynthetic system, thus reducing the breakdown of chlorophyll [87-89, 91, 93, 96-97]. which made the plant resist stresses under the influence of salt, such as

osmotic stress, oxidative stress, ion imbalance, and protecting the plant from Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS), which have a clear effect on fats, proteins, and some molecules that may stop photosynthesis or cell death [98-99].

SA also reduced oxidative damage to plants under salt stress as reported by Fariduddin et al. [100] in *Brassica juncea*; [101] in Mungbean; [102] in Wheat, and this was the mitigation of toxic effects by increasing the activity of antioxidants [16,103-107]. Thus, how can explain why the experimental plants survived when using salicylic acid under higher concentrations of salinity and died at higher concentrations of salinity without using salicylic acid.

The proline content of stressed plants increased gradually with the increase of salt concentration, where the fenugreek plants accumulation of proline content, and salinity worked to reduce the process of creating proteins in the plants to varying degrees, the fenugreek plant showed more resistance to the negative impact on the synthesis of proteins. Salinity causes a decrease in the amount of total proteins when compared to the control, as indicated by Moussa et al.[108] in *Vicia faba* plant.

Also, the decrease in plant protein content when salt increases goes in the same direction as indicated by El-Khallal et al. [109-111], and this is in contrast to what was stated by Özdemir et al. [112], Javed et al. [113], who indicated that the protein content increased when the salt concentration increased.

While the activity of peroxidase was higher with an increase in the concentration of NaCl in fenugreek plant. Salinity led to increasing the peroxidase activity of ROS antioxidant defines mechanisms [28]. Salinity did not show a significant effect the activity of catalase on fenugreek. That means the This finding took the same direction as what was stated by [28], as its results indicated that the activity of catalase did not have a significant effect under salt pressure, and this also in contrary to what was indicated by the plant of *Jatropha curcas* [114], in rice [59], and in maize [115], where salt stress increased the activity of catalase, which is considered one of the defence mechanisms to confront stress, and this was in the same in Peanut [116], in *Vignar adiatat* [117], in Chickpea [50].

The increase in proline content in response to stress, as stated by Al-Khayri [118-120], that the

accumulation of proline was to alleviate the metabolic disturbances resulting from salt stress [121]. The role of proline in the cell is: osmotic regulation, membrane stabilization, and detoxification of harmful ions in plants exposed to salt stress [6], where proline originally acts as an enzyme protector [122]. This amino acid is believed to help protect enzymes and membrane integrity in plants under restrictive conditions [6]. The increase in proline in stressed plants is due to the role that proline plays against osmotic stress and ROS, as proline works to stabilize cell structures and enzymes and provide a balance of cellular oxidation. [123] and its accumulation is more than amino acids, and its accumulation is an important indicator of the occurrence of plants under stress, as indicated by [124], while the increase in proteins had a role in modifying osmosis as mentioned by Ahmad et al. [128,125] and plant adaptation while the low content of proteins in stressed plants is due to the release of some proteins into the medium due to the osmotic shock resulting from the increase in salt, as indicated by [126], or a decrease in its synthesis as stated by [124,127]. Thus, the increase in the proline content of the experimental plants can be explained by the fact that it is under the influence of salt stress.

Also, the increase in antioxidant enzymes APX, CAT [87, 128]. It is due to the increase in the resistance of harmful oxides that stress works to form. It was mentioned that the SOD accelerates the conversion of the superoxide anion to  $O_2 + H_2O_2$ , while the latter hinders natural processes by causing damage to some molecules.

Experiments showed that the application of SA leads to the development of the stress response and the stimulation of the growth process after the stress response, as well as causing an increase in the plant's proline content [129]. Misra and Misra [130] indicated the role of SA in alleviating salinity stress through changes in turgor due to increased accumulation of proline, and further reported that the proline content and the activity of proline synthesis enzymes, P-5-CR and c-glutamyl kinase, significantly increased in the presence of salinity stress but a higher increase occurred when SA was applied to salt-stressed plants. Whereas, SA enhanced the activity of enzymes and the content of proline alone, and its interaction with sodium chloride had an additional effect on the activation process.

The application of SA had a positive effect on the protein content under salt stress. [109,111,131].

reported an increase in protein content in salt-stressed plants when applying SA. [132] on *Artemisia annua* L and [133] stated that the application of SA has a role in enhancing the activities of antioxidant enzymes such as CAT and POX in salt-stressed plants, as stated by Aftab et al. [132] in *Artemisia annua* L., [28], and the increase in the activity of these enzymes is due to the formation of superoxide, hydrogen peroxide, which is harmful on plant production and growth stages. Thus, it is possible to explain the reason for the resistance of the experimental plants when using salicylate and their survival compared to those that died due to salt stress.

## 5. CONCLUSION

Discovering the extent of local plant resistance to salinity stress is important for sustainable development and plant breeding programmes. The local Fenugreek genotype is affected by salinity levels higher than 100 mM. The application of salicylic acid improves the fenugreek plant by mitigating the adverse consequences of salt stress. Via enhancing the Dry matter, antioxidants activate and proline content. We recommend continuing research on the impact of salt stress on various local species by using modern techniques.

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## COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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