Seed yield and quality of jute mallow (*Corchorus olitorious* I.) as affected by cutting frequency and salicylic acid foliar application

Hamdino M.I. Ahmed^{1*} & Jean Jacques Muhinda²

¹Horticulture Research Institute (HRI), 9 Gamaa Street, Giza, Egypt

² The Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA), Plot 5 Mpigi Road, Entebbe, Uganda

* **Corresponding Author:** E-mail: hamdino@yahoo.com <u>hamdino.ahmed@gmail.com</u> Phone: +2 010 10068001 Fax: +2 02 35721628

Abstract

Jute mallow (Corchorus olitorious L.) is an important leafy vegetable found in the wild and cultivated in many countries of Africa. To improve its seed yield and quality two field experiemnts were carried to invesitage the eff ect of cutting ferquency (without cutting, one cut and two cutts) and salicylic acid (SA) foliar application at (0.0, 25, 50 and 100 ppm) on growth , seed yield and its quality.

Cutting frequency caused significant increase in number of branches per plant and reduction in plant height. Cutting one time was the most effective treatment in in increasing seed yield by increasing number and weight of pods/plant, number of seeds/pod, seed yield per plant as well as seed index (weight of 1000 seeds). All cutting frequency treatment had not significant effects on germination percentage.

Spraying jute mallow plants with salicylic acid enhanced vegetative growth of plants and increased seed yield and its components as well seed index. Germination percetage and rate were not significantly affected by different salicylic acid treatments. However salicylic acid at 100 ppm gave the highest values. Generally, cutting plants one time and sparying them with 100 ppm of salicylic acid was found to be the best treatment for the production of highest seed yield and quality.