

## B - 24 LEAF ANALYSIS AS A GUIDANCE TO NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF RUBBER PLANTS

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Rubber seeds collected from the clone PB 86 were germinated in nutrient free sand. Seedlings of equal heights were transplanted in pots containing nutrient free sand. Four seedlings were planted in a pot. The plants were treated with modified Hewitt's solutions and there were seven treatments, replicated five times. One contained all nutrients, while the remaining six contained all nutrients except N, P, K, Ca, Mg and S respectively in each.

The leaves were collected at different stages of visual symptoms of hunger signs, photographed and nutritional compositions determined. Relationships between the chemical composition and visual symptoms are established. A balance in the composition of the major cationic elements (K, Mg, Ca) in leaves is seen. It is also noticed that  $\text{NO}_3^-$  uptake by rubber plants depends on the pH of the solution.