NUT WATER AS A DIAGNOSTIC TOOL IN NUTRIENT STUDIES OF COCONUT

M. Jeganathan and L.L.W. Somasiri
Coconut Research Institute, Lunuwila.

(i) Studies on Sampling Intensity

Chemical analysis of coconut water (liquid endosperm) was used in the past to study P and K nutrition of coconut. The method was found laborious and time consuming, However with the use of Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer both macro and micro elements in nut water were estimated directly with much ease.

The analysis showed that the coefficient of variation for Na, K, Ca and Mg between nuts within a bunch within a tree was 9.63, 5.82, 32.09 and 21.39 percent and the sample size for estimation within 10% error was found to be 4, 2, 42 and 19 for each element respectively.

(11) Nut water Analysis in the Studies on K-Mg interaction on coconut Nut-water samples were collected in 1987/88 from four year old two field experiments to study the effect of K - Mg interaction on yield of coconut. Increased rates of applied K showed a highly significant linear depressive effect on Na and Mg and linear increase in K and Cl in nut water for both the experiments. However no response was indicated for Mg or its interaction with k.

These observation showed that nut water analysis is sensitive and can be used as a diagnostic tool in the study on the nutrition of coconut.