

EFFECT OF AMMONIUM NITROGEN ON POTASSIUM RESERVES IN AN ALFISOL AT DIFFERENT K LEVELS UNDER SUBMERGED CONDITION

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A field experiment was established at Mahailuppallama to evaluate the effect of Ammonium Nitrogen on K reserves in alfisol under submergence. Experimental design was RCBD with three replicates. Different levels of NH_4^+ -N and K supplied were 0, 45, 90, 130, and 180 Kg/ha, and 0, 45 and 90 Kg/ha respectively. Soil samples were drawn from each plot at transplanting (TPI), one month and two months after transplanting and at the harvest, considering 0-20, 20-40 and 40-60 cm depth. K reserves were determined by HF/HCl digestion.

All treatments showed considerable changes in K reserves with time. Statistical analysis revealed, that there were significant differences of K reserves related to different levels and different sampling stages. However, when the aspect of various NH_4^+ -N levels, related to mean K reserves was considered, in the 0-20 and 20-40 cm depths significant differences were observed. Differences were more prominent between the lower and higher levels. The changes in K reserves thus illustrated, that there was an influence of the NH_4^+ levels. At higher nitrogen levels (130 and 180 Kg/ha) high amounts of K reserves were observed in 0-20 and 20-40 cm depth which could be a result of the blocking effect.

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