# INVESTIGATION OF THE MANURIAL VALUE OF SOME AGRICULTURAL WASTES

Chandrani S. Aluthge and Mervyn W. Thenabadu,
Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya.

The compositions of five agricultural waste products, rice straw, coir dust, sugarcane filter-press mud and cattle manure were determined, and laboratory incubation experiments conducted to study their manurial value, using an alfisol from Aralaganwila. Release of available nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium were estimated up to 25 days. Microbial activity was estimated by carbon dioxide release determinations, daily up to the first 10 days, and later at 14, 18, 22, 26 and 29 days.

A green house experiment conducted to study nutrient supplying ability on toddy spent wash on the growth of the rice plants (Bg 300) showed that part of the inorganic fertilizer requirements of plants could be supplied up to tillering stage at least.

As expected, materials rich in nutrients released the highest amounts of fertilizer elements. Amongst those used, sugarcane filter-press and released the highest amount of phosphorus, while rice straw released most potassium.