

**B-23 : RELEASE OF PHOSPHORUS FROM EPPAWELA ROCK
PHOSPHATE IN AN ACID SULPHATE SOIL FROM MATARA**

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An incubation experiment was conducted to evaluate the phosphorus released from Eppawela rock phosphate (ERP) and an imported rock phosphate (IRP) from Jordan in an acid sulphate soil reported from the Nilwala basin, Matara (Thenabadu, 1973). For comparison an unaffected paddy soil from the area was also used, and P was determined after incubation for 88 days and extraction by the method of Olsen.

IRP showed significantly higher P mineralization than ERP and the non-treated control in both acid sulphate soils and in unaffected soils. ERP showed significantly higher P availability only in acid sulphate soil than the control. In acid sulphate soil, P availability of IRP was increased from 6.3% to 11.85% of total P content, while the increase from ERP ranged from 3.1% to 9.45%.