

## **B-53: Behaviour of Eppawela rock phosphate in rubber soils**

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The dissolution of Eppawela rock phosphate (ERP) in the most prominent rubber growing soil namely Boralu, was studied in a short term incubation experiment. The role of directly applied rubber factory effluent to soil, on the availability of ERP was also evaluated to investigate cheaper ways for increasing the fertilizer value of the material.

Although, rubber soils are of acidic nature, pH did not show a direct relationship with P dissolution of rock phosphate. The rate of dissolution and therefore the amount of P dissolved is much higher in Imported Rock Phosphate (IRP) than other P sources. It was more pronounced in the early stages of the study.