

QUANTITY-INTENSITY RELATIONSHIP OF POTASSIUM IN FCV TOBACCO SOILS OF PRAKASAM AND NELLORE DISTRICTS OF ANDHRA PRADESH

C. CHANDRASEKHARA RAO, V. KRISHNAMURTHY AND P.R.S. REDDY

ICAR-Central Tobacco Research Institute, Rajahmundry-533 105, Andhra Pradesh, India

(Received on 23rd June, 2014 and accepted on 4th October, 2014)

Quantity-Intensity parameters of potassium were studied in Flue-cured Virginia tobacco soils by analyzing twenty eight soil samples (0-9") collected from Southern Light Soils (SLS) and Southern Black Soils (SBS) areas of Prakasam and Nellore districts. Textural variation in black soils was silty clay loam to clay whereas in light soils it was sandy loam to clay loam. Soils from SLS and SBS were neutral in soil reaction and low in EC, chlorides and organic carbon. Southern black soils have higher pH, EC, chlorides and organic carbon compared to SLS. Water soluble-K was more in SLS whereas exchangeable K, non-exchangeable-K, total-K and lattice-K were high in SBS which was due to higher clay content and potassium bearing minerals in black soils compared to light soils of Prakasam and Nellore districts. Equilibrium activity ratio AR^k values were high in SLS compared to SBS hence SLS area have more readily available potassium. The ranges for PBC^k in SBS and SLS were 80.3 - 200 and 7.3 - 126.4 c mol (p⁺)/kg, respectively. PBC^k values were more in SBS compared to SLS because of more clay content in SBS (23.8 to 47.4%) compared to SLS (9.43 to 35.64%), which shows that they have more replenishing capacity. Potassium on specific sites (K_x) and on non-specific sites (K_o) were high in soils of SBS area compared to SLS which is a measure of quantity parameter. Equilibrium activity ratio (AR^k) values were positively correlated with sand, whereas significant positive correlation was observed between PBC^k , K_o , K_x , and K_L and silt and clay contents. Water soluble-K showed significant positive correlation with AR^k , whereas, exchangeable-K showed significant positive correlation with PBC^k , K_o , K_x , and K_L .

Key words: Potassium, Quantity-intensity, Tobacco soils

INTRODUCTION

Tobacco is a low volume and high value cash crop contributing Rs.17415 crores of excise revenue and Rs. 4100 crores of foreign exchange (Anonymous, 2011). It is grown in an area of 0.45 million ha producing about 750 million kg of

tobacco leaf. Of this, flue-cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco is about 270 million kg from an area of 0.23 million ha which is mainly used for cigarette purposes. India has the added advantage in producing FCV leaf of different styles ranging from the coloury, neutral filler to the highly flavourful leaf to cater the requirements of different importing countries. FCV tobacco is grown in different agro-ecological zones in India viz., Northern Black Soils of Andhra Pradesh comprising Vertisols of East Godavari, West Godavari and Khammam districts (NBS), Central Black Soils of Andhra Pradesh comprising the Vertisols of Krishna and Guntur districts (CBS), Northern Light Soils of Andhra Pradesh comprising the light soils of East Godavari, West Godavari and Khammam districts (NLS), Southern Light Soils of Andhra Pradesh comprising the Alfisols of Prakasam and Nellore districts (SLS), Southern Black Soils comprising the Vertisols of Prakasam and Nellore districts (SBS) and Light Soils of Karnataka comprising the Alfisols of Mysore district (KLS). Among these zones, FCV tobacco is cultivated to an extent of 63,000 ha in light soils and 33,000 ha in heavy soils of Prakasam and Nellore districts.

Among the major nutrients of importance to FCV tobacco, potassium plays an important role in improvement of yield and leaf quality. It improves the color, body, texture, leaf burn etc. Quantity (Q), Intensity (I) and buffering capacity parameters determine the K supplying power of the soils (Beckett, 1964) for assessing its availability to the growing plants. In this approach, immediate availability of the potassium is related to intensity factor, reserve of non-exchangeable potassium to the quantity factor and the replenishment capacity to the potassium buffering capacity. Considering the importance of potassium in tobacco production and quality improvement, an attempt was made to study the Quantity-

Intensity parameters of potassium in the FCV tobacco growing soils of Prakasam and Nellore districts of Andhra Pradesh for rational potassium fertilization.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Twenty eight soil samples (0-9") were collected from eleven tobacco auction platforms of Southern Light Soils (SLS) and Southern Black Soil (SBS) of Prakasam and Nellore districts of Andhra Pradesh. Among the twenty eight samples, 9 samples were from SBS area and 19 samples were from SLS area. These soils samples were processed and analysed for soil separates, pH, EC, and various forms of potassium *viz.*, water soluble-K, exchangeable-K, non-exchangeable-K and total-K following the standard methods (Jackson, 1973; Page *et al.*, 1982; Piper, 1950). Quantity and intensity parameters of soil potassium was measured (Beckett, 1964) in the surface soil samples. Five grams of each soil was equilibrated with 50 ml of 0.01M CaCl₂ solution containing graded concentrations (0, 5, 10, 20, 40, 80, 100, 150, 200, 250, 400, 600, 800 and 1000 ppm) of potassium. The soil suspension was shaken on a horizontal shaker for one hour and allowed to stand overnight. The suspension was filtered, the equilibrium solution and also the original solution was analyzed for potassium, calcium and magnesium following the standard methods. The loss or the gain of potassium (D K) in the equilibrated samples was obtained from the difference between K added and extracted, concentrations of the K gained or lost were plotted against activity ratio (AR) which was calculated from the equation given below.

$$AR^K = a_K / \bar{a}_{(Ca+Mg)}$$

Where all the concentrations are expressed as mol/L in the equilibrium solution. The AR^K values for all the solution K concentrations of each soil was plotted against \pm D K to obtain the Q/I curve. K₀ (cmol/kg): Obtained by drawing a tangent on Q/I curve from the point of

AR^K where "K = 0.

K_L (cmol/kg): labile K, by extrapolating Q/I curve where it intercepts on the X axis.

K_x (cmol/kg): The difference between K_L - K₀ which is specifically adsorbed K

AR₀^K is Where K is neither gained nor lost. *i.e.* D K = 0

PBC^K (cmol/kg): Potential buffering capacity was computed from the slope of the linear portion of the curve: K₀ / AR₀^K.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Soil properties

Results revealed that the textural variation in SBS is in between silty clay loam to clay and the clay content varied between 23.8 to 47.4% (Table 1). The textural variation in light soils of Prakasam and Nellore districts was from sandy loam to sandy clay loam. The clay content of these soils varied between 9.43 and 35.64 % (Table 3). Soils from SLS and SBS areas were neutral in soil reaction and low in EC, chlorides and organic carbon (OC). SBS have higher pH, EC, chlorides and OC values compared to SLS (Tables 1, 3 & 5). The range of soil pH, EC, Cl and OC in top soils of SBS was 7.4-7.7, 0.19-0.32 dS/m, 12-40 mg/kg, 0.15-0.35%, respectively. In soils from SLS area, the ranges of pH, EC, Cl and OC were 6.7-7.6, 0.15 - 0.26 dS/m, 4-44 mg/kg and 0.10-0.30%, respectively.

Potassium fractions

Potassium fractions showed wide variation in Prakasam and Nellore districts. Water soluble-K was more in SLS compared to SBS whereas exchangeable-K, non-exchangeable-K, total-K and lattice-K was more in SBS compared to SLS (Tables 2, 4 & 5). The ranges for water soluble-K, exchangeable-K, non-exchangeable-K, lattice-K and total-K in top soils of SBS were 17-36, 243-464, 840 -1720, 7160 -14360 and 8000 -15800 mg/kg. In case of soils from SLS area, the ranges were 14-64, 56-273, 520-1800, 3480-11760 and 4000-12800 mg/kg. Higher amount of total-K and non-exchangeable-K in SBS was due to higher clay content and potassium bearing minerals in black soils compared to light soils in Prakasam and Nellore districts.

Quantity-Intensity parameters

Results emanated from the present study revealed that variation existed in different Q/I parameters between SLS and SBS soils (Tables 2, 4 & 6). Equilibrium activity ratio AR₀^K values where, the soil neither gains nor loses the potassium (*i.e.* "K=0) were high in SLS compared

Table 1: Textural composition and soil properties of southern black soils of Prakasam and Nellore districts

S. No.	Village	Sand (%)	Silt (%)	Clay (%)	Textural class	pH	EC (dS/m)	Cl (mg/kg)	OC (%)
1	Pongulurivaripalem	43.3	17.7	39.0	C	7.7	0.19	32	0.15
2	Naidu palem	18.4	38.8	42.8	Si C	7.5	0.24	16	0.31
3	Throvagunta	21.9	41.4	36.7	Si CL	7.4	0.32	24	0.23
4	Naguluppalapadu	32.3	20.3	47.4	C	7.7	0.20	32	0.24
5	Koresepadu	48.0	20.4	31.6	CL	7.4	0.25	20	0.35
6	Bodduvaripalem	39.7	36.5	23.8	Si L	7.5	0.24	16	0.26
7	Cherukumpalem	40.0	31.9	28.1	Si CL	7.5	0.22	40	0.21
8	Nidamanur	30.7	33.4	35.9	Si CL	7.5	0.24	24	0.22
9	Vennur	40.7	17.0	42.2	C	7.6	0.19	12	0.26

Table 2: Potassium fractions and Q/I parameters of southern black soils of Prakasam and Nellore districts

S. No.	Village	Water soluble-K (mg/kg)	Exchangeable K (mg/kg)	Non exchangeable K (mg/kg)	Lattice-K (mg/kg)	Total-K (mg/kg)	K_L (cmol (p ⁺)/kg)	K_0 (cmol (p ⁺)/kg)	K_x (cmol (p ⁺)/kg)	AR ^K ₀	PBC ^K (cmol (p ⁺)/kg ⁻¹)
1	Pongulurivaripalem	33	247	840	7160	8000	0.55	0.35	0.20	0.002	175
2	Naidu palem	36	464	1720	11280	13000	1.21	0.60	0.61	0.003	200
3	Throvagunta	30	390	1440	14360	15800	0.757	0.485	0.272	0.0027	179.6
4	Naguluppalapadu	32	368	1000	9000	10000	0.657	0.257	0.400	0.0032	80.3
5	Koresepadu	26	334	880	8520	9400	0.50	0.320	0.180	0.0025	128
6	Bodduvaripalem	17	243	1000	7600	8600	0.40	0.257	0.143	0.0020	128.5
7	Cherukumpalem	31	349	1200	8600	9800	0.83	0.530	0.300	0.0029	182.8
8	Nidamanur	23	297	920	8080	9000	0.685	0.40	0.285	0.0021	190.5
9	Vennur	33	347	1040	7560	8600	0.40	0.257	0.143	0.0021	122

to SBS which shows that SLS have more readily available potassium compared to SBS. The ranges of AR^K₀ values in soils from SBS and SLS areas were 0.002 – 0.0032 and 0.0016 – 0.0323, respectively. Higher values of AR^K₀ in soils from SLS were due light textured nature of these soils (sandy loams to clay loams) compared to SBS which are heavy textured (silty clay loams to clay) having high clay and CEC. These soils may have higher cation retentive power and have small amounts of K in soil solution. Significant correlation of silt with AR^K₀ values is reported by Joshi (1992). Higher AR^K₀ values in light textured soils is due to higher ionic activity of potassium in comparison to calcium and magnesium in soil solution (Sharma and Mishra, 1989). Similar results were reported by Subba Rao *et al.* (1984), Srinivas and Seshaiiah (1993) and Tamuli and

Baruah (2000). The highest AR^K₀ value was observed in soils of CTRI Kandukur farm of SLS area whereas in SBS the highest AR^K₀ value was observed in Naguluppalapadu village. Potential buffering capacity (PBC^K) denotes the rate of change of quantity with intensity and is represented by the gradient of the curve. The ranges for PBC^K in SBS and SLS were 80.3 - 200 and 7.3 – 126.4 cmol(p⁺)/kg, respectively (Table 6). The highest PBC^K value was observed in Naidupalem in SBS area and Krishnareddypalem in SLS area. PBC^K values were more in southern black soils compared to southern light soils because of more clay content in soils from SBS area (23.8 to 47.4) compared to SLS area (9.43 to 35.64), which shows that SBS have more replenishing capacity compared to SLS. Similar results were also reported (Sailakshmiswari *et al.*,

Table 3: Textural composition and soil properties of southern light soils of Prakasam and Nellore districts

S. No.	Village	Sand (%)	Silt (%)	Clay (%)	Textural class	pH	EC (dS/m)	Cl (mg/kg)	OC (%)
1	Korrapativaripalem	63.70	20.40	15.90	L	7.5	0.26	16	0.18
2	Doddavaram	79.26	6.81	13.94	SL	7.5	0.25	16	0.19
3	Chinarikatla I	80.08	2.80	17.12	SL	7.0	0.19	24	0.16
4	Chinarikatla II	89.59	0.93	9.43	SL	7.1	0.17	12	0.11
5	Gulla Samudram	68.36	11.30	20.34	L	7.5	0.20	12	0.25
6	Machavaram	71.58	4.88	23.54	SCL	6.8	0.20	8	0.26
7	Srirangapuram	80.16	3.97	15.87	SL	6.8	0.18	8	0.14
8	Juvvigunta	66.11	13.48	20.41	L	7.6	0.18	16	0.30
9	Petlur	66.02	8.41	25.57	CL	7.3	0.25	20	0.21
10	Oletivaripalem	68.59	7.56	23.85	SCL	7.2	0.22	20	0.18
11	CTRI Kandukur F3	77.46	5.14	17.39	SL	6.9	0.20	4	0.10
12	CTRI Kandukur 10	81.49	3.86	14.65	SL	6.7	0.15	16	0.10
13	Ponnalur	52.03	17.68	30.29	CL	7.4	0.22	24	0.26
14	Uppalapadu	41.13	23.23	35.64	CL	7.4	0.24	8	0.19
15	Chundi	77.51	3.40	19.09	SCL	7.6	0.20	40	0.25
16	Varikuntapadu	68.13	5.45	26.42	SCL	7.3	0.20	44	0.18
17	Duttalur	51.80	22.22	25.98	CL	7.4	0.22	16	0.22
18	Vinjamur	77.27	3.93	18.80	SCL	6.9	0.21	12	0.14
19	KrishnaReddy palem	48.09	22.94	28.97	CL	7.4	0.25	12	0.25

Table 4: Potassium fractions and Q/I parameters of southern light soils of Prakasam and Nellore districts

S. No.	Village	Water Soluble-K (mg/kg)	Exchangeable K (mg/kg)	Non Exchangeable K (mg/kg)	Lattice-K (mg/kg)	Total-K (mg/kg)	K_L (cmol (p ⁺)/kg)	K_0 (cmol (p ⁺)/kg)	K_x (cmol (p ⁺)/kg)	AR K_0	PBC K (cmol (p ⁺)/kg ⁻¹)
1	Korrapativaripalem	22	124	1080	10120	11200	0.227	0.159	0.068	0.0068	23.4
2	Doddavaram	18	80	1040	7960	9000	0.400	0.150	0.250	0.0025	60
3	Chinarikatla I	33	119	1000	6400	7400	0.250	0.200	0.05	0.0211	9.5
4	Chinarikatla II	30	86	520	3480	4000	0.244	0.180	0.064	0.0245	7.3
5	Gulla Samudram	31	137	1800	11000	12800	0.300	0.200	0.100	0.006	33.3
6	Machavaram	23	127	1480	8520	10000	0.313	0.188	0.125	0.0025	75.2
7	Srirangapuram	38	56	560	9040	9600	0.280	0.120	0.160	0.0025	48.0
8	Juvvigunta	14	96	1120	7880	9000	0.400	0.200	0.200	0.0016	125
9	Petlur	15	99	1080	7520	8600	0.400	0.216	0.184	0.0030	72
10	Oletivaripalem	22	148	960	6840	7800	0.404	0.269	0.135	0.0036	74.7
11	CTRI Kandukur F3	46	132	880	8320	9200	0.466	0.330	0.136	0.015	22.0
12	CTRI Kandukur 10	64	78	840	11760	12600	0.450	0.300	0.150	0.0323	9.29
13	Ponnalur	47	273	1640	5960	7600	0.400	0.243	0.173	0.0030	81
14	Uppalapadu	21	259	720	5680	6400	0.293	0.186	0.107	0.0031	60.0
15	Chundi	49	113	1040	7160	8200	0.316	0.233	0.083	0.010	23.3
16	Varikuntapadu	33	143	960	7640	8600	0.494	0.40	0.094	0.0124	32.3
17	Duttalur	22	238	920	5480	6400	0.646	0.369	0.277	0.0035	105
18	Vinjamur	43	217	880	4320	5200	0.640	0.500	0.140	0.0218	22.9
19	Krishna Reddy palem	17	141	640	5160	5800	0.486	0.316	0.170	0.0025	126.4

1986; Beckett, 1964; Subbarao *et al.*, 1984; Srinivas and Seshaiyah, 1983). PBC^K, delta G and K potential were higher in sub-surface soils compared to surface soils (Kumar and Kumaraswamy, 2001).

The K_o values indicate the quantity of K held at the non-specific sites and the values ranged from 0.257 – 0.60 cmol(p⁺)/kg in SBS and 0.12 – 0.50 cmol(p⁺)/kg in SLS. The labile form of K (K_L) is the K being exchanged by the cations from the colloidal surface. The values varied from 0.4-1.21 cmol(p⁺)/kg in SBS and 0.227 – 0.646 cmol(p⁺)/kg in SLS. K_x is the content of the exchangeable K associated with specific sites. The values ranged from 0.143 – 0.61 cmol(p⁺)/kg in SBS and 0.05 – 0.277 cmol(p⁺)/kg in SLS. The labile form of potassium (K_L), potassium on specific sites (K_x) and potassium on non specific sites (K_o) were high in soils of SBS compared to soils of SLS, which is a measure of quantity parameter.

Correlation between Q/I parameters and soil properties

Equilibrium activity ratio (AR^K_o) values were positively correlated with sand whereas significant positive correlation was observed between PBC^K, K_o, K_x and K_L and silt and clay contents (Table 7). The parameters pH, EC and organic carbon showed significant positive correlation with PBC^K and significant negative correlation with AR^K_o. Water soluble-K showed significant positive correlation with AR^K_o whereas exchangeable-K showed significant positive correlation with PBC^K, K_o, K_x and K_L. Non-exchangeable-K, lattice-K and total-K showed positive correlation with PBC^K, K_o, K_x and K_L and negative correlation with AR^K_o.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors are thankful to the Director, Central Tobacco Research Institute for providing

Table 5: Ranges and mean values of soil chemical properties and potassium fraction of SLS and SBS areas

Region		pH	EC (dS/m)	Cl (mg/kg)	OC (%)	Water soluble-K (mg/kg)	Exchangeable-K (mg/kg)	Non-exchangeable-K (mg/kg)	Lattice-K (mg/kg)	Total-K (mg/kg)
SBS	Mean	7.5	0.23	24	0.28	29	338	1116	9129	10244
	Range	7.4-7.7	0.19-0.32	12-40	0.15-0.35	17-36	243-464	840-1720	7160-14360	8000-15800
SLS	Mean	7.2	0.21	17	0.19	31	140	1008	7381	8389
	Range	6.7-7.6	0.15-0.26	4-44	0.10-0.30	14-64	56-273	520-1800	3480-11760	4000-12800

Table 6: Ranges and mean values Quantity –Intensity parameters of potassium in southern light soils and southern black soils

Region		K _L (cmol (p ⁺)/kg)	K _o (cmol (p ⁺)/kg)	K _x (cmol (p ⁺)/kg)	AR ^K _o	PBC ^K (cmol(p ⁺)/kg)
SBS	Range	0.4 - 1.21	0.257-0.60	0.143 – 0.61	0.002 – 0.0032	80.3 -200
	mean	0.665	0.384	0.281	0.0025	154.1
SLS	Range	0.227-0.646	0.12 – 0.50	0.05 – 0.277	0.0016 – 0.0323	7.3 – 126.4
	mean	0.390	0.250	0.140	0.0094	53.2

Table 7: Correlation coefficients between soil properties and Quantity-Intensity parameters

Soil Properties	K_L (cmol (p ⁺)/kg)	K_0 (cmol (p ⁺)/kg)	K_x (cmol (p ⁺)/kg)	AR ^k ₀	PBC ^k (cmol (p ⁺)/kg)
Sand	-0.677**	-0.545**	-0.674**	0.608**	-0.850**
Silt	0.642**	0.537**	0.616**	-0.553**	0.831**
Clay	0.588**	0.448*	0.612**	-0.555**	0.706**
pH	0.257	0.111	0.357	-0.629**	0.543**
EC	0.319	0.287	0.286	-0.519**	0.461*
Chlorides	0.264	0.327	0.143	-0.066	0.208
OC	0.281	0.124	0.391	-0.659**	0.553**
Water -K	0.089	0.209	-0.051	0.622**	-0.343
Exch.K	0.754**	0.669**	0.685**	-0.402*	0.730**
Non-Exch.K	0.320	0.234	0.352	-0.297	0.260
Lattice-K	0.324	0.215	0.366	-0.133	0.262
Total-K	0.342	0.230	0.384	-0.161	0.276

necessary facilities and constant encouragement during the study. The authors are also thankful to Smt. Y. Ramabai, Technical Officer for technical help rendered during the study.

REFERENCES

- Anonymous. 2011. *Annual Report*, Tobacco Board, Ministry of Commerce, Govt. of India. P. 198.
- Beckett, P.H.T. 1964. Studies on soil potassium II. The immediate Q/I relation of labile potassium in the soil. **J. Soil Sci.** 15: 9-23.
- Jackson, M.L. 1973. *Soil Chemical Analysis*. Prentice Hall India, PVT. Ltd. New Delhi.
- Joshi, D.C. 1992. Relationship between the Quantity-Intensity parameters of labile potassium in Aridisols of Indian districts. **J. Indian Soc. Soil Sci.** 40: 431-38.
- Krishnamurthy, V. and K. Deo Singh. 2002. *Flue-Cured Tobacco Soils of India: Their Fertility and Management*. Central tobacco Research Institute, Rajahmundry, P. 162.
- Kumar, P. and K. Kumaraswamy. 2001. Effect of continuous application of different fertilizer schedules on Q/I relationship of potassium in Alfisols. **J. Potassium Res.** 17(1): 67-70.
- Page, A.L., R.H. Miller and D.R. Keeney. 1982. *Methods of Soil Analysis*. Part 2 Chemical and Microbiological Properties. Madison, Wisconsin USA
- Piper, C.S. 1950. *Soil and Plant Analysis*. Inter Science Publishers Inc., New York.
- Sailakshmiswari, Y., A. Subba Rao and R.N. Pillai. 1986. Quantity-Intensity parameters of potassium in texturally different alluvial soils. **J. Indian Soc. Soil Sci.** 34: 185-6.
- Sharma, B.D. and B. Mishra. 1989. Quantity-Intensity relationships of potassium in texturally different Alluvial soils. **J. Indian Soc. Soil Sci.** 37: 35-9.
- Srinivas, D. and B.V. Seshiah. 1993. Quantity-Intensity parameters of potassium in tobacco growing soils of Andhra Pradesh. **Tob. Res.** 19: 37-40.
- Subba Rao, A., V. Adinarayana and I.V. Subba Rao. 1984. Quantity -Intensity relationship of potassium in representative soils of Andhra Pradesh. **J. Indian Soc. Soil Sci.** 32: 240-3.
- Tamuli, A. and T.C. Baruah. 2000. Effect of lime sludge on Q/I parameters of potassium in some soils of upper Brahmaputra valley zone of Assam. **J. Potassium Res.** 16(1): 62-4.