

New Concepts on Fertilizer Recommendation for Coffee – Nigerian Case Study

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SUMMARY

Coffee production in Nigeria is done over a variety of agroclimatic zones ranging from the typical rainfall region in the South to the Guinea Savanna in the middle belt to montain savanna in the North. The variety of agroclimatic zones also connotes variety of soil types. Coffee is therefore produced in Nigeria on Alfisol, oxisols and ultisols. These soils have different nutrient supply powers responses of coffee to fertilizer also vary considerably. In Nigeria, and in must coffee producing countries, single fertilizer recommendations are being used irrespective of differences in soil type and climatic conditions.

Recommendations in Nigeria for coffee are 65 kg N, 15 kg P, and 70 kg K across the different climatic zones.

This blanket fertilizer recommendation has not achieved the desired increase yield across the coffee producing areas. Consequently yield levels in Nigeria have remained exceedingly low due to wrongful fertilizer wage. The new concept of fertilizer recommendation sought to take into considerations soils, agroclimatic conditions of the producing area and the expected yield level. Similar works on cocoa in Nigeria have also produced encouraging results. Observations so far indicate that the new soil series based fertilizer recommendations will seriously reduce wastage and significantly increase yield.