

**Table 4.** Comparison of soil K content in different forms between experiment initiation and after 5 years on a red sandy soil.

Experiment initiation			After five years of experiment						
Total K, %	Slowly available K, ug/g	Available K, ug/g	Treatment	Total K %	±	Slowly available K ug/g	±	Available K ug/g	±
1.72	161	27.4	NPK <sub>0</sub>	1.72	0	154	-7	21.4	-5.6
			NPK <sub>45</sub>	1.72	0	161	0	30.5	3.1
			NPK <sub>90</sub>	1.72	0	167	6	34.0	6.6
			NPK <sub>135</sub>	1.74	.02	174	12	38.0	10.6
			NPK <sub>90</sub> (OM)	1.74	.02	180	19	40.0	12.6

that could be returned to the soil.

- As expected when K was not applied, soil K was depleted. This is a prime example of soil nutrient mining and proves that if adequate K is not applied with present crops, more will be needed in the future.
- Potassium is an important plant nutrient for rice production in the alluvial and red sandy soils of Jiangxi province. **BCI**

*Luo Qixiang is President, Soil and Fertilizer Institute (SFI); Tao Qixiang is Director, SFI; Liu Guangrong is Deputy Director, SFI; Li Zuzhang is Fertilizer Division Chief, SFI, Jiangxi Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Nanchang.*

## Potash Development Institute Established in Pakistan

To sustain the CIDA-Canpotex-PPIC initiative on research and development of potash (MOP) use in Pakistan, the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) has set up the Potash Development Institute. Inaugurated on March 17, 1998, at the National Agricultural Research Centre, Islamabad, by Dr. Zafar Altaf, Chairman, PARC, and Dr. Mark D. Stauffer, President, PPIC, the Institute operates with the following objectives:

- To study the behavior of potassium (K) in Pakistan soils.
- To monitor the effects of fertilizers on a long-term basis at selected sites.
- To promote the use of balanced fertilization, with emphasis on potash, through demonstrations in farmer fields.
- To disseminate technical information amongst extension agronomists and farmers.
- To address environmental concerns related to soils and fertilizer use.
- To liaise with the government and fertilizer industry on issues related to current and future use of potash in Pakistan. **BCI**



*Dr. M.D. Stauffer, left, and Dr. Zafar Altaf, right, at opening of Potash Development Institute. M. Tahir Saleem, second from right, serves as PPIC project coordinator.*