

M

Module 3.1-1 The right source of potash improves yield and quality of banana in India. Potassium is an important nutrient in banana production, for both yield and quality. Sulfate of potash (K_2SO_4 or SoP) has a lower salt index and supplies the plant nutrient S, as compared to muriate of potash (KCl or MoP) which supplies the plant nutrient chloride (Cl), in addition to K. A study on banana in the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu showed benefits to applying SoP as compared to MoP, as indicated in **Figure 1** below. **Adapted from:** Kumar, A.R. and N. Kumar. 2008. *EurAsia J BioSci* 2(12):102-109.

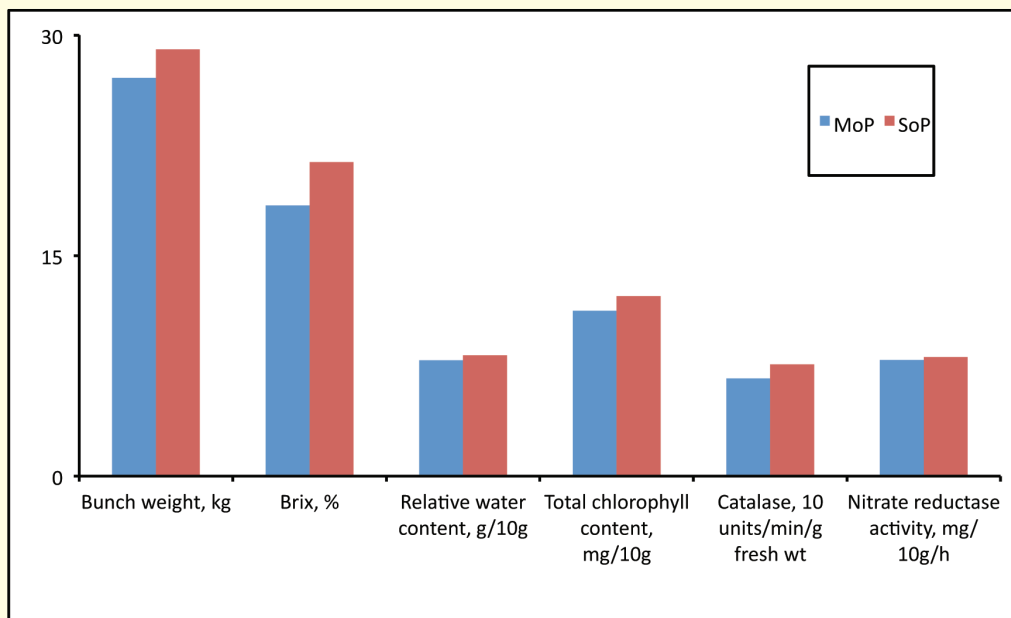


Figure 1. Banana bunch weight, Brix (total soluble sugars), relative water content, and photosynthetic parameters (chlorophyll content, catalase, and nitrate reductase activity) as affected by MoP and SoP as potassium sources.

Submitted by H.S. Khurana, IPNI, India, December 2011.