

Figure 1. Cassava root yield response to successive increases in K, and yield obtained with further addition of FYM, Malang, East Java.

tively. The treatment that combined 10 tonnes FYM/ha with the highest rates of N, P and K resulted in 29.84 tonnes fresh root/ha. The number of roots per plant increased significantly by including 30 kg K_2O /ha with N and P, but no additional increase in root number was observed with higher rates of fertiliser or manure.

Recommendation

The study proved that cassava planted on marginal Alfisol areas responded significantly to K fertiliser. The application of 60 kg K_2O /ha in addition to adequate N and P should be recommended for this area. Further if available, manures in combination with inorganic fertiliser is a very effective part of efficient cassava production in Java. **BCI**

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Australia: Deep-Placed Potassium for Dryland Peanuts Grown on Oxisol Soils

Increasing incidences of potassium (K) deficiency for dryland peanut crops in Australia, particularly during extended dry periods, has prompted a study on K nutrient dynamics and fertiliser placement options on Oxisol soils. Native soil K reserves for high producing areas have been depleted from 50 years of cropping and a confinement of available K in the top 10 to 15 cm layer of dry soil. Researchers are working to characterise K uptake by peanut on these soils and are examining corrective management options.

Field trials found placement of potash in a deep band 25 to 30 cm below the surface improved mid-season K contents of crops grown on soils with initial subsoil K values below 0.20 cmol (+)/kg. Work continues on identifying appropriate rates and frequencies for deep-banded K in Oxisols. **BCI**

Source: White, J., M. Bell, N. Menzies 1997. ACIAR Food Legume Newsletter 26.

