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Soil Fertility Kit – A Toolkit for Acid Upland Soil Fertility Management in Southeast Asia

This new 159-page handbook is a compendium of information and methods for managing upland soil fertility in Southeast Asia. Titled *Soil Fertility Kit*, the publication is in an easy to read format useful for extension workers, farmers, and researchers. It is authored by Thomas S. Dierolf, Thomas H. Fairhurst, and Ernst W. Mutert. Dr. Fairhurst and Dr. Mutert are Directors, PPI/PPIC East and Southeast Asia Program (ESEAP), Singapore.

Part 1 of the book presents practical tools and participatory approaches for investigation and diagnosis of soil fertility problems in acid, upland soils. Part 2 provides information on the chemical, physical, and biological properties of such soils and the major causes of problems. Nutrient cycles, integrated nutrient managements, and biological soil fertility management are discussed. Part 3 is a compilation of essential information on soil classification, soil/plant sampling and testing, critical soil/plant nutrient levels, nutrient uptake and removal in crops, and fertilizer recommendations.

The book can be purchased for US\$35.00 per copy, including shipping/handling. Discounts are available on bulk quantities. For more details, visit the website at www.eseap.org, or contact Doris Tan, PPI/PPIC (ESEAP), 126 Watten Estate Road, Singapore. 287599. E-mail: dtan@ppi-ppic.org, phone +656 468 1143, or fax +656 467 0416.



Potassium and Chloride in Crops and Soils **Publication Available as IPI-Research Topics No. 22**

Potassium chloride (KCl) is commonly known in agriculture as muriate of potash (MOP), the major potassium (K) fertilizer used in crop production. When applied properly with other essential nutrients, K has numerous benefits affecting yield, quality, and stress resistance of crops.

However, there is still widespread imbalance in K use, with negative balances in many cropping systems in most regions of the world. The accompanying element in MOP, the chloride (Cl⁻) ion, is an essential plant nutrient required in small amounts. Concern is sometimes raised about its role in soil salinity.

A new publication from the International Potash Institute (IPI) describes in detail the functions of K and Cl⁻ in plants and their importance to crop production. Titled *Potassium and Chloride in Crops and Soils: The Role of Potassium Chloride Fertilizer in Crop Production*, the 220-page booklet is identified as IPI-Research Topics No. 22. It is available for the price of US\$14.00.

For more information, contact the International Potash Institute, P.O. Box 1609, CH-4001 Basel, Switzerland; telephone +41 61 261 29 22, fax +41 61 261 29 25, e-mail: ipi@iprolink.ch, or through the website at www.ipipotash.org.

