

build soil test levels, but higher rates of K would be needed to increase soil K fertility. **BCI**

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## **India: Effect of Potassium on Yield and Quality of Potato**

This three-year study was conducted on 10 farmer fields in the Meerut region. The effects of sulfate of potash (SOP) on tuber yield, chip making quality, and post harvest storage were studied. Potato responded significantly to K fertilization. The following results characterize the study.

- Potassium ( $K_2O$ ) application rate of 150 kg/ha produced the highest tuber yields in each of the three years.
- Percent dry matter improved with K application up to 150 kg  $K_2O$ /ha.
- Chip quality was significantly improved in the last two years of the study in response to the application of 225 kg  $K_2O$ /ha.
- Sugar content decreased with K application.
- Potassium did not affect tuber loss two weeks after harvest, but an application rate of 150 kg  $K_2O$ /ha did reduce loss four weeks after harvest, resulting in a higher return when tubers were stored for longer periods.
- Split applications in the first year of the study did not offer any advantage. **BCI**

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