that the yield opportunity is maximized.

Priority Use of Potassium Fertilizer on Crops Producing More Economic Benefit

The province of Hunan has great potential for growing many economic crops provided sufficient K fertilizer is made available to farmers. All of these crops respond well to K application and give profitable results. Potassium fertilizer should be preferentially allocated to cotton, tobacco, ramie, corn, vegetable, fruit tree and medicinal crops since all of them produce great economic benefit to farmers. BCI

The author is Professor, Soil and Fertilizer Institute, Hunan Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Changsha, China.

Table 3. Optimum rate of applied K, predicted yield, and VCR of three crops on soils with different K supplying powers.

Content of available K, ppm	Optimum rate of K application, K_2O, kg/ha	Predicted yield, t/ha	VCR
Corn			
<60	170	4.67	6.2
60-100	125	5.63	5.8
100-130	110	6.48	3.3
130-150	90	6.38	2.1
>150	68	6.70	2.0
Peanut			
<50	151	2.75	8.3
50-70	108	3.12	6.1
70-90	100	3.43	5.7
90-120	63	3.87	5.0
>120	35	4.05	3.2
Rapeseed			
<50	150	1.09	3.8
50-80	105	1.21	3.6
80-100	92	1.39	3.1
100-120	87	1.45	2.8
>120	45	1.73	1.5

Dr. Fernando O. Garcia Named Director, Latin America – Southern Cone Program

Dr. Fernando O. Garcia joined the staff of PPI/PPIC as Director, Latin America-Southern Cone Program, effective May 1, 1998. He will be based in Buenos Aires, with responsibility for PPI/PPIC programs of agronomic research and education in Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Bolivia, as well as the two most southern states of Brazil.

A native of Buenos Aires, Dr. Garcia received his B.S. degree in agronomy in 1980 at the University of Buenos Aires. He then began working at the Balcarce Experimental Station for Argentina's National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA). In August of 1987, he received a fellowship to pursue graduate studies at Kansas State University, where he completed his M.S. degree in 1989. After working as a research assistant in soil microbiology, he went on to earn his Ph.D. degree at Kansas State in 1992.

Since returning to Argentina that year, his research has been primarily related to wheat and corn fertilization. Nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) fertilization programs have been developed that include the calibration of diagnostic methods and evaluation of N and P sources. He has also studied N and P dynamics under conventional and no-till conditions.

In addition to research and extension, Dr. Garcia has been involved in teaching graduate courses and advising students. He and his family are relocating to the Buenos Aires area. BCI