

## Oil Palm Forum Introduced by IPNI

In late 2008, the IPNI Southeast Asia Program launched a new Oil Palm Forum to provide planters with a venue for exchange of ideas and experiences. Individuals in oil palm production and research are often working in remote places with limited access to information.

Who has the answer to a management question? Connect with fellow planters and experts in the world serving as moderators of key topics related to oil palm. Contribute to the Forum with questions, suggestions, and advice. Help us improve the structure of the Oil Palm Forum by providing suggestions on your favorite topics for the main board and its child boards.



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This screen capture shows the main page of the Oil Palm Forum at ><http://forum.ipni.net/oilpalm><

*Banana...from page 11*

### Conclusions

This study is the first attempt in China to omit N, P, or K in banana based on prescribed OPT fertilizer treatment. Compared to the OPT, omission of P or K significantly decreased fruit yield in the mother plants while omission of N, P, or K all resulted in less yield from the following crop of daughter plants. Omission of K produced the largest reduction of yield and profit in both years.

In terms of storage traits, the content of chlorophyll in fruit peels decreased, while cyanin and flavonoid contents increased during storage. Ethylene release rates from banana fruits grown under -N, -P, or -K treatments increased over the time in storage compared with plants receiving the OPT treatment. Balanced fertilization with NPK could markedly improve fruit storage quality and extend storage life. Despite these yield and quality gains, large discrepancies in AE values were apparent between mother and daughter plants. More field experimentation is required regarding the balanced use of fertilizer application within these two successive crops. Results from this study suggest the need to address the nutrition of mother and daughter crops in a more distinct manner in order to address the differences in yield potential that are in part caused by differences in crop growth and development and environmental conditions.

### Author Information

Ms. Yao is a Associate Professor in the Soil and Fertilizer Institute, Guangdong Academy of Agricultural Sciences, e-mail: [lyaolx@yahoo.com.cn](mailto:lyaolx@yahoo.com.cn). Mr. Li and Ms. Yang are Assistant Professors in the Soil and Fertilizer Institute, Guangdong Academy of Agricultural Sciences. Dr. Tu is Deputy Director, IPNI China Program, and Professor in

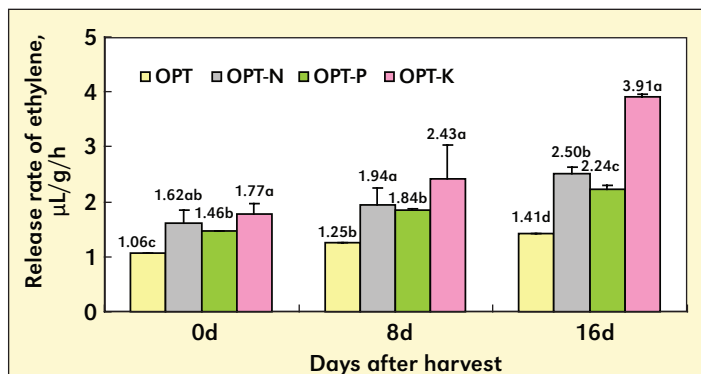


Figure 2. Variation in the release rate of ethylene from banana fruits from daughter plants receiving different fertilizer treatments at Dongfu, Guangdong, China.

*the Soil and Fertilizer Institute, Sichuan Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Chengdu.*

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