

FERTILIZER CONSUMPTION PATTERN IN SRI LANKA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE CONSUMPTION OF PHOSPHORUS FERTILIZER

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The consumption of fertilizer in Sri Lanka has been increasing steadily during the last 25 years. In 1963 the total consumption was 311 million MT and in 1988 it was 525 million MT. In 1963, 62 million MT of imported rock phosphate was used while in 1988 46 million MT of TSP 25 million MT IRP and 23 million MT of ERP were consumed.

In 1988, Paddy consumed 28.6 million MT of TSP while Minor Food Crop (MFC), Tobacco and others used 7.9 million MT, 1.4 million Mt and 7.9 million MT respectively. In the same year the IRP use was 4.8 million MT in Tea, 6.3 inm.Mt, Rubber, 8.0 in M.MT coconut 1.1. M.MT in MEC and 3.7 M. MT in others. The ERP use in the same year was 13.0 M.MT in Tea, 3.8 M.MT in Rubber, 2.8 M.MT in coconut and 1.0M. MT in others.

The substitution of ERP for IRP has been recommended to varying degrees in the Tea and Rubber sectors. With regard to Tea, the National average substitute on rate was 73% while the recommendation was 100%. In Rubber the national average was 62% while the recommendation was 50% for half the year and 100% for mature areas for the balance part of the year.

In 1988 Rs.436 million was spent on TSP imports and Rs.40 million on RP imports. In the disbursement of subsidies in 1988, Rs.13.9 million was used by IRP, while Rs.110 million was used by TSP. While only 2% of the subsidies was used by IRP, 18% was used by TSP in 1988.

The world market prices of TSP per MT ranged from US \$ 198 to US \$ 196 in 1988 while those of IRP ranged from US \$ 62 to US \$ 64. The subsidy rates payable on TSP in 1988 ranged from US \$ 114 to US \$ 139 while those on IRP range from US \$ 27 per MT to US \$ 34 per MT upto August when the subsidies were completely removed.