POTENTIAL OF ACID SOIL INFERTILITY IN SOME SELECTED RICE GROWING AREAS OF TANZANIA.

MHANDO, I.R.C. AND C.Z MKANGWA

ABSTRACT

A survey to assess the extent of soil acidity and its influence on rice yield was conducted in some important rice growing areas of Mkata plain, Lower Rufiji flood plain and Kilombro Valley.

The survey revealed that soil pH (using water) in the Mkata plain varied from 5.3 to 7.0 with exception of P and N, the other nutrient elements determined seems adequate. In the lower Rufiji flood plain soil reaction varied slightly from one site to another, with only one site having soil pH less than 6.00. In all the sites observed the total N was generally very low. The trend was almost similar to the soil conditions observed in Kilombero Valley. In all the areas observed, yields recorded appear to be low due to factors which are not soil related problems.

If the present cultural practices are considered, the sites are likely to be more acidic in future. In this case, however, more soil related problems in terms of nutrient availability, deficiency and toxicity are likely to be apparent.