

YIELD AND QUALITY OF PINEAPPLE AS AFFECTED BY PRE AND POST FLOWERING APPLICATION OF NUTRIENTS

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ABSTRACT

Fertilizer type, dosage, time and method of application play significant roles in yield and postharvest quality of pineapple. A field trial was conducted from April 2020 to May 2021 to study the effects of calcium nitrate and potassium nitrate and Ayar (soil amendment with calcium, magnesium, zinc, and boron) on yield and quality of pineapple (*Ananas comosus* var. Mauritius). The normal recommendation of NPK fertilizer @ 320:160:320 kg ha⁻¹ was followed in the experiment. Foliar spray of calcium nitrate and potassium nitrate 0.5% at 60 days after flowering (DAF) and soil application of Ayar @ 40g plant⁻¹ at different growth stages were the treatments imposed in this field experiment. The soil samples were taken before the experiment and six months after planting for nutrient analysis. The yield performance, vegetative characters and physico-chemical qualities were appraised. Treatments expressed no significant difference in vegetative characters of the plant, but gave significant difference in terms of fruit yield. Application of Ayar @ 40g plant⁻¹ at fourth month after planting and Ca(NO₃)₂ (0.5%) spray at 60 DAF gave the highest fruit yield (58.59 t ha⁻¹) over the control (52.64 t ha⁻¹).

Keywords: Calcium nitrate, *Ananas comosus* var. Mauritius, Vazhakulam pineapple, Ayar, fruit yield