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FERTILITY STATUS OF PUNJAB SOILS – RESPONSES OF DIFFERENT FERTILIZER ELEMENTS ON SOME MAJOR CROPS UNDER VARIED FERTILITY LEVELS

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ABSTRACT

Most of the Punjab soils are poor in organic matter and phosphorus contents, while K status is almost satisfactory to adequate. Behaviour of applied major nutrients varies under different fertility regimes. Responses of N and P are more pronounced at low fertility levels compared to higher fertility soils. Response to applied K remains inconsistent, sometimes negative against check. Studies on wheat, rice, sugarcane and cotton have shown large increases in yields in soils deficient in organic matter and phosphorus under increasing levels of N and P application. In soils of high fertility (organic matter and phosphorus), these responses appeared diminishing. Responses to applied K were not consistent because none of the soils under study was found low in K.