

Poster

**EFFECT OF SOIL SALINITY ON CHILI PRODUCTION IN JAFFNA
PENINSULA.**

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ABSTRACT

Chilli is one of the major cash crop in Jaffna peninsula and a good source of income to small farmers. Therefore, an investigation was conducted to identify cause of yellowing and chlorosis in chilli. Soil and water samples were monthly collected from the affected area for the period of twelve months in the year of 2011. Soil samples were analyzed for electrical conductivity, pH, exchangeable potassium, available phosphorus, and organic carbon. Water samples were analyzed for pH and EC. The pH values of water samples ranged from 6.9-7.4. The pH value agreed with recommended pH range (6.5-8). The electrical conductivity of water was high and it ranged from 1.4-2.8 ds/M indicating that the presence of high quantity of salt during the dry period. The pH values of the soil were between 8-8.5. Electrical conductivity of the soil ranged from 1.1-4.0 ds/M. EC values were high in dry period and it declined with the onset of rains. When the soil EC was high, the plant showed the symptoms of yellowing and chlorosis due to decrease in chlorophyll content.