Annals of Sri Lanka Department of Agriculture 2013. 15: 369

Research News

EFFECT OF LEAF COLOUR BASED NITROGEN APPLICATION ON GRAIN YIELD AND MASS AND QUALITY OF RICE GROWN IN THE SOUTHERN REGION

R. F .HAFEEL [1], D.N. SIRISENA [2], K.G.W. KUMARI [1], A.P. SUMANAWATHI [1] AND N. NIHAL[1]

[1] *Rice Research station, Ambalantota, Sri Lanka*
[2] *Rice Research and Development Institute, Department of Agriculture, Batalagoda, Sri Lanka*

Nitrogen in rice cultivation favours its yield and grain quality attributes when applied at the required quantity. The Department of Agriculture (DOA) has introduced Leaf Colour Chart (LCC) as a tool which indicates plant N requirement. However, some farmers in the region still believe that this technique could lead to supply sub-optimum level of N affecting both grain yield and quality. Hence, a yield trial with At 362 variety was conducted in three farmers' fields' in the southern region representing both Dry and Wet zones of the region to test whether LCC based N application provides optimum level of N to the crop without any adverse effects and yield performance. This study has confirmed that LCC based N application does not cause grain yield or its quality in the tested locations. However, before making a strong conclusion this study needs to repeat across wide array of rice growing environments in the region.