

THE COMBINED USE OF CHEMICAL AND ORGANIC FERTILIZERS AND/OR BIOFERTILIZER FOR CROP GROWTH AND SOIL FERTILITY

Jen-Hshuan Chen

Department of Soil and Environmental Sciences, National Chung Hsing University, Taiwan, R.O.C.

Abstract

Plant nutrients are essential for the production of crops and healthy food for the world's expanding population. Plant nutrients are therefore a vital component of sustainable agriculture. Increased crop production largely relies on the type of fertilizers used to supplement essential nutrients for plants. The nature and the characteristics of nutrient release of chemical, organic and biofertilizers are different, and each type of fertilizer has its advantages and disadvantages with regard to crop growth and soil fertility. The sound management of fertilization must attempt to ensure both an enhanced and safeguarded environment; therefore, a balanced fertilization strategy that combines the use of chemical, organic or biofertilizers must be developed and evaluated.