

Title Qualitative characters and shelf life of Plantain cv. Nendran (AAB) as effected by pre-harvest nutrient management

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Citation Abstracts of 7th International Postharvest Symposium 2012 (IPS2012). 25-29 June, 2012. Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. 238 pages.

Keywords Plantain; nendran; NPK; quality; shelf life

Abstract

Nendran (AAB), a plantain confined only to South Indian states offers a great scope for introduction. In general this banana is moderately vigorous and an important source of food in South India. It is also ideally suited for preparing baby foods and chips. Thus trials were conducted to study the fruit quality of Nendran in the Terai Zone of West Bengal, at an Experimental Farm of Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Pundibari, India during the year 2008-2010. Nine different treatment combinations of inorganic fertilizers (Urea + Single Super Phosphate + Muriate of Potash) having 150,200 and 250 grams N/plant; 300, 350 and 400 grams K/plant and 80 grams P/plant, respectively were compared with control (i.e. No N and K applied). All the fertilizers were soil applied in split doses except phosphorus to evaluate their effects on the fruit quality of Nendran. The treatment T9 (N₂₅₀ P₈₀ K₄₀₀ grams/plant) recorded significantly higher pulp per cent, pulp: peel ratio, dry matter per cent, total soluble solids, total sugar, reducing sugar, minimum acidity, green life and yellow life were significantly higher with the application of T9 (N₂₅₀ P₈₀ K₄₀₀ grams/plant) than with other treatments. Hence, application of higher doses of NPK at the rate of 250, 80 and 400 grams/plant can be recommended for the best quality of plantain Nendran with good shelf life.