

EFFECT OF COIR DUST BLENDED FERTILISERS ON THE CARBON
AND NUTRIENT DYNAMICS IN THE COASTAL SANDY SOILS

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ABSTRACT

The effect of blending coir dust with fertilizers on the changes in carbon, nitrogen and potassium fractions in the coastal sandy soils of Kerala was evaluated. The results indicated that the organic carbon content decreased progressively with time in all the treatments. The ethonol - benzene extractable carbon has decreased while the acid soluble fraction increased after 8months application. It appears that the application of NPK fertilizers generally favoured the accumulation of humic acid in the Soils. The available nitrogen showed a similar trend as that of organic carbon. There was no marked change in the ammoniacal nitrogen fraction between the treatments. However, nitrate nitrogen content significantly increased when NPK alone was applied. Where as with NPK blended with coir dust increased the nitrate nitrogen content marginally suggesting the nitrification inhibition properties of coir dust. All the K fractions were increased when coir dust blended with inorganic fertilizers. This clearly indicates that loss of K fractions in the sandy soils could be manimised considerably by blending the inorganic fertilizers with that of coir dust.