

NUTRIENT UPTAKE INDEX FOR EVALUATING NUTRIENT REMOVAL BY COCONUT PALM (*Cocos nucifera* L.) DURING PRE-BEARING STAGE

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ABSTRACT

An index method that permits comparison of removal of a nutrient by coconut palm at any given stage of growth before bearing, is described in this paper. Nutrient uptake index (NUI) for a given nutrient is arrived at by multiplying the nutrient concentration (per cent) in composited leaf sample by the number of leaves present at the time of sampling. NUI is expressed as a mere number and is taken as an estimate of the absolute quantity of the nutrient removed by the palm. The scope of the method is discussed.