

IRRDB SYMPOSIUM HELD AT PUNCAK, NEAR BOGOR,
INDONESIA, 2 - 4th JULY 1973

Brief report on the session on nutrition of Hevea

The session of the symposium on the nutrition of Hevea was held on 4th July with successively Dr. P. Compagnon and Dr. O.S. Peries in the chair.

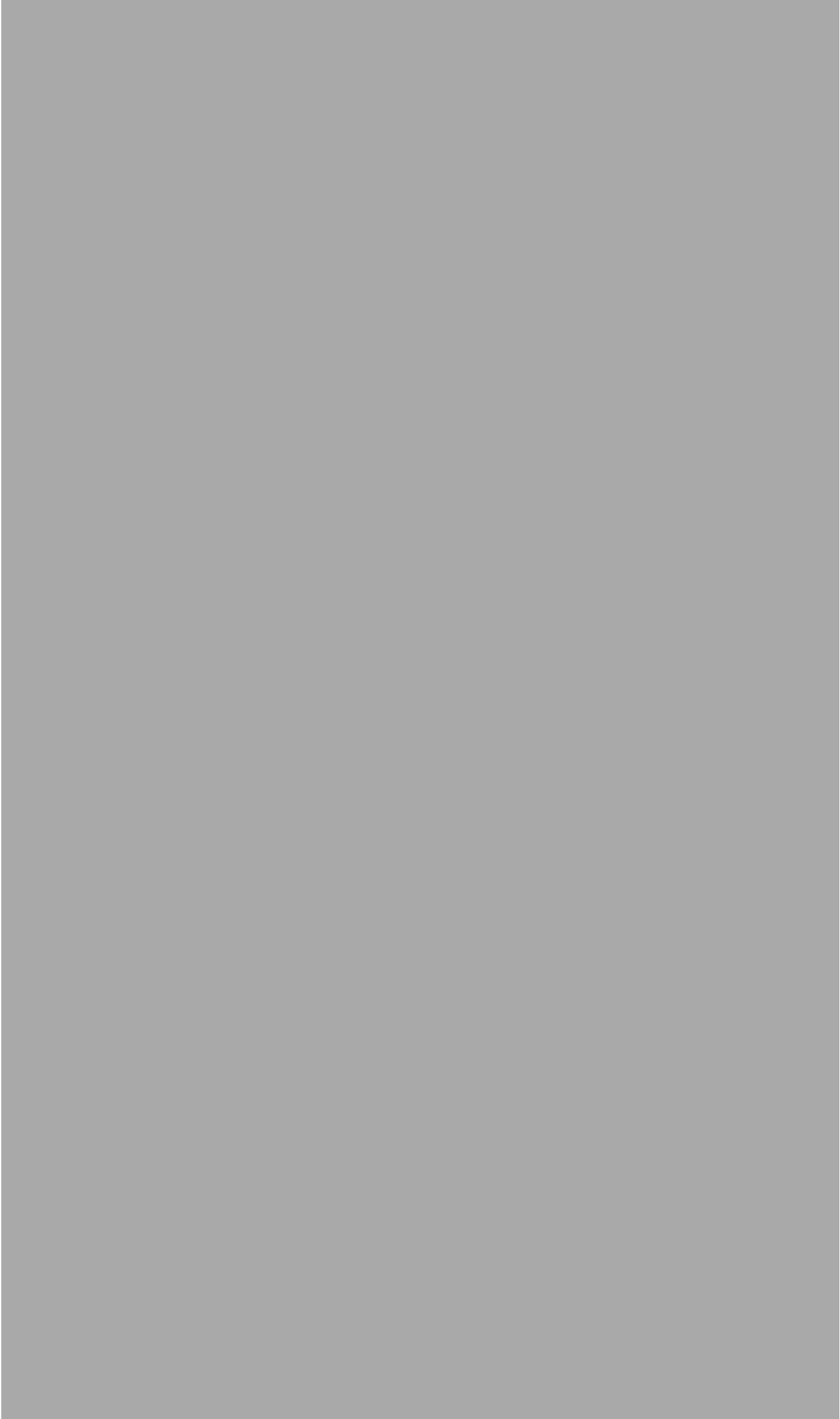
Contributions were received from most of the IRRDB Institute and nine papers were presented covering all the most important aspects of the subject followed by keen discussions.

It was emphasized at the last meeting on nutrition of hevea on March 1970 that close cooperation between soil scientist, biochemist and physiologist would be of great benefit for future developments in this field.

All the papers presented by the members Institutes illustrated outstandingly the benefit which has been drawn, which continued to be drawn, and, which is expected from a close cooperation and exchange of information for progress toward the most economic practices in rubber manuring.

The orientation toward discriminatory fertilizer recommendations, using leaf diagnosis as a guide for the nutrition status of the trees but taking account of environment conditions, the specific characteristics of the soils and the specific reactions of each clone, is followed along the same general lines by each members Institutes. The implementation of such a program which involve as a background, The knowledge of the typical soils most used for rubber in each country and the performance of manure experiments on representative areas with the most common cultivars has reached different stages in different members Institutes, depending on the particular conditions existing in each countries.

It is obvious that the great progress made by the unit which is the most in advance is of great benefit for all other units.



Considering the most important progress made in the last years, it appears very clearly that an outstanding step forward has been made in the last three years with the demonstration of a very important manuring-stimulation interaction.

The results obtained in very different places are nevertheless very consistent and tend to prove that K and N are the most important nutrients to achieve the highest yield with stimulation, using the best clone, that is also supported by physiological considerations.

It appears that with the high yields which can now be expected, compensation manuring must become a common practice with the majority of leached tropical soils most frequently used for rubber cultivation, except if other limiting factors of the environment interfere and cannot be corrected.

It also appears, as a conclusion from this point that the purpose of the agronomist being to optimize the yields, it is difficult now, with the high yielder clones to undertake an intensity tapping trial without manuring consideration, and to undertake a manuring trial without considerations of the tapping system most suitable for the cultivar.

It must be underlined that in all the contributions of the members Institutes the economic aspects of the methods and the manuring practice were given great importance. In all cases members Institutes have taken account of the limitations of the methods and have suggested means of overcoming /this matter can be mentioned: the physical properties of the soils, the different factors which modifies the mineral content of the leaf other than the uptake of nutrients itself, and the investigations into other substances which could indicate the best physiological status of the trees according to the best nutrition conditions. / these limitations

Finally, it has been strongly emphasized at the end of the general discussion that the method of manuring guidance which is used, being rather sophisticated, the implementation of this method for the benefit of the smallholders raise important problems. Each of the members Institutes mainly concerned by this socio-economic problem gave their view on their approach in this matter and as a conclusion it has been suggested that this

important aspect could be one of the main items at the next symposium on hevea nutrition so as to look for the best ways of popularizing the implementation of the known methods to allow the smallholders to obtain the maximum benefits.

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for hevea nutrition

