ABSTRACT

Three experiments were carried out on rooted cacao cuttings.

1. A clay topsoil and subsoil were compared with a loam of proved value for production of plants. One of the soils was given a little lime to raise the pH to about 6.5. The experiment included four amendments - pen manure, sawdust, coir fibre, and bagasse, which it was hoped would improve the texture of the soil.

2. Two of the above soil, and one with sawdust amendment, were tested with various fertilizer mixtures and one proprietary organic fertilizer.

3. Foliar spraying of nutrients was tried, as a more satisfactory method of application. Urea and Potassium dihydrogen phosphate were used with a spreader.

From the experiments it was concluded that nitrogen was extremely important in the production of healthy plants. The type of soil was of minor importance, but a soil with amendments normally requires much greater levels of nitrogen. Foliar spraying proved to be very successful.

Swain (1951) states that he considered that the necessity for a suitable potting mixture could not be over-emphasized, and that faulty nutrition of potted plants is one of the most important causes of loss of plants after potting in government and private propagation stations. He noticed that in those situations where slightly acidic soils rich in organic matter were used, with no severe nitrogen deficiency