Soil-Plant System Response to Lime and Phosphorus Amendments in High P-Sorbing Andisols.

Kathleen A. Webber¹, Soraya P. Alvarado², Richard C. Stehouwer¹ and Danny Farias³,  
(1)Department of Ecosystem Science and Management, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA, (2)Departamento de Manejo de Suelos y Aguas, Institución Nacional de Investigaciones Agropecuarias (INIAp), Quito, Ecuador, (3)Facultad de Ciencias Químicas, Universidad Central del Ecuador, Quito, Ecuador

Abstract Text:

Strong phosphorus sorption limits the agronomic productivity of many Andisols. We investigated the interactive effects of lime and P fertilizer amendments on P sorption and availability in a low pH, low soil test-P Andisol from the central Andean highlands of Ecuador. Nine treatments consisting of three rates (0, 90, or 180 kg/hectare) of P and three rates (0, 3, or 6 tons/hectare) of calcitic lime were mixed with equal volumes of soil and seeded with barley (Hordeum vulgare, L) in a greenhouse experiment. Mehlich3 and Olsen extractable P, Al, and Ca and soil pH were determined on soil samples taken before liming, 30 days later at the time of planting, and 7 and 50 days after planting (dap). Biomass yield and tissue P content were determined on whole barley plants harvested at 50 dap. Initial observations indicate a plant response to the treatments of lime, of phosphorus, and of lime with phosphorus. These findings could lead to the development of a field technique for phosphorus management to increase yields for subsistence farmers in the Ecuadorean Highlands.