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| Please use this form to clearly and concisely report on project progress. The information included should reflect quantifiable results that can be used to evaluate and measure project success. Comments should be limited to the designated boxes. Technical reports, no longer than 4 pages, may be attached to this summary report. | |
| **Project Number:** |  |
| **Project Title:** | Spatial and temporal variation of soil sampling affect phosphorus and potassium recommendations for soybean |
| **Organization:** | Louisiana State University Agricultural Center |
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| **Report Date:** | 3rd Quarter, 2023 |
| In the Progress Summary section below, please provide a brief summary of project progress in lay language that will be shared publicly in the [National Soybean Checkoff Research Database](https://www.soybeanresearchdata.com/). Do not include any confidential or proprietary information. If no lay language is provided, the contents of this entire report will be published in the [National Soybean Checkoff Research Database](https://www.soybeanresearchdata.com/). | |
| **Progress Summary (in non-proprietary lay language suitable to be shared publicly):** | |
| The project's objective is to characterize the effects of soil sampling time and position, rotational crop, and soil management practices on soil-test phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) concentrations and fertilizer recommendations for soybean production in Mid-South states. We expect to develop research-based soil sampling guidelines for optimum P and K recommendations that maximize soybean yield and profit. Also, we expect to develop a regression model to predict the temporal variation of soil-testing values following summer crop harvest and tillage management practices. In 2023, the research trials are being conducted at the LSU AgCenter – Northeast Research Station across different crop rotations, soil types, and soil management practices and will be continued in 2024 and 2025 in Louisiana with the additional research sites incorporated in Arkansas and Mississippi in 2024 and 2025. | |
| **Detailed Progress Status** – Expand upon the above section. What key activities were undertaken and what were the key accomplishments during this reporting period? List each key deliverable from the proposal and describe progress made (or not made) toward achieving it, including metrics were appropriate. | |
| A field trial was established on commerce silt loam soils at the LSU AgCenter – Northeast Research Station for corn, soybean, and cotton as a rotational crop side by side with two P and K rates (0 and 80 lb P2O5 and K2O/acre) and two tillage treatments (no-tillage and conventional tillage) in mid-March 2023. Before applying fertilizer treatments, a composite soil sample consisting of 10 soil cores from 0- to 6-inch soil depth was collected from each no-fertilizer control plot of each replication. Dekalb DKC65-99 corn was planted on March 31, 2023, and Progeny 4604XFS soybean and PhytoGen 411 W3FE cotton were planted on June 4, 2023 on 38-inch spaced seed beds. Soybean and cotton were planted late due to a lack of soil moisture from no rain for 3 weeks. Each experimental plot is 35-ft long x 12.67-ft wide and consists of 4 rows. The trial for each rotational crop was designed as a strip-split plot treatment structure with 4 replications including soil tillage practices as strip plots and fertilizer treatments as split plots. A separate paddy rice trial with CLL 18 was established in early May at the Northeast Research Station. The rice experimental plot is 24-ft long x 5-ft wide with 7.5-inch spacing. The experimental treatment, design, and soil sampling procedures were the same as mentioned for corn, soybean, and cotton.  Corn was harvested on Sep. 14, 2023, and tillage practices – conventional and no-tillage were established and soil samples from 0- to 6-inch depth from each plot of each replication using regular *AMS* soil probe (7/8-inch diameter) were collected from both tillage systems on the same day. The tillage practices for other summer crops were established after each crop harvest. A series of soil sample collections were already collected on a 15-day interval and will be continued until the next summer crop planting. Each composite soil sample consisted of at least 10 soil cores. Soil samples were collected from the top of the bed (around 6-inch apart from the crop row) and the middle of the furrow for the furrow-irrigated system for corn, soybean, and cotton. For flood-irrigated rice – soybean systems with <15-inch row spacing, soil samples were collected only from the middle of crop rows since there is minimum spatial variation. Each composite sample was air-dried and sent to the LSU AgCenter Soil Testing and Plant Analysis Laboratory, Baton Rouge, LA for Mehlich-3 routine soil analysis (pH, Mehlich-3 extractable P, K, Ca, Mg, Na, S, Fe, Mn, Zn, Cu, B).  Besides soil sampling, summer crop residue from each no-tillage plot of each replication was also collected at harvest and will be continued at 3-4 weeks intervals until next year's soybean planting. The harvested crop residue was dried and analyzed for nutrient concentrations (P, K, Ca, Mg, Na, S, Fe, Mn, Zn, Cu, B) at LSU AgCenter Soil Testing and Plant Analysis Laboratory, Baton Rouge, LA to determine the amount of nutrient release from crop residue following summer crop harvest. The soil-test nutrient values will be regressed across sampling time (days after summer crop harvest, DAH) using a GLIMMIX procedure of SAS to develop a regression model to predict the temporal variation of soil-testing values following summer crop harvest and tillage management practices. Rainfall and temperature data along with soil sampling were collected and will be used as a covariate for the regression model.  Data for 2023-24 are being processed. Results from our last year's trial showed that Mechlich-3 soil K concentration was 45-50 ppm higher in December compared to right after harvesting corn and rice, and corn and rice straw released around 60 and 35 lb K2O/acre, respectively from harvesting to mid-January (Figure 1). Mehlich-3 soil P concentrations do no change that much with time for any rotation crops.   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Corn – Soybean Rotation: Soil-Test Potassium (K) Concentration** | | |  |  | | **Rice – Soybean Rotation: Soil-Test Potassium (K) Concentration** | | |  |  | | **Corn – Soybean Rotation: Soil-Test Phosphorus (P) Concentration** | | |  |  |   Figure 1. Mehlich-3 soil K concentration (left) and amount of K leaching from straw (right) across time after corn (top) and rice (middle) harvest and Mehlich-3 soil P concentration (left) and amount of P leaching from straw (right) across time after corn (bottom) harvest for research trial conducted at LSU AgCenter – Macon Ridge and Northeast Research Station in 2022 to 2023 for corn–soybean and rice–soybean rotations. | |