



PRODUCT INFO  
& DATASHEET

## FERTILISATION OF BANANA CROPS FOR HIGHER YIELD AND QUALITY

The typical varieties are Cavendish, Mas and Berangan. Other types available are Nangka, Raja and Tanduk. Fusarium wilt is a major problem and intensive efforts are being made to breed tolerant varieties.

Banana can be grown in either wet or dry tropical conditions as long as adequate irrigation is available.

**Banana does best on moderately deep well drained soils.** Heavy clay or waterlogged areas are not suitable.

**The pH should be above 5.0 but less than 7.0.** Nitrogen and Potassium are the most important macronutrients. Smaller amounts of Phosphorus, Magnesium, Sulfur and Calcium are needed.

The estimated nutrient requirements for a 70 t/ha crop are 125 kg/ha Nitrogen, 35 kg/ha P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, 480 kg/ha K<sub>2</sub>O, 33 kg/ha MgO, 14 kg/ha Sulphur and 14 kg/ha CaO.

### Example of a typical fertiliser program currently in use is as follows:

#### **1) Preplant**

200 grams of SICOGREEN NPK 17.17.17 + Micros - mix into planting soil (water soluble powder) thoroughly.

#### **2) In Season Per Plant**

2 weeks: 250 grams of AM-SUL - apply around base of plant = Ammonium Sulphate 21%

6-8 weeks: 300 grams of SICOGREEN SUPER-K NPK 15.15.30 + Micros (water soluble powder) - apply in band 6"  
wide

12-16 weeks: 250 grams AM-SUL & 450 grams MULTI-EL - 12" band

20-24 weeks: 300 grams SICOGREEN SUPER-K NPK 15.15.30 + Micros - (water soluble powder) - apply in 18" band

28-32 weeks: 1.5 kg SICOGREEN NPK 17.17.17 + Micros per plant - apply in 36" band

Second (subsequent crops)

1 week: 250 grams AM-SUL

6 weeks: 300 grams SICOGREEN SUPER-K NPK 15.15.30 + Micros

12 weeks: 250 grams AM-SUL & 450 grams MULTI-EL

20 weeks: 300 grams SICOGREEN SUPER-K NPK 15.15.30 + Micros

28 weeks: 1.5 kg SICOGREEN NPK 17.17.17 + Micros

(Preplant, 12-16 & 20-24 week applications should be supplemented with 100 grams SUPER-CAL

#### **3) Foliar Enhancement**

Typically used in tank mixes with plant protection products.

SICOGREEN BANANA NPK 28.8.18 + Micros (water soluble crystalline) - Use 2 kg/100 liters water and apply at 500 l/ha. Apply before flowering, during fruit set and thereafter at 20-day intervals.



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#### 4) Micronutrient Requirements

Banana requires the micronutrients Zinc, Boron, Copper, Iron, Manganese, Molybdenum and Chlorine. In Peat and Sandy soils deficiencies are very common. A yield of 50 t/ha will remove 900 grams of Fe, 700 grams of B, 500 grams each of Zn and Mn and 200 grams of Cu. In addition substantial quantities of Zn and Mn can be tie up by high pH and excessive phosphorus.

To insure against unseen deficiencies and to correct visual deficiencies use SICOFOL-MIX at the rate of 300 g/ha at least 6 times per year. This product can be tank mixed with other plant protection chemicals for application.

Mix 30 grams/100 litres of water and apply 1000 liters/ha. If high yields are expected increase to 10 applications per year.

#### Products

##### SICO Products

SICOGREEN NPK 17.17.17 + Micros: (foliar - water soluble powder)

##### Specifications:

Total N: 17% of which:	Urea N	NH4 N	NO3				
	9	3.23	4.76				

P2O5: 17%

K2O: 17%

High Micro package:	MgO	B	Cu	Fe	Mn	Mo	Zn
	2.49	0.02	0.05	0.15	0.1	0.005	0.2

AM-SUL: Ammonium Sulphate 21% N + 24% S

"SICOGREEN SUPER-K" NPK 15.15.30 + Micros: (foliar - water soluble powder)

##### Specifications:

Total N: 15% of which:	Urea N	NH4 N	NO3 N				
	3.75	2.85	8.4				

P2O5: 15%

K2O: 30 %

High Micro package:	B	Cu	Fe	Mn	Mo	Zn
	0.02	0.05	0.1	0.1	0.005	0.2

"SICOGREEN BANANA" NPK 28.8.18 + Micros: (foliar - water soluble crystalline)

SICOFOL-MIX: Chelated Micronutrient foliar EDTA/citric acid mix (principally EDTA) containing (%):

MgO	B	Cu	Fe	Mn	Mo	Zn	Co
4.15	0.03	1.5	2	2	0.03	4	0.03

#### Other

MULTI-EL: 0.0.22 + 18 MgO + 24% S

SUPER-CAL: 24Ca + 17% S

A couple of more products for early stage bananas (as studied on bananas in Central America and Florida): you need 2 products on the first 12 months:

- 1) SICOGREEN water soluble NPK 18.06.36 + 0.2% B + 0.25% Zn + Humic acids (Total N 18% of which 10.5% ureic and 7.84% NO3)
- 2) BANANAMIX 4.0.0 + 10% Mg (16% MgO) + 17% S + 0.05% B, 0.1% Zn + Humic acids (+ extra addition of carbon skeleton in the form of sugar).