Growing TEA IN CHINA

KEY FINDINGS

POLY4 increased average yield by 5% over the three-year trial
Improved fertilizer margin by US$328/ha
Improved quality of spring tea
Enhanced soil nutrient status

POLY4 BENEFITS

Good performance in acidic, low nutrient soils common in tea gardens
A low Cl balanced source of K and Mg with sulphate S, Ca and additional micro nutrients
Sustained dissolution rate
Suitable for organic farming

A CASE FOR POLY4

• China produced 28-29% of the world’s tea in 2014-2016.

• Southwest China is an important tea-producing area.

• Soils in this region are low in nutrients such as K and Mg.

• Low chloride K sources can be commonly applied by China tea producers.

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HIGHER SPRING TEA YIELD

On average, POLY4 increased spring tea yield by 5% (+6% in 2015, +4% in 2016 and +7% in 2017) compared to SOP. Spring leaves are typically of highest value, and a higher yield ensures farmer profitability.

INCREASED FINANCIAL RETURN

POLY4 increased the value of tea by US$670/ha in 2015, US$257/ha in 2016 and US$460/ha in 2017. Fertilizer margin was also increased (US$480/ha, US$144/ha and US$360/ha in 2015-17).

IMPROVED QUALITY PARAMETERS

Tea fertilized with POLY4 had higher concentrations of protein, amino acids and water extractable solids.

ENHANCED SOIL NUTRIENTS

POLY4 application increased soil Mg by 46% and Ca by 20% over the three-year trial. Soil S was increased by 18%. The increase in post-harvest soil nutrient status benefits future cropping.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>Average nutrients applied in trial (kg ha⁻¹)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N + P (control)</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOP</td>
<td>240</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLY4</td>
<td>240</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

HIGHER SPRING TEA YIELD

TRIAL FOCUS

To compare POLY4’s effect as K fertilizer to SOP on tea yield and quality over the three-year trial.

PARTNER

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LOCATION

Sichuan Province, China

DATE

2015 - 2017