Growing POTATOES IN INDIA

KEY FINDINGS

16% marketable yield improvement
Higher tuber dry matter
Increased revenue

A CASE FOR POLY4

• Uttar Pradesh produced 15.3 million tonnes of potatoes in 2017 – 2018, which amounts to 30% of India’s total potato production.

• 45% of Indian soils are sulphur deficient.

• Excess chloride in fertilizers can reduce the dry matter content and quality of potatoes.

• Low-chloride POLY4 contributes to balanced crop nutrition and is a good source of sulphate-sulphur at the same time delivering potassium, magnesium and calcium in one product.

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**Higher Plant Emergence**

Improved crop emergence and establishment can support subsequent potato yield. Higher plant emergence was observed 30 days after planting when POLY4 replaced MOP + S. The potato emergence continued to increase as more POLY4 was added, while adding more MOP + S tended to lower it.

**Increased Marketable Yield**

Good K supply at tuber bulking is important for developing larger tubers. POLY4-fertilized crops had significantly higher marketable yield than MOP + S. At the recommended $K_2O$ rate (150 kg ha$^{-1}$), POLY4 had 16% higher marketable yield. POLY4 also gave a greater number of tubers and a higher proportion of marketable tubers.

The income from the POLY4 treatment was US$362/ha more than when the standard MOP + S was used (at 150 kg $K_2O$ ha$^{-1}$).
IMPROVED TUBER QUALITY

Tuber dry matter is important for potato frying quality. Dry matter content increased from 20.1% with MOP + S to 21.8% with POLY4 at the recommended K₂O rate.