

See discussions, stats, and author profiles for this publication at: <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/270584018>

# Recent advances towards understanding and managing Kenyan acid soils for improved crop production

Article in African journal of agricultural research · January 2015

DOI: 10.5897/AJAR2013.8359

CITATIONS

11

READS

300

7 authors, including:



**Kisinyo Peter**

Rongo University

25 PUBLICATIONS 179 CITATIONS

SEE PROFILE



**Peter Opala**

Maseno University

27 PUBLICATIONS 234 CITATIONS

SEE PROFILE



**Samuel Gudu**

Rongo University College

50 PUBLICATIONS 471 CITATIONS

SEE PROFILE



**V. Palapala**

rongo university college kenya

18 PUBLICATIONS 157 CITATIONS

SEE PROFILE

Some of the authors of this publication are also working on these related projects:



McKnight Foundation [View project](#)



Wood Ear Mushrooms of Africa [View project](#)

Review

## Recent advances towards understanding and managing Kenyan acid soils for improved crop production

Kisinyo P. O.<sup>1\*</sup>, Opala P. A.<sup>2</sup>, Gudu S. O.<sup>1</sup>, Othieno C. O.<sup>3</sup>, Okalebo J. R.<sup>3</sup>, Palapala V.<sup>1</sup> and Otinga A. N.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Rongo University College, P. O. Box 103-40404, Rongo, Kenya.

<sup>2</sup>Maseno University, Private Bag, Maseno, Kenya.

<sup>3</sup>University of Eldoret, P. O. Box 1125-30100, Eldoret, Kenya.

Received 9 December, 2013; Accepted 18 June, 2014

This review focused on the efforts made to understand and manage Kenyan acid soils by use of inorganic, organic materials (OMs) and crop germplasms tolerant to soil aluminium (Al) toxicity and/or low soil available phosphorus (P). Kenyan acid soils which occupy 13% of the total land area were developed through parent materials of acid origin, leaching of base cations and use of acid forming fertilizers. They are high in Al (>2 cmol Al/kg and > 20% Al saturation) and low in soil available P (< 5 mg P/kg soil) due to moderate-high (107-402 mg P/kg) P sorption, hence crops recover only 9.6 to 13.5% of the P fertilizer. Application of lime, P fertilizer and OMs increases soil pH, available P and reduces Al toxicity on Kenyan acid soils. Lime, P fertilizers and OMs have increased maize grain yield by 5-75, 18-93 and 70-100%, respectively on Kenyan acid soils. Similarly, deployment of crop cultivars tolerant to Al toxicity and/or low soil available P increases crop yields. However, lack of knowledge on the importance of lime, credit to purchase farm inputs, crop varieties tolerant to soil acidity constraints and inadequate amounts of OMs limits crop yield on Kenyan acid soils.

**Key words:** Acid soils, lime, phosphorus, organic materials, tolerance to soil acidity.

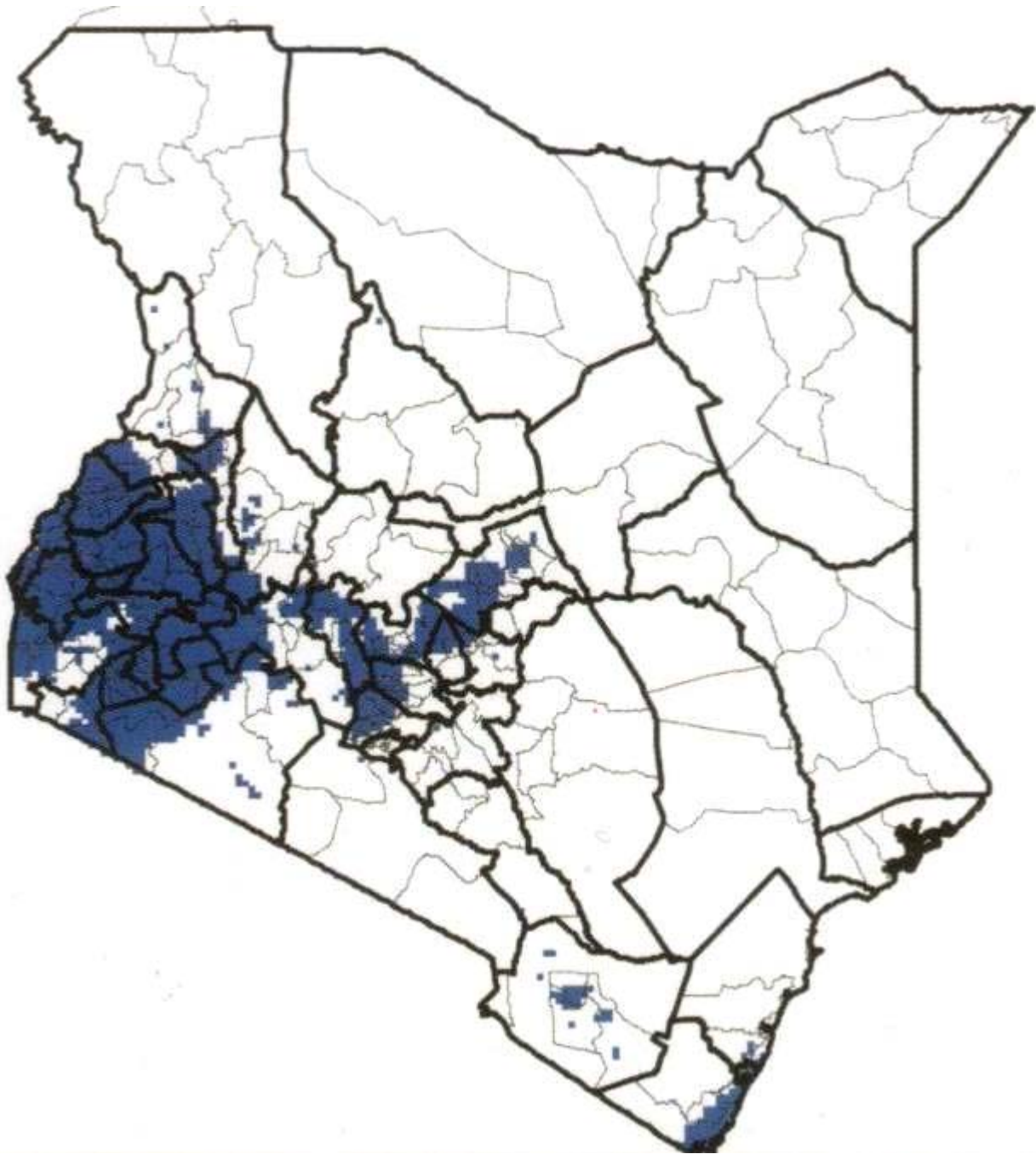
### INTRODUCTION

Soil acidity is a widespread limitation to crop production in many parts of the world (van Straaten, 2007). The total area covered by acid top soils is estimated to vary from  $3.777 \times 10^9$  to  $3.950 \times 10^9$  ha (Eswaran et al., 1997; von Uexkull and Mutert, 1995), which represents 30% of the total land area of the world. Most acid soils are found in South and North America, Asia and Africa. They occupy about 40% of the total arable land area in the world, most

of which are found in the tropical and subtropical regions (Haug, 1984). About 43% of tropical land area comprising 68, 38, and 29% of Tropical America, Tropical Asia and Tropical Africa, respectively, are acidic (Panday et al., 1994). Acid soils occupy about 13% (7.5 million ha) of the Kenyan total land area (Figure 1) (Kanyanjua et al., 2002). Strong soil acidity is associated with Al, H, iron (Fe) and manganese (Mn) toxicities to plant roots in the

\*Corresponding author. E-mail: [kisinyopeter@yahoo.com](mailto:kisinyopeter@yahoo.com), Tel: +254723320168.

Author(s) agree that this article remain permanently open access under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution License 4.0 International License](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)



**Figure 1.** Map of Kenya with shaded areas showing acid soils. Sources: Kanyanjua et al. (2002).

soil solution and corresponding deficiencies of the available P, molybdenum (Mo), calcium (Ca), magnesium (Mg) and potassium (K) (Giller and Wilson, 1991; Jorge and Arrunda, 1997).

Excess  $H^+$  ions in acid soils are toxic to plant roots, negatively affect root membrane permeability thus interfering with ion transport and could lead to loss of the

previously absorbed cations and organic constituents (Foy, 1984). However, the main constraint to crop production in highly acid soils is not high  $H^+$  ions *per se*, but the increased concentration of highly toxic  $Al^{3+}$  ions at  $pH < 5.5$  (Sale and Mokwunye, 1993). Aluminium toxicity in acid soils inhibits root development which leads to reduced water and mineral uptake resulting in an overall

**Table 1.** Soil pH, exchangeable Al<sup>3+</sup> and percent Al saturation.

Region	Location (latitude and longitude)	Sampling site	Soil pH (1: 2.5; soil: water)	Exchangeable Al <sup>3+</sup> (cmol/kg)	% Al Saturation
Western Kenya	0° 14.466"N and 34° 13.415"E	Sega	4.65	2.07	33
	0° 18.910"N and 34° 13.231"E	Bumala	4.62	2.01	27
	0° 36.781"N and 35° 18.280"E	Kuinet	4.55	2.24	34
Highlands east of RV	0° 25.004"S and 37° 30.062"E	Kavutiri	4.07	4.29	71
	0° 40.883"S and 36° 56.097"E	Kangema	4.69	3.32	45
	0° 28.181"N and 35° 15.752"E	Kerugoya	4.85	2.71	42

Source: Kisinyo (2011).

poor plant growth and low crop yields (Kochian, 1995; Kanyanjua et al., 2002; Ligeyo and Gudu, 2005). Al toxicity reduced root growth in Al toxicity sensitive maize inbred lines than the tolerant ones grown under similar conditions (Ouma et al., 2013). Kenya acid soils contain high Al (normally > 20% Al saturation), low P (< 5 mg P/kg soil) and N (< 0.2% total N) reduce maize yield by 16, 28 and 30%, respectively (Okalebo et al., 1997; Kisinyo, 2011; Ligeyo, 2007). As a result, maize grain yield are low and has been declining over the years (Ayaga, 2003). This review focuses on the efforts made so far to understand and manage the Kenyan acid soils by use of inorganic, organic materials (OMs) and germplasm tolerant to Al toxicity and/or low soil available P crop cultivars for improved crop production in acid soils of Kenya.

## TOWARDS UNDERSTANDING THE KENYAN ACID SOILS

Attempts have been made towards understanding the extent and behaviour of Kenya acid soils. According to Kanyanjua et al. (2002) acid soils occupy about 13% of the Kenyan land area. Most of these soils are found in the highlands east of Rift Valley (RV) and western Kenya regions (Kisinyo, 2011; Obura, 2008). Because of high rainfall, they are found in the medium to high potential agricultural areas where most crops are grown (Jaetzold and Schmidt, 1983). However, due to high rainfall, most base cations in these acid soils have been leached hence the predominant exchangeable cations are H<sup>+</sup>, Al<sup>3+</sup>, Fe and Al<sup>3+</sup> and Mn<sup>2+</sup> ions (Kisinyo, 2011; Obura, 2008). Continuous use of acidifying fertilizers and reclamation of peat soils such as Gleysols (e.g. Yala swamp) has also led to soil acidification (Sombroek et al., 1982; Kanyanjua et al., 2002). To a large extent, most Kenyan acid soils were developed from non-calcareous parent materials such as syenites, phonolites, trachytes, olivines, older basic tuffs and nephelites which are acidic in nature

(Sombroek et al., 1982).

Acid soils in the highland east of RV and western Kenya are strongly acidic (pH 4.5 to 5.0), have high exchangeable Al<sup>3+</sup> ions and % Al saturations (Table 1) (Kisinyo, 2014). Exchangeable Al<sup>3+</sup> ions > 2.0 cmol /kg are considered excess for many crops (Landon, 1984) while Al saturation > 20% cannot be tolerated by most improved maize germplasm in Kenya (Ligeyo, 2007). At soil pH < 5.0, Al minerals hydrolyse to form octahedron hex hydrate (Al<sup>3+</sup>) and mononuclear hydroxides [Al(OH)<sup>2+</sup> and Al(OH)<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>] which are responsible for P sorption (Kinraide, 1991; Kochian, 1995). High exchangeable Al<sup>3+</sup> in the Kenya acid soils has led to P sorption in these soils (Kisinyo et al., 2013; Obura, 2008). The predominant clay minerals in the Kenyan acid soils include kaolinite, gibbsite, goethite, Al and Fe oxides (Obura, 2008; Otinga, 2012). These minerals are common in tropical acid soils and are responsible for high P sorption (Buresh et al., 1997; Obura, 2008; Tisdale et al., 1990; Uehabra and Gillman, 1981). Phosphorus sorption in the Kenya acid soils range from moderate to high (Obura, 2008; Kifuko et al., 2007; Kisinyo et al., 2013; Opala et al., 2010a) as P sorptions of 100 to 400 and > 400 mg P/kg are classified as moderate and high, respectively (Buresh et al., 1997). Kenyan acid soils have different P sorption capacities. The acid soils found in the highlands east of RV have higher P sorption (343 to 402 mg/kg soil) than those found in western Kenya (107 to 294 mg/kg soil) probably due to high exchangeable Al in the former region compared to the latter (Table 2) (Kisinyo et al., 2013).

High P sorption in the Kenya acid soils leads to low recovery of applied P fertilizer. For example, only between 9.6 to 13.5% of P fertilizers applied at the rates of 26 to 52 kg P/ha are recovered (Table 2) (Kisinyo et al., 2014). Similarly, crop P fertilizer recoveries of 10 to 25% have been reported in tropical acid soils due to high P sorption by Al and Fe oxides (Keerthisinghe et al., 2001). Consequently, Kenyan acid soils have low soil available P (< 5 mg P/kg) which is partly responsible for low crop yields (Gudu et al., 2005; Okalebo et al., 1997;

**Table 2.** Langmuir parameters of Kenyan acid soils in the highlands east and west of Rift Valley.

Region	Location (latitude and longitude)	Sampling site	q (mg/kg)	k (mg/L)
West Kenya	0° 14.466"N and 34° 13.415"E	Sega	258	3.89
	0° 18.910"N and 34° 13.231"E	Bumala	107	0.63
	0° 36.781"N and 35° 18.280"E	Kuinet	137	1.02
	0° 34.997"N and 35° 18.561"E	Vihiga	294	1.80
	0° 10.614"N and 34° 45.225"E	Ikolomani	250	1.67
	0° 03.112"N and 34° 23.658"E	Siaya	204	1.22
	0° 47.574"S and 34° 51.446"E	Kisii	155	0.86
	0° 17.773"S and 35° 16.350"E	Kericho	191	1.18
Highlands east of Rift Valley	0° 25.004"S and 37° 30.062"E	Kavutiri	402	7.94
	0° 40.883"S and 36° 56.097"E	Kangema	343	6.63
	0° 28.181"N and 35° 15.752"E	Kerugoya	388	8.73

q = P sorbed per unit soil mass at equilibrium concentration of 0.2 mg/L and k = constant related to the energy of bonding between soil phosphate ions and the surface of soil particles (mg P/L). Sources: Kisinyo (2011) and Obura (2008).

Schulze and Santana, 2003; Kisinyo, 2011).

## MANAGEMENT OF ACID SOILS

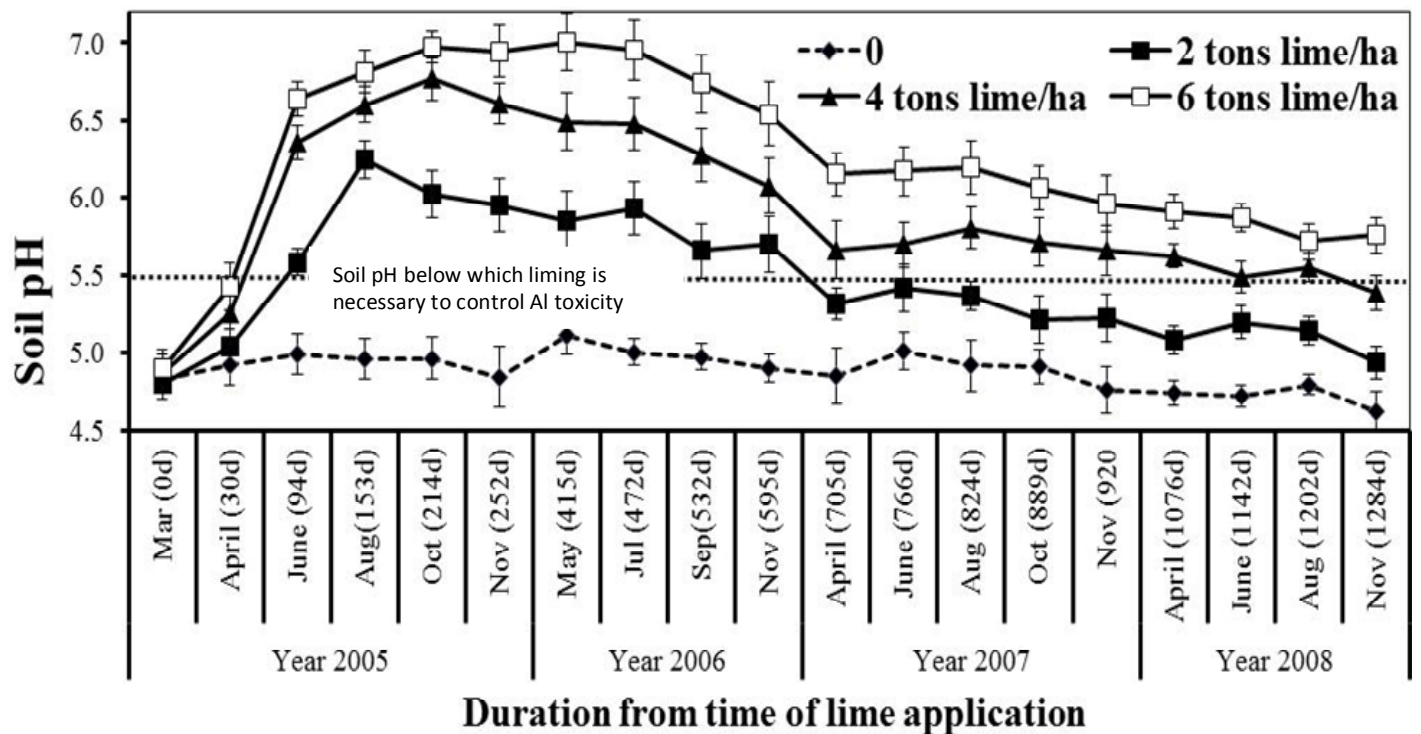
Crop production in acid soils with Al toxicity and low soil available P may be improved by use of lime and/or fertilizers with liming effects, organic materials (OMs), crop germplasms tolerant to Al toxicity and/or low soil available P (Baligar et al., 1997; Ouma et al., 2013; Viterello et al., 2005). Use of the above technologies to manage the Kenyan acid soils forms the discussion of this review.

### Liming and use of P fertilizers

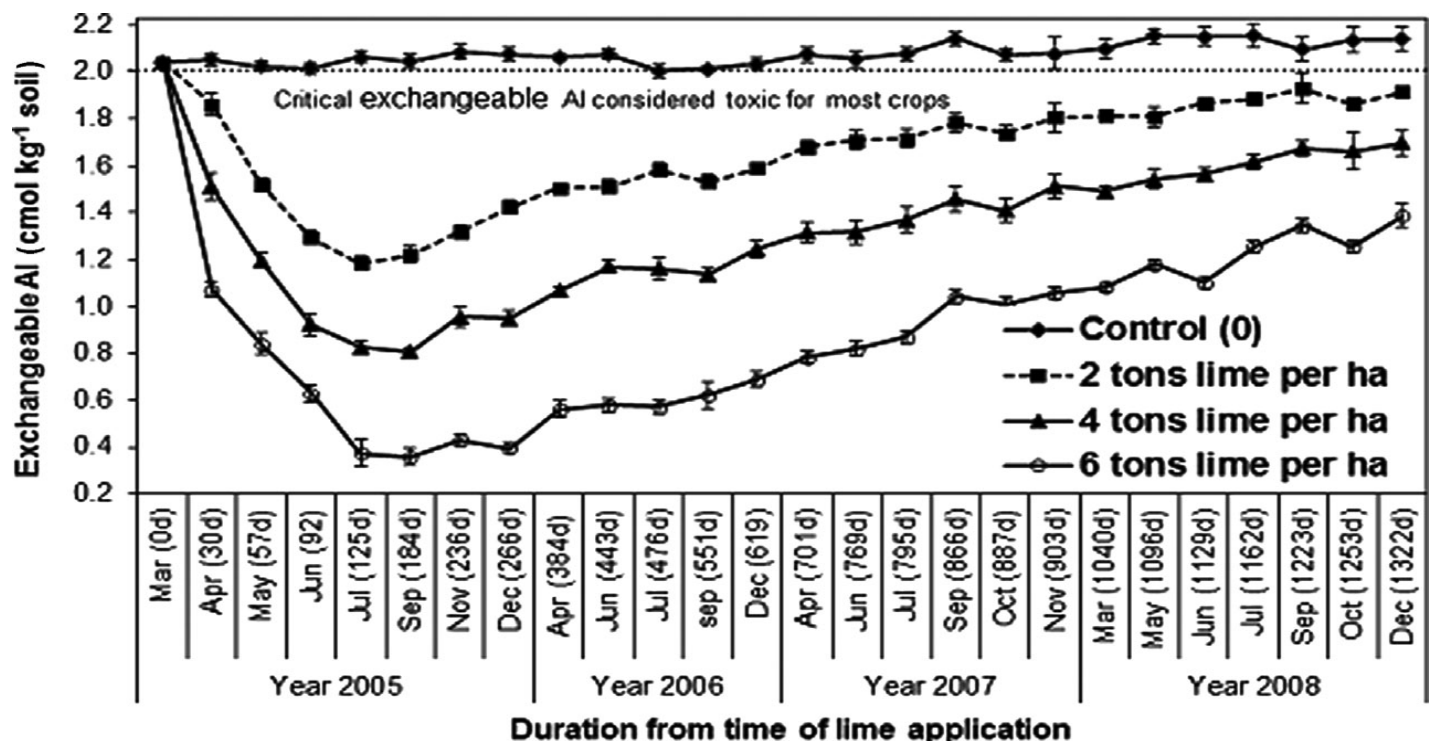
Lime is widely known as the most effective means of correcting soil acidity (Kanyanjua et al., 2002; The et al., 2006). Application of agricultural lime containing Ca and/or Mg compounds to acid soils increase  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  and/or  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  ions and reduces  $\text{Al}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{H}^+$ ,  $\text{Mn}^{4+}$ , and  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  ions in the soil solution. This leads to increase in soil pH and available P due to reduction in P sorption (Kamprath, 1984; Kanyanjua et al., 2002; Kisinyo, 2011; van Straaten, 2007; Tisdale et al., 1990; The et al., 2006). In addition to neutralization of soil acidity, lime enhances root development, water and nutrient uptakes, necessary for healthy plant growth (Raij and Quaggio, 1997; van Straaten, 2007; The et al., 2006). Several studies have shown that lime reduces Al toxicity, increases soil pH, available P, Ca, Mg, uptake of N and P thus improving crop productivity in Kenya acid soils (Kanyanjua et al., 2002; Kisinyo, 2011; Opala et al., 2010a, b). Nekesa (2007) reported increased soil pH and available P in

western Kenya acid soils by application of agricultural lime containing 21% calcium oxide (CaO). At one of the sites, three rates of lime (96, 192 and 287 kg lime/ha) raised and maintained soil available P above 10 mg P/kg soil in 57, 118 and 178 days after planting, respectively. In four year experiment, Kisinyo (2011) reported increased soil pH, available P, maize grain yield, P use efficiency and reduction in exchangeable  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  on highlands of RV Kenya acid soil. In these trials burnt lime with 92.5% calcium carbonate equivalent at the rates of 0, 2, 4 and 6 tons/ha were used. Higher rates of lime (4 and 6 tons/ha) increased and maintained higher soil pH, available P and grain yield than the lower rate (2 tons/ha) (Figures 2 and 4) (Kisinyo, 2011). In a trial on a western Kenya acid soil, higher rates of lime reduced and maintained lower levels exchangeable  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  than the lower rates (Figure 3) (Kisinyo et al., 2014). The benefits of lime on crop production are enormous with maize grain yield increments of 5 to 75% reported on Kenya acid soils with applications of 0.77 to 6.18 tons lime/ha (Gudu et al., 2005; Kisinyo, 2011). These benefits were attributed to reduction in soil acidity related constraints making conducive environment for healthy plant growth.

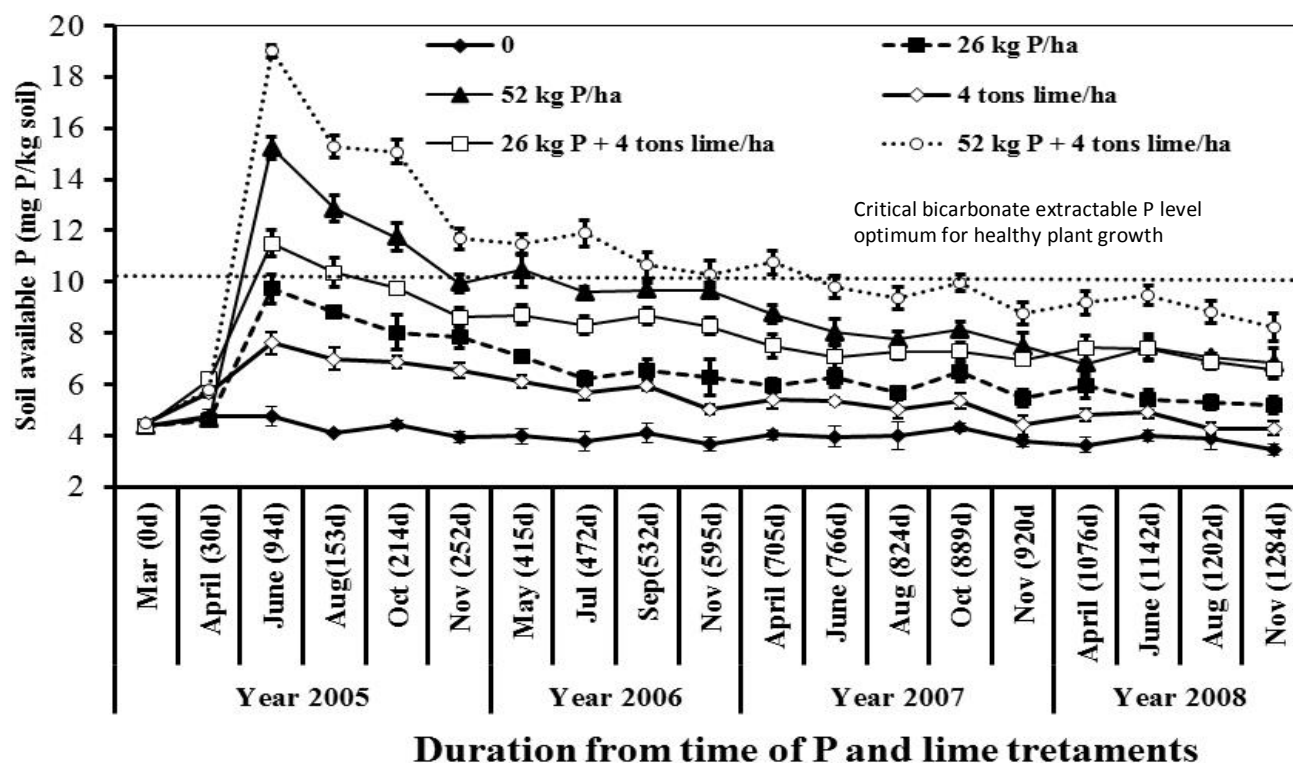
Use of P fertilizer increases the soil available P in P deficient tropical acid soils (Kisinyo et al., 2014; The et al., 2006). Application of P fertilizer increased soil available P and maize grain yield, with higher rate (52 kg P/ha) increasing and maintaining higher levels than the lower rate (26 kg P/ha) on Kenya acid soil (Kisinyo et al., 2011) (Figure 4). Similar increases on soil available P and resultant high maize production have been reported in acid soils of western Kenya due P fertilizer application (Opala et al., 2007). The P fertilizer sources with liming effects achieve better results than those without. Use of different P fertilizer sources such as triple superphosphate



**Figure 2.** Effect of lime on soil pH during the cropping period at the highlands of RV, Kenya acid soil; d = days from the time of lime application and error bars indicate standard errors of means (SEM). Source: Kisinyo (2011).



**Figure 3.** Effect of lime on exchangeable Al<sup>3+</sup> during the cropping period on a western Kenya acid soil; d = days from the time of lime application and error bars indicate SEM. Source: Kisinyo et al. (2014).



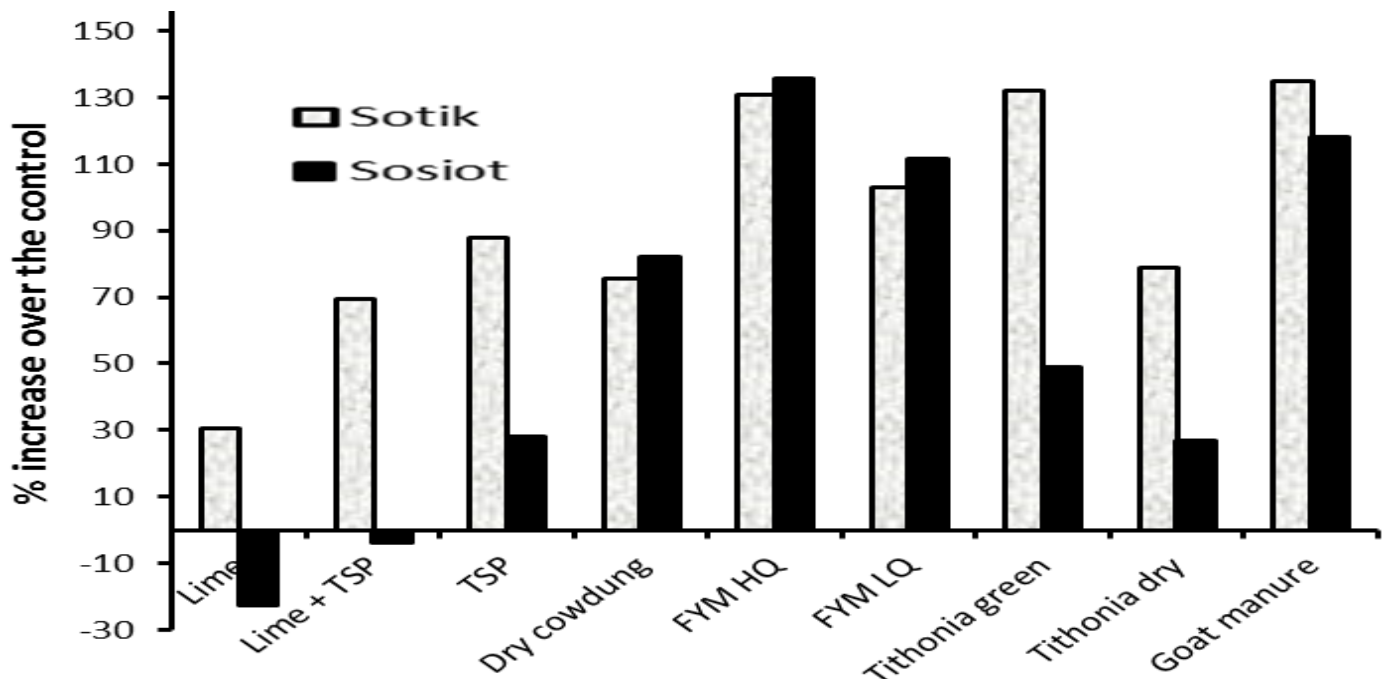
**Figure 4.** Effect of lime and P fertilizer on soil available P during the cropping period at the highlands of RV, Kenya acid soil; d = days from the time of lime application and error bars indicate SEM. Source: Kisinyo (2011).

(TSP), Busumbu phosphate rock (BPR) and Mijingu phosphate rock (MPR) at the rates of 60 kg P/ha increased soil available P and maize grain yield in western Kenya acid soils (Opala et al., 2010a). Soil available P and grain yield response followed the increasing order of BPR→TSP→MPR. The MPR produced the highest grain yields due to neutralization of soil acidity because of its liming effect in addition to increasing soil available P. The BPR produces the lowest response due to its low reactivity to release P into the soil. Maize grain yield increments of 17.5 to 93% has been reported due to applications of 26 to 60 kg P/ha on Kenya acid soils (Gudu et al., 2005; Opala et al., 2010a, Kisinyo, 2011). The increments were attributed to improvement soil available P necessary for healthy plant growth.

Residual benefits of lime and P fertilizer have been reported in Kenyan acid soils (Kisinyo, 2011; Nekesa, 2007; Opala et al., 2010a). Similar results were reported on an acid soil of Hawaii by Mahilum et al. (1970) where 2 tons  $\text{CaCO}_3 \text{ ha}^{-1}$  kept exchangeable Al below  $1.0 \text{ cmol kg}^{-1}$  from the original  $3.0 \text{ cmol kg}^{-1}$  for 5 years. Due to its slow reactivity, not all the benefits of lime may be realized during the first year of its application (Halvin et al., 2006). Elsewhere in tropical acid soils, residual effect of P

fertilizer has been reported to persist for as long as 5 to 10 years or more, depending on the initial P rate applied crop removal and the soil buffering capacity (Tisdale et al., 1990). Combined application of both lime and P fertilizer has increased soil available P, seedlings growth and crop yields more than either of them alone in Kenyan acid soils (Kisinyo, 2011; Kisinyo et al., 2012; Kanyanjua et al., 2002). In low P acids soils with high P sorption, use of both P fertilizer and lime have been suggested for maximum soil available P and efficient utilization of the P fertilizers by plants (Kisinyo et al., 2014; The et al., 2006). Many studies have reported improved soil available P and its utilization due to combined applications of both lime and P fertilizer on Kenyan acid soils (Kanyanjua et al., 2002; Kisinyo, 2011; Kisinyo et al., 2012; Opala et al., 2014). Therefore, it is imperative that combined application of both P fertilizer and lime are important for both short and long term management of P deficient acid soils such as found in Kenya.

Despite the enormous benefits, use of lime and inorganic fertilizers face a number of challenges. Most Agro-Chemical Dealers do not stock lime as a result it is not readily accessible to farmers. Lime application is labour intensive; particularly hand broadcasting and subsequent spreading are expensive for small holder



**Figure 5.** Percent increase in drymatter yield over the control at Sosiot and Sotik. TSP = triple superphosphate, FYM HQ = farmyard manure of high quality (> 1.5% N), FYM LQ = farmyard manure of low quality (< 1.0% N). Source: Opala et al. (2014).

farmers who lack the credit to hire labour. Also low demand for lime by farmers in Kenya as a result of lack of knowledge on its importance hinders its use by farmers. Fortunately, Kenya has large lime deposits and many companies such as Homa Lime, Athi River Mining are producing liming materials. Therefore, use of lime has the potential to improve crop production in Kenya acid soils and hence the need to create awareness among farmers on its importance. This will help create demand for the Agro-Chemical Dealers to stock so that farmers may access it easily. Like many parts of SSA, most small holder farmers in Kenya rarely use the recommended rates of inorganic fertilizers (N and P) due to their high cost and lack of credit (Okalebo et al., 1997, 2006; Sanchez et al., 1997). Due to these challenges, there is need to explore alternative management options discussed below to improve crop production in the Kenyan acid soils.

### Use of organic materials (OMs)

Use of OMs has been proposed as an alternative to liming to reduce Al toxicity in acid soils (Lungu, 1993). During OMs decomposition, there is release and synthesis of organic compounds which combines with Al to form solid- organic material phase leading to reduction of Al solubility (Tang et al., 2007; Haynes and Mokolobate,

2001). Organic materials also interact with P in soils in a variety of ways that potentially influences P sorption and release reactions. Direct and indirect mechanisms have been proposed for the increase of soil available P as a result of the addition of OMs by Guppy et al. (2005). OMs are known to reduce soil acidity, Al toxicity and increase soil available P in acid soils. In western Kenya, Opala et al. (2010a) demonstrated that *Tithonia diversifolia* (tithonia) green manure is effective in increasing maize yield due to its ability to reduce exchangeable Al in soils without necessarily increasing the soil pH (Figure 5). This was attributed to the ability of the tithonia to form complex with Al. However in the same study, farmyard manure (FYM) increased the soil pH but it was less effective in decreasing the exchangeable Al<sup>3+</sup> compared to tithonia. It was thus concluded that the ability of an organic material to reduce Al toxicity was related to its ability to complex the Al through organic acids produced during its decomposition process. The tithonia green manure was therefore more effective because of its ability to release larger quantities of organic acids compared to the well rotten FYM which had lost most of the organic acids. This confirmed earlier findings by Ikerra et al. (2006) who found larger quantities of organic acids in soils treated with tithonia than those that received FYM in Tanzania. In another study in Kericho County in Kenya, Opala et al. (2014) tested the effect of a range of organic materials of diverse composition commonly found on small holder



farms on maize dry matter production on two acid soils. These were compared to lime and triple superphosphate (TSP). Results showed that manures of high quality that is > 1.8% N increased maize dry matter yields above the control with no nutrient inputs and were generally superior to lime applied alone or in combination with TSP (Figure 5). This was attributed mainly to the ability of the OMs to ameliorate Al toxicity while providing a range of nutrients that were not provided by lime. This confirmed earlier observations by Opala et al. (2013) that some organic materials such as tithonia could substitute lime as an amendment for soil acidity. It had been previously recognized that organic materials can indeed decrease P sorption in acid soils and hence farming systems that include additions of green or animal manures may be able to increase availability of P by increasing the solubility of soil P (Ohno and Crannel, 1996). There has been intensive research in Kenya by International Centre for Research in Agroforestry, Tropical Soil Biology and Fertility, Kenya Agricultural Research Institute and Moi University in the past two decades focused on increasing available P in acid soils of western Kenya using organic materials such as tithonia, calliandra and farmyard manures with /or without inorganic P sources such as triple superphosphate or phosphate rocks. This was based on the fact that decomposing organic materials produce organic acids that solubilize P from phosphate rocks (PRs) through chelating or complexing action (Kpombekou and Tabatabai, 1994). Use of OMs to increase the dissolution of PRs has been widely studied in East Africa region (Okalebo et al., 2006; Savini et al., 2006; Kifuko et al., 2007).

There is, however, a wide divergence of opinion as to the effect of OMs on PRs dissolution. Many of the earlier studies reported enhanced dissolution of PR when it is combined with OMs such as FYM (McLenaghan et al., 2004). There is, however, emerging evidence that some high quality organic resources, especially those with a high Ca content, e.g. tithonia, can inhibit dissolution of reactive PRs such as MPR (Smithson, 1999). Other workers have, however, suggested that organic materials enhance dissolution of unreactive PRs but inhibit dissolution of reactive PRs such as Mijingu (Zarah and Bah, 1997). Ikerra et al. (1994) observed that the agronomic effectiveness of MPR increased when it was combined with high quality FYM but not with low quality compost. Interestingly, Tian and Kolawole (1999) found increased uptake of P following incubation of low quality materials such as maize stover with PRs. More recently in Kenya, Gikonyo et al. (2006) attributed the reported declines in crop yields as a result of combination of OMs and insoluble PR to very high toxic levels of available P in the soil. According to these authors, the toxic levels of P a rose from enhanced dissolution of the PRs by the OMs and not the inhibition of PRs dissolution as reported earlier (Smithson, 1999). Though most of the results

showed increased yields as a result of combining PR and OMs, it did not explain how some OMs, such as FYM, which are known to increase pH in certain cases, can at the same time increase dissolution of PR which is favoured by acidic conditions. Thus Opala et al. (2010a) hypothesized that the reported increases in crop yields as a result of combining PR and OMs could be due to the P released from mineralization of the OMs and not increased dissolution of the PR. These authors demonstrated that combining OMs (tithonia or FYM) with PR or TSP did not enhance P availability, although the maize yields obtained by the combined application of OMs and the inorganic P sources was higher than that of the inorganic P sources where the available soil P was in most cases higher. The studies however, showed large reductions in exchangeable Al in the soils treated with the OMs, particularly tithonia and concluded that the ability of an OM to reduce Al in acid soils was more effective in increasing maize yield than its ability to increase soil available P. Maize grain yield increments of 70 to 100% have been reported through use of various OMs in Kenya (Opala et al., 2010a).

There are however some challenges in the use of OMs to manage acid soils and replenish soil fertility. The quantities and qualities of organic materials available to farmers are limiting factors to their use in Kenya. Due to their low nutrient content, large amounts have to be applied thus increasing the labour cost (Jama et al., 1997; Kisinyo et al., 2006). The high costs in some cases cannot be offset by the extra yields obtained by applying some of the organic materials including tithonia (Opala et al., 2007, 2010b), calliandra and maize stover (Nyambati and Opala, 2014; Jama et al., 1997). However, OMs such as FYM of high quality have in most cases been shown to be economically attractive under most smallholder situations (Opala et al., 2007, 2010b, 2013). This highlights the need for high quality OMs as sources of nutrients in acid soils. Nziguheba et al. (2002) concluded that OMs suitable for use as P sources should have a high P content and low cost of production. The P concentration in plant materials such as tithonia is controlled by genetics and environmental factors and can, therefore, not easily be manipulated by the farmer through management. Opportunities for increasing the quality of FYM, however, do exist. Practices such as using pits for manure storage and storing manure under shade (Murwira and Nzuma, 1999; Rufino et al., 2006) can greatly enhance the quality of FYM, therefore, making its use more profitable. Increasing the quantity of high quality FYM to resource-poor farmers in western Kenya may however be limited, particularly in the absence of large numbers of improved livestock breeds (Jama et al., 1997). Therefore, FYM and other OMs that have shown potential for use as nutrient sources while amelioration soil acidity can be applied together with appropriate inorganic P sources such as TSP and MPR

in an integrated soil fertility management program on small holder farms.

### Use of acid tolerant crops

To deal with soil acidity related problems, plant breeding programs have developed germplasms tolerant to Al toxicity and/ or low soil available P (Parentoni et al., 2006; Donswell et al., 1996). The low soil available tolerant genotypes can obtain adequate P even from sparingly soluble P through enhanced microbial colonization and symbiotic association with P solubilizing microorganisms in the rhizosphere (Oliveira et al., 2006). In addition, some of the genotypes express a protein kinase gene called phosphorous starvation tolerance gene (*Pstol1*) which enables acquisition of P and other nutrients (Gamuyao et al., 2012) even in P deficient soils. The sensitive crop germplasms do not express this gene and hence are not able to utilize the applied fertilizers and /or fixed P with high efficiency and hence the reason for low grain yields. Incorporation of this gene to P deficiency sensitive cultivars could greatly improve crop yields in acid soils of Kenya and other regions experiencing similar constraint.

On highly acid soils (pH<5.0), aluminum toxicity is a primary limitation for crop production. Liming to mitigate its effect is not sustainable as has been stated and this has led to discovery and use of Al tolerant genotypes. A major physiological mechanism of plant aluminum tolerance involves aluminum activation of membrane transporters that mediate organic acid release from the root apex, the site of aluminum phytotoxicity, with the released organic acids forming stable, nontoxic complexes with Al<sup>3+</sup> in the rhizosphere (Magalhaes et al., 2007). In sorghum a multidrug and toxic compound extrusion (*MATE*) gene that transport citric acid was found to confer Al tolerance (Magalhaes et al., 2007) and in maize a similar gene, *ZmMATE1*, (Maron et al., 2013) was also found. The introgression of such genes into Al sensitive cultivars have been shown to improve grain yield performance in acid soils.

Although the approach of using tolerant plant germplasm is not able to reverse soil acidity conditions, it minimizes the problems experienced by farmers, especially those who do not use lime (Clark, 1997). In recent studies, Kenyan maize and sorghum germplasms tolerant to Al toxicity and /or P use efficient have been identified (Ouma et al., 2013; Ligeyo, 2007; Matonyei, 2010; Too, 2011). These elite materials provide a good foundation for breeding for tolerant cultivars to Al toxicity and/or P use efficiency in Kenya at the moment. Currently, there are no commercial maize/sorghum or other crop varieties available to farmers that are adapted to soil acidity in Kenya (Ligeyo, 2007). Therefore, there is need to develop crop varieties adapted to acid soils for

enhanced crop productivity in the Kenyan acid soils.

### CONCLUSION

Acid soils occupy about 13% of the total land area in Kenya. Most of which has developed partly due to leaching of base cations by high rainfall, use of acid forming fertilizers and parent materials of acids origin. These contain low soil available P (< 5 mg p/kg soil) owing partly to high P sorption by clay minerals such as kaolinite, gibbsite, goethite, and Al and Fe oxides. Acid soil in the highlands east of RV have high Al (2.71 to 4.29 cmol Al /kg soil and 27 to 34% Al saturation) compared to western Kenya (2.01 to 2.24 cmol Al /kg soil and 42 to 71% Al saturation). Due to higher Al levels, highlands east of RV tend to have high P sorption (343 to 402 mg P/kg) than western Kenya (107 to 294 mg P/kg). Consequently crops can only recover 9.6 to 13.5% of the applied P fertilizer. In the Kenyan acid soils, improved crop productivity has been achieved through use of lime, manures, fertilizers with liming effects, crop germplasms tolerant to Al toxicity and low soil available P. Lime has increased soil pH, available P and crop yields and reduces Al toxicity in these soils. Combined application of lime and P fertilizer or use of P fertilizers with liming effects is more effective increasing soil available P and crop yields than lime alone or P fertilizer without lime. Use of organic materials reduces Al toxicity through production of organic acids that form complex with Al<sup>3+</sup> ions leading to high crop yields in the Kenyan acid soils. Similarly utilization of high quality OMs such as tithonia produces economic crop yields since small volumes are required compared to low quality ones. Deployment of crop germplasms tolerant soil Al toxicity and /or low available P has the potential to increase crop productivity in the Kenyan acid soil. Therefore there is need to develop crop varieties tolerant to soil Al toxicity and /or low available P to increase crop productivity in the Kenyan acid soils. However, challenges such as lack of credit to purchase inorganic inputs, knowledge on the importance of lime, improve crop varieties tolerance to soil acidity constraints and inadequate amounts of organic materials limit crop productivity on the Kenyan acid soils.

### Conflict of Interest

The authors have not declared any conflict of interest.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to scientist who have endeavoured to find solutions for the management of Kenyan acid soils and

also acid soils found in other parts of the world without whose contributions it would have not been possible to write this review paper. We are also very thankful to the McKnight Foundation who have funded research work towards knowing the nature, behaviour and management of Kenyan acid soils.

## REFERENCES

- Ayaga GO (2003). Maize yield trends in Kenya in the last 20 years. A keynote paper. In: Othieno CO, et al. (Eds). A Workshop on Declining Maize Yield Trends in Trans Nzoia District Proceedings. 22<sup>nd</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2003. Kitale, Kenya, pp. 7-23.
- Baligar V, He ZL, Martens DC, Ritchey KD, Kemper WD (1997). Effect of phosphate rock, coal combustion by-product, lime and cellulose on ryegrass in acidic soil. *Plant Soil*, 195: 129-136. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1023/A:1004203800706>
- Buresh RJ, Smithson PC, Hellums DT (1997). Building soil phosphorus capital in Africa. In: Buresh et al. (Eds). Replenishing soil fertility in Africa. Soil Science Society of America, SSSA Special Publication No.51. Madison Wisconsin, USA, pp. 111-149.
- Clark RB (1997) Effect of aluminium on growth and mineral elements of Al-tolerant and Al-intolerant corn. *Plant Soil* 47: 653-662. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/BF00011034>
- Donswell CR, Paliwal RL, Cantrell RP (1996). Maize in Third World. West View Press. Inc., p. 268.
- Eswaran H, Reich P, Beigroth F (1997). Global distribution of soils with acidity. In: Moniz AC et al. (Eds). *Plant Soil Plant Interactions at Low pH*. Brazilian Soil Science Society Vicoso, Campines Brazil, pp. 159-164.
- Foy CD (1984). Physiological effects of hydrogen, aluminium and manganese toxicities in acid soils. In: Adams F (Ed) *Soil acidity and liming*. 2nd edition. Agronomy Monograph 12. Agronomy and Soil Science Society of America. Madison Wisconsin, USA.
- Gamuyao R, Chin JH, Pariasca-Tanaka J, Pesaresi P, Catausan S, Dalid C, Slamet-Loedin I, Tecson-Mendoza EM, Wissuwa M, Heuer S (2012). The protein kinase PSTOL1 from traditional rice confers tolerance of phosphorus deficiency. *Nature* 488: 535-538. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/nature11346>
- Gikonyo EW, Zahra AR, Hanafi MM, Anuar R (2006). Residual value evaluation of different fertilizers at various rates of re-capitalization of an acid tropical soil. Proceedings of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Soil Science Society of East Africa Conference in Masaka, Uganda, pp. 21-26.
- Giller KE, Wilson KJ (1991). Nitrogen fixation in tropical cropping systems. CAB International, Wallingford.
- Gudu SO, Okalebo JR, Othieno CO, Obura PA, Ligeyo DO, Schulze D, Johnson C (2005). Response of maize to nitrogen, phosphorus and lime on acid soils of western Kenya. In: Tenywa JS et al. (Eds). African Crop Science Conference Proceedings, 5 - 9th Dec. 2005. Kampala, Uganda, pp. 1109-1115.
- Guppy CN, Menzies NW, Moody PW, Blamey FPC (2005). Competitive sorption reactions between phosphorus and organic matter in soil: A review. *Austral. J. Soil Sci.* 43: 189-202.
- Halvin LJ, Tisdale SL, Beaton JD, Nelson WL (2006). Soil fertility and fertilizers. 7th edition. An introductory to nutrient management. New Jersey. Pearson Education Inc.
- Haug A (1984). Molecular aspects of aluminium toxicity *CRC Crit. Rev. Plant Sci.* 1: 345-373. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/07352688409382184>
- Haynes RJ, Mokolobate MS (2001). Amelioration of aluminium toxicity and phosphorus deficiency in acid soils by additions of organic residues: a critical review of the phenomenon and mechanisms involved. *Nutr. Cycl. Agroecosyst.* 59: 47-63. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1023/A:1009823600950>
- Ikerra ST, Semu E, Mrema JP (2006). Combining *Tithonia diversifolia* and minjingu phosphate rock for improvement of P availability and maize grain yields on a chromic Acrisol in Morogoro, Tanzania. *Nutr. Cycl. Agroecosyst.* 76: 249-260.
- <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10705-006-9007-0>
- Ikerra TWD, Mkeni PNS, Singh R (1994). Effects of added compost and farmyard manure on phosphorus release from Mijingu phosphate rock and its uptake by maize. *Norwegian J. Agric. Sci.* 8: 13-23.
- Jaetzold R, Schmidt H (Eds) (1983). Farm management handbook of Kenya, Vol. IIA Western Kenya and Vol. II B (Central Kenya): Natural conditions and farm management information. Ministry of Agriculture/GAT Nairobi and GTZ/Eschborn.
- Jama B, Swinkels RA, Buresh RJ (1997). Agronomic and economic evaluation of organic and inorganic sources of phosphorus in western Kenya. In: Agron. J. 89: 597-604. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2134/agronj1997.00021962008900040010x>
- Jorge RA, Arrunda P (1997). Aluminium induced organic acids exudation by roots of aluminium tolerant maize. *Phytochemistry* 45(4): 675-681. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0031-9422\(97\)00044-7](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0031-9422(97)00044-7)
- Kamprath EJ (1984). Crop response to lime in the tropics. In: Adams F (Ed.). *Soil acidity and liming*. 2nd edition. Agronomy Monograph 12. Agronomy and Soil Science Society of America, Madison Wisconsin, USA, pp. 349-368.
- Kanyanjua S, Ileri ML, Wambua S, Nandwa SM (2002). Acid soils in Kenya: Constraints and remedial options. KARI Technical Note No. 11.
- Keerthisinghe G, Zapata F, Chalk P, Hocking P (2001). Integrated approaches for improved P nutrition of plants in tropical acid Soils. In: Horst WJ et al. (Eds). *Plant Nutrition-Food Security and Sustainability of Agro-Ecosystems*, Dordrecht: Springer, pp. 974-975.
- Kifuko MN, Othieno CO, Okalebo JR, Kimenyi LN, Ndungu KW, Kipkoech AK (2007). Effect of combining organic residues with Mijingu phosphate rock on sorption and availability of phosphorus and maize production in acid soils of western Kenya. *Exp. Agric.* 43: 51-66. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0014479706004121>
- Kinraide TB (1991). Identity of rhizotoxic aluminum species. *Plant Soil* 134: 167-178.
- Kisinyo PO, Othieno CO, Okalebo JR, Opala PA, Osiyo RJ, Kipsat M, Serem A, Maghanga JK (2006). Combined use of organic and inorganic fertilizers to replenish nitrogen and phosphorus in smallholder farmers in tropical Africa. Proceedings of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Soil Science Society of East Africa. Masaka Uganda 20<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> November 2006. pp. 17-21.
- Kisinyo PO, Gudu SO, Othieno CO, Okalebo JR, Opala PA, Maghanga JK Agalo JJ, Ng'etich WK, Kisinyo JA, Osiyo RJ, Nekesa AO, Makatiani ET, Odee DW, Ogola BO (2012). Effects of lime, phosphorus and rhizobia on *Sesbania sesban* performance in a western Kenyan acid soil. *Afr. J. Agric. Res.* 7(18): 2800-2809, DOI: 10.5897/AJAR11.1450. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5897/AJAR11.1450>
- Kisinyo PO, Othieno CO, Gudu SO, Okalebo JR, Opala PA, Maghanga JK, Ng'etich WK, Agalo JJ, Opile WR, Kisinyo JA, Ogola BO (2013). Phosphorus Sorption and Lime Requirements of Maize Growing Acids Soil of Kenya. *Sustain. Agric. Res.* 2(2): 116-123. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5539/sar.v2n2p116>
- Kisinyo PO, Othieno CO, Gudu SO, Okalebo JR, Opala PA, Ng'etich WK, Nyambati RO, Ouma EO, Agalo JJ, Kebeney SJ, Too EJ, Kisinyo JA, Opile WR (2014). Immediate and residual effects of lime and phosphorus fertilizer on soil acidity and maize production in western Kenya. *Expl. Agric.* 50(1): 128-143. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0014479713000318>
- Kisinyo PO (2011). Constraints of soil acidity and nutrient depletion on maize (*Zea mays* L.) production in Kenya. Ph.D thesis, Moi University, Kenya.
- Kochian LV (1995). Cellular mechanism of aluminium toxicity and resistance in plants. *Ann. Rev. Plant Physiol.* 46: 237-260. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1146/annurev.pp.46.060195.001321>
- Kpomblekou K, Tabatabai MA (1994). Effect of organic acids on release of phosphorus from phosphate rocks. *Soil Sci.* 158: 442-453. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1097/00010694-199415860-00006>
- Landon JR (1984). Booker Tropical Soils Manual: A handbook for soil survey and agricultural land evaluation in the tropics and subtropics. John Wiley & Sons Inc., New York, pp. 106-156.
- Ligeyo DO (2007). Genetic analysis of maize (*Zea mays* L.) tolerance to aluminium toxicity and low phosphorus stress and development of

- synthetics for use in acid soils of western Kenya. Ph.D. Thesis. Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya.
- Ligeyo DO, Gudu SO (2005). Further Laboratory screening of More Kenyan Maize Inbred Lines for Tolerance to Aluminium. In: Third Year Progress Report, (March 2004 – 28 February 2005), McKnight Foundation USA funded Project, (EMBRAPA, Purdue and Cornell Universities (USA) and Moi University (Kenya) Phase 1, 2003 – 2005.
- Lungu OI (1993). Effects of Lime and Farmyard Manure on Soil Acidity and Maize Growth on an Acid Alfisol from Zambia. *Trop. Agric.* 70: 309-313.
- Magalhaes J, Liu J, Gumaraes CT, Lana UGP, Alves VMC, Wang Y-H, Schaffert RE, Hoekenga OA, Poineros MA, Shaff JE, Klein PE, Carneiro NP, Coelho CM, Trick HN, Kochian LV (2007). A gene in the multidrug and toxic compound extrusion (MATE) family confers aluminium tolerance in sorghum. *Nat. Genet.* 39(9): 1157-1161. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/ng2074>
- Mahilum BC, Fox RL, Silva JA (1970). Residual effects of liming volcanic ash soils in the tropics. *Soil Sci.* 109: 102-109. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1097/00010694-197002000-00005>
- Maron LG, Gumaraes CT, Kistr M, Albert PS, Birchler JA, Bradbury PJ, Buckler ES, Coluccio AE, Danilova TV, Kudrna D, Magalhaes JV, Pineros MA, Schatz MC, Wing RA, Kochian LV (2013). Aluminium tolerance in maize is associated with higher MATE1 gene. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1220766110>
- Matonyei KT (2010). Acid soil tolerance studies on selected maize breeding lines from Kenya. Master of Philosophy thesis, presented to Moi University, Kenya.
- McLenaghan RD, Randhawa PS, Condron LM, Di HJ (2004). Increasing phosphate availability using a lupin green manure crop. 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian New Zealand Soils Conference, 5-9 December 2004. [www.regional.org.au/au/asssi/](http://www.regional.org.au/au/asssi/).
- Murwira HK, Nzuma JK (1999). Manure management options for increasing crop production in communal areas of Zimbabwe. In: Delving JK, Settle T (Eds). *Eco-agriculture initiatives in Eastern and Southern Africa*. Weaver Press, Avondale, Harare, Zimbabwe, pp. 71-103.
- Nekesa AO (2007). Effects of Mijingu phosphate rock and agricultural lime in relation to maize, groundnut and soybean yield on acid soils of western Kenya. M.Phil. Thesis. Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya.
- Nyambati RO, Opala PA (2013). An agronomic and economic evaluation of integrated use of *Calliandra calothyrsus* and maize stover with urea in western Kenya. *Am. J. Exp. Agric.* 4(1): 80-89. <http://dx.doi.org/10.9734/AJEA/2014/6414>
- Nziguheba G, Mercckx R, Palm CA, Mutuo P (2002). Combining *Tithonia diversifolia* and fertilizers for maize production in phosphorus deficient soil in Kenya. *Agrofor. Syst.* 55: 165-174. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1023/A:1020540411245>
- Obura PA (2008). Effects of soil properties on bioavailability of aluminium and phosphorus in selected Kenyan and Brazilian soils. Ph. D. Thesis, Purdue University, USA.
- Ohno T, Crannell BS (1996). Green manure and animal derived dissolved organic matter effects on phosphorus sorption. *J. Environ. Qual.* 25: 1137-1143. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2134/jeq1996.00472425002500050029x>
- Okalebo JR, Othieno CO, Woomer PL, Karanja NK, Semoka JRM, Bekunda MA, Mugendi DN, Muasya RM, Batiano A, Mukhwana EJ (2006). Available technologies to replenish soil fertility in East Africa. *Nutr. Cycl. Agroecosyst.* 76: 153-170. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10705-005-7126-7>
- Okalebo JR, Simpson JR, Okwach EG, Probert ME, McCrown LR (1997). Conservation of soil fertility under intensive maize cropping in semi-arid eastern Kenya. *Afr. Crop Sci. Conf. Proc.* 3: 429-438.
- Oliveira CA, Sa NMR, Marriel IE, Gomes EA, Muzzi MRS, Carneiro NP, Lana UGP, Raopseira R, Montero GG, Schaffert RE, Alves VMC (2006). Phosphate solubilizing microorganisms closely associated with maize rhizosphere. In: Alves et al. (Eds). 3rd International Symposium on Phosphorus Dynamics in Soil-Plant continuum: Integrating marginal lands into productive agricultural Systems by means of improving soil and fertilizer phosphorus efficiency. 14 – 19th May, 2006. Uberlandia, Minas Gerais, Brazil, pp. 234-235.
- Opala PA, Okalebo JR, Othieno CO (2013). Comparison of effects of phosphorus sources on soil acidity, available phosphorus and maize yields at two sites in western Kenya. *Arch. Agron. Soil Sci.* 59(3): 327-339. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03650340.2011.627681>
- Opala PA, Nyambati RO, Kisinyo PO (2014). Response of maize to organic and inorganic sources of nutrients in acid soils of Kericho County, Kenya. *Am. J. Exp. Agric.* 4(6): 713-723. <http://dx.doi.org/10.9734/AJEA/2014/6415>
- Opala PA, Jama BJ, Othieno CO, Okalebo JR (2007). Effect of phosphate fertilizer application methods and nitrogen on maize yields in western Kenya. An agronomic and economic evaluation. *Exp. Agric.* 43: 477-487. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0014479707005315>
- Opala PA, Okalebo JR, Othieno CO, Kisinyo P (2010a). Effect of organic and inorganic phosphorus sources on maize yields in an acid soil in western Kenya. *Nutr. Cycl. Agroecosyst.* 86: 317-329.
- Opala PA, Othieno CO, Okalebo JR, Kisinyo P (2010b). Effects of combining organic materials with inorganic phosphorus sources on maize yield and financial benefits in western Kenya. *Exp. Agric.* 46: 23-34. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0014479709990457>
- Otinga AN (2012). *MADINI ADIMU, CHAKULA TOSHA*. Coping with phosphorus limitations: Allocation of phosphorus in maize based cropping systems in western Kenya. PhD Dissertation. Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences. Katholieke Universiteit, Leuven, Belgium.
- Ouma E, Ligeyo D, Matonyei T, Agalo J, Were Be, Too E, Onkware, Gudu S, Kisinyo P, Nyangweso P (2013). Enhancing Maize Grain Yield in Acid Soils of Western Kenya Using Aluminium Tolerant Germplasm. *J. Agric. Sci. Technol. A* 3: 33-46.
- Panday S, Ceballos, SM, Magnavaca R, Bahia Filho A FC, Duquevargas J, Vinasco LE (1994). Genetic tolerance to soil acidity in tropical maize. *Crop Sci.* 34: 1511-1514. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2135/cropsci1994.0011183X003400060018x>
- Parentoni SA, Alves VMC, Gamma EEG, Colelho AM, Guimariaes CT, Guimariaes PEO, Pacheco CAP, Magalhaes JV, Godoy CL, Oliveira DA, Meireles WF, Vasconcelos MJV, Souza IRP, Schaffert RE (2006). Breeding maize for Al tolerance and P use efficiency and acid soil adaptation for the cerrado areas of Basil: The Embrapa's experience. In: Alves et al. (Eds). 3rd International Symposium on Phosphorus Dynamics in Soil-Plant continuum: Integrating marginal lands into productive agricultural Systems by means of improving soil and fertilizer phosphorus efficiency. 14 – 19th May, 2006. Uberlandia, Minas Gerais, Brazil, pp. 129-131.
- Rajj B, Quaggio JA (1997). Methods used for diagnosis and correction of soil acidity in Brazil: An overview. In: Monitz AC (Ed). *Plant soil Interaction at low pH*. Brazilian Soil Science Society, Campinas, Brazil, pp. 205-214.
- Rufino MC, Rowe EC, Delve R, Giller K (2006). Nitrogen cycling efficiencies through resource-poor African crop-livestock systems. *Agric. Ecosys. Environ.* 112: 261-282. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.agee.2005.08.028>
- Sale PG, Mokwunye AU (1993). Use of rock phosphates in the tropics. *Fertil. Res.* 35: 33-45. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/BF00750218>
- Sanchez PA, Shepherd KD, Soule MJ, Place FM, Buresh PJ, Izac A-MN, Mokwunye AU, Kwasiga FR, Nderitu C, Woomer PL (1997). Soil fertility replenishment in Africa: An investment in Natural resource capital. In: Buresh PJ et al. (Eds). *Replenishing soil fertility in Africa*. SSSA Special Publication No.51. Madison Wisconsin, USA, pp. 1-46.
- Savini I, Smithson PC, Karanja NK, Yamasaki H (2006). Influence of *Tithonia diversifolia* and triple superphosphate on dissolution and effectiveness of phosphate rock in acidic soil. *J. Plant Nutr. Soil Sci.* 169: 593-604. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/jpln.200521931>
- Schulze D, Santana D (2003). A report on Laboratory Analysis of Soils from acid soils-maize growing areas of central and western Kenya, McKnight Foundation, USA, Project. First Year Progress Report, EMBRAPA, Purdue and Cornell Universities (USA) and Moi University (Kenya), p. 107.
- Smithson P (1999). Interactions of organic materials with phosphate rocks and triple superphosphate. In: Buresh R, Sinclair FL (Eds). *Special issue on phosphorus availability, uptake and cycling in tropical agroforestry*. *Agrofor. Forum* 9(4): 37-40.

- Sombroek WG, Braun HMM, van de Pouw (1982). Exploratory soil map and agro-climatic zone map of Kenya. Scale 1:1000, 000. Exploratory soil survey report No. E1. Kenya Soil Survey, Nairobi, Kenya.
- Tang Y, Zhang H, Schroder JL, Payton ME, Zhou D (2007). Animal manure reduces aluminium toxicity in acid soils. *Sci. Soc. Am. J.* 71: 1699-1707. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2136/sssaj2007.0008>
- The C, Calba H, Zonkeng C, Ngonkeu ELM, Adetimirin VO (2006). Response of maize grain yield to changes in acid soil characteristics after soil amendment. *Plant Soil* 284: 45-57. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11104-006-0029-9>
- Tian G, Kolawale GO (1999). Phosphorus availability of rock phosphate incubated with plant residues of various chemical composition, pp. 40-42. In: Buresh R. and F.L. Sinclair (Eds). Special issue on phosphorus availability, uptake and cycling in tropical agroforestry. *Agrofor. Forum* 9(4).
- Tisdale SL, Nelson WL, Beaton JD (1990). *Soil fertility and fertilizers*. 5th edition. Macmillan, New York, USA.
- Too EJ (2011). Physiological and molecular characterization of resistance to Aluminium stress in selected grain sorghum. PhD Thesis Moi University – Eldoret Kenya.
- Uehabra G, Gillman G (1981). *The mineralogy, chemistry and physics of Tropical soils with variable charge clays*. West view Press, Boulder Colorado.
- van Straaten P (2007). *Agro geology: the use of rocks for crops*. Enviroquest Ltd, 352 River Road, Cambridge, Ontario N3C 2B7, Canada.
- Viterello VA, Capadi FR, Stefanuto VA (2005). Recent advances in aluminum and resistance in higher plants. *Brazil Plant Physiol.* 17(1): 129-143. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1590/S1677-04202005000100011>
- von Uexkull HR, Mutert E (1995). Global extent, development and economic impact of acid soils. *Plant Soil* 171: 1-15. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/BF00009558>
- Zarah AR, Bah AR (1997). Effect of green manures on P solubilization and uptake from rock phosphates. *Plant Soil* 40: 247-253.