CONTENTS

Chapter Particulars Page No.

List of tables
List of Figures
Introduction

1.

2.

2.1 Soil weathering and pedogenesis
2.2 Forms of soil phosphorus, their transformation with the soil development
2.3 Forms of soil phosphorus as an indicator of weathering and pedogenesis

3. Materials and method

3.1 Field study
3.1.1 Site description
3.1.2 Morphological studies

3.2 Analysis of soil samples
3.2.1 pH
3.2.2 Electrical conductivity
3.2.3 Organic carbon
3.2.4 Soil texture
3.2.5 Chemical composition of soil
3.2.6 Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC)
3.2.7 Determination of exchangeable basic cations, namely calcium (Ca²⁺), magnesium (Mg²⁺), sodium (Na⁺) and potassium (K⁺) ions
3.2.8 Citrate - bicarbonate - dithionite (CBD) extractable iron (Fe)
3.2.9 Acid ammonium oxalate extractable iron (Fe)
3.2.10 Total N content of the soils
3.2.11 Total P content of the soils
3.2.12 Total K content of the soils
3.2.13 KMnO₄ – N content of the soils
3.2.14 Olsen extractable phosphorus (P)
3.2.15 NH₄OAc extractable potassium (K)
3.2.16 DTPA extractable micronutrient ions viz. Zn²⁺, Cu²⁺, Fe²⁺ and Mn²⁺
3.2.17 Inorganic P fractions: Sequential Extraction
3.2.18 Total inorganic phosphorus (Pi)

3.3 Quantification of soil parameters
3.3.1 Profile Weighted Mean value (PWM)
3.3.2 Weathering Index (WI)
4. Results and discussion

4.1 Site characteristics of the study area 25
   4.1.1 Site characteristics 25
   4.1.2 Climate and Agro ecological set up 28

4.2 Morphological properties of soils 28
   4.2.1 Soil colour 28
   4.2.2 Soil depth 29
   4.2.3 Soil texture 29
   4.2.4 Soil structure 29
   4.2.5 Soil consistency 32

4.3 Physicochemical and exchangeable properties of the soils 32
   4.3.1 Particle size distribution 32
   4.3.2 Soil reaction (pH) 35
   4.3.3 Electrical Conductivity (EC) 35
   4.3.4 Organic carbon 35
   4.3.5 Exchangeable bases 38
   4.3.6 Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC) 38
   4.3.7 Base saturation (BS) 38

4.4 Nutrient status of the soils 39
   4.4.1 Total and alkaline KMnO₄ digestable nitrogen 39
   4.4.2 Total and Olsen extractable phosphorus 39
   4.4.3 Total and ammonium acetate extractable potassium 46
   4.4.4 DTPA extractable micronutrients 46

4.5 Soil classification 49

4.6 Chemical composition of soils and its relationship with soil maturity 51
   4.6.1 Silicon (as SiO₂), aluminium (as Al₂O₃), iron (as Fe₂O₃), calcium (as CaO), magnesium (as MgO) 51
   4.6.2 Silica sesquioxide molar ratio and soil maturity 54

4.7 Estimation of different forms of iron in soils and its relationship with soil maturity 54
   4.7.1 Ammonium oxalate extractable Iron (Fe₉) and dithionite-Citrite-Bicarbonate extractable Iron (Fe₆) 57
   4.7.2 Amorphous and crystalline iron oxide ratio vis-à-vis soil maturity 57
4.8 Forms of phosphorus in the soil
4.8.1 Reductant soluble phosphorus (RS-P)
4.8.2 Iron bound phosphorus (Fe-P)
4.8.3 Calcium bound phosphorus (Ca-P)
4.8.4 Aluminium bound phosphorus (Al-P)
4.8.5 Occluded iron and aluminium phosphorus (Occl Fe-Al-P)
4.8.6 Saloid bound phosphorus (Sb-P)
4.8.7 Total inorganic phosphorus (Total IP)

4.9 Soil phosphorus in relation to pedogenesis
4.9.1 Total phosphorus
4.9.2 Inorganic P fractions: Sequential Extraction
4.9.3 Weathering Index

Summary and conclusions 70
Bibliography 78
Appendix I-X