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# Dynamic Modeling on Nitrogen Assignment in Tobacco

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**Abstract.** Many external and internal studies in based on the relevant literature and consult to tobacco experts, based on the experimental research of the years between 2004 and 2005, the basic model of soil-N of distribution was developed after analysing the content of nitrogen in the whole plant of tobacco. The model is designed to simulate dynamically absorption and distribution of nitrogen for tobacco. The diversification of nitrogen in tobacco is exhibited dynamically in the form of curve which originates from the software of Visual Basic 6.0 . The result showed that the simulated value of nitrogen content is not remarkably different from the measured value in root, stem and leaf of tobacco in the level of 0.05, and the simulation value of nitrogen content fit the measured value very well in the model. It provides a concerning modulus of 0.9934 that the 1:1 graphical comparison between simulation value and measured data of nitrogen content in tobacco leaf. The simulated and the measured agreed perfectfull. The model helps to forecast and conduct the management of nitrogen fertilizer in tobacco field.

**Keywords:** Tobacco, Nitrogen, Assignment, Model

## 1 Introduction

Tobacco is one of the important cash crops. Nitrogen is the most significant nutritious element to tobacco, and it has remarkable influences on tobacco's growth and development as well as yield and quality. Either insufficiency or redundancy of nitrogen affects the output and quality of tobacco. An appropriate supply of nitrogen can ensure the normal growth of the plant and the premium yield of tobacco leaves as well as good quality of the leaves[1-4]. The distribution of nitrogen in the whole plant is of great significance; it directly influences the quality of tobacco leaves. The proportion of distribution of nitrogen in root, stem and leaves is leaves > stem > root. Different growing positions of leaves can directly affect the whole content of nitrogen[5]. The total accumulation of the amount of nitrogen of leaves in different leaf positions is middle leaves > upper leaves > lower leaves[6]. During the maturity process of flue-cured tobacco, the nitrogen accumulation amounts and distribution proportion of stem increase and the nitrogen accumulation amounts and distribution proportion of leaves decrease[7].

In the field of crop, visual simulation models of crops have been developed. The models can also simulate nitrogen dynamic. There are CERES, ORYZA and WHEATGRO at abroad[8-10]. In China, GaoLiangzhi[11] has developed RCSODS; Cao Hongxin[12] has explored simulation-optimization for wheat population, soil moisture and nitrogen dynamic. Predecessors mainly focus on wheat, corn and rice, but seldom focus on tobacco. Based on the dynamic simulation of tobacco's absorption and distribution of nitrogen, this research aims to provide scientific foundation for the improvement of the quality of tobacco through the appropriate utilization of nitrogenous fertilizer.

## 2 Materials and Method

### 2.1 Materials

The materials of the research mainly come from experimental research in the fields, relevant literature and consult to tobacco experts. They are mainly used to fix the parameter of the model and to verify the model.

### 2.2 Field experiments

Experiment I was carried out from 2004 to 2005 in Science and Education Institute of HAU. The tested variety was Zhongyan101. It was sowed on March 5<sup>th</sup>, and transplanted on May 1<sup>st</sup>. The tested soil was sandy soil. The proportion of the organic substance of the soil was 0.89%; the content of the nitrogen was  $0.669\text{g}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$ ; the content of available phosphorus was  $14.25\text{mg}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$  and the content of available potassium was  $70.21\text{mg}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$ . pH value was 8.1. The tobacco was cultivated in pots. Each pot was filled with 30kg dry soil. The amounts of nitrogenous fertilizer were set at three levels:  $0\text{kg}\cdot\text{hm}^{-2}$ ,  $45\text{kg}\cdot\text{hm}^{-2}$  and  $90\text{kg}\cdot\text{hm}^{-2}$ . The amounts were repeated three times and 30 plants were dealt with at one time. In the nitrogenous fertilizer, the proportion of nitrogen in nitric form and in ammonium form was both 50%; the amounts of  $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$  and  $\text{K}_2\text{O}$  were respectively  $45\text{kg}\cdot\text{hm}^{-2}$  and  $90\text{kg}\cdot\text{hm}^{-2}$ .  $\text{KHNO}_3$  and  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$  were used as nitrogenous fertilizer;  $\text{Ca}(\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4)_2$  was used as phosphate fertilizer and  $\text{KHNO}_3$  and  $\text{K}_2\text{SO}_4$  were used as potash fertilizer. Experiment II was carried out in Fenchen Town, Xiangcheng County, Henan Province. The tested variety was Zhongyan101. It was sowed on March 1<sup>st</sup> and transplanted on April 25th. The growing method was the same as Experiment I. The tested soil was sandy clay. In the soil, the proportion of the organic substance was 1.25%; the content of nitrogen was  $0.925\text{g}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$ ; the content of available phosphorus was  $16.24\text{mg}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$  and the content of available potassium was  $78.46\text{mg}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$ . pH value was 7.6.

### 2.3 Measuring method

The means of measuring the whole content of nitrogen in tobacco plant: to take the roots, stems and leaves of the tested tobacco at the respective periods of 30days, 45days, 60 days 75days, 90days and 105days after transplantation. Then dried at the temperature of 105°C and the content of nitrogen in the roots, stems and leaves measured by semi-microkjeldahl[13].

## 3 The Description of the Model

### 3.1 The description of the absorption of nitrogen by roots

The nitrogen tobacco needed was mainly absorbed by roots. The model didn't take other ways of absorption such as leaves spraying into consideration. Supposing all the nitrogen was absorbed by roots.

The total uptake of nitrogen equalized the crop's minimum requirement for nitrogen plus the small supplier of nitrogen in the maximum amount of soil.

$$TNUP = \text{MIN}(NDEML + NDEMST + NDEMRT, ANSL / DELT) \quad (1)$$

ANSL represented the available nitrogen in the soil; ANSL / DELT stood for the total available nitrogen in a time step; DELT in the model was usually one day. The available content of nitrogen in the soil on the first day after growing was as follows:

Initial available nitrogen in the soil was  $ANSL(0) = ANSL0 + AFA \times FNC \times RF$ .

ANSL0 represented available nitrogen in the soil without utilizing nitrogenous fertilizer; AFA represented the amount of nitrogenous fertilizer not utilized; FNC represented the content of nitrogen in the nitrogenous fertilizer; RF represented the ratio of the utilization of the fertilizer. ANSL0 can be calculated by the dynamic model of nitrogen's circulation in the soil; it can also be fixed by statistics from experiment in the fields. The latter means is easy and direct. The method was using the content of nitrogen absorbed by the whole plant during the whole growing period without using fertilizer to divide the whole days of the growing period. The model was as follows: . Nu represented the content of nitrogen absorbed during the whole growing period in the soil without utilizing fertilizer. Dsum represented the whole days of the growing period.

### 3.2 The description of the distribution of nitrogen

The nitrogen absorbed by the root was distributed to root, stem and leaves. The quantity of nitrogen absorbed by the plant was changing with its growing periods. What's more, the whole content of nitrogen that the organs held was different in

different growing periods. Thus the whole content of nitrogen that contained by different organs was in obvious evolutionary patterns.

Supposing the whole content of nitrogen absorbed by root from the soil was distributed according to the requirement of the organs, then index of distribution in the organs was as follows:

$$\text{NCPL} = \text{NDEML} / (\text{NDEML} + \text{NDEMST} + \text{NDEMRT}) \quad (2)$$

$$\text{NCPST} = \text{NDEMST} / (\text{NDEML} + \text{NDEMST} + \text{NDEMRT}) \quad (3)$$

$$\text{NCPRT} = \text{NDEMRT} / (\text{NDEML} + \text{NDEMST} + \text{NDEMRT}) \quad (4)$$

NCPL represented the index of distribution of nitrogen in the leaves; NCPST represented the index of distribution of nitrogen in the stem; NCPRT represented the index of distribution of nitrogen in the root; NDEML represented the content of nitrogen required by the leaves; NDEMST represented the content of nitrogen required by the stem and NDEMRT represented the content of nitrogen required by the root.

The accumulation ratio of the content of nitrogen of each organ was calculated through the index of distribution of nitrogen in the organ multiplied the whole content of nitrogen absorbed by the root ( $\text{TNUP}, \text{kg} \cdot \text{hm}^{-2} \cdot \text{d}^{-1}$ ). The formula was:

$$\text{NUPL} = \text{TNUP} \times \text{NCPL} \quad (5)$$

$$\text{NUPST} = \text{TNUP} \times \text{NCPST} \quad (6)$$

$$\text{NUPRT} = \text{TNUP} \times \text{NCPRT} \quad (7)$$

NUPL stood for the accumulation ratio of the content of nitrogen in the leaves; NUPST stood for the accumulation ratio of the content of nitrogen in the stem and NUPRT stood for the accumulation ration of the content in the root. Then the amount of nitrogen required by each organ at any time was :

$$\text{NDEML} = (\text{WL} \times \text{XNCEL} - \text{ANLV}) / \text{TC} \quad (8)$$

WL, WST, and WRT were net weight of the leaf, stem and root. XNCST, XNCST and XNCRT were the maximum nitrogen volume (kg N/kg non-carbon substance) of the leaf, stem and root, respectively which vary with different growing periods. ANLV, ANST and ANRT were the actual nitrogen volume of the leaves, stem and root. TC was the corresponding time coefficient which was usually one day in the model of plant growing. XNCL was the model's input coefficient. XNCST and XNCRT can be ascertained by the following formulas:

$$\text{XNCST}=0.5 \times \text{XNCL} \tag{9}$$

$$\text{XNCRT}=0.5 \times \text{XNCST} \tag{10}$$

Based on the empirical data of the year 2004 and 2005(Table 1), and considering the influence of tobacco plant’s nitrogen situation on the index of nitrogen distribution, the dynamic distribution index of tobacco plant’s nitrogen situation was simulated.

**Table 1.** The change of nitrogen distribution index .

Day after translate	Root	Stem	leaf
30	33.3	30.0	36.7
45	33.7	25.3	41.1
60	29.8	26.6	43.6
75	30.4	27.5	42.2
90	31.8	32.8	35.4
105	30.5	46.4	23.1

#### 4 The Model’s Exploration Tool and Operation Environment

The system was developed on the operation stage of Windows 2000 with PIV 1.8G CPU and 256MB internal memory. The software of Access 2003 was used to design data basis, the dominant part and user interface of Chinese version Visual Basic 6.0. The system was configured by auto structure software. Each constituent part can be used either separately or linked with other component parts flexibly and conveniently. All these made the system interface concise and clear and easy to be operated.

#### 5 Verification of the Model

According to the physical and chemical properties together with the cultivation condition of the soil in Zhengzhou City and Xiangcheng County, first, the module of the distribution of nitrogen was used to simulate the distribution of nitrogen in the whole plant during the growing period, both the tobacco in Zhengzhou and the tobacco in Xiangcheng were used to simulate. The study selected Zhongyan101 as the representative, making a comparison between simulation and observation of root nitrogen rate.

Table 2 showed the comparison between simulation and observation of root nitrogen rate. It can be worked out that  $X_{0.05, 5}^2=9.89 > Xc^2 (0.2992, 0.3875)$  , which revealed that at the level of 0.05, the differential value was not significant;

showing that the simulation and observation of root nitrogen rate fit well through the model.

**Table2.** Comparison between simulation and observation of root nitrogen rate (kg hm<sup>-2</sup>).

Day after translate	Xiangcheng				Zhengzhou			
	Prediction	Observation	Differential	Xc <sup>2</sup>	Prediction	Observation	Differential	Xc <sup>2</sup>
	value	data	value		value	data	value	
30	1.1	1.07	0.03	0.2068	0.84	0.8	0.04	0.2642
45	3.69	3.62	0.07	0.0521	3.28	3.19	0.09	0.0518
60	12.68	12.56	0.12	0.0117	11.15	11.14	0.01	0.0218
75	11.72	11.77	-0.05	0.0173	10.2	10.21	-0.01	0.0237
90	13.91	14.01	-0.1	0.0112	9.29	9.28	0.01	0.0260
105	15.22	15.67	-0.45	0.0002	—	—	—	—
Xc <sup>2</sup>				0.2992				0.3875

Table 3 showed the comparison between simulation and observation of stem nitrogen rate. It can be worked out that  $X_{0.05, 5}^2 = 9.89 > Xc^2 (0.1760, 0.1681)$ , which revealed that at the level of 0.05, the differential value was not significant; that is to say, the simulation and observation of stem nitrogen rate fit well through the model.

**Table3.** Comparison between simulation and observation of stem nitrogen rate.

Day after translate	Xiangcheng				Zhengzhou			
	Prediction	Observation	Differential	Xc <sup>2</sup>	Prediction	Observation	Differential	Xc <sup>2</sup>
	value	data	value		value	data	value	
30	2.25	2.25	0	0.1129	2.31	2.3	0.01	0.1024
45	6.64	6.66	-0.02	0.0348	4.69	4.66	0.03	0.047
60	21.83	21.86	-0.03	0.0102	23.49	23.44	0.06	0.0084
75	25.64	25.63	0.02	0.0092	22.59	22.69	-0.1	0.0072
90	40.25	40.23	0.02	0.0056	42.2	42.34	-0.14	0.0031
105	47.01	47.13	-0.11	0.0032	—	—	—	—
Xc <sup>2</sup>				0.176				0.1681

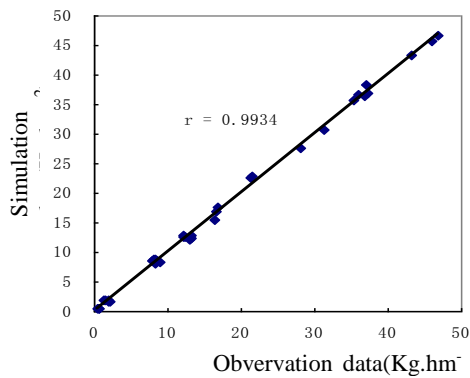
Table 4 showed the comparison between simulation and observation of leaves nitrogen rate. It can be worked out that  $X_{0.05, 5}^2 = 9.89 > Xc^2 (0.0552, 0.0290)$ , which revealed that at the level of 0.05, the differential value was not significant; that

is to say, the simulation and observation of leaves nitrogen rate fit well through the model.

**Table4.** Comparison between simulation and observation of leaf nitrogen rate.

Day after translate	Xiangcheng				Zhengzhou			
	Prediction	Observation	Differential	Xc <sup>2</sup>	Prediction	Observation	Differential	Xc <sup>2</sup>
	value	data	value		value	data	value	
30	13.01	13.03	-0.01	0.0182	14.07	14.08	-0.01	0.0169
45	33.81	33.84	-0.03	0.0065	33.16	33.18	-0.03	0.0067
60	52.22	52.27	-0.05	0.0038	60.92	60.97	-0.05	0.0034
75	55.53	55.71	-0.19	0.0018	54.98	54.76	0.22	0.0015
90	58.64	58.99	-0.35	0.0004	59.81	59.5	0.31	0.0006
105	43.65	43.12	0.53	0.0245	—	—	—	—
Xc <sup>2</sup>	0.0552				0.0290			

According to the test method of 1:1 charting, figure 1 compared the simulated value and the observed value with the leaf nitrogen content as representative, and calculated their correlation coefficient. The result showed that the correlation coefficient between simulation and observation of tobacco leaf nitrogen rate was 0.9934. They were in good consistency.



**Fig. 1.** Comparison between simulation and observation of leaf nitrogen rate.

## 6 Conclusion

The whole growing period of tobaccos needs many nutritional elements, among which the demand for nitrogen is great. The supply of nitrogen directly influences the



growth, yield and quality of tobacco. The dynamic simulation of nitrogen is a major part of crop growth simulation[14-18]. The nitrogen accumulations in roots, stems and leaves change with different growing periods. Simulating the distribution of nitrogen in tobacco plant could help us understand and learn the nitrogen content of each organ of tobacco plant. Therefore, we can adjust the amounts of nitrogenous fertilizer utilized in time and improve the yield and quality of tobacco.

Through the quantitative measurement of tobacco in different growing periods, this research concludes the pattern of tobacco's absorption of nitrogen. Establishing the nitrogen absorption and distribution models which are in dynamic changes following different growing periods can simulate the nitrogen content in each organ of tobacco plant at different growing periods. With the comparison between the simulated and observed value and their insignificant difference at the level of 0.05 shows the simulated and observed value of nitrogen contents in roots, stems and leaves of tobacco by the model are in good consistency. With the 1:1 figure comparison between the simulated and observed value with nitrogen content of tobacco as representation and their correlation coefficient at 0.9934 demonstrate they are consistent well. Therefore, this model is better in decision-making and adaptability and could forecast and guide the administration of nitrogenous fertilizer in the tobacco fields.

What needs explanation is that this model is the nitrogen distribution model of tobacco without consideration of the lost nitrogen following the defoliation of tobacco leaves in the late period of growing. Only by adding blade decaying rate in our later deeper researches can we describe the nitrogen content of tobacco during the whole growing periods more accurately.

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