**Effect of Cinnamon Wood (*Cinnamomum zeylanicum* Blume) Biochar as a Potting media for Cinnamon Seedling**

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Production of cinnamon (*Cinnamomum zeylanicum* Blume) has gained popularity and the land area used for cinnamon cultivation has therefore increased in Sri Lanka. To meet the increasing demand for seedlings, the Department of Export Agriculture (DEA) is recommended a potting mixture for nurseries. But the nursery owners don’t show much interest in using it due to the shortage of raw materials for the mixture. Biochar enhance soil physical, chemical and biological properties and facilitates plants to have access to nutrients. Present experiment was conducted to determine the effect of cinnamon wood biochar (CWB) as a potting media for cinnamon seedlings. CWB was prepared by double barrel method (DBM) and Pit method (PM). The burning time period for both methods were 60 minute and four levels of CWB (0%, 2%, 4%, 8% w/w) were applied mixing with sub soil. Four replicates were arranged in split plot design. Seed germination count was taken until 42 days for the seedlings. Plant height and number of leaves were taken as growth parameters and data was taken four times with two weeks interval. After two month for the seedlings, nutrient solution was applied with two weeks interval. As nutrient solution, urea, triple super phosphate and muriate of potash were applied by mixing with water. At the end of the experiment shoot length, tap root length, root dry mass, shoot dry mass, leaf area, pest and disease percentage and soil chemical parameters in potting mixture were measured. Biochar prepared by DBM with the mixing of sub soil and with the addition of nutrients solution gave higher shoot dry mass, root dry mass, tap root length and shoot length than biochar prepared by PM. Among the concentrations tested (0%, 2%, 4%. 8%) biochar mixed with 2% in weight basis was the best among the rates used.

**Keywords**: *cinnamon wood biochar, double barrel method, pit method*