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

**PKAD Madushika1\*, KHGM Tharanga 2, PI Yapa1**

*1Department of Export Agriculture, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka*

*2 Soil and Plant Nutrition Division, National Cinnamon Research and Training Center,*

*Matara, Sri Lanka*

[*\*madushikadilini954@gmail.com*](mailto:*madushikadilini954@gmail.com)

Production of cinnamon (*Cinnamomum zeylanicum* Blume) has gained popularity and the land area used for cinnamon cultivation has therefore increased in Sri Lanka. In order to meet the increasing demand for seedlings, the Department of Export Agriculture (DEA) recommended a potting mixture for nurseries. However, the nursery owners do not show much interest in using it due to the shortage of raw materials for the mixture. Biochar enhances 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 medium for cinnamon seedlings. CWB was prepared by double barrel method (DBM) and Pit method (PM). The burning time period for both methods was 60 minutes 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 within a two weeks interval. After two months for the seedlings, nutrient solution was applied within a two weeks interval. As a 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% on a weight basis was the best among the rates used.

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