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Raising Pre-Nursery Oil Palm Seedlings in Plastic Pot Tray - An IOI Group Experience

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A series of experiments were conducted to optimse the growth of pre-nursery oil palm seedlings in the pot tray method in order to implement a system for large scale commercial double stage nursery. Although the size of the pot tray seedlings were slightly smaller than the conventional polybag seedlings, with additional agronomic inputs, it is possible to raise the quality of the pot tray seedlings for large polybag planting and ready for field planting by seven to eight months after transplantation from pot tray. Optimising the growth medium, intensifying irrigation, the supply and composition of nutrients from foliar fertilisers and the use of controlled released fertilisers (if necessary) are some of the steps to be taken to improve the growth of seedling in the pot tray method.

Keywords: Oil palm nursery, palm oil mill effluent, pot tray, controlled release fertilisers.

