

SOIL ERODIBILITY FACTORS FOR TWO SURFACE SOILS OF THE  
STATE OF AMAZONAS, BRAZIL<sup>1</sup>

José Américo Leite<sup>2</sup>  
B. F. Medina<sup>3</sup>

Soil erodibility factors, K, were predicted for two agricultural surface soils of the State of Amazonas, Brazil, using the nomograph of Wischmeier and co-workers. Soils selected for this study were a plintic from the municipio of Manaus. The first soil showed to be much more vulnerable to particle detachment and transport by rainfall and runoff than the yellow latossol (K = 0.35 vs K = 0.10). This was due mainly to its higher proportion of silt plus very fine sand since the remaining physical parameters as well as organic matter content are quite similar for both soil. The rather high value of K shown by the plintic podzolic soil of Tefê makes advisable to manage it in such a way as to minimize the effects of those factors that determine soil loss hazard. The latosol, on the other hand, in spite of its low susceptibility to erosion, must be cultivated under management systems that provide protective cover during the months of erosion-producing rains.

---

<sup>1</sup> A paper carried out with financial resources provided through a SUDHEVEA/EMBRAPA agreement.

<sup>2</sup> Eng<sup>o</sup> Agr<sup>o</sup>, M.Sc., Física de Solo, Pesquisador do Centro Nacional de Pesquisa de Seringueira e Dendê (CNPDS) - EMBRAPA, Caixa Postal 319, CEP 69.000 - Manaus - AM.

<sup>3</sup> Especialista em Manejo e Conservação de Solos, Consultor Programa IICA/EMBRAPA no CNPDS.