Submitted: July 18, 2014

Accepted: August 26, 2014

Published: January 20, 2015

# Research Article Preliminary the Diagnosis and Recommendation Integrated System (DRIS) Norms for Evaluating the Nutrient Status of Apple

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**Abstract:** The Diagnosis and Recommendation Integrated System (DRIS) is an important tool for increasing fruit yield and fruit quality. There are still no studies on the use of DRIS for nutritional diagnosis of the apple tree for China conditions. The objectives of this study were to establish norms for apple, to compare mean yield, leaf nutrient contents and variance of nutrient ratios of low- and high-yielding subpopulations. The study covered the apple producing areas of the Wei-bei Loess Plateau in the northwest of China, in 164 orchards selected for their high productivity and employment of excellent management techniques. The concentrations of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, iron, manganese and zinc were determined in leaf samples. The data were divided into high-yielding (>45 t/ha) and low-yielding (<45 t/ha) subpopulations and norms were computed using standard DRIS procedures and a preliminary DRIS norms for apple growing in the Wei-bei Loess Plateau are selected. These norms were developed with data from only one region, so data from future surveys and field trials may subsequently be used to enlarge the database allowing the refinement of model parameters. The results elucidate that the DRIS model for apple, developed in this study, is a diagnostic tool that may be used to predict if insufficiencies or imbalances in N, P, K Ca, Mg, Fe, Mn and Zn supplies are occurring in apple production area in the Wei-bei Loess Plateau, China and indeed elsewhere in the other apple production areas with similar c1imatic and soil conditions.

Keywords: Apple, DRIS norms, high-yielding, leaf diagnosis, low-yielding, weibei loess plateau

## **INTRODUCTION**

China apple production and export volume rank the first in the world (FAO, 2010). Almost 4.7 million ha of apple are grown around the world and about 44% of those areas are located in China (FAO, 2010). The Weibei Loess Plateau, with advantaged apple producing conditions, is an important apple production area in China. Apple is grown extensively in this area with an average 601,520 ha in production and annual yield reaches nearly 8.6 million ton (SPBS, 2010). In this area, improper use of fertilizers is likely to be the major factors contributing to declining yield and quality, though no local nutrition guidelines are available. The foliar analysis has frequently been used to be an important tool to monitor the nutrient status of plants.

The Diagnosis and Recommendation Integrated System (DRIS) is claimed to have certain advantages over other conventional interpretation tools (Beverly, 1987; Malavolta *et al.*, 1993; Srivastava and Shyam, 2008). DRIS firstly developed for *Hevea brasiliensis* by Beaufils (1956, 1973). It is a method to evaluate plant nutritional through indexes, which provides a means of simultaneously identifying imbalances, deficiencies and excesses in plant nutrients and ranking them in order of

importance (Walworth and Sumner, 1986). DRIS uses a comparison of the leaf tissue nutrient concentration ratios of nutrient pairs with norms from a high-yielding group (Soltanpour *et al.*, 1995), different from the traditional methods of leaf diagnosis like the critical level and sufficiency range.

DRIS norms have been used successfully to interpret the results of leaf analyses for both annual crops and perennial crops, such as potato (Meldal-Johnson and Sumner, 1980; Mackay et al., 1987; Parent et al., 1994), tomato (Caron and Parent, 1989; Hartz et al., 1998; Mayfield et al., 2002), grassland swards (Bailey et al., 1997a, b), lettuce (Sanchez et al., 1991), onion (Caldwell et al., 1994), cucumber (Mayfield et al., 2002), rice (Singh and Agrawal, 2007), corn (Soltanpour et al., 1995), pineapple (Teixeira et al., 2009), apple (Goh and Malakouti, 1992; Singh et al., 2000), mango (Schaffer et al., 1988; Raghupathi and Bhargava, 1999; Raj and Rao, 2006), peach (Beverly and Worley, 1992; Sanz, 1999; Awasthi et al., 2000) and sapota (Appa Rao et al., 2006). However none have been developed for apple in the Wei-bei Loess Plateau of the northwestern China.

The objective of this study was to establish appropriate DRIS norms for apple in China, seeking to

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use the DRIS method for its nutritional diagnosis. A survey of apple was conducted to provide a broad database of foliar nutrient concentrations in low- and high-yielding plants from which to calculate DRIS norms.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The research was carried out in the Wei-beiLoess Plateau which is one of the main apple producing areas in China. The Wei-beiLoess Plateau is located in between  $34^{\circ}$  36' and  $36^{\circ}$  20' North latitude,  $106^{\circ}20'$  and  $110^{\circ}40'$  East longitude and the altitude from 800 to 1200 m. The Wei-bei Loess Plateau belongs to Warm and semi-humid continental monsoon climate. The annual rainfall varies between 525 and 730 mm. Mean maximum temperatures range from 34 to  $40^{\circ}$ C and mean minimum temperatures from -16 to -25°C. The sunshine duration is between 2,300 to 2,500 h. The frost-free period is 170D.

In 2007, a questionnaire was filled out by the farmer of the orchard, including rootstock, spacing, year of planting, pest management, fertilizer management and corrective measures. One hundred and sixty four apple orchards, 19 from Cultivated loessial soils, 68 from Huangshan soils, 22 from Dark loessial soils, 44 from Lou soils, 4 from red soils, 5 from Cinnamon soils, 2 from Skeletol soils, were selected for survey. According to fruit leaf sample standard in China (Gangli *et al.*, 1985), the collection of leaves was accomplished between July and August. Each orchard 25 plants were random selected for their uniformity.

Leaf samples were washed with deionized water, dried at 65°C weighed, milled to 20 mesh for mineral analysis. Total Nitrogen (N) was analyzed by the Nessler procedure (Chapman and Pratt, 1961). Phosphorus (P) was analyzed by the molybdenum yellow method. Potassium (K) was measured by the flame photometer. Calcium (Ca), Magnesium (Mg), Copper (Cu), iron (Fe), Manganese (Mn) and Zinc (Zn) were measured by atomic absorption spectrophotometer.

According to Beaufils (1973) and Walworth and Sumner (1986), the DRIS norms selection was made along the following priorities:

- Yield and leaf nutrient concentrations built a databank, which was divided into high- (>45 t/ha) and low-yielding (<45 t/ha) subpopulations.
- Calculate the mean, standard deviation, variance and skew for each leaf nutrient concentration for the two subpopulations.
- Calculate a variance ratio (V<sub>low</sub> for low-yielding sub-population/V<sub>high</sub> for high-yielding subpopulation) for each nutrient concentration and of two ratios involving each pair of nutrients.

- Make sure that the leaf nutrient concentration data for the high-yielding sub-population were relatively symmetrical or un-skewed, so that they provided realistic approximations of the likely range of interactive influences of different nutrients on crop productivity (Ramakrishna *et al.*, 2009).
- Select nutrient ratio expressions that had relatively un-skewed distributions in the high-yielding sub-population (skewness values <1.0).
- Select nutrient expressions for which the variance ratios (V<sub>low</sub>/V<sub>high</sub>) were relatively large.
- Select equal numbers of expressions for each of the n elements (A, B, C, ..... and X) to meet an absolute (orthogonal) requirement of the mathematical model.
- The following equations were developed for the calculation of DRIS indexes based on leaf analysis:

X index = 
$$\frac{f(X/A) + f(X/B) + \dots + f(E/X) - f(F/X) - \dots}{n-1}$$

where,

$$f(X/A) = \left(\frac{X/A}{x/a} - 1\right) \times \frac{1000}{CV} \text{ when } X/A > x/a$$

or,

$$f(X/A) = \left(1 - \frac{X/A}{x/a}\right) \times \frac{1000}{CV} \text{ when } X/A < x/a$$

where, X/A is the actual value of the ratio of X and A in the plant under diagnosis, x/a the value of the norm (the mean value of high-yielding orchards) and CV the coefficient of variation for population of high-yielding orchards.

It was considered that plants present nutritional balance for a given nutrient when the values of the indices, defined for the DRIS methods, are close to zero (Walworth and Sumner, 1987). When nutrients are in a state of imbalance, the negative DRIS index values mean that are undersupplied and positive DRIS index values mean that are oversupplied. The greater negative DRIS index values of the indices the greater the nutrient undersupply and the greater positive DRIS index values of the indices the nutrient oversupply.

#### RESULTS

The yield of apple from the sampling apple orchards in 2007 ranged from 9.9 to 112.5 t/ha in Fig. 1. The mean productivity of the apple trees correspond end to 13.6 t/ha (SPBS, 2004, 2005, 2006) in the last three harvests in the Wei-bei Loess Plateau. It is evident that the average of yield of the sampling apple orchards used in this study (35.8 t/ha) was much superior to the overall average of the area, but the data were highly skewed in favor of very low yields. This meant that



Fig. 1: Frequency distribution of the yield of apple trees (t/ha) in fruits, for the harvests of 2007 of 164 orchards in the Wei-bei loess plateau, China

Table 1: Summary statistics for apple tree yield and leaf nutrient concentration data for total yielding population (n = 164)

Nutrient	Min.	Max.	Median	Mean	C.V. (%)	S.D.	Skewness
N (g/kg)	22.20	31.90	26.87	26.99	6.71	1.81	0.26
P (g/kg)	1.32	3.40	2.35	2.38	15.22	0.36	0.06
K (g/kg)	3.44	17.69	9.48	9.79	30.94	3.03	0.36
Ca (g/kg)	5.97	40.44	13.30	13.95	35.64	4.97	1.53
Mg (g/kg)	1.29	8.15	3.54	3.66	32.63	1.19	0.94
Cu (mg/kg)	1.55	39.55	5.15	6.88	97.32	6.70	3.18
Fe (mg/kg)	96.50	441.83	202.77	211.26	29.65	62.64	1.18
Mn (mg/kg)	48.95	160.96	84.64	87.24	27.92	24.36	0.75
Zn (mg/kg)	12.01	68.47	25.11	27.95	39.11	10.93	1.35
Yield (t/ha)	9.90	112.50	30.50	35.83	56.24	20.15	1.36

C.V.: Coefficient of variation; S.D.: Standard deviation; Min.: Minimum; Max.: Maximum

Table 2: Summary statistics for apple tree yield and leaf nutrient concentration data for high-yielding (n = 36) and low-yielding (n = 127) subpopulations

	High-yiel	High-yielding subpopulation $\geq$ 45 t/ha (n = 37)					Low-yielding subpopulation $\geq$ 45 t/ha (n = 127)				
Parameter	Min.	Max.	Mean	C.V. (%)	Skewness	Min.	Max.	Mean	C.V. (%)	Skewness	
N (g/kg)	24.57	31.49	27.58	6.680	0.36	22.20	31.90	26.82	6.60	0.22	
P (g/kg)	1.65	3.23	2.38	15.11	0.41	1.32	3.40	2.37	15.31	-0.03	
K (g/kg)	4.02	17.69	10.43	29.14	0.51	3.44	17.17	9.60	31.37	0.33	
Ca (g/kg)	7.77	24.04	14.56	26.91	0.50	5.97	40.44	13.78	38.05	1.69	
Mg (g/kg)	2.27	6.80	4.06	25.61	0.44	1.29	8.15	3.54	34.28	1.15	
Cu (mg/kg)	2.47	20.38	6.69	66.32	1.92	1.55	39.55	6.94	104.34	3.13	
Fe (mg/kg)	111.74	441.83	226.88	30.62	0.85	96.50	438.54	206.70	29.04	1.31	
Mn (mg/kg)	50.63	147.89	92.28	25.99	0.83	48.95	160.96	85.77	28.40	0.77	
Zn (mg/kg)	13.21	67.96	29.06	36.62	1.31	12.01	68.47	27.63	39.94	1.39	
Yield (t/ha)	48.60	112.50	66.80	24.57	1.12	9.90	44.60	26.80	34.36	0.11	

C.V.: Coefficient of variation; Min.: Minimum; Max.: Maximum

only 37 of the 164 data points were assigned to the high-yielding subpopulation ( $\geq$ 45 t/ha).

Summary statistics for the apple yield and leaf nutrient concentration data available from the total apple orchard survey are listed in Table 1. The leaf nutrient concentration for the macronutrients N, P, K, Ca and Mg for total population ranged from 22.2 to 31.9, 1.32 to 3.40, 3.44 to 17.69, 5.97 to 40.44 and 1.29 to 8.15 g/kg, respectively. The leaf nutrient concentration for the micronutrients Cu, Fe, Mn and Zn varied from 1.55 to 39.55, 96.5 to 441.83, 48.95 to 160.93 and 12.01 to 68.47 mg/kg dry weight tissue respectively. The mean leaf nutrient concentrations of N, P, K, Ca and Mg were 26.99, 2.38, 9.79, 13.95 and

3.66 g/kg, respectively. The mean leaf nutrient concentrations of Cu, Fe, Mn and Zn were 6.88, 211.26, 87.24 and 27.95 mg/kg, respectively.

In order to verify differences between mean leaf concentrations from high-yielding subpopulation and low-yielding subpopulation, the minimum, the maximum, the mean leaf nutrient concentrations, coefficient of variation and skewness are shown in the Table 2. In the high-yielding subpopulation, the data for the macronutrients N, P, K, Ca and Mg were relatively symmetrical, with having skewness values less than 0.6. The data for the micronutrients, Fe, Mn and Zn were also relatively symmetrical, with having values marginally less than 1.4. Only Cu was highly skewed

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Table 3: Mean, Coefficients of Variance (C.V.'s), skewness values and variances (V<sub>low</sub> and V<sub>high</sub>) for high and low-yielding subpopulations and the variance ratios, V<sub>low</sub>/V<sub>high</sub>

	High-yielding subpopulation			Low-yield					
Nutrient ratio	Mean	C.V. (%)	Skewness	V <sub>high</sub>	Mean	C.V. (%)	Skewness	Vlow	V <sub>low</sub> /V <sub>hig</sub>
N/P	11.810	14.16	-0.103	2.796000	11.570	17.14	0.999	3.930000	1.406
P/N	0.087	15.10	0.804	0.000170	0.089	16.45	0.313	0.000210	1.251
N/K	2.886	32.12	1.310	0.859000	3.123	38.36	1.653	1.435000	1.671
K/N	0.380	29.78	0.597	0.013000	0.359	31.61	0.278	0.013000	1.008
N/Fe	0.133	31.56	0.843	0.001800	0.140	28.12	0.919	0.001500	0.873
Fe/N	8 286	32.93	1.278	7 446000	7.725	28.74	1.132	4 929000	0.662
N/Mn	0.319	25.63	0.035	0.006700	0.338	28.15	0.382	0.009000	1.353
Mn/N	3 377	28.73	0.885	0.941000	3 215	29.74	0.828	0.914000	0.971
N/Zn	1.066	35.11	1.026	0.140000	1 103	34.24	0.514	0.143000	1.018
Zn/N	1.053	35.28	0.977	0.138000	1.034	40.53	1 437	0.176000	1.273
N/Ca	2.036	28.76	0.968	0 343000	2 207	36.13	0.662	0.636000	1 854
Ca/N	0.530	27.50	0.563	0.021000	0.518	39.64	1 704	0.042000	1.980
N/Mo	7 214	25.21	0.505	3 309000	8 4 5 8	36.02	1 358	9.280000	2 805
Mø/N	0.147	24.15	0.307	0.001300	0.133	35.42	1.270	0.002200	1 751
P/K	0.245	30.09	1 719	0.005400	0.155	37.43	1 783	0.010000	1 922
K/P	4 400	26.52	0.528	1 362000	4 101	32 72	0.582	1 801000	1.323
P/Fe	0.011	30.97	0.198	0.000013	0.012	29.91	0.825	0.000014	1.083
Fe/P	97 600	36.23	1 202	1250 190000	88 950	32.95	1 442	859 190000	0.687
P/Mn	0.028	30.84	0.793	0.000072	0.030	30.76	0.799	0.000084	1 157
Mn/P	39.880	32.65	1 216	169 590000	36 860	31.30	0.891	133 120000	0.785
P/7n	0.092	34.90	0.577	0.001000	0.097	36.00	0.597	0.001200	1 197
7n/P	12 410	39.05	1.630	23 /9/000	11 860	12 14	1.647	25 340000	1.079
	0.174	26.70	0.680	0.002100	0 191	32.39	0.786	0.003800	1.079
Ca/P	6.175	26.70	0.000	2 623000	5.821	34.54	1 339	4.042000	1.5/1
P/Mα	0.175	20.23	0.434	0.030000	0.749	37.06	0.833	0.077000	2 580
Mα/P	1 738	28.99	0.475	0.050000	1 539	41.84	1 893	0.077000	1.634
K/Ee	0.051	46.90	1 582	0.234000	0.051	48.72	1.075	0.415000	1.116
K/Fe	0.051	40.90	1.382	0.000300 88.120000	24.870	40.72	2 206	214 610000	2.425
FC/K K/Mn	23.370	39.03	0.784	0.002400	24.870	12 24	2.390	214.010000	2.435
Mn/K	0.123	47.37	0.850	15 190000	0.121	42.24	1 324	21 520000	1 /17
WIII/K	0.202	40.08	0.850	0.021000	0.305	40.32	1.324	0.037000	1.417
K/ZII Zn/K	2 956	37.02 43.03	0.969	1.617000	3 187	40.73	1.370	2 680000	1.702
ZII/K K/Ca	2.950	43.03	0.495	0.068000	0.763	40.80	0.018	2.080000	1.037
K/Ca Ca/K	1 508	40.06	1 206	0.008000	1 543	40.80	0.918	0.097000	1.430
	1.506	40.00	1.290	1.517000	2.075	41.75	0.887	1 565000	1.130
N/Mg Ma/V	2.765	44.22	1.204	0.020000	2.973	42.03	0.720	1.303000	1.052
Mg/K	0.452	43.47	1.240	0.039000	0.407	47.09	1.245	1.112000	0.974
Fe/Mn	2.581	34.18	0.305	0.778000	2.001	40.50	0.980	1.113000	1.430
MII/Fe	0.442	39.74	1.377	18.840000	0.440	37.07	0.575	0.029000	0.926
Fe/Zn Zn/Es	8.852	49.04	1.421	18.840000	8.487	45.51	0.012	13.030000	0.724
Zn/Fe	0.141	52.99	2.228	0.005600	0.145	40.15	0.955	0.004400	0.780
Fe/Ca	10.850	45.08	1.518	57.690000	17.130	50.57	1./18	74.480000	1.291
Ca/Fe	0.070	38.09	0.450	0.000740	0.072	49.87	1.919	0.001300	1.709
Fe/Mg	58.880	42.46	2.948	625.100000	65.560	48.50	2.086	1010.960000	1.61/
Mg/Fe	0.019	33.43	0.956	0.000041	0.019	49.20	1./9/	0.000084	2.052
Mn/Zn	3.491	36.22	0.661	1.599000	3.392	33.28	0.388	1.274000	0.797
Zn/Mn	0.327	37.12	0.863	0.015000	0.334	39.60	1.497	0.018000	1.191
Mn/Ca	6.859	38.57	0.874	6.999000	6.957	43.09	1.260	8.985000	1.284
Ca/Mn	0.170	41.68	1.204	0.005000	0.172	45.92	1.626	0.006200	1.238
Mn/Mg	24.460	41.59	1.381	103.490000	27.450	51.46	1.622	199.500000	1.928
Mg/Mn	0.047	33.59	0.219	0.000250	0.045	44.17	0.874	0.000390	1.588
Zn/Ca	2.153	53.10	2.584	1.307000	2.201	45.29	0.929	0.994000	0.760
Ca/Zn	0.559	40.10	1.044	0.050000	0.554	47.22	1.393	0.069000	1.365
Zn/Mg	7.659	46.84	1.831	12.870000	8.725	53.77	1.390	22.010000	1.710
Mg/Zn	0.159	48.12	1.797	0.005800	0.146	48.87	0.997	0.005100	0.875
Ca/Mg	3.716	28.39	0.542	1.113000	4.046	32.07	1.061	1.684000	1.513
Mg/Ca	0.291	27.29	0.262	0.006300	0.271	30.33	0.552	0.006800	1.075

C.V.: Coefficient of variation

with skewness values greater than 2.0 in the lowyielding subpopulation and skewness values nearly 2.0 in the high-yielding subpopulation. This mean Cu was deemed unsuitable for DRIS model development. Then Mean Coefficients of Variance (C.V.'s), skewness values and variances ( $V_{low}$  and  $V_{high}$ ) for high and lowyielding subpopulations and the variance ratios,  $V_{low}/V_{high}$  were calculated in Table 3.

There were four priorities for nutrient ratio expression selection. The first was to ensure (by visual

Table 4:	DRI	S norms,	mean	values,	Coef	ficie	nt of Var	iation (C	.V.'s)
	and	variance	ratios	$(V_{low}/V)$	V <sub>high</sub> )	for	selected	nutrient	ratio
	expi	ressions ir	apple						

express	sions in apple		
Nutrient ratio	Mean	C.V. (%)	$V_{low}/V_{high}$
N/P	11.810	14.16	1.406
N/Fe	0.133	31.56	0.873
Zn/N	1.053	35.28	1.273
N/Mg	7.214	25.21	2.805
P/Zn	0.092	34.90	1.197
P/Ca	0.174	26.70	1.779
P/Mg	0.622	27.74	2.580
Fe/K	23.570	39.83	2.435
Mn/K	9.723	40.08	1.417
K/Zn	0.392	37.02	1.762
K/Ca	0.757	34.38	1.430
Fe/Mn	2.581	34.18	1.430
Mg/Fe	0.019	33.43	2.052
Zn/Mn	0.327	37.12	1.191
Mn/Ca	6.859	38.57	1.284
Ca/Mg	3.716	28.39	1.513

C.V.: Coefficient of variation

assessment) that norms were based on Gaussian distributions of yield versus nutrient expression values, otherwise calculated means (norms) for nutrient expressions might differ from the true values at maximum crop yield (Walworth and Sumner, 1986); The second was to ensure that the skewness values in the high-yielding subpopulation were less than 1.0. The third was to select nutrient ratio expressions which the variance ratios (V<sub>low</sub>/V<sub>high</sub>) were relatively large, thereby maximizing the potential for such expressions to differentiate between healthy and unhealthy plants (Walworth and Sumner, 1987). The forth was to select equal numbers of expressions for each of the eight elements (N, P, K, Ca, Mg, Fe, Mn and Zn) to meet an absolute (orthogonal) requirement of the mathematical model.

The mean values (norms) for the chosen ratios (for the high-yielding population) and their associated CVs were adopted as the DRIS (diagnostic) parameters for apple and are showed in Table 4. The selected nutrient ratio expressions were duly in compliance with the four priorities for nutrient ratio expression selection. A total of 16 nutrient ratio expressions, four for each nutrient (N, P, K, Ca, Mg, Fe, Mn and Zn), were finally selected. Some expressions with high variance ratios were omitted, because five suitable nutrient ratio expressions could not be identified for each nutrient, so four were selected instead.

### CONCLUSION

In this study, the leaf nutrient concentration in the high-yielding subpopulation had relatively symmetrical distribution. so that they provided realistic approximations of the likely range of interactive influences of different nutrients on crop productivity (Ramakrishna et al., 2009). Additionally, the selected nutrient ratios had relatively large variance ratios  $(V_{low}/V_{high})$  and, therefore, these nutrient ratios got the maximum potential to differentiate between "healthy" and "unhealthy" plants (Walworth and Sumner, 1987). The selected nutrient ratios also had small C.V.'s in keeping with their diagnostic importance (Walworth and Sumner, 1986). These were given credibility both to the database and to the DRIS model. The useful parameters in DRIS diagnosis selected on apple nutrition based on different researchers were showed in Table 5 (Parent and Granger, 1989; Zhu et al., 1990; Goh and Malakouti, 1992; Jiang Yuanmao and Shu, 1995). Most of the selected ratios as DRIS norms in this study are significantly like to the norms provided for these researches (Table 5). So the DRIS model for apple, developed in this study, is a diagnostic tool that may be used to predict if insufficiencies or imbalances in N, P, K Ca, Mg, Fe, Mn and Zn supplies are occurring in apple production area in the Wei-bei Loess Plateau, China.

However, the calculation procedures for the norms and DRIS indexes are still in developing stage. Most research results have indicated that the more specific is the database for DRIS norms derivation, the more effective the method application is. The criteria for the reference subpopulation definition also demand further studies. There are several ways to select the reference population, but there is no common and standard. Further investigation and field experiments are necessary, to enlarge the model database and allow the refinement of DRIS parameters. As it stands, though, this preliminary DRIS model for apple is one of the best diagnostic tools currently available for simultaneously evaluating the N, P, K Ca, Mg, Fe, Mn and Zn statuses of apple in the Wei-bei Loess Plateau, China and indeed elsewhere in the other apple production areas with similar climatic and soil conditions.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The authors wish to thank to the support of the 'Twelfth Five-Year Plan' of the national science and technology support project in China: 'The Integration and Demonstration of Crop-fruit-animal Compound Cycle Technology in the Loess Plateau' (project number: 2012BAD14B11). We also thank to all the

Table 5: The useful parameters in DRIS diagnosis selected on apple nutrition based on different researchers

Researchers	DRIS norms
Goh and	N/P, N/K, N/Ca, N/Mg, P/K, P/Ca, P/Mg, K/Ca, K/Mg, Ca/Mg
Malakouti (1992)	
Parent and	N/P, K/N, N/Ca, N/Mg, K/P, P/Ca, P/Mg+, K/Ca, K/Mg, Ca/Mg
Granger (1989)	
Zhu et al. (1990)	N/P, N/K, N/Ca, N/Mg, N/Mn, N/Zn, N/Cu, N/Fe, K/P, Ca/P, P/Mn, P/Zn, P/Cu, P/Fe, Ca/K, Mg/K, K/Mn, Zn/K, K/Cu,
	Fe/K, Mg/Ca, Mn/Ca, Zn/Ca, Cu/Ca, Fe/Ca, Mn/Mg, Zn/Mg, Mg/Cu, Fe/Mg, Mn/Cu, Zn/Mn, Fe/Mn, Zn/Cu, Zn/Fe, Fe/Cu
Jiang Yuanmao	N/P, K/N, N/Ca, N/Mg, N/B, N/Zn, N/Fe, Mn/N, K/P, P/Ca, P/Mg, P/B, P/Zn, P/Fe, Mn/P, K/Ca, K/Mg, K/B, K/Zn, K/Fe,
and Shu (1995)	K/Mn, Ca/Mg, Ca/B, Zn/Ca, Ca/Fe, Mn/Ca, B/Mg, Zn/Mg, Fe/Mg, Zn/B, Fe/B, Mn/B, Zn/Fe, Mn/Zn, Mn/Fe

scientists and technicians involved in this project. The authors are also grateful to the host farmers on whose orchards the data was collected.

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