

For the future, experiments are already planned to determine the influence of soil type and tree age on the distribution of root activity. Work will be done on very young trees, using both a radioisotope of nitrogen ($N-15$) and $P-32$ to determine whether the pattern of root activity observed for phosphorus is applicable for nitrogen as well. As a further step towards the ultimate objective of the programme, the research workers will experiment with commercially available phosphate fertilizers tagged with $P-32$, and possibly with nitrogenous fertilizers tagged with $N-15$, to check that their earlier results may be extrapolated in practice to the conditions under which a farmer or grower will use fertilizer in the field.

Yield changes as a result of fertilizer frequently do not occur for three years or more, and large acreages are commonly required to reduce experimental error in the more "traditional" forms of research to an acceptable level. This cooperative project of the joint Division illustrates one of the ways a new tool is being used to illuminate an ancient problem, a tool which enables the research worker virtually to see the pattern of adsorbing roots. The information the research team has gained so far will be a sound basis for the next stage of their work.

course on radiation processing

A six-week training course on industrial radiation processing is to be held in Tokyo and Takasaki during October and November this year. Intended for countries in Asia and the Far East, it is being organized by the Agency but the cost will be met from funds of the United Nations Development Programme.

The syllabus will include lectures, demonstrations, laboratory and pilot plant work, covering topics such as the technology of radiation processing, the application of radiation techniques to the plastics industry and economic evaluations. Places are necessarily limited and Governments of countries in the area have been invited to nominate suitable participants.