

OPTIMUM EXPERIMENTAL PLOT SIZE: PROPOSITION OF ESTIMATION METHODS

Patrícia Ferreira PARANAIBA¹
Daniel Furtado FERREIRA²
Augusto Ramalho De MORAIS²

- **ABSTRACT:** *Although most of the methods to estimate the experimental plot size presents appropriate results, some papers present unsatisfactory results seemingly underestimating the experimental units sizes. For this reason, the purpose of this work was to propose two new methods for the determination of size of the experimental plots: the linear response plateau, fitting this model to data having a minimum and the method of the maximum curvature applied to the coefficient of variation, considered as function of the number of basic experimental units, based on in the first order autocorrelation coefficient, in the sample variance and in the sample mean among experimental units. To exemplify a rice uniformity assay was used. It was verified that the new methods can be used in the practical real circumstance and they were appropriate for determination of the optimum experimental plot size.*
- **KEYWORDS:** *Optimum plot sizes; uniformity assays.*

¹ Departamento de Ciências Exatas, Escola Superior de Agricultura Luiz de Queiroz - ESALQ, Universidade de São Paulo - USP, Caixa Postal 9, CEP: 13418-900, Piracicaba, SP, Brazil. E-mail: paranaib@esalq.usp.br

² Departamento de Ciências Exatas, Universidade Federal de Lavras - UFLA, Caixa Postal 3037, CEP: 37200-000, Lavras, MG, Brasil. E-mail: danielff@ufla.br / armorais@ufla.br