ESTERN UNIVERSITY, SRI LANKA

SECOND YEAR, FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION IN AGRICULTURE - 2005/2006

ACH 2101 : SOIL PROPERTIES (3:30/30)

Answer all questions Time : 2 Hours

- 1. (a) Write the Stoke's law and its assumptions.
 - (b) A particle having the diameter of 6μm falling in a liquid having the density of 1g/cm³ and viscosity of 0.01 poise. Assume the particle density is 2.65g/cm³ and the gravitational acceleration is 980 cm/s². Calculate the followings:

(i) Settling velocity of the particle.

(ii) Time taken to travel a distance of 1.0cm in the liquid.

2. (a) Briefly explain the significance of soil pH on nutrient availability in soils.

(b) Briefly explain the importance of Cation Excha nge Capacity on soil fertility.

(c) If the Base Saturation of a soil is 58% and its Ca tion Exchange Capacity is

23 meq/100g, calculate the exchangeable acidity of the soil.

 (a) "Smectite exhibits a high plasticity, cohesion and swelling on wetting and shrinking on drying"- Comment on this statement.

(b) Briefly explain how the charges are developed in the organic s oil colloids.

4. Discuss the role of soil physical properties in maintaining the fertility of soils.
