

## Editorial Note

**Ramesh Chandra**  
Editor in Chief

Indian agriculture has witnessed record food production of 257 million tonnes in past year through concerted efforts of our planners, scientists and farmers. This increase in food production in the country was mainly due to development of high yielding diseases and pest resistant crop varieties, increase in the irrigated area and pesticides and fertilizer consumption. However, the maintenance of food and environmental security is a great challenge for all of us in the years ahead in the scenario of shrinkage in land area under cultivation and changing climate. Soil, a precious gift of nature to humankind, is reducing per person posing the challenge of maintaining the soil health to produce more and more from less and less area to meet the food demand of burgeoning population in the country. Agricultural technologies that led to green revolution in the country resulted in the degradation of soil resource owing to its overexploitation under intensive cropping coupled with mismanagement. Land degradation is causing a heavy toll of soil resources every year. Estimates indicated 187.8 M ha of degraded land to various degrees through different degrading processes in India. Degradation of agricultural land has become a great cause of concern during the 21<sup>st</sup> century and will remain high in the next century because of its direct impact on agricultural sustainability and food security. The soil quality has undergone a serious damage leading to a decline in crop production and factor productivity. Large scale deficiency of secondary and micronutrients are showing up in different areas in addition to deterioration of soil structure and loss in soil organic matter and biodiversity. It emphasized the urgent need to study the soils

of different regions for suggesting specific management strategies for obtaining sustainable production.

It is now widely accepted that future of food, livelihood and environmental security depends upon the appropriate management of natural resources such as soil, water, weather, biodiversity etc. Considerable new information is being generated by the researchers on soils and their management for enhancing food production in the country. Many a time these researchers do not find appropriate platform to share their findings and views with other researchers and stakeholders. This is what formed the basis of publishing this new periodical, *Indian Journal of Plant and Soil Science*. I am confident that with the support of scientific community engaged in soil and plant research, it will serve the need of the nation in managing the soil resource and environmental quality while achieving sustainable food production.

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