



Editorial

BE THE SOLUTION TO FREEZE SOIL POLLUTION

Soil pollution has become the prime debatable topic of the present era as it slowly started affecting almost every aspects of human life. Soil pollutants such as chemicals, heavy metals, persistent organic pollutants, antibiotics etc. released into soil and environment, accidentally or intentionally due to various anthropogenic activities, when enter into the food chain may even cause chronic diseases in human beings. Also, the antibiotics reaching soils often induce antibiotic resistance in harmful microorganisms, thus, lessening the effectiveness of antibiotics.

Agriculture is one of the prime reasons of soil pollution due to the use of chemicals, sewage sludge and untreated waste water in crop management, also gets affected back with soil pollution. Crops grown in polluted soils yield less, thereby, affect food security, and with low quality agriculture produce, soil pollution impacts the economy too.

Soil, a non-renewable resource because of its lengthy formation process, cannot be recovered easily once it is lost. Healthy soils have significant role in each and every aspect of human life. Realizing this, the Food and Agricultural Organization of United Nations highlighted its importance in the year 2018 as '*polluting our soils is polluting our future*'. To stop the chain reaction that starts with polluted soils and reach human beings in the

termination step, it is necessary to freeze up the soil pollution at the earliest to the maximum extent possible. We should learn to recognize the value of supporting, provisioning, regulating, and cultural services the soil provides us to lead a happy and healthy life.

To continue availing various ecosystem services provide by soils as well to secure the future of earth's life forms, our actions need to be prioritized to avoid polluting environment deliberately. In addition, along with self awareness it is also important to make others aware about the consequences of pollution on nature and its resources. It is the duty of every human to work for freezing the soil pollution occurring in and around our surroundings by Identifying and executing simple solutions to re-establish the soil health.

This issue of HARIT DHARA included articles related to crop yield booster product 'Microsol', environmental consequences of acid-mine drainage and antibiotics, role of sodium in plant growth, importance of potassium in agriculture, application of artificial intelligence and geostatistical methods in agriculture, and agroforestry for soil health improvement.

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