

Special Issue

Management Practices to Prevent and Mitigate Soil Salinization in Cropland

Message from the Guest Editors

Naturally saline or sodic soils harbor valuable ecosystems, including a range of plants that are adapted to extreme conditions. However, secondary salinity and sodicity can develop or increase rapidly in response to unsustainable human activities, posing a threat to agricultural production, food security, the provision of essential ecosystem services as well as the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The salinization and sodification of soils are among the most serious global threats not only for arid and semi-arid regions but also croplands in coastal regions and, in the case of irrigation with wastewater, in any climate. Saline soils have excessive levels of soluble salts, which can negatively impact or inhibit plant growth and be toxic to life. Sodic soils have a high amount of adsorbed sodium, which leads to the degradation of soil structure and inhibits plant growth. The question then is what we can do to address this, and the prevention and mitigation of soil salinization in cropland is one such answer.

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