

Special Issue

Sustaining soil functions in agro-ecosystems

Message from the Guest Editor

Soil functions are various, operating best in undisturbed, natural lands. However, the growth in global human population and the accelerated demand for food, feed, and fiber, have increased the need to land-use change from natural lands to croplands. In many agricultural lands, the clearing of natural vegetation, as well as a range of farming practices, have threatened soil functions, altogether resulting in the degradation of soil quality and geo-ecosystem functioning. Among others, these threats include the disturbance of soil structure and stability, depletion of soil organic carbon pool, pollution of soil by agrochemicals, decrease of bio- and pedo-diversity, and accelerated erosional processes. The objective of this Special Issue is to demonstrate judicious farming systems, where environmentally-sound practices are utilized, simultaneously maintaining soil functions, supporting environmental quality, and sustaining agricultural productivity.

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