Special Issue

Soil-Water Conservation and Desertification Control

Message from the Guest Editor

Desertification is defined as land degradation occurring in the global drylands. It is one of the global problems targeted under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 15).

Desertification control reflects the underlying ecological processes, including biotic interactions, seed dispersal, vegetation succession, and environmental change. Soil and vegetation are key components in the Earth system. In spite of this, abusive exploitation (e.g., overgrazing, intensive agriculture on fragile and coarse-textured soils) of these renewable natural resources has led to a lack of soil cover with vegetation, and subsequent soil and water losses from various types of ecosystems to a worldwide scale. As a result, large surface areas in the world have been transformed into deserts because of their exploitation rather than a sustainable utilization. Degradation of some ecosystems leading to desertification presents a global environmental challenge. Therefore, appropriate measures of combat desertification are critical to preventing degradation, and desertification, of the renewable natural resources (i.e., soil, vegetation, water resources).

Guest Editor

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Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Scientific discoveries and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a rational basis for informed decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards.

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