



Crop Diversification for Soil, Nutritional, Economic and Environmental Security

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Message from the Guest Editors

Intensive agriculture has been ongoing since the 1960s, following the Green Revolution (GR), the outcome of which is a steep decline in both applied input use efficiency (IUE) and system productivity. As part of the GR, the intensive use of fertilizers, irrigation water, herbicides, etc., has helped in boosting crop production. By contrast, during that period, the overexploitation of natural resources (NRs) has also increased while nutrient use efficiency (NUE) has steadily decreased. Despite high amounts of input application, crops yields are continuing to decline and are reaching a critical level, due to declining system productivity and resource use efficiency (RUE) in addition to intensive land cultivation, lack of alternate cropping systems, injudicious use of inputs. Hence, there is an urgent need to select a crop suitable for diversification in intensive agriculture in the developing world and with a low input response for better productivity. Diversification of the system with suitable crops may serve as a beneficial tool for maintaining soil health and increasing crop and soil productivity, RUE, and farmer income by decreasing the cost of cultivation.





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