Special Issue

Climate Change towards Soil Health and Water Quality

Message from the Guest Editors

Climate change has the potential of altering soil–plant–water systems in different ways. For example, changes in atmospheric carbon dioxide, temperature, and precipitation patterns and amounts will determine future biomass decomposition rates, and thus modify the soil–plant–water system interactions. In turn, this will have an impact on the amount of organic carbon levels in soils. This is particularly important because soil organic carbon determines important soil health properties and processes, such as soil fertility, structure, water infiltration and microbial population, among others. Because climate change affects precipitation, it is important to understand the relationship between soil health and water quality. Notably, soils store more than 60% of precipitation and thus play a major role in the hydrologic cycle. This suggests that soil health can impact water quality. Hence, more research is needed to promote proper soil management systems to protect and enhance both soil health and water quality.

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