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## *Editorial*

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# **MANAGING SOIL HEALTH FOR A BETTER TOMORROW**

Life on earth and soil health are closely associated as soil supports plants which provide food, fuel, animal feed, medicine and raw materials for clothing, household goods and other essentials. Soil health emphasizes the integration of biological properties of soil with chemical and physical measures of soil quality that affect farmers' profits, risks, and the environment. A healthy soil can be used productively without adversely affecting its future productivity, the ecosystem or the environment.

Healthy soil is living soil and is rich in animal biodiversity. The billions of microbes living in healthy soil produce amino acids, which plants convert to protein and provide a natural defense from pests and diseases. Soil also acts as the natural filter for rainwater and helps in maintaining the quantity and quality of ground water. Also, the water absorption properties of soil play an important role in reducing environmental pollution due to chemicals. With good management, soil sequesters the organic matter thereby reducing green house gases and help us to address climate change.



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Editor-In Chief, HARIT DHARA

This first edition of Harit Dhara is put forward with the theme of “Managing Soil Health with a Better Tomorrow”. This incorporates the initiatives taken in the country in the recent past towards management of soil health; role of microbes in improving soil health; participatory soil health management and several others. This is a modest beginning and I am sure that with the active participation of our esteemed contributors and incessant efforts of the team at ICAR-IISS we would be able to bring improvements with each successive editions.

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