



## *Editorial*

# WAYS TO MANAGE THE DETERMINANTS OF SOIL HEALTH

Land-use and management are the controlling factors for soil health. However, before a management decision is taken it is important that current situation on soil health is known. Hence, soil health assessment becomes important for sustainable management of soil resource.

The National Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme, launched by Government of India in the International Year of Soils 2015 (IYS 2015), was an initiative to assess the soil health of farmers' fields. The scheme is going to complete five years on February 19, 2020. Among other things, the scheme has created awareness about the vital role played by the soil in establishing a sustainable crop production system among the farmers.

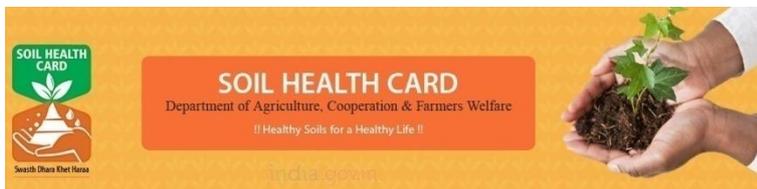
In terms of quantifiable benefits, the food grain production has increased with relatively lesser consumption of fertilizers.

While the benefits of healthy soils are increasingly being realized, an undesirable practice of burning the crop residues in the farm fields is still in vogue leading to the environmental pollution and loss in the soil organic carbon. To motivate farmers not to follow these kinds of soil mismanagement it is important to make them aware about the ill effects of burning of crop residue.

This issue of *Harit Dhara* comprises important articles covering the impacts of burning on vital microbial populations; the role of microorganisms in biochemical recycling; and management practices or technologies that increase carbon input to the soil and reduce carbon loss or both. The issue also includes articles on precision agriculture; phosphorus management; biogeochemical cycling of greenhouse gas methane and others. All the articles deal with important aspects of soil management.

I am sure that the issue will be useful and interesting to the readers of *Harit Dhara*.

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Editor In Chief



(Source: <https://soilhealth.dac.gov.in/>)