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Editorial

An Interaction of Human Health and Soil Fertility: A Lost Opportunity for Producers and Consumers

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The people, plants, animals, and insects are depending on fertile soil for survival and growth. Fertile soil produces quality food and nurture all species. Plants prepare food from soil and provide it to animals and human being. The domestic animals eat fodder and few provide milk. Their reproduction is depending on clean environment, soil, water and fodder. There is large-scale interdependence on each other of human beings, animals and plants. Soil nourishment is very important for high production and growth of all plants. Due to growth of population, technology, urbanization, there is huge demand for food. However, there is pressure to supply more vegetables and grains for population in urban areas. Natural resources are exploited to fulfil the needs of population and other species. Farmers became more profit oriented out of their agriculture production function. The cost of living of farmers has increased over the period. Due to electricity bills, education and health care expenditure of children, daily needs, mobile recharge of members, fodder for animals, ploughing through tractor, fertilizers and pesticides. Farmers try to earn maximum income through producing short duration crops with high yields. Commercial crops provides them good return within short period. They plan high yielding crops such as cabbage, ladyfinger, tomato, guar, methi, Chile, cotton, potato and maize. Farmers buy commercial seeds, pesticides and hire labors for cultivation of crops. They try various methods to get higher price for crops. They buy chemicals fertilizers to increase yield of crops. They mix number of chemical fertilizers in soil. They spray insecticides on commercial crops. Such chemical fertilizers are harmful to the other species including humans and animals. Farmers spray pesticides on cauli-

flowers, ladyfinger, cabbage, Chile, tomatoes, maize, cotton, grapes, banana, orange, scallion, potatoes, onions etc. They also hire vehicles to sell commercial crops in markets. However, farmers do not get always-good price to their crops. The pesticides spray on the crops are very harmful to life of crops, honeybees, birds, humans, animals, fishes etc. The spray of few chemical pesticides are related to various chronic diseases among children and adults. They mix in waterbodies and live for few days in an environment. The honeybees are sensitive species of an environment. They are depending on the flowers for honey. They die due to spray of chemicals on crops and flowers. The process of flowers of plants and collection of honey does not takes place. Earthworms die due to mix of chemical fertilizers in the soil. They cannot grow and make the land fertile. Farmer's friendly insects are disappearing from farms and its effects on production and productivity of crops. Birds eat small insects, which are harmful for crops. However, chemical fertilizers kill small insects. The bird's population is decreasing fast due to hunger or eating infected insects. At present, maximum doses of chemical fertilizers and pesticides used for grains and vegetables. Therefore, it effects immediately on health of people and animals. The fresh water stocks are polluted because chemicals and pesticides spray. Soil contents has changed which adversely affected on the crops productivity and Production.

There is no immediate solution to improve land fertility, improve health of people and animals. It is urgent need to adopt organic methods for production in agriculture. Government and NGO'S must take immediate steps to guide farmers for organic

production and sale of commodities. Organic fertilizers and pesticides have very good effect on health of human being, animals, and insects. Whole biodiversity will improve with the use of organic fertilizers. It will reduce burden of diseases and improve health of women, children and older people. Therefore, it is the right time to skip the use of all chemical fertilizers and pesticides and apply the organic farming techniques. Organic farming mainly comprises as earth warm development, jevamruit, Amruitpani, neem power of seeds and leaves, Tag cultivation in farm, dung. Farmers must do research and apply various techniques of organic farming. They must cultivate organic crops for their own family. Such small steps will improve their own and family health. If every farmer apply organic farming technique then the health of all people, animals, and plants and other insects will increase automatically. The burden of diseases and deaths will be reduced at significant level.

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