SITE–SPECIFIC INTEGRATED NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE CROP PRODUCTION AND GROWTH: A REVIEW

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Abstract: Initially after green revolution the food grain production boosted up tremendously, but sign of fatigueness emerged after 1980 with sharp decline in factor productivity, stagnation in crop yields with unstable and marginal farm incomes; all of which are now posing a serious threat to food security, agricultural sustainability, soil and environmental health and rural agricultural economy in the developing world. Growing concerns about impaired soil health, declining productivity growth and decreasing factor productivity or nutrient-use efficiency (NUE) are compelling the farmers to use higher levels of fertilizers during the last two decades. Excessive use of fertilizers in imbalanced ratios leading to low nutrient use efficiency and associated environmental problems has raised serious concerns about the existing nutrient management practices. It is high time to develop site-specific nutrient management (SSNM) technologies which are able to make synergy with crop–soil nutrient dynamics. The SSNM is need-based feeding of crops with nutrients in right rate and right time while, recognizing the inherent spatial variability which enhances crop productivity, profitability, NUE and avoids nutrient wastage. This paper deals with the SSNM technologies approaches and tools which are able to enhance NUE, crop productivity and profitability.

Keywords: Site-specific nutrient management, Nutrient-use efficiency, Crop productivity

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