

NANO-FERTILIZERS A TECHNOLOGY TO INCREASE CROP PRODUCTION

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Abstract: Recently the Nano-fertilizers are getting importance in sustainable agriculture in increasing crop production, enhancing nutrient use efficiency and reduction in wastage of chemical fertilizers and cost of cultivation. The new developments on application of nano-fertilizer in agriculture, plant mineral nutrition, soil health, and interactions with soil microorganism directed to sustainable way by replacing conventional fertilizers with their nano-particulate counterparts possessing superior properties to overcome the current challenges of availability and uptake of nutrients, increasing crop yield and protecting the environment. Nano-fertilizers are very effective tool for precise nutrient management in precision agriculture with matching the crop growth stage for nutrient and may provide nutrient throughout the crop growth period. Several studies showed that nano-particles of essential minerals and non-essential elements affected plant growth, physiology and development, depending on their size, composition, concentration, and mode of application, Nano-fertilizers provide more surface area for different metabolic reactions in the plant system which increase rate of photosynthesis and produce more dry matter and yield of the crop. Nano-fertilizers are applied either to soil and / or leaves. Foliar application can be done during unfavorable soil and weather conditions. In addition to this, it promotes the direct entry of nutrients into the plant system, foliar application of nano fertilizer leads to higher nutrient use efficiency (NUE) and has given a rapid response to the growth of crops. Nano fertilizers are more reactive and can penetrate through cuticle, ensuring controlled release and targeted delivery. Hence, nanotechnology has a high potential for achieving sustainable agriculture, especially in developing countries.

Keywords: Crop, Nano-Fertilizers, Production, Technology

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