

RECOMMENDATIONS

of the Hungaro-Indian Seminar on Salt Affected Soils

As a consequence of the recommendations of the Indo-Hungarian Seminar on "Management of Salt Affected Soils", the Seminar was held at the Research Institute for Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, June 1—3, 1981. It was followed by three days of field trips to the salt affected areas of the Hungarian Plain. The Seminar proved to be beneficial for both sides and made further advancement in solving the problems of soil salinity and alkalinity. This Seminar was a progressive step also in promoting the scientific cooperation between India and Hungary.

On the basis of the papers presented and discussions held at the Seminar, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. Notwithstanding the differences between India and Hungary, there are common problems related to soil salinity and alkalinity to be solved. Accordingly, joint efforts have to be undertaken, and this Seminar proved to be fruitful for this aim.

2. The former Seminar emphasized the necessity of further studies on several aspects of these soils. This Seminar revealed new achievements concerning the following problems: crop responses to nutrients, soil-water-plant interactions, mineral nutrition of crops, breeding and selection of salt and alkali tolerant plant varieties, elaboration of complex amelioration methods satisfactory from both the local environmental and the economic points of view, as well as possible utilization of these lands for afforestation and pasture with minimum cost.

3. To solve practical problems, fundamental researches on the properties and processes of salt affected soils are essential. To ensure the possibility of correlating the investigations, further efforts are necessary for the elaboration of a detailed and comprehensive classification of salt affected soils with particular reference to their reclaimability, for the standardization of soil survey and laboratory analytical methods and field experiments. To obtain data for operative measures, the elaboration of a monitoring and prognosis system is necessary. There is an essential need for such data in irrigated lands where the increase of salinity and alkalinity hazard is to be expected. Appropriate methods to prevent secondary salinization, as related to local conditions, are to be developed.

4. The participants of the Seminar recommend the follow-up of the collaboration between the Indian and Hungarian scientists in the field of soil salinity and alkalinity and related subjects. Both sides will propose to their authorities an appropriate programme for further collaboration.

5. The Seminar recommends to publish the proceedings of the Seminar, and DR. I. SZABOLCS, Research Institute for Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and DR. J. S. P. YADAV, Central Soil Salinity Research Institute will serve as editors.

6. The Seminar expresses its sincere thanks to the Hungarian Ministry of Culture and Education and to the Hungarian Academy of Sciences for supporting the organization of the Seminar and to the Research Institute for Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences for acting as its host. The Seminar also places on record its deep appreciation to the Government of India and Indian Council of Agricultural Researches for deputation of four eminent Indian soil scientists to participate in the Seminar.