
About the Editor

Dr. R. Lal is a professor of soil science in the School of Natural Resources at The Ohio State University. Prior to joining Ohio State in 1987, he served as a soil scientist for 18 years at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Ibadan, Nigeria.

While based in Africa, Professor Lal conducted long-term experiments on soil erosion processes as influenced by rainfall characteristics, soil properties, methods of deforestation, soil tillage and crop residue management, cropping systems including cover crops and agroforestry, and mixed/relay cropping methods. He established critical limits of soil properties in relation to the severity of soil degradation and assessed effectiveness of different restorative measures. Data from these long-term experiments facilitated identification of indicators of soil quality and development of the concepts of soil resilience. He also assessed the impact of soil erosion on crop yield and related erosion-induced changes in soil properties to crop growth and yield.

Since joining The Ohio State University in 1987, he has continued research on erosion-induced changes in soil quality and developed a new project on soils and global warming. He has demonstrated that accelerated soil erosion is a major factor affecting emission of carbon from soil to the atmosphere. Soil erosion control and adoption of conservation-effective measures can lead to carbon sequestration and mitigation of the greenhouse effect. Impacts of severity of soil erosion on crop yield are evaluated at the landscape scale to quantify the compensatory effects of depositional sites. Erosion-induced changes in soil quality are related to crop growth and yield. The research has helped establish indicators of soil quality and resilience in relation to land use and management practices.

Professor Lal is a fellow of the Soil Science Society of America, American Society of Agronomy, Third World Academy of Sciences, American Association for the Advancement of Sciences, Soil and Water Conservation Society, and Indian Academy of Agricultural Sciences. He is the recipient of the International Soil Science Award, the Soil Science Applied Research Award of the Soil Science Society of America, the International Agronomy Award of the American Society of Agronomy, and the Hugh Hammond Bennett Award of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. He is past president of the World Association of the Soil and Water Conservation and the International Soil Tillage Research Organization. He is a member of the U.S. National Committee on Soil Science of the National Academy

of Sciences. He has served on the Panel on Sustainable Agriculture and the Environment in the Humid Tropics of the National Academy of Sciences. He is a member of the Committee on Sustainable Agriculture in the Developing Countries of the World Resources Institute.