



## Foliar Fertilization of Crop Plants: Current State of Knowledge and Perspectives

Guest Editor:

**Prof. Dr. Heiner E Goldbach**

Institute of Crop Science and  
Resource Conservation (INRES),  
University of Bonn, Germany and  
HGoTECH GmbH, 53115 Bonn,  
Germany

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### Message from the Guest Editor

Dear colleagues,

Foliar fertilization sounds controversial as it means applying nutrients to an organ which was not designed for nutrient uptake rather than limiting water losses and penetration of unwanted substances and organisms. Nevertheless, it may help to overcome temporary or permanent constraints in the supply of certain nutrients to crops, especially so for microelements which often are tightly bound in a not available form. It may help as well to overcome shortages when the root activity is impeded by e.g. cold soils, drought or unbalanced nutrient supply/salinity.

It is imperative to search for nutrient compounds and fertilizer preparations which optimize the amount of nutrient made available via the leaves or fruits, avoid damages like scorching when applied to the foliage, do not negatively interfere with the water balance of the plants, and help to translocate the nutrients to the organs which are truly in need for it. There is as a need to optimize both timing as well as technologies for foliar application of nutrients, tailoring the application to get the highest benefit from the foliar fertilizers.

Prof. Dr. Heiner E Goldbach

*Guest Editor*





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*Agronomy* Editorial Office  
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