

Special Issue

Integrated Soil, Crop and Human Nutrition and Health Management in Organic Agriculture

Message from the Guest Editor

The principles and standards of organic agriculture prohibit the use of synthetic chemical N, P, and KCl fertilisers and pesticides, because these inputs are thought to have negative side effects on soil, crops and human health, and the environment. Instead, the logical framework for integrated soil, crop, and human nutrition and health management is based on (a) the use of resistant and weed-competitive varieties; (b) botanically diverse rotations that include N-fixing legume crops; (c) regular inputs of animal manure and/or organic-waste-based composts; (d) the establishment of areas of biodiversity on farms; and (e) the integration of crop and outdoor grazing/foraging-based livestock production systems. However, although there is increasing evidence of positive impacts of organic farming practices on the environment, biodiversity food quality, crop yields are lower. This Special Issue aims to include studies that compared effects of organic and conventional production methods on soil/crop health and food quality, and/or improve the efficacy of integrated soil and crop management practices in organic production systems.

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