

### **From the Editor-in-Chief**

Research in sustainability is ever-evolving. Every epoch witnesses developments in approaches and techniques to ensure environment-conscious living. In the present day, as we become increasingly aware of human responsibility to the environment, its pressing need is also felt in the field of agriculture. It becomes crucial that we engage in research on sustainable agriculture and articulate perspectives on the same. The cause needs to be kept alive, through intellectual deliberation and practical applications. `

This issue of *Vantage: Journal of Thematic Analysis*, is in continuation with the previous one, as it takes the discussion on ‘Sustainable Agriculture’ still further. The invited article by Chandish Ballal highlights the importance of biological control strategies for the management of insect pests and weeds as a sustainable, economically viable, and socially acceptable strategy; her article documents the success stories in India. Of late, several measures have been adopted for promoting alternative agricultural practices such as organic agriculture, and natural agriculture, among others. The article by Soni et al., discusses the current state of organic farming in India- its components, advantages, associated constraints, and future potential. Another pressing issue in sustainable agriculture is agricultural waste management. The widespread burning of paddy straw in the open-air proves to be a major air pollutant, causing a number of health concerns. In this context, the article by Kirty Rani offers an overview of efficient paddy straw management practices for the benefit of mankind and sustainable agriculture.

Apart from addressing the biotic and abiotic challenges, the social and cultural contexts of agriculture are also central to engaging with sustainability. The article by Debojyoti Das engages with the dynamics of customary land-labour relations and the shifting patronage relations; He studies the multifaceted relationships that have evolved in villages practicing *Jhum* cultivation in Nagaland. Rippy Das and Kabindra Sharma

explore the impact of rural-urban migration on agriculture in Assam and its implications for sustainability. Bhargava et al. explore the paradigms involved in use of the term sustainability in agriculture. They trace the trajectory of the concept of ‘sustainable agriculture’ in contemporary times and assess its social impact in the Indian context. Vanshika et al. attempt to establish an interrelation between Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC), Minimum Support Price (MSP), and the socio-economic questions impacting farmers. With this they highlight how removing the financial safety net for the farmers is likely to negatively impact their motivation for using sustainable means for agriculture.

Prashansa has reviewed the book *The Arts and Science of Organic Farming*, which explores the ways in which one can seek guidance from mother nature and incorporate them to make agricultural practices still greener.

In this issue, we have a special section on ‘indigenous practices’. True to the multilingual and interdisciplinary spirit of the journal, this issue includes a special article in the Hindi language by Shashi Tiwari. It traces agricultural practice back to the Vedic Era. The article also establishes how agriculture in those times had a scientific basis and agriculture production had contributed to economic gains. In a similar vein, a brief discussion by Niharika Khurana revisits the Vedic practice of Homa Therapy, a practice significant to sustainable agriculture. Homa Therapy rejuvenates the land with the use of yajñas and eradicates toxic substances from the environment.

The current issue is a distinct one, as it involves a fine balance of scientific approaches, sociological paradigms, and classical perspectives on the question of sustainability. As you partake of this wealth of ideas, I wish you a happy reading experience!

~Haritma Chopra

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