

From the Editor-in-Chief

Responsible action in 'time-present', conjoined with the consciousness of 'time-future' is the hallmark of sustainability

Environment-conscious growth has proven to be the bedrock of human endeavour in the twenty-first century. Sustainable Agriculture is one such domain where a melange of modernity and tradition, experimentation and convention has enabled considerable advancement. In consonance with geographical and geological uniqueness, various agricultural practices have helped meet food, nutrition and biopolitical challenges globally. This momentum needs to be further encouraged with requisite research, intellectual deliberation and practical application.

Driven by this aim, the first Annual International Conference *Equinox-2021*, was organized this year under the aegis of *Vantage: Journal of Thematic Analysis*. The theme for the conference was "Sustainable Agriculture: Negotiating Tradition and Modernity". The current issue of *Vantage* engages with the questions and issues that inspired incredibly productive discussions during the conference.

The article by Savyasaachi on plant intelligence, discusses the need for developing plant-human intersubjectivity for dealing with the contemporary agricultural crisis. Neerja Sood et al, in their article, elaborate upon the role of biotechnology in sustainable agriculture, particularly in the Indian context. Further, Rita Rath et al., present an overview of various strategies that help in the storage of grains, thus reducing the post-harvest losses. Mumtaz Jahan and Ahmed Pervez explore the idea of biocontrol by manipulating the mass-rearing of *C. transversalis* for the control of aphids. Through a bibliometric analysis, Rama Sisodia and Rashmi Verma, investigate existing research interests in the field of sustainable agriculture. Any discussion about sustainable agriculture is incomplete without taking into consideration the plight of farmers. Priti Mendiratta et al., identify issues related to sustainable agriculture that

contribute significantly to the lives of rural populations and examine the role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in addressing them. Additionally, this issue carries a report of the details of Equinox-2021 by Khushi Talwar and a review of the E.F. Schumacher's classic *Small is Beautiful: A Study of Economics as if People Mattered* by Nikita Sherley.

I would like to make a special mention that this issue of Vantage also includes a commentary in Bangla by Manosh Choudhury from Bangladesh, which further highlights our vision of being not only multidisciplinary but also multilingual. We are also publishing its English translation so that the ideas reach a wider audience. In his commentary, he questions the premise wherein the farmers are considered as an agency that has resisted change and modernity. He argues that farmers, even without being educated by the media, have always known what is best for agriculture and sustainability. I wish you all an enriching reading experience !

~Haritma Chopra

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