

TREES, CROPS AND SUSTAINABILITY

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Preface

Trees and crops form the backbone of sustainable ecosystems and human civilization. They provide food, timber, fiber, fuel, medicines, and countless environmental services that support life on Earth. As the global population continues to grow and climate change poses unprecedented challenges, the integration of trees with agricultural systems has emerged as a vital strategy for ensuring food security, conserving natural resources, and promoting environmental resilience.

The concept of sustainability emphasizes meeting present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own. In this context, the harmonious relationship between trees and crops plays a crucial role in maintaining soil fertility, enhancing biodiversity, improving water conservation, sequestering carbon, and reducing the adverse impacts of land degradation. Agroforestry and other tree-based farming systems demonstrate how ecological balance and agricultural productivity can be achieved simultaneously.

This book explores the scientific principles, practical applications, and emerging innovations related to trees, crops, and sustainable land management. It highlights the significance of integrating ecological knowledge with modern agricultural practices to address challenges such as climate variability, declining soil health, and resource scarcity. By examining successful models and sustainable approaches, the book seeks to inspire researchers, students, policymakers, extension workers, and farmers to adopt practices that enhance both productivity and environmental stewardship.

It is hoped that this work will contribute to a deeper understanding of the indispensable role of trees and crops in building resilient agricultural landscapes and fostering a sustainable future for humanity. Sustainable development begins with responsible management of our natural resources, and trees and crops remain central to this enduring mission.

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Dr. Chander Shekhar
Dr. Navjot Singh Kaler
Dr. Yogesh Kumar

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CONTENTS

S. NO.		PAGE NO.
1.	Foundations of Sustainable Tree-Crop Integration <i>Prabhat Tiwari, Chander Shekhar, Avinash Vadthyavath, Rohit, Sandhya Tirkey</i>	1-12
2.	Agroforestry Systems for Climate-Resilient Agriculture <i>Varun Attri, Rajiv Kumar, Brijpal Singh Rajawat, Krishn Ballav Kumar, Meetakshi Tripathi</i>	13-24
3.	Enhancing Soil Health through Trees and Crops <i>Upinder Sharma, Surjeet, Ankita Singh, Krishn Ballav Kumar</i>	25-36
4.	Carbon Sequestration and Climate Change Mitigation in Agroecosystems <i>Dhirender Kumar, Shubham, Ishabel Maisnam, Maisnam Sushima Devi, Lata Prajapati, Chandini Chandra Sah</i>	37-50
5.	Biodiversity Conservation in Tree-Based Farming Systems <i>Naresh Thakur, Navjot Singh Kaler, Arvind Prajapati, Krishn Ballav Kumar</i>	51-62
6.	Water Resource Management in Agroforestry Landscapes <i>Chander Shekhar, Prabhat Tiwari, Brijpal Singh Rajawat, Yogesh Kumar, Prachi Ujala Sahu</i>	63-74
7.	Tree-Crop Interactions: Competition, Complementarity and Productivity <i>Prabhat Tiwari, Navjot Singh Kaler, Chander Shekhar, Satya Prakash Vishwakarma</i>	75-84

- | | | |
|------------|--|----------------|
| 8. | Indigenous Knowledge and Traditional Agroforestry Practices
<i>Savita Kumari, Yogesh Kumar, Ankit Pandey, Satya Prakash Vishwakarma, Dushyant Kumar Sahu</i> | 85-96 |
| 9. | Sustainable Livelihoods through Multifunctional Agroforestry
<i>Chaman Negi, Prabhat Tiwari, Chander Shekhar, Pallavi Netam, Khilesh Kumar Tekam</i> | 97-108 |
| 10. | Digital Technologies and Precision Management in Tree-Crop Systems
<i>Ankit Pandey, Vivek Sahu, Avinash Vadthyavath, Krishn Ballav Kumar</i> | 109-118 |
| 11. | Policy, Governance and Sustainable Land-Use Planning
<i>David Chella Baskar, Mohamed Anas J, Saurabh Shukla, Saket Kumar Kosma</i> | 119-130 |
| 12. | Future Innovations and Emerging Trends in Sustainable Agroforestry
<i>Yogesh Kumar, Ravindra Kumar Dhaka, Ankit Pandey, Dinesh Manhare</i> | 131-144 |