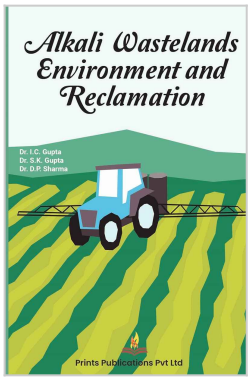
Book Information Sheet

Prints Publications Pvt. Ltd.



Alkali Wastelands Environment and Reclamation

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Publisher: Prints Publications Pvt Ltd

Product Specification

Publisher	Prints Publications Pvt Ltd
Publication Year	2022
ISBN-13	9788194849049
Binding	hard_back
Number of Pages	411
Language	english
Edition	1st
Dimension	5.5"x8.5"
Weight (Grams)	636
Subject	Agriculture
Availability	1

Price

Price (INR):	**₹ 2495**
Discounted Price (INR):	**₹ 1621.75**
Price (USD):	**$ 65**
Discounted Price (USD):	**$ 48.75**

About the Author

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Dr. I.C Gupta: (b.1941) Fellow ISSRW and Research Secretary of the India Society of Salinity Research Workers was awarded Ph.D. on a subject of Soil Salinity as early as in 1968 by CAZRI, Jodhpur. Dr. Gupta worked at CSSRI, Karnal from 1970 to 1985 and later on shifted to

CAZRI Jodhpur on the position of Head, RRS Bikaner. Dr. Gupta has been and continues to be a scientific writer of repute having more than 150 research papers to his credit. Beside he has authored 23 books. Currently, Dr. Gupta is chief editor of current Agriculture brought out by the Indian Society of Soil Salinity Research Workers. Dr. Gupta is Recipient of the many prestigious awards such as Dr. Rajendra Prasad Puruskar (First) of the ICAR for writing a book in Hindi in 1986 and outstanding book award of the Indian society of Agricultural Engineering. He has been an active member of the environmental Conservation Council of Rajasthan and special Committee of the Environmental Impact of the INCID, Ministry of Water Resource, Govt. of India. Dr. Gupta at the time of retirement was holding the position of Head of Division at CAZRI, Jodhpur.

Dr. S. K. Gupta

Dr. S.K Gupta: (b.1949) Fellow NAAS, Fellow NAE and Fellow ISSRW has been at CSSRI, Karnal for the last 37 years holding several positions including the Head, Division of Irrigation and Drainage Engineering and Head, Indo-Dutch Network Project. He has guided 3 Ph.D. and 12 M. Tech. students hailing from various Universities and Organizations. Dr. Gupta is a prolific writer having more than 125 research papers to his credit. Besides he has authored 13 books and 5 research bulletins. Dr. Gupta is Chief Editor of the J. of Water Management brought out by the Indian Society of Water Management. Dr. Gupta is a recipient of the most prestigious Rafi Ahmad Kidwai Award of the ICAR. Besides CBIP- Jawaharlal Nehru Award, ISAE Commendation Medal, Institution of Engineers Gold Medal, Dr. K.G. Tejwani Award, MoWR Award for work in Irrigation Commands and several others awards have been bestowed upon him. Currently, Dr. Gupta is holding the position of Project Coordinator of the AICRP on Management of Salt affected Soils and use of Saline Water in Agriculture at CSSRI, Karnal.

Dr. D. P. Sharma

Dr. D.P Sharma: (b.1947) obtained M.Sc. and Ph. D in Soil Science in 1972 and 1976 respectively from CSS HAU Hisar. Dr. Sharma with specialization in soil Physics is working at CSSRI, Karnal for the last 30 years. Dr. Sharma, a prolific writer, has more than 100 research publications and 3 books to his credit. He along with Dr. S. K Gupta is the recipient of Dr. Rajendra Prasad Puruskar of the ICAR for writing a book on Land Reclamation in Hindi. Currently Dr. Sharma is holding the position of Principal Scientist in the Division of Soil Science and Crop management at CSSRI, Karnal

Product Description

In the next two decades, population of India is likely to cross 1.4 billion mark. With additional burden on food grains consumption from demographic shift from rural to urban centers and change in food habits, India need to produce about 325 million tons of food grains by 2027. Since the competing demands from other sectors of economy for the inelastic land resource are multiplying fast, the best agricultural lands are being encroached upon by these sectors. Thus, any further increase in food grains has to come from either vertical increase in productivity or through reclamation of so called wastelands. Out of 8.5 million ha of salt affected lands, alkali lands assessed at 3.8 million ha could be easily managed and reclaimed resulting in an additional food grains production of about 30 million tons. Although researches on land reclamation began even before independence yet the real fillip in understanding the alkali wastelands environment and development of reclamation and management packages came after the establishment of CSSRI, Karnal in the year 1969. In association with this institute, many State Agricultural Universities reoriented their research and came out with theories of alkali land reclamation and developed reclamation and management packages. Favorable policy support from central and state governments helped to reclaim more than 1.3 million ha of alkali lands. To tide over the current and emerging challenges such as to take care of resource poor regions and farmers, environmental degradation and location specific nature of the problems, these packages are being upgraded and new packages are being developed. These new technologies are emerging fast and it is almost impossible to keep track of these developments through published research papers. This book encompasses the latest information on this subject for most states where problems of alkali lands exist. It has been our endeavor to include all aspects of reclamation and management so that there are at least few alternatives to choose from. Therefore, we believe that the compiled information will be handy to post- graduate students, teachers, researchers, extension personals and the staff in conventional departments such as agriculture and irrigation. Moreover, planners entrusted with the task of development of wastelands in India would be immensely benefited from the information included in this book.