Soil Organic Carbon of Central Asia's Agroecosystems: Sources, Sinks, and Fluxes. (A06-nasyrov055256-Oral)

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Abstract:

In the newly independent republics of Central Asia, the agricultural research systems of former Soviet Union are no longer relevant. Each republic now faces the challenge of developing a standalone economy, a process that requires a major effort to diversify agricultural production. Central Asia faces a serious challenge to its natural resource base; croplands, rangelands, and mountains are being degraded. Studies carried out on the various soils of Central Asia have shown negative influence of the unjustified higher rates of the mineral fertilizers, frequent irrigation, and misuse of water on different field crops and the environment. The content of humus, the main indicator of soil fertility, has dropped by 30 - 50 percent on average. In connection with rapid decreasing soil fertility in the region and limited sources of organic fertilizers, new approaches are suggested for optimal transformation and incorporation of organic residues into soil organic matter. New technologies for better management of soil organic carbon are discussed.

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