ACTA SCIENTIFIC MICROBIOLOGY (ISSN: 2581-3226)

Volume 2 Issue 11 November 2019

Opinion

Forest for Soil, Food and Environment Security

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Received: October 21, 2019; **Published:** October 28, 2019

DOI: 10.31080/ASMI.2019.02.0415

As we know, forest is one of the largest natural resource which harbors rich diversity of varying flora and fauna including important microorganisms in the soils which helps in delivery of uncountable multifarious benefits to biodiversity through ecosystem services. Forest is also regarded as lung of the earth which nurture plants, animals and soil inhabiting micro and macro organisms, helps in improving soil fertility through decay and decomposition of litter and biomass, enhance the soil health and quality, improve our environment through climate change mitigation with the help of carbon storage and sequestration into the both forest vegetations and soils, and also improve the socioeconomic conditions of the farmers. Forest provides uncountable benefits in term of timber and NTFPs which maintains the food and Nutritional security through making availability of nutritious fruits which maintain the health of forest dependent peoples. However, Nitrogen fixing multipurpose trees plays an important role in quality and nutritious food productions in the agroecosystem through making availability of nitrogen into the soils which helps in building soil fertility and maintains optimum plant nutrition's. Thus, border availability of leguminous N_2 fixing plants is the major concern today. However, carbon absorption in woody perennial plants are not only helps in mitigating climate change but also helps in balancing CO_2 and O_2 in atmosphere. Beside forest ecosystem, the integration of leguminous N_2 fixing multipurpose trees with agricultural crops are also another strategies for enhancing ecosystem services in term of social, economic and environmental security. Thus, there is a linking concept among tree ecosystem services, soil and food quality and climate security. Forest also store huge amount of carbon and biomass and plays major role in dry matter dynamics. Edaphic factors i.e. soil quality affects the vegetation composition and its distribution in forests area. Therefore, there is good synergy between soil quality (edaphic factor) and vegetation structure and composition. However, for the management perspective, sustainable forest management (SFM) is a good strategy that not only helps in managing the forest in scientific way but also can enhance the ecosystem services which build the soil quality, FNS, and environmental security. There should be win-a-win strategic and effective policy along with recent technology and research for better forest that strongly link with nation building and development.

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