

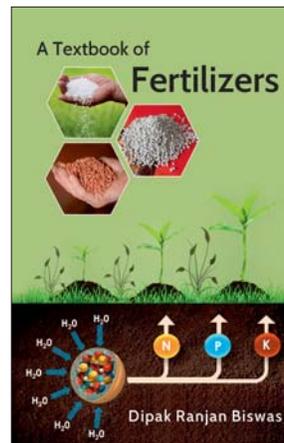


## Book Review

**“A Textbook of Fertilizers” authored by Dr. Dipak Ranjan Biswas, published by New India Publishing Agency, New Delhi, Year: 2021, p. 253+XXII, ISBN: 978-93-90512-80-5, Price Rs. 995.00**

The topic is of great importance for increasing agricultural production in the world, including in India and all developing countries. The knowledge about different fertilizers available in the market is needed by all, including farmers, agronomists, scientists, researchers and the general public. The subject matter is of particular relevance not only for the agriculture students in their studies but also is of prime importance for teachers in offering different course work in the classrooms in colleges and State Agricultural Universities. There are not many text books available in the market on fertilizers and hence the present publication will prove an asset and useful and handy. Dr. Biswas deserves all the appreciation for publishing such a text book on this important topic.

The book starts with a chapter on introduction which includes different definitions used to describe fertilizers, their classification, composition of plant for different elements (though range should have been given in place of one value) and definition of manure. The subject matter on primary-nutrients *viz.*, nitrogenous fertilizers, phosphatic fertilizers and potassium fertilizers have been dealt separately chapter-wise and so the secondary nutrients *viz.*, sulphur, calcium and magnesium and micro- nutrients in separate chapters. Details about the status of each fertilizer produced in India, the feedstock and raw materials availability and chemistry involved in their production including different production technologies involved are given. Each chapter includes a discussion on the use of these fertilizers in crops and their effects in different soils. The biggest merit is that the author has included equations in the production processes of these fertilizers which will be of particular use for the student community to gain rightful knowledge about fertilizers. There is a separate chapter on slow-release fertilizers, including new generation or so-called nano fertilizers. This has added to the quality of the text book. The information on nano fertilizers should have been included in a separate chapter giving more details on their production technology, use in crops and precautions required in their use in soils. A separate chapter on specifications of all fertilizer materials (specifications for nano fertilizers available in India could also be included) is a useful reference for every reader. The book also gives a list of important publications related to the subject matter covered. However, a list of text books on fertilizers available in India is missing in this portion. A detailed subject index at the end has made the publication helpful for all to locate any topic of interest. I look forward that the text book will be widely used by the students in particular in their course work for both undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes in different State Agricultural Universities and Colleges in India and abroad. The picture on title page could include names of all micronutrients as well and not  $H_2O + N, P,$  and  $K$  alone.



**Dr. G. Dev, FISSS, FISAC,**

Ex. Professor of Soils, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana;

Ex. Director of Research, H.P.K.V.V., Palampur;

Ex. Director, Potash & Phosphate Institute of Canada-India programme; and

Ex. Consultant in India, World Phosphate Institute, Morocco; Fernz Sulfer Inc., Alberta, Canada and Sulvaris Inc., Alberta, Canada.