Syllabus

for

Master of Science (Agriculture) in Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry

And

Doctor of Philosophy in Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry

Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry

Faculty of Agricultural Sciences

Rajiv Gandhi University

Arunachal Pradesh, - 791112, INDIA

Definitions of Academic Terms

Chairperson means a teacher of the major discipline proposed by the Head of Department through the Dean of the College and duly approved by the Director of Education/ Dean Post Graduate Studies (or as per the procedure laid down in the concerned University regulations) to act as the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee and also to guide the student on academic issues.

Course means a unit of instruction in a discipline carrying a specific number and credits to be covered in a semester as laid down in detail in the syllabus of a degree programme.

Credit means the unit of work load per week for a particular course in theory and/ or practical. One credit of theory means one class of one clock hour duration and one credit practical means one class of minimum two clock hoursof laboratory work per week.

Credit load of a student refers to the total number of credits of all the courses he/ she registers during a particular semester.

Grade Point (GP) of a course is a measure of performance. It is obtained by dividing the per cent mark secured by a student in a particular course by 10, expressed and rounded off to second decimal place.

Credit Point (CP) refers to the Grade point multiplied by the number of credits of the course, expressed and rounded off to second decimal place.

Grade Point Average (GPA) means the total credit point earned by a student divided by total number of credits of all the courses registered in a semester, expressed and rounded off to second decimal place.

Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) means the total credit points earned by a student divided by the total number of credits registered by the student until the end of a semester (all completed semesters), expressed and rounded off to second decimal place.

Overall Grade Point Average (OGPA) means the total credit points earned by a student in the entire degree programme divided by the total number of credits required for the P.G. degree, expressed and rounded off to second decimal place.

Common Academic Regulations for PG and Ph.D. Programmes

1. Academic Year and Registration

- An academic year shall be normally from July to June of the following calendar year otherwise required under special situations. It shall be divided into two academic terms known as semesters. Dates of registration, commencement of instructions, semester end examination, end of semester and academic year, etc. The Academic Calendar shall be developed by the concerned University from time to time and notified accordingly by the Registrar in advance.
- An orientation programme shall be organized by the Director (Education)/ Dean PGS for the benefit of the newly admitted students immediately after commencement of the semester.
- On successful completion of a semester, the continuing students shall register for subsequent semester on the date specified in the Academic/ Semester Calendar or specifically notified separately. Every enrolled student shall be required to register at the beginning of each semester till the completion of his/ her degree programmes.

2. Credit requirements

2.1 Framework of the courses

The following nomenclature and Credit Hrs need to be followed while providing the

syllabus for all the disciplines:

	Masters' Programme	Doctoral Programme
(i) Course work		
Major courses	20	12
Minor courses	08	06
Supporting courses	06	05
Common courses	05	–
Seminar	01	02
(ii) Thesis Research	30	75
Total	70	100

Major courses: From the Discipline in which a student takes admission. Among the listed courses, the core courses compulsorily to be taken may be given *mark

Minor courses: From the subjects closely related to a student's major subject

Supporting courses: The subject not related to the major subject. It could be any subject considered relevant for student's research work (such as Statistical Methods, Design of Experiments, etc.) or necessary for building his/ her overallcompetence.

Common Courses: The following courses (one credit each) will be offered to all students undergoing Master's degree programme:

1. Library and Information Services
2. Technical Writing and Communications Skills
3. Intellectual Property and its management in Agriculture
4. Basic Concepts in Laboratory Techniques
5. Agricultural Research, Research Ethics and Rural Development Programmes

Some of these courses are already in the form of e-courses/ MOOCs. The students may be allowed to register these courses/ similar courses on these aspects, if available online on SWAYAM or any other platform. If a student has already completed any of these courses during UG, he/ she may be permitted to register for other related courses with the prior approval of the Head of Department (HoD)/ Board of Studies (BoS).

3. Residential requirements

- The minimum and maximum duration of residential requirement for Masters' Degree and Ph.D. Programmes shall be as follows:

P.G. Degree Programmes	Duration of Residential Requirement	
	Minimum	Maximum
Masters' Degree	2 Academic Years (4 Semesters)	5 Academic Years (10 Semesters)
Ph.D.*	3 Academic Years (6 Semesters)	7 Academic Years (14 Semesters)

*Student may be allowed to discontinue temporarily only after completion of course work

In case a student fails to complete the degree programme within the maximum duration of residential requirement, his/ her admission shall stand cancelled. The requirement shall be treated as satisfactory in the cases in which a student submits his/ her thesis any time during the 4^{th} and 6^{th} semester of his/ her residentship at the University for Masters' and Ph.D. programme, respectively.

4. Evaluation of course work and comprehensive examination

- For M.Sc., multiple levels of evaluation (First Test, Midterm and Final semester) is desirable. However, it has been felt that the comprehensive examination is redundant for M.Sc. students.
- For Ph.D., the approach should be research oriented rather than exam oriented. In order to provide the student adequate time to concentrate on the research work and complete the degree in stipulated time, the examination may have to be only semester final. However, the course teacher may be given freedom to evaluate in terms of assignment/ seminar/ first test.
- For Ph.D., the comprehensive examination (Pre-qualifying examination) is required. As the students are already tested in course examinations, the comprehensive examinationshould be based onoral examinationby an external expert and the evaluation should cover both the research problem and theoretical background to execute the project. This shall assess the aptitude of the student and suitability of the student for the given research topic. The successful completion of comprehensive examination is to obtain the "Satisfactory" remark by the external expert.

5. Advisory System

5.1 Advisory Committee

- There shall be an Advisory Committee for every student consisting of not fewer than three members in the case of a candidate for Masters' degree and four in the case of Ph.D. degree with the Advisor as Chairperson. The Advisory Committee should have representatives from the major and minor fields amongst the members of the Post-graduate faculty accredited for appropriate P.G. level research. However, in those departments where qualified staff exists but due to unavoidable reasons Post-graduate degree programmes are not existing, the staff having Post-graduate teaching experience of two years or more may be included in the Advisory Committee as member representing the minor.
- At any given time, a P.G. teacher shall not be a Chairperson, Advisory Committee (including Master's and Ph.D. programmes) for more than five students.

- The Advisor should convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee at least once in a Semester. The summary record should be communicated to the Head of Department, Dean of the College of concerned, Director (Education)/ Dean PGS and Registrar for information.

Advisor/ Co-guide/ Member, Advisory Committee from other collaborating University/ Institute/ Organization

- In order to promote quality Post-graduate research and training in cutting edge areas, the University may enter into Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with other Universities/ Institutions for conducting research. While constituting an Advisory Committee of a student, if the Chairperson, Advisory Committee feels the requirement of involving of a faculty member/ scientist of such partnering university/ Institute/ Organization, he/ she may send a proposal to this effect to Director (Education)/ Dean PGS along with the proposal for consideration of Student's Advisory Committee (SAC).
- The proposed faculty member from the partnering institution can be allowed to act as Chairperson/ Co-guide/ Member, SAC, by mutual consent, primarily on the basis of intellectual input and time devoted for carrying out the research work at the particular institution. The faculty member/ scientist of partnering institutions in the SAC shall become a temporary faculty member of the University by following the procedure approved by the Academic Council.

Allotment of students to the retiring persons

Normally, retiring person may not be allotted M. Sc. Student if he/ she is left with less than 2 years of service and Ph.D. student if left with less than 3 years of service. However, in special circumstances, permission may be obtained from the Director (Education)/ Dean PGS, after due recommendation by the concerned Head of the Department.

Changes in the Advisory Committee:

(i) Change of the Chairperson or any member of the Advisory Committee is not ordinarily permissible. However, in exceptional cases, the change may be effected with due approval of the Director of Education/ Dean PGS.

(ii) Normally, staff members of the university on extra ordinary leave or on study leave or who leave the University service will cease to continue to serve as advisors of the Post-graduate students of the University. However, the Director (Education)/ Dean PGS may permit them to continue to serve as advisor subject to the following conditions:
   (a) The concerned staff member must be resident in India and if he/ she agrees to guide research and must be available for occasional consultations;
   (b) An application is made by the student concerned duly supported by the Advisory Committee;
   (c) In case of a Ph.D. student, he/ she must have completed his/ her comprehensive examinations and the research work must be well in progress and it is expected that the student will submit the thesis within a year;
   (d) The Head of the Department and the Dean of the College concerned agree to the proposal;

(e) The staff member, after leaving the University service is granted the status of honorary faculty's membership by the Vice-Chancellor on the recommendation of the Director (Education)/ Dean PGS for guiding as Chairperson or Member, Advisory Committee the thesis/ theses of the student(s) concerned only.

(iii) In case the Chairperson/ member of a Student's Advisory Committee retires, he/ she shall be allowed to continue provided that the student has completed his course work and minimum of 10 research credits and the retiring Chairperson/ member stays at the Headquarters of the College, till the thesis is submitted.

(iv) If the Chairperson/ member proceeds on deputation to another organization, he/ she may be permitted to guide the student provided his/ her new organization is at the Headquarters of the College and his/ her organization is willing for the same.

(v) The change shall be communicated to all concerned by the Head of Department.

6. Evaluation of research work

- It is highly desirablefor Ph.D. programme and this should be done annually as an essential part of research evaluation. The Student Advisory Committee shallreview the progress of research and scrutinize annual progress reports submitted by the student.
- Midterm evaluation of Ph.D. (to move from JRF to SRF) is a mandatory requirement for all the funding agencies. Hence, the second review of annual progress report need to be done after completion of two years. The successful completion enables the students to become eligible for SRF.

6.1 Prevention of plagiarism

- An institutional mechanism should be in place to check the plagiarism. The students must be made aware that manipulation of the data/ plagiarism is punishable with serious consequences.

7. Learning through online courses

- In line with the suggestion in new education policy and the initiatives taken by ICAR and MHRD in the form of e-courses, MOOCs, SWAYAM, etc. and also changes taking place globally in respect of learning through online resources it has been agreed to permit the students to enrol for online courses. It is expected that the provision of integrating available online courses with the traditional system of education would provide the students opportunities to improve their employability by imbibing the additional skills and competitive edge.

The Committee recommends the following points while integrating the online courses:

1. Board of Studies (BoS) of each Faculty shall identify available online courses and a student may select from the listed courses. The interested students may provide the details of the on-line courses to the BoS for its consideration.
2. A Postgraduate student may take up to a maximum of 20% credits in a semester through online learning resources.
3. The host institute offering the course does the evaluation and provide marks/ grades. The BoS shall develop the conversion formula for calculation of GPA and it may do appropriate checks on delivery methods and do additional evaluations, if needed.

8. Internship during Masters programme

Internship for Development of Entrepreneurship in Agriculture (IDEA)

Currently, a provision of 30 credits for dissertation work in M.Sc./ M.Tech/ M.F.Sc./ M.V.Sc. programmes helps practically only those students who aspire to pursue their career in academic/ research. There is hardly any opportunity/ provision under this system to enhance the entrepreneurship skills of those students who could start their own enterprise or have adequate skills to join the industry. Therefore, in order to overcome this gap, an optional internship/ in-plant training (called as IDEA) in lieu of thesis/ research work is recommended which will give the students an opportunity to have a real-time hands-on experience in the industry.

It is envisaged that the internship/ in-plant training would enhance the interactions between academic organizations and the relevant industry. It would not only enable the development of highly learned and skilled manpower to start their-own enterprises but also the industry would also be benefitted through this process. This pragmatic approach would definitely result in enhancedpartnerships between academia and industry.

The main objectives of the programme:

1. To promote the linkages between academia and industry
2. To establish newer University – Cooperative R&D together with industry for knowledge creation, research and commercialization
3. Collaboration between Universities and industries through pilot projects
4. To develop methods for knowledge transfer, innovation and networking potential
5. To enhance skill, career development and employability

Following criteria for IDEA will be taken into consideration:

- At any point of time there will not be more than 50% of students who can opt under IDEA
- Major Advisor will be from Academia and Co-advisor (or Advisory Committee member) from industry
- Total credits (30) will be divided into 20 for internship/ in-plant training and10 for writing the report followed by viva-voce similar to dissertation
- Work place will be industry; however, academic/ research support would be provided by the University or both. MoU may be developed accordingly
- The IPR, if any, would be as per the University policy

9. Teaching assistantship

- Teaching assistantship shall be encouraged. This will give the required experience to the students on how to conduct courses, practical classes, evaluation and other related academic matters. This is an important part of Ph.D. training all over the world and it is expected to address the shortage of faculty in many institutions/ universities.
- The fulltime doctoral students of the University with or without fellowship may be considered for award of Teaching Assistantships in their respective Departments. The Teaching Assistantship shall be offered only to those doctoral students who have successfully finished their course work. Any consideration for award of Teaching Assistantships must have the consent ofthe supervisor concerned.
- Teaching Assistantships shall be awarded on semester to semester basis on the recommendation of a screening/ selection committee to be constituted by the

ViceChancellor. All classes and assignments given to the Teaching Assistants, including tutorials, practicals and evaluation work shall be under the supervision of a faculty member who would have otherwise handled the course/ assignment.

- Each Ph.D. student may be allowed to take a maximum of 16 classes in a month to UG/ Masters students.
- No additional remuneration shall be paid to the students who are awarded ICAR JRF/ SRF. The amount of fellowship to be paid as remuneration to other students (who are receiving any other fellowship or without any fellowships) may be decided by the concerned universities as per the rules in force.However, the total amount of remuneration/ and fellowship shall not exceed the amount being paid as JRF/ SRF of ICAR.
- At the end of each term, Teaching Assistants shall be given a certificate by the concerned Head of the Department, countersigned by the School Dean, specifying the nature and load of assignments completed.

10. Registration of project personnel (SRF/ RA) for Ph.D.

- A provision may be made to enable the project personnel (SRF/ RA) to register for Ph.D. However, this can be done only if they are selected based on some selection process such as walk-in-interview. The prior approval of PI of the project is mandatory to consider the application of project personnel (SRF/ RA) for Ph.D. admission
- The candidates need to submit the declaration stating that the project work shall not be compromised because of Ph.D. programme. Further, in order to justify the project work and Ph.D. programme, the number of course credits should not be more than 8 in a semester for the project personnel (SRF/ RA) who intend to register for Ph.D.

11. Compliance with the National Education Policy-2020

- While implementing the course structure and contents recommended by the BSMA Committees, the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are required to comply with the provisions of National Education Policy-2020, especially the following aspects:
- Given the 21st century requirements, quality higher education must aim to develop good, thoughtful, well-rounded, and creative individuals. It must enable an individual to study one or more specialized areas of interest at a deep level, and also develop character, ethical and Constitutional values, intellectual curiosity, scientific temper, creativity, spirit of service, and 21st century capabilities across a range of disciplines including sciences, social sciences, arts, humanities, languages, as well as professional, technical, and vocational subjects. A quality higher education must enable personal accomplishment and enlightenment, constructive public engagement, and productive contribution to the society. It must prepare students for more meaningful and satisfying lives and work roles and enable economic independence (9.1.1. of NEP-2020).
- At the societal level, higher education must enable the development of an enlightened, socially conscious, knowledgeable, and skilled nation that can find and implement robust solutions to its own problems. Higher education must form the basis for knowledge creation and innovation thereby contributing to a growing national economy. The purpose of quality higher education is, therefore, more than the creation of greater opportunities for individual employment. It represents the key to more vibrant, socially engaged, cooperative communities and a happier,

cohesive, cultured, productive, innovative, progressive, and prosperous nation (9.1.3. of NEP-2020).

- Flexibility in curriculum and novel and engaging course options will be on offer to students, in addition to rigorous specialization in a subject or subjects. This will be encouraged by increased faculty and institutional autonomy in setting curricula. Pedagogy will have an increased emphasis on communication, discussion, debate, research, and opportunities for cross-disciplinary and interdisciplinary thinking (11.6 of NEP-2020).
- As part of a holistic education, students at all HEIs will be provided with opportunities for internships with local industry, businesses, artists, crafts persons, etc., as well as research internships with faculty and researchers at their own or other HEIs/ research institutions, so that students may actively engage with the practical side of their learning and, as a by-product, further improve their employability (11.8 of NEP-2020).
- HEIs will focus on research and innovation by setting up start-up incubation centres; technology development centres; centres in frontier areas of research; greater industry-academic linkages; and interdisciplinary research including humanities and social sciences research (11.12. of NEP-2020).
- Effective learning requires a comprehensive approach that involves appropriate curriculum, engaging pedagogy, continuous formative assessment, and adequate student support. The curriculum must be interesting and relevant, and updated regularly to align with the latest knowledge requirements and to meet specified learning outcomes. High-quality pedagogy is then necessary to successfully impart the curricular material to students; pedagogical practices determine the learning experiences that are provided to students, thus directly influencing learning outcomes. The assessment methods must be scientific, designed to continuously improve learning and test the application of knowledge. Last but not least, the development of capacities that promote student wellness such as fitness, good health, psycho-social well-being, and sound ethical grounding are also critical for high-quality learning (12.1. of NEP-2020).

Course Title with Credit Load
M.Sc. in Soil Science

Course Code	Course Title	Credit Hours
*Soil 501	Soil physics	(2+1)
*Soil 502	Soil fertility and fertilizer use	(2+1)
*Soil 503	Soil chemistry	(2+1)
*Soil 504	Soil mineralogy, genesis and classification	(2+1)
Soil 505	Soil erosion and conservation	(2+1)
Soil 506	Soil Biology and Biochemistry	(2+1)
Soil 507	Radioisotopes in soil and plant studies	(1+1)
Soil 508	Soil, water and air pollution	(2+1)
Soil 509	Remote sensing and GIS technique for soil and crop studies	(2+1)
Soil 510	Analytical technique and instrumental methods in soil and plant analysis	(0+2)
Soil 511	Management of problematic soils and water	(1+1)
Soil 512	Land degradation and restoration	(1+0)
Soil 513	Soil Survey and Land use Planning	(2+0)
Soil 514	Introduction to nanotechnology	(2+1)
Soil 591	Master's Seminar	(1+0)
Soil 599	Master's Research	-30

*Indicates Core Courses which are Compulsory for Master Programme

Course contents
M.Sc. in Soil Science

I. Course Title : Soil Physics
II. Course Code : Soil 501
III. Credit Hours : 2+1

IV. Aim of the course

To impart basic knowledge about soil physical properties and processes in relation to plant growth.

V. Theory

Unit I

Basic principles of physics applied to soils, soil as a three phase system.

Unit II

Soil texture, textural classes, mechanical analysis, specific surface.

Unit III

Soil consistence; dispersion and workability of soils; soil compaction and consolidation; soil strength; swelling and shrinkage - basic concepts.Alleviation of soil physical constraints for crop production. Soil erosion and edibility

Unit IV

Soil structure - genesis, types, characterization and management soil structure; soil
aggregation, aggregate stability; soil tilth, characteristics of good soil tilth; soil crusting -mechanism, factors affecting and evaluation; soil conditioners; puddling, its effect on soil physical properties; clod formation.

Unit V

Soil water: content and potential, soil water retention, soil-water constants, measurement of soil water content, energy state of soil water, soil water potential, soil-moisture characteristic curve; hysteresis, measurement of soil-moisture potential.

Unit VI

Water flow in saturated and unsaturated soils, Poiseuille's law, Darcy's law; hydraulic conductivity, permeability and fluidity, hydraulic diffusivity; measurement ofhydraulic conductivity in saturated and unsaturated soils.

Unit VII

Infiltration; internal drainage and redistribution; evaporation; hydrologic cycle, field water balance; soil-plant-atmosphere continuum.

Unit VIII

Composition of soil air; renewal of soil air - convective flow and diffusion; measurement of soil aeration; aeration requirement for plant growth; soil air management.

Unit IX

Modes of energy transfer in soils; energy balance; thermal properties of soil; measurement of soil temperature; soil temperature in relation to plant growth; soiltemperature management.

VI. Practical

- Determination of B.D, P.D and mass volume relationship of soil, Mechanical analysis by hydrometer and international pipette method,
- Measurement of Atterberg limits, Aggregate analysis - dry and wet, Measurement of soil-water content by different methods, Measurement of soil-water potential by using tensiometer and gypsum Blocks, Determination of soil-moisture characteristics curve and computation of pore-size, distribution, Determination of hydraulic conductivity under saturated and unsaturated conditions, Determination of infiltration rate of soil, Determination of aeration porosity and oxygen diffusion rate, Soil temperature measurements by different methods, Estimation of water balance components in bare and cropped fields.

VII. Teaching methods/activities

Classroom teaching with AV aids, group discussion, oral presentation by students.

VIII. Learning outcome

Experience on the knowledge of soil physical properties and processes in relation to plant growth.

IX. Suggested Reading

- Baver LD, Gardner WH and Gardner WR. 1972. *Soil Physics*. John Wiley & Sons.
- Ghildyal BP and Tripathi RP. 2001. *Soil Physics*. New Age International.
- Hanks JR and Ashcroft GL. 1980. *Applied Soil Physics*. Springer Verlag.
- Hillel D. 1972. *Optimizing the Soil Physical Environment toward Greater Crop Yields*. Academic Press.
- Hillel D. 1980. *Applications of Soil Physics*. Academic Press.
- Hillel D. 1980. *Fundamentals of Soil Physics*. Academic Press.
- Hillel D. 1998. *Environmental Soil Physi*cs. Academic Press.
- Hillel D. 2003. *Introduction to Environmental Soil Physics*. Academic Press.
- Indian Society of Soil Science. 2002. *Fundamentals of Soil Science*. ISSS, New Delhi.
- Kirkham D and Powers WL. 1972. *Advanced Soil Physics*. Wiley-Interscience.
- Kohnke H. 1968. *Soil Physics*. McGraw Hill.
- Lal R and Shukla MK. 2004. *Principles of Soil Physics*. Marcel Dekker.
- Oswal MC. 1994. *Soil Physics*. Oxford & IBH.

I. Course Title : Soil Fertility and Fertilizer Use

II. Course Code : Soil 502

III. Credit Hours : 3+1

IV. Aim of the course

To impart knowledge about soil fertility and its control, and to understand the role of fertilizers and manures in supplying nutrients to plants so as to achieve high fertilizer use efficiency.

V. Theory

Unit I

Soil fertility and soil productivity; fertility status of major soils group of India;

nutrient sources – fertilizers and manures; Criteria of essentiality, classification, law of minimum and maximum, essential plant nutrients - functions and deficiency symptoms, Nutrient uptake, nutrient interactions in soils and plants; long term effect of manures and fertilizers on soil fertility and crop productivity.

Unit II

Soil and fertilizer nitrogen – sources, forms, immobilization and mineralization, nitrification, denitrification; biological nitrogen fixation -types, mechanism, microorganisms and factors affecting; nitrogenous fertilizers and their fate in soils; management of fertilizer nitrogen in lowland and upland conditions for high fertilizer use efficiency.

Unit III

Soil and fertilizer phosphorus - forms, immobilization, mineralization, reactions in acid andalkali soils; factors affecting phosphorus availability in soils; phosphatic fertilizers - behavior in soilsand management under field conditions. Potassium - forms, equilibrium in soils and its agriculturalsignificance; mechanism of potassium fixation; management of potassium fertilizers under fieldconditions.

Unit V

Sulphur - source, forms, fertilizers and their behavior in soils; roleincropsandhuman health; calcium and magnesium– factors affecting their availability in soils; management of sulphur, calcium and magnesium fertilizers.

Unit VI

Micronutrients – critical limits in soils and plants; factors affecting their availability and correction of their deficiencies in plants; role of chelates in nutrient availability.

Unit VII

Common soil test methods for fertilizer recommendations; quantity–intensityrelationships; soil test crop response correlations and response functions.

Unit VIII

Fertilizer use efficiency; site-specific nutrient management; plant need based nutrient management; integrated nutrient management; specialityfertilizersconcept, needand category.CurrentstatusofspecialityfertilizersuseinsoilsandcropsofIndia;

Unit IX

Soil fertility evaluation - biological methods, soil, plant and tissue tests; soilquality in relation to sustainable agriculture, Determination of critical limit, DRIS

Unit X

Definition and concepts of soil health and soil quality; Longterm effects of fertilizers and soil quality.

VI. Practical

- Soil and plant sampling and processing for chemical analysis
- Determination of soil pH, total and organic carbon in soil
- Chemical analysis of soil for total and available nutrients(major and micro)
- Analysis of plants for essential elements(major and micro)

VII. Teaching methods/activities

Classroom teaching with AV aids, group discussion, oral presentation by students.

VIII. Learning outcome

Experience on the knowledge of soil fertility and fertilizers in relation to plant growth and development.

IX. Suggested Reading

- Brady NC and Weil RR. 2002. *The Nature and Properties of Soils*. 13th Ed. Pearson Edu.
- Kabata-Pendias A and Pendias H. 1992. *Trace Elements in Soils and Plants*. CRC Press.
- Kannaiyan S, Kumar K and Govindarajan K. 2004. *Biofertilizers Technology*. Scientific Publ.
- Leigh J G. 2002. *Nitrogen Fixation at the Millennium*. Elsevier.
- Mengel K and Kirkby EA. 1982. *Principles of Plant Nutrition*. International Potash Institute, Switzerland.
- Mortvedt JJ, Shuman LM, Cox FR and Welch RM. 1991. *Micronutrients in Agriculture*. 2nd Ed. SSSA, Madison.
- Pierzinsky GM, Sims TJ and Vance JF. 2002. *Soils and Environmental Quality*. 2nd Ed. CRC Press.
- Stevenson FJ and Cole MA. 1999. *Cycles of Soil: Carbon, Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Sulphur, Micronutrients*. John Wiley & Sons.
- Tisdale SL, Nelson SL, Beaton JD and Havlin JL. 1999. *Soil Fertility and Fertilizers*. 5th Ed. Prentice Hall of India.
- Troeh FR and Thompson LM. 2005. *Soils and Soil Fertility*. Blackwell.

I. Course Title : Soil Chemistry

II. Course Code : Soil 503

III. Credit Hours : 2+1

IV. Suggested Reading

To introduce the classical concepts of soil chemistry and to familiarize students with modern developments in chemistry of soils in relation to using soils as a medium for plant growth.

V. Theory

Unit I

Chemical (elemental) composition of the earth's crust, soils, rocks and minerals

Unit II

Elements of equilibrium thermodynamics, chemical equilibria, electrochemistry and chemical kinetics.

Unit III

Soil colloids: inorganic and organic colloids - origin of charge, concept of point of zero-charge (PZC) and its dependence on variable-charge soil components, surface charge characteristics of soils; diffuse double layer theories of soil colloids, zeta potential, stability, coagulation/flocculation and peptization of soil colloids; electrometric properties of soil colloids; sorption properties of soil colloids; soil organic matter - fractionation of soil organic matter and different fractions, Characterization of OM; clay-organic interactions.

Unit IV

Ion exchange processes in soil; cation exchange- theories based on law of massaction (Kerr-Vanselow, Gapon equations, hysteresis, Jenny's concept), adsorptionisotherms, Donnan-membrane equilibrium concept, clay-membrane electrodes and ionicactivity measurement, thermodynamics, statistical mechanics; anion and ligand exchange–

innersphere and outer-sphere surface complex formation, fixation of oxyanions, hysteresisin sorption-desorption of oxy-anions and anions, shift of PZC on ligand exchange, AEC, CEC; experimental methods to study ion exchange phenomena and practical implications in plant nutrition.

Unit V

Potassium, phosphate and ammonium fixation in soils covering specificand non-specific sorption; precipitation-dissolution equilibria; Conceptof quantity/intensity(Q/I)relationship; step and constant-rate K; managementaspects.

Unit VI

Chemistry of acid soils; active and potential acidity; lime potential, chemistry of acid soils; sub-soil acidity.

Unit VII

Chemistry of salt-affected soils and amendments; soil pH, ECe, ESP, SAR and important relations; soil management and amendments.

Unit VIII

Chemistry and electrochemistry of submerged soils, geochemistry of micronutrients, environmental soil chemistry

VI. Practical

Preparation of saturation extract, measurement of pH, EC, CO, HCO, Ca, Mg, K and Na, Determination of CEC and AEC of soils, Analysis of equilibrium soil solution for pH, EC, Eh by the use of Eh-pH meter andconductivity meter, Determination of point of zero-charge and associated surface charge characteristics by the serial potentiometric titration method, Extraction of humic substances, Potentiometric and conductometric titration of soil humic and fulvic acids, (E4/E6) ratio of soil humic and fulvic acids by visible spectrophotometric studies and the D (E4/E6) values at two pH values, Adsorption-desorption of phosphate/sulphate by soil using simple adsorption isotherm, Construction of adsorption envelope of soils by using phosphate/fluoride/sulphate and ascertaining the mechanism of the ligand exchange process involved, Determination of titratable acidity of an acid soil by BaCl2-TEA method, Determination of Q/I relationship of potassium, Determination of lime requirement of an acid soil by buffer method, Determination of gypsum requirement of an alkali soil.

VII. Teaching methods/activities

Classroom teaching with AV aids, group discussion, oral presentation by students.

VIII. Learning outcome

Experience on the knowledge of chemical behaviour of soil and their utility in research for solving field problem.

IX. Suggested Reading

- Bear RE. 1964. *Chemistry of the Soil*. Oxford and IBH.
- Bolt GH and Bruggenwert MGM. 1978. *Soil Chemistry*. Elsevier.
- Greenland DJ and Hayes MHB. 1981. *Chemistry of Soil Processes*. John Wiley & Sons.
- Greenland DJ and Hayes MHB. *Chemistry of Soil Constituents*. John Wiley & Sons.
- McBride MB. 1994. *Environmental Chemistry of Soils*. Oxford University Press.
- Sposito G. 1981. *The Thermodynamics of Soil Solutions*. Oxford University Press.
- Sposito G. 1984. *The Surface Chemistry of Soils*. Oxford University Press.

- Sposito G. 1989. *The Chemistry of Soils*. Oxford University Press.
- Stevenson FJ. 1994. *Humus Chemistry*. 2nd Ed. John Wiley & Sons.
- Van Olphan H. 1977. *Introduction to Clay Colloid Chemistry*. John Wiley & Sons.

I. Course Title : Soil Mineralogy, Genesis and Classification

II. Course Code : Soil 504

III. Credit Hours : 2+1

IV. Aim of the course

To acquaint students with basic structure of alumino-silicate minerals and genesis of clay minerals; soil genesis interms of factors and processes of soil formation, and to enable students conduct soil survey and interpret soil survey reports in terms of land use planning.

V. Theory

Unit I

Fundamentals of crystallography, space lattice, coordination theory, isomorphism and polymorphism.

Unit II

Classification, structure, chemical composition and properties of clay minerals; genesis and transformation of crystal line and non-crystal line clay minerals; identification techniques; amorphous soil constituents and other non-crystalline silicate minerals and their identification; clay minerals in Indian soils, role of clay minerals in plant nutrition, interaction of clay with humus, pesticides and heavy metals.

Unit III

Factors of soil formation, soil formation models; soil forming processes; weathering of rocks and mineral transformations; soil profile; weathering sequences of minerals with special reference to Indian soils.

Unit IV

Concept of soil individual; soil classification systems – historical developments and modern systems of soil classification with special emphasis on soil taxonomy; soil classification, soil mineralogy and soil maps – usefulness.

VI. Practical

- Separation of sand, silt and clay fraction from soil
- Determination of specific surface area and CEC of clay
- Identification and quantification of minerals in soil fractions
- Morphological properties of soil profile in different land forms
- Classification of soils using soil taxonomy
- Calculation of weathering indices and its application in soil formation
- Grouping soil susing available database in terms of soil quality

VII. Teaching methods/activities

Classroom teaching with AV aids, group discussion, oral presentation by students.

VIII. Learning outcome

Experience on the knowledge of soil taxonomy and genesis and and their utility in research for solving field problem.

IX. Suggested Reading

- Brady NC and Weil RR. 2002. *The Nature and Properties of Soils*. 13th Ed. Pearson Edu. Buol EW, Hole ED, MacCracken RJ and Southard RJ. 1997. *Soil Genesis*
- *and Classification*. 4th Ed. Panima Publ.
- Dixon JB and Weed SB. 1989. *Minerals in Soil Environments*. 2nd Ed. Soil Science Society of America, Madison.
- Grim RE. 1968. *Clay Mineralogy*. McGraw Hill.
- Indian Society of Soil Science 2002. *Fundamentals of Soil Science*. ISSS, New Delhi.
- Sehgal J. 2002. *Introductory Pedology: Concepts and Applications*. New Delhi
- Sehgal J. 2002. *Pedology - Concepts and Applications*. Kalyani.
- USDA. 1999. *Soil Taxonomy*. Hand Book No. 436. 2nd Ed. USDA NRCS, Washington.
- Wade FA and Mattox RB. 1960. *Elements of Crystallography and Mineralogy*. Oxford & IBH.
- Wilding LP and Smeck NE. 1983. *Pedogenesis and Soil Taxonomy*: II. *The Soil Orders*. Elsevier.
- Wilding NE and Holl GF. (Eds.). 1983. *Pedogenesis and Soil Taxonomy*. I.

I. Course Title : Soil Erosion and Conservation

II. Course Code : Soil 505

III. Credit Hours : 2+1

IV. Aim of the course

To enable students to understand various types of soil erosion and measures to betaken for controlling soil erosion to conserve soil and water.

V. Theory

Unit I

History, distribution, identification and description of soil erosionproblems in India.

Unit II

Forms of soil erosion; effects of soil erosion and factors affecting soilerosion; types and mechanisms of water erosion; raindrops and soil erosion; rainfall erosivity - estimation as EI30 index and kinetic energy; factors affectingwater erosion; empirical and quantitative estimation of water erosion; methods of measurement and prediction of runoff; soil losses in relation to soil properties andprecipitation.

Unit III

Wind erosion- types, mechanism and factors affecting wind erosion; extent of problem in the country.

Unit IV

Principles of erosion control; erosion control measures – agronomical and engineering; erosion control structures - their design and layout.

Unit V

Soil conservation planning; land capability classification; soil conservation in special problem areas such as hilly, arid and semi-arid regions, waterlogged and wet lands.

Unit VI

Watershed management - concept, objectives and approach; water harvesting and recycling; flood control in watershed management; socioeconomic aspects of watershed management; case studies in respect to monitoring and

evaluation of watersheds; use of remote sensing in assessment and planning of watersheds, sediment measurement

VI. Practical

- Determination of different soil erodibility indices - suspension percentage, dispersion ratio, erosion ratio, clay ratio, clay/moisture equivalent ratio, percolation ratio, raindrop erodibility index
- Computation of kinetic energy of falling rain drops
- Computation of rainfall erosivity index (EI30) using rain gauge data
- Land capability classification of a watershed
- Visits to a watersheds

VII. Teaching methods/activities

Classroom teaching with AV aids, group discussion, oral presentation by students.

VIII. Learning outcome

Experience on the knowledge of soil conservation and their utility in research for solving field problem.

IX. Suggested Reading

- Biswas TD and Narayanasamy G. (Eds.) 1996. *Soil Management in Relation to Land Degradation and Environment*. Bull. Indian Society of Soil Science No. 17.
- Doran JW and Jones AJ. 1996. *Methods of Assessing Soil Quality*. Soil Science Society of America, Spl Publ. No. 49, Madison, USA.
- Gurmal Singh, Venkataramanan C, Sastry G and Joshi BP. 1990. *Manual of Soil and Water Conservation Practices*. Oxford & IBH.
- Hudson N. 1995. *Soil Conservation*. Iowa State University Press.
- Indian Society of Soil Science 2002. *Fundamentals of Soil Science*. ISSS, New Delhi.
- Oswal MC. 1994. *Soil Physics*. Oxford & IBH.

I. Course Title : Soil Biology and Biochemistry

II. Course Code : Soil 506

III. Credit Hours : 2+1

IV. Aim of the course

To teach students the basics of soil biology and biochemistry, including biogeochemical cycles, plant growth promoting rhizobacteria, microbial interactions in soil and other soil activities.

V. Theory

Unit I

Soilbiota, soil microbialecology, types of organisms indifferent soils; soil microbial biomass; microbial interactions; un-culturable soilbiota.

Unit II

Microbiology and biochemistry of root-soil interface; phyllosphere; soil enzymes, origin, activities and importance; soil characteristics influencing growth and activity of microflora; Root rhizosphere and PGPR.

Unit III

Microbial transformations of nitrogen, phosphorus, sulphur, iron and manganese in soil; biochemical composition and biodegradation of soil organic matter and crop

residues, microbiology and biochemistry of decomposition of carbonaceous and protenaceous materials, cycles of important organic nutrients.

Unit IV

organic wastes and their use for production of biogas and manures; biotic factors in soil development; microbial toxins in the soil.

Unit V

Preparation and preservation of farmyard manure, animal manures, rural and urban composts and vermicompost.

Unit VI

Biofertilizers–definition, classification, specifications, method of production and role in crop production; FCO specifications and quality control of biofertilizers.

Unit VII

Biological indicators of soil quality; bioremediation of contaminated soils; microbial transformations of heavy metals in soil; role of soil organisms inpedogenesis – important mechanisms and controlling factors; soil genomics and bioprospecting; soil sickness due to biological agents; xenobiotics; antibiotic production in soil.

VI. Practical

- Determination of soil microbial population
- Soil microbial biomass carbon
- Elemental composition, fractionation of organic matter and functional groups
- Decomposition of organic matter in soil
- Soil enzymes
- Measurement of important soil microbial processes such as ammonification, nitrification, N_2 fixation, S oxidation, P solubilization and mineralization of other micronutrients

VII. Teaching methods/ activities

Classroom teaching with AV aids, group discussion, oral presentation by students.

VIII. Learning outcome

Experience on the knowledge of soil microbes and their utility in research for solving field problem.

IX. Suggested Reading

- Paul EA and Clark FE. *Soil Microbiology and Biochemistry*.
- Lynch JM. *Soil Biotechnology*
- Willey JM, Linda M. Sherwood and Woolverton CJ. *Prescott's Microbiology*.
- Subba Rao NS. *Advances In Agricultural Microbiology*.

I. Course Title : Radioisotopes in Soil and Plant Studies

II. Course Code : Soil 507

III. Credit Hours : 1+1

IV. Aim of the course

To train students in the use of radio isotopes in soil and plant research.

V. Theory

Unit I

Atomic structure, radio activity and units; radio isotopes-properties and decay principles; nature and properties of nuclear radiations; interaction of nuclear radiations with matter, artificial radioactivity

Unit II

Principles and use of radiation monitoring instruments-proportional, Geiger Muller counter, solid and liquids cintillation counters; neutron moisture meter, mass spectrometry, autoradiography

Unit III

Isotopic dilution techniques used in soil and plant research; use of stable isotopes; application of isotopes in studies on organic matter, nutrient transformations, ion transport, rooting pattern and fertilizer use efficiency; carbon dating

Unit IV

Doses of radiation exposure, radiation safety aspects regulatory aspects, collection, storage and disposal of radioactive wastes

VI. Practical

- Storage and handling of radioactive materials
- Determination of half-life and decay constant
- Preparation of soil and plant samples for radioactive measurements
- Settingup of experiment on fertilizer use efficiency and cation exchange equilibria using radio isotopes
- Determination of A, E and L values of soil using 32P/65Zn
- Use of neutron probe for moisture determination
- Sample preparation and measurement of 15N enrichment by mass spectro photometery/ emission spectrometry

VII. Teaching methods/ activities

Classroom teaching with AV aids, group discussion, oral presentation by students.

VIII. Learning outcome

Experience on the knowledge of radio activity and their utility in research for solving field problems.

IX. Suggested Reading

- Comer CL. 1955. *Radioisotopes in Biology and Agriculture: Principles and Practice*. Tata McGraw Hill.
- Glasstone S. 1967. *Source Book on Atomic Energy*. East West Press.
- Michael FL and Annunziata. 2003. *Handbook of Radioactivity Analysis*. Academic Press.

I. Course Title : Soil, Water and Air Pollution

II. Course Code : Soil 508

III. Credit Hours : 2+1

IV. Aim of the course

To make the student saw are of the problems of soil, water and air pollution associated with use of soils for crop production.

V. Theory

Unit I

Soil, water and air pollution problems associated with agriculture, nature and extent.

Unit II

Nature and sources of pollutants – agricultural, industrial, urban wastes, fertilizers and pesticides, acid rains, oil spills etc.; air, water and soil pollutants- their CPC standards and effect on plants, animals and human beings.

Unit III

Sewage and industrial effluents–their composition and effecton soil properties/ health, and plant growth and humanbeings; soil as sink for waste disposal.

Unit IV

Pesticides–their classification, behaviour in soil and effecton soil microorganisms.

Unit V

Toxic elements–their sources, behaviour in soils, effect on nutrients availability, effect on plant and human health.

Unit VI

Pollution of water resources due to leaching of nutrients and pesticides from soil; emission of green house gases–carbondioxide, methane and nitrous oxide.

Unit VII

Risk assessment of polluted soil, Remediation/ amelioration of contaminated soil and water; remote sensing applications in monitoring and management of soil and water pollution.

VI. Practical

Sampling of sewage waters, sewage sludge, solid/ liquid industrial wastes, polluted soils and plants and their processing, Estimation of dissolved and suspended solids, chemical oxygen demand (COD), biological demand (BOD), measurement of coliform (MPN), nitrate and ammoniacal nitrogen and phosphorus, heavy metal content in effluents, Heavy metals in contaminated soils and plants, Management of contaminants in soil and plants to safe guard food safety, Air sampling and determination of particulate matter and oxides of sulphur, NO_2 and O_2 conc**.** Visit to various industrial sites to study the impact of pollutants on soil and plants.

VII. Teaching methods/activities

Classroom teaching with AV aids, group discussion, oral presentation by students.

VIII. Learning outcome

Management of soil and water pollution

IX. Suggested Reading

- Lal R, Kimble J, Levine E and Stewart BA. 1995. *Soil Management and Greenhouse Effect*. CRC Press.
- Middlebrooks EJ. 1979. *Industrial Pollution Control*. Vol. I. *Agro-Industries*. John Wiley Interscience.
- Ross SM. *Toxic Metals in Soil Plant Systems*. John Wiley & Sons.
- Vesilund PA and Pierce 1983. *Environmental Pollution and Control*. Ann Arbor Science Publ.

I. Course Title : Remote Sensing and GIS Technique for Soil, Water and Crop Studies

II. Course Code : Soil 509

III. Credit Hours : 2+1

IV. Aim of the course

To impart knowledge about the basic concepts of remote sensing, aerial photographs and imageries, and their interpretation; application of remote sensing in general and with special reference to soil, plants and yield forecasting; to impart knowledge about geo-statistical techniques with special reference to krigging, and GIS and applications in agriculture.

V. Theory

Unit I

Introduction and history of remote sensing; sources, propagation of radiations in atmosphere; interactions with matter, basic concepts and principles; hardware and software requirements; common terminologies of geographic information system (GIS)

Unit II

Sensor systems-camera, microwave radio meters and scanners; fundamentals of aerial photographs and multispectral imaging, hyperspectral imaging, thermal imaging; image processing and interpretations.

Unit III

Application of remote sensing techniques-landuse soil surveys, crop stress and yield forecasting, prioritization in watershed and drought management, waste land identification and management.

Unit IV

Significance and sources of the spatial and temporal variability in soils; variability in relation to size of sampling; classical and geo-statistical techniques of evolution of soil variability.

Unit V

Applications of GIS for water resources, agriculture, precision farming, disaster management, e-governance, Agricultural Research Information System (ARIS).

VI. Practical

Familiarization with different remote sensing equipments and data products, Interpretation of aerial photo graphs and satellite data for mapping of land resources, Analysis of variability of different soil properties with classical and geostatistical techniques, Creation of datafiles in a database programme, Use of GIS for soil spatial simulation and analysis, To enable the students to conduct soil survey and interpret soil survey reports in terms of land use planning.

VII. Teaching methods/activities

Classroom teaching with AV aids, group discussion, oral presentation by students.

VIII. Learning outcome

Experience on the knowledge of remote sensing and their utility in research for solving field problem.

IX. Suggested Reading

- Brady NC and Weil RR. 2002. *The Nature and Properties of Soils*. 13th Ed. Pearson Edu.
- Elangovan K. 2006. *GIS Fundamentals, Applications and Implementations*. New India Publ. Agency.
- Lillesand TM and Kiefer RW. 1994. *Remote Sensing and Image Interpretation*. 3rd Ed. Wiley.
- Nielsen DR and Wendroth O. 2003. *Spatial and Temporal Statis*tics. Catena Verloggmbh.
- Star J and Esles J. 1990. *Geographic Information System: An Introduction*. Prentice Hall.

I. Course Title : Analytical Technique and Instrumental Methods in Soil and Plant Analysis

II. Course Code : Soil 510

III. Credit Hours : 0+2

IV. Aim of the course

To familiarize the students with commonly used instruments – their working, preparations of common analytical reagents for qualitative and quantitative analysis of both soil as well as plant samples.

V. Practical

Unit I

Preparation of solutions for standard curves, indicators and standard solutions for acid-base, oxidation reduction and complexometric titration; soil, water and plant sampling techniques, their processing and handling.

Unit II

Determination of nutrient potentials and potential buffering capacities of soils for phosphorus and potassium; estimation of phosphorus, ammonium and potassium fixation capacities of soils.

Unit III

Principles of visible, ultra violet and infrared spectrophotometery, atomic absorption, flame-photometry, inductively coupled plasma spectrometry; chromatographic techniques, mass spectrometry and X-ray defractrometery; identification of minerals by X-ray by different methods, CHNS analyzer.

Unit IV

Electrochemical titration of clays; estimation of exchangeable cations (Na, Ca, Mg, K); estimation of root cation exchange capacity.

Unit V

Wet digestion/fusion/extraction of soil with aquaregia with soil for elemental analysis; triacid/di-acid digestion of plant samples; determination of available and total nutrients (N, P, K, S, Ca, Mg, Zn, Cu, Fe, Mn, B, Mo) in soils; determination of total nutrients (N, P, K, S, Ca, Mg, Zn, Cu, Fe, Mn, B, Mo) in plants

Unit VI

Drawing normalized exchange isotherms; measurement of redox potential.

VI. Teaching methods/activities

Classroom teaching and laboratory practicals

VII. Learning outcome

Development of confidence for setting soil testing laboratory.

VIII. Suggested Reading

- Hesse P. 971. *Textbook of Soil Chemical Analysis*. William Clowes & Sons.
- Jackson ML. 1967. *Soil Chemical Analysis*. Prentice Hall of India.
- Keith A Smith 1991. *Soil Analysis; Modern Instrumental Techniques*. Marcel Dekker.
- Kenneth Helrich 1990. *Official Methods of Analysis*. Association of Official Analytical Chemists.
- Page AL, Miller RH and Keeney DR. 1982. *Methods of Soil Analysis*. Part II. SSSA, Madison.
- Piper CE. *Soil and Plant Analysis*. Hans Publ.
- Singh D, Chhonkar PK and Pandey RN. 1999. *Soil Plant Water Analysis - A Methods Manual*. IARI, New Delhi.
- Tan KH. 2003. *Soil Sampling, Preparation and Analysis*. CRC Press/Taylor & Francis.
- Tandon HLS. 1993. *Methods of Analysis of Soils, Fertilizers and Wat*ers. FDCO, New Delhi.
- Vogel AL. 1979. *A Textbook of Quantitative Inorganic Analysis*. ELBS Longman.

I. Course Title : Management of Problem Soils and Water

II. Course Code : Soil 511

III. Credit Hours : 2+1

IV. Aim of the course

To educate students about basic concepts of problem soils and brackish water, and their management. Attention will be on management of problem soils and safe use of brackish water in relation to crop production.

V. Theory

Unit I

Area and distribution of problem soils–acidic, saline, sodic and physically degraded soils; origin and basic concept of problematic soils, and factors responsible.

Unit II

Morphological features of saline, sodic and saline-sodic soils; characterization of salt-affected soils-soluble salts, ESP, pH; physical, chemical and microbiological properties.

Unit III

Management of salt-affected soils; salt tolerance of crops- mechanism and ratings; salt stress meaning and its effect on crop growth, monitoring of soils alinity in the field; management principles for sandy, clayey, red lateritic and dryland soils.

Unit IV

Acid soils-nature of soil acidity, sources of soil acidity; effect on plant growth, lime requirement of acid soils; management of acid soils; biological sickness of soils and its management.

Unit V

Quality of irrigation water; management of brackish water for irrigation; salt balance under irrigation; characterization of brackish waters, area and extent; relationship in water use and quality.

Unit VI

Agronomic practices in relation to problematic soils; cropping pattern for utilizing poor quality groundwaters.

VI. Practical

Characterization of acid, acid sulfate, salt-affected and calcareous soils, Determination of cations (Na+, K+, Ca++ and Mg++) in groundwater and soil samples, Determination of an ions (Cl^-, SO_4^-, CO_3^- and HCO_3^-) in ground waters and soil samples, Lime and gypsum requirements of acid and sodic soils.

VII. Teaching methods/activities

Classroom teaching with AV aids, group discussion, oral presentation by students.

VIII. Learning outcome

Experience on solving field problem of problem soil and waters.

IX. Resources

- Bear FE. 1964. *Chemistry of the Soil*. Oxford & IBH.
- Jurinak JJ. 1978. *Salt-affected Soils*. Department of Soil Science & Biometeorology. Utah State University
- USDA Handbook No. 60. 1954. *Diagnosis and improvement of Saline and Alkali Soils*. Oxford & IBH.

I. Course Title : Land Degradation and Restoration

II. Course Code : Soil 512

III. Credit Hours : 1+0

IV. Aim of the course

To impart knowledge related to various factors and processes of land degradation and their restoration techniques.

V. Theory

Unit I

Type, factors and processes of soil/land degradation and its impact on soil productivity including soil fauna, biodegradation and environment.

Unit II

Land restoration and conservation techniques-erosion control, reclamation of salt-affectedsoils; minelandreclamation, afforestation, organic products.

Unit III

Extent, diagnosis and mapping of land degradation by conventional and modern RS-GIS tools; monitoring land degradation by fast assessment, modern tools, land use policy, incentives and participatory approach for reversing land degradation; global issues for twenty first century.

VI. Teaching methods/activities

Classroom teaching with AV aids, group discussion, oral presentation by students.

VII. Learning outcome

Experience on restoration of degraded soil for optimization of crop yield.

VIII. Suggested Reading

- Biswas TD and Narayanasamy G. (Eds.). 1996. *Soil Management in Relation to Land Degradation and Environment*. Bull. Indian Soc. Soil Sci. 17, New Delhi.
- Doran JW and Jones AJ. 1996. *Methods of Assessing Soil Quality*. Soil Science Society of America, Madison.
- Greenland DJ and Szabolcs I. 1994. *Soil Resilience and Sustainable Land Use*. CABI.
- Lal R, Blum WEH, Vailentine C and Stewart BA. 1997. *Methods for Assessment of Soil Degradation*. CRC Press.
- Sehgal J and Abrol IP. 1994. *Soil Degradation in India - Status and Impact*. Oxford & IBH.

I. Course Title : Soil Survey and Land Use Planning

II. Course Code : Soil 513

III. Credit Hours : 2+0

IV. Aim of the course

To teach the better utilization of land for agricultural purposes, and better management of run-off or surplus/ excessive rain-water in the catchment area for agricultural purposes in a watershed.

V. Theory

Unit I

Soil survey and its types; soil survey techniques- conventional and modern; soil series–characterization and procedure for establishing soil series; benchmark soils and soil correlations; soil survey interpretations; thematic soil maps, cartography, mapping units, techniques for gene ration of soil maps, application of remote sensing and GIS in soil survey and mapping of major soil group of India

Unit II

Landform–soil relationship; major soil groups of India with special reference to respective states; land capability classification and land irrigability classification; land evaluation and land use type (LUT)–concept and application; approaches for managing soils and landscapes in the framework of agro-ecosystem.

Unit III

Concept and techniques of land use planning; factors governing present land use; Land evaluation method sand soil-site suitability evaluation for different crops; land capability classification and constraints in application.

Unit IV

Agro-ecological regions/sub-regions of India and their characteristics in relation to crop production. Status of LUP in India.

VI. Practical

- Aerial photo and satellite data interpretation for soil and land use
- Cartographic techniques for preparation of base maps and thematic maps, processing of field sheets, compilation and obstruction of maps in differentscales
- Land use planning exercises using conventional and RS tools

VII. Teaching methods/activities

Classroom teaching with AV aids, group discussion, field visit and exposure visit

VIII. Learning outcome

Planning for land use in proper way for higher crop productivity.

IX. Suggested Reading

- Boul SW, Hole ED, MacCraken RJ and Southard RJ. 1997. *Soil Genesis and Classification*. 4th Ed. Panima Publ.
- Brewer R. 1976. *Fabric and Mineral Analysis of Soils*. John Wiley & Sons.

I. Course Title : Introduction to Nanotechnology

II. Course Code : Soil 514

III. Credit Hours : 2+1

IV. Aim of the course

To impart basic knowledge about nanoscience, properties of nanoparticles and their applications in biology

V. Theory

Unit I

General introduction: Basics of quantum mechanics, harmonic oscillator, magnetic phenomena, band structure in solids, Mössbauer effect and spectroscopy, optical phenomena, bond in solids, an isotropy.

Unit II

Nanostructures: growth of compound semiconductors, super lattices, self-assembled quantum dots, nano-particles, nano tubes and nanowires, fullerenes (buckballs, graphene). Nanofabrication and nano-patterning: Optical, X-ray, and electron beam lithography, self-assembled organic layers, process of synthesis of nanopowders, electrode position, important nanomaterials.

Unit III

Mechanical properties, magnetic properties, electrical properties, electronic conduction with nanoparticles, investigating and manipulating materials in the nanoscale: Electron microscopy

Unit IV

Nano-biology: Interaction between biomolecules and nano-particle surface, different types of in organic materials used for the synthesis of hybrid nano-bioassemblies, application of nano-inagriculture, current status of nano-biotechnology, future perspectives of nano-biology, nano-sensors.

VI. Practical

- Sources of nanoparticles and its preparation by different approaches
- Electrospinning and its use in agriculture and allied sector.
- Equipments used in Nanotechnology: its principle and uses
- Acquaintances with different equipments used in nanotechnology.
- Synthesis and characterization of Ag and ZnO nanoparticles.
- Mode of action of ZnO nanoparticles against soil borne diseases
- Study on efficacy of ZnO nanoparticles as seed treating agent on plant growth parameters.

VII. Teaching methods/activities

Classroom teaching with AV aids, group discussion, oral presentation by students.

VIII. Learning outcome

Experience on the knowledge of nano science and their utility in research for solving field problem.

IX. Suggested Reading

- Balandin AA and Wang KL. 2006. *Handbook of semiconductor nano structures and nano devices*. California: American Scientific Publishers.
- Timp G. 1999. *Nanotechnology*. New York: Springer Verlag.
- Challa Kumar SSR. 2006. *Nanotechnologies for the life sciences*. Weinheim: Wiley-VCHGmbH.
- Kohler M and Frintzsche W. 2007. *Nanotechnology: Introduction to nanostructuring techniques* W Weinheim: Wiley-VCH Verlag GmbH.
- Kosal ME. 2009. *Nanotechnology for chemicao and biological defense*. Dordrecht: Stringer.

Course Title with Credit Load
Ph.D. in Soil Science

Course Code	Course Title	Credit Hours
Soil 601	Recent trends in soil physics	2+0
Soil 602	Modern concept in soil fertility	2+0
Soil 603*	Physical chemistry of soil	2+0
Soil 604*	Soil genesis and micromorphology	2+0
Soil 605	Bio-chemistry of soil organic matter	2+0
Soil 606	Soil resource management	3+0
Soil 607	Modelling of soil plant system	2+0
Soil 608	Clay Mineralogy	2+1
Soil 609	Recent trends in soil microbial biodiversity	2+1
Soil 691	Doctoral seminar	1+0
Soil 692	Doctoral seminar	1+0
Soil 699	Doctoral Research	-75

*Indicates Core Courses which are Compulsory for PhD Programme

Course Contents
Ph.D. in Soil Science

I. Course Title : Recent Trends in Soil Physics

II. Course Code : Soil 601

III. Credit Hours : 2+0

IV. Aim of the course

To provide knowledge of modern concept sin soil physics.

V. Theory

Unit I

Soil-water interactions, soil water potential, free energy and thermodynamic basis of potential concept, chemical potential of soil water and entropy of the system, soil-plant-atmospheric continuum (SPAC).

Unit II

Fundamentals of fluid flow, Poiseuilles law, Laplace's equation, Darcy's law in saturated and unsaturated flows; development of differential equations in saturated and unsaturated waterflow, capillary conductivity and diffusivity; limitations of Darcy's law; numerical solution for one dimensional waterflow.

Unit III

Theories of horizontal and vertical infiltration under different boundary conditions.

Unit IV

Movement of salts in soils, models formiscible-immiscible displacement, diffusion, mass flow and dispersion of solutes and their solutions through differential equations; break-through curves.

Unit V

Soil air and aeration, mass flow and diffusion processes; thermal properties of soil, heat transfer in soils, differential equation of heatflow, measurement of thermal conductivity of soil; Soil, Plant, Water relations- Plant uptake of soil moisture, Water balance and energy balance in the field; irrigation and water use efficiency.

Unit VI

Soil crust and clod formation; structural management of puddled rice soils; soil conditioning-concept, soils conditioners-types, characteristics, working principles, significance in agriculture.

Unit VII

Solar and terrestrial radiation measurement, dissipation and distribution in soil-crop systems; prediction of evapotranspiration using aerodynamic and canopy temperature-based models; canopy temperature and leaf diffusion resistance in relation to plant water deficit; evaluation of soil and plant water status using infra-red thermometer.

VI. Teaching methods/activities

Classroom teaching with AV aids, group discussion, oral presentation by students.

VII. Learning outcome

Experience on the knowledge of soil physical properties and processes in relation to plant growth.

VIII. Suggested Reading

- Baver LD, Gardner WH and Gardner WR. 1972. *Soil Physics*. John Wiley & Sons.
- Hanks and Ascheroft. 1980. *Applied Soil Physics*. Springer Verlag.
- Hillel D. 1980. *Applications of Soil Physics*. Academic Press.
- Hillel D. 1980. *Environmental Soil Physic*s. Academic Press.
- Indian Society of Soil Science 2002. *Fundamentals of Soil Science*. ISSS, New Delhi.
- Kirkham D and Powers WL. 1972. *Advanced Soil Physics*. Wiley Interscience.
- Lal R and Shukla MK. 2004. *Principles of Soil Physics*. Marcel Dekker.
- Oswal MC. 1994. *Soil Physics*. Oxford & IBH.

I. Course Title : Modern Concept in Soil Fertility

II. Course Code : Soil 602

III. Credit Hours : 2+0

IV. Aim of the course

To provide knowledge of modern concepts of soil fertility and nutrient use in crop production.

V. Theory

Unit I

Nutrient availability-concept and relationships, modern concepts of nutrient s availability; soil colloids and nutrient availability; soil amendments and availability maintenance of nutrients, soil solution and plant growth; nutrient response functions and availability indices.

Unit II

Nutrient movement in soils; nutrient absorption by plants; mechanistic approach to nutrient supply and uptake by plants; models for transformation and movement of major micronutrients in soils.

Unit III

Chemical equilibria (including solid-solution equilbria) involving nutrientions in soils, particularly in submerged soils; Kinetic studies of nutrients in soils.

Unit IV

Modern concepts of fertilizer evaluation, nutrient use efficiency and nutrient budgeting.

Unit V

Modernconcepts in fertilizer application; soil fertility evaluation techniques; role of soil tests in fertilizer use recommendations; site-specific nutrient management for precision agriculture.

Unit VI

Monitoring physical, chemical and biological changes in soils; permanent manurial

trials and long-term fertilizer experiments; soil productivity under long-term intensive cropping; direct, residual and cumulative effect of fertilizer use.

Unit VII

Carbon– a nutrient central to soil fertility; carbon cycle in nature, stocks, pools and fluxes; greenhouse effect and climate change; carbon sequestration vis-à-vis sustenance of soil quality and crop productivity.

VI. Teaching methods/activities

Classroom teaching with AV aids, group discussion, oral presentation by students.

VII. Learning outcome

Experience on the knowledge of soil fertility and fertilizers in relation to plant growth and development.

VIII. Suggested Reading

- Barber SA. 1995. *Soil Nutrient Bioavailability*. John Wiley & Sons.
- Barker V Allen and Pilbeam David J. 2007. *Handbook of Plant Nutrition*. CRC / Taylor & Francis.
- Brady NC and Weil RR. 2002. *The Nature and Properties of Soils*. 13th Ed. Pearson Educ.
- Cooke GW. 1979. *The Control of Soil Fertility*. Crossby Lockwood & Sons.
- Epstein E. 1987. *Mineral Nutrition of Plants - Principles and Perspectives*. International Potash Institute, Switzerland.
- Kabata- Pendias Alina 2001. *Trace Elements in Soils and Plants*. CRC / Taylor & Francis.
- Kannaiyan S, Kumar K and Govindarajan K. 2004. *Biofertilizers Technology*. Scientific Publ.
- Mortvedt JJ, Shuman LM, Cox FR and Welch RM. (Eds.). 1991. *Micronutrients in Agriculture*. 2nd Ed. Soil Science Society of America, Madison.
- Prasad R and Power JF. 1997. *Soil Fertility Management for Sustainable Agriculture*. CRC Press.
- Stevenson FJ and Cole MA. 1999. *Cycles of Soil: Carbon, Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Sulphur, Micronutrients*. John Wiley & Sons.
- Stevenson FJ. (Ed.). 1982. *Nitrogen in Agricultural Soils*. Soil Science Society of America, Madison.
- Tisdale SL, Nelson WL, Beaton JD and Havlin JL. 1990. *Soil Fertility and Fertilizers*. 5th Ed. Macmillan Publ.
- Wild A. (Ed.). 1988. *Russell's Soil Conditions and Plant Growth*. 11th Ed. Longman.

I. Course Title : Physical Chemistry of Soil

II. Course Code : Soil 603

III. Credit Hours : 2+0

IV. Aim of the course

To impart knowledge about modern concepts of physical chemistry of soils and clays, with emphasis on understanding the processes involved with practical significance.

V. Theory

Unit I

Colloidal chemistry of in organic and organic components of soils–their formation, clay organic interaction.

Unit II

Predictive approaches for cation exchange equilibria- thermodynamics, empirical

and diffuse double layer theory (DDL)- relationships among different selectivity coefficients; structure and properties of diffuse double layer.

Unit III

Thermodynamics of nutrient transformations in soils; Climate change effects on minerology and surface properties of variable charge; cationic and anionic exchange and their models, molecular interaction.

Unit IV

Adsorption/desorption isotherms-Langmuir adsorption isotherm, Freundlich adsorption isotherm, normalized exchange isotherm, BET equation; selective and non-selective adsorption of ions on in organic surfaces and organic surfaces of soil materials (citation of utility in agricultural system).

Unit V

Common solubility equilibria-carbonates, ironoxide and hydroxides, aluminum silicate, aluminum phosphate; electrochemical properties of clays (citation of examples from agricultural use).

VI. Teaching methods/activities

Classroom teaching with AV aids, group discussion, oral presentation by students.

VII. Learning outcome

Experience on the knowledge of soil chemical behaviour on research for solving field problems.

VIII. Suggested Reading

- Bear RE. 1964. *Chemistry of the Soil*. Oxford & IBH.
- Bolt GH and Bruggenwert MGM. 1978. *Soil Chemistry*. Elsevier.
- Fried M and Broeshart H. 1967. *Soil Plant System in Relation to Inorganic Nutrition*. Academic Press.
- Greenland DJ and Hayes MHB. 1981. *Chemistry of Soil Processes*. John Wiley & Sons.
- Greenland DJ and Hayes MHB. 1978. *Chemistry of Soil Constituents*. John Wiley & Sons.
- Jurinak JJ. 1978. *Chemistry of Aquatic Systems*. Department of Soil Science and Biometeorology, Utah State University
- McBride MB. 1994. *Environmental Chemistry of Soils*. Oxford University Press.
- Sparks DL. 1999. *Soil Physical Chemistry*. 2nd Ed. CRC Press.
- Sposito G. 1981. *The Thermodynamics of Soil Solutions*. Oxford University Press.
- Sposito G. 1984. *The Surface Chemistry of Soils*. Oxford University Press.
- Sposito G. 1989. *The Chemistry of Soils*. Oxford University Press.
- Stevenson FJ. 1994. *Humus Chemistry*. 2nd Ed. John Wiley.
- van Olphan H. 1977. *Introduction to Clay Colloid Chemistry*. John Wiley & Sons.

I. Course Title : Soil Genesis and Micromorphology

II. Course Code : Soil 604

III. Credit Hours : 2+0

IV. Aim of the course

To impart knowledge about the pedogenic processes in soils and to acquaint with the micro-pedological study of soil profile.

V. Theory

Unit I

Pedogenic evolution of soils; soil composition and characterization.

Unit II

Weathering and soil formation–factors and pedogenic processes; stability and weathering sequences of minerals.

Unit III

Assessment of soil profile development by mineralogical and chemical analysis.

Unit IV

Micro-pedological features of soils–their structure, fabric analysis, role in genesis and classification.

VI. Teaching methods/activities

Classroom teaching with AV aids, group discussion, oral presentation by students.

VII. Learning outcome

Experience on the knowledge of soil micro pedology and soil taxonomy on research for solving field problems.

VIII. Suggested Reading

- Brady NC and Weil RR. 2002. *The Nature and Properties of Soils*. 13th Ed. Pearson Edu.
- Buol EW, Hole ED, MacCracken RJ & Southard RJ. 1997. *Soil Genesis and Classification*. 4th Ed. Panima Publ.
- Dixon JB and Weed SB. 1989. *Minerals in Soil Environments*. 2nd Ed. Soil Science Society of America, Madison.
- Grim RE. 1968. *Clay Mineralogy*. McGraw Hill.
- Indian Society of Soil Science 2002. *Fundamentals of Soil Science*. ISSS, New Delhi.
- Sehgal J. 2002. *Introductory Pedology: Concepts and Applications*. New Delhi
- Sehgal J. 2002. *Pedology - Concepts and Applications*. Kalyani.
- USDA. 1999. *Soil Taxonomy*. Hand Book No. 436. 2nd Ed. USDA NRCS, Washington.
- Wade FA and Mattox RB. 1960. *Elements of Crystallography and Mineralogy*. Oxford & IBH.

I. Course Title : Biochemistry of Soil Organic Matter

II. Course Code : Soil 605

III. Credit Hours : 2+0

IV. Aim of the course

To impart knowledge related to chemistry and reactions of organic substances and their significance in soils.

V. Theory

Unit I

Organic matter in soils and its maintenance Role of organic matter in soil productivity; humus levels in soils; current thinking on the maintenance of organic matter in the soils. Carbon retention and sequestration.

Unit II

Biochemistry of the humus formation; different pathways for humus synthesis in soil; soil carbohydrates and lipids.

Unit III

Nutrient transformation–N, P, S; tracemetal interaction with humic substances, significance of chelation reactions in soils.

Unit IV

Reactive functional groups of humic substances, adsorption of organic compounds by clay and role of organic substances in pedogenic soil aggregation processes; clay-organic matter complexes.

Unit V

Humus-pesticide interactions in soil, mechanisms.

VI. Teaching methods/activities

Classroom teaching with AV aids, group discussion, oral presentation by students.

VII. Learning outcome

Experience on the knowledge of soil biochemistry on research for solving field problems.

VIII. Reading Materials

- Lynch JM, Willey JM. *Soil Biotechnology*.
- Paul EA and Clark FE. *Soil Microbiology and Biochemistry*
- Sherwood LM and Woolverton CJ. *Prescott's Microbiology*.
- Subba Rao NS. *Advances In Agricultural Microbiology*

I. Course Title : Soil Resource Management

II. Course Code : Soil 606

III. Credit Hours : 3+0

IV. Aim of the course

To impart the students basic holistic knowledge on soil resource and latest developments in its sustainable use.

Unit I

Relevance of soil management to sustainable agriculture; soil as a natural resource for biomass production, filtering, buffering, transportation of solutes, genereserves, and geogenic source of raw materials; soil as a source and sink of greenhouse gases.

Unit II

Concept of sustainable land management (SLM); spatial variability of soils; soil quality and food security; soil quality indices, conservation agriculture in relation to soil quality; soil resilience and resistance.

Unit III

Types, factors and causes of land degradation and desertification; GLASOD classification; application of GIS and remote sensing in monitoring, diagnosis and mapping land degradation; history, distribution, identification and description of soil erosion problems in India; forms of soil erosion; impact of soil erosion-on-site and off-site effects; strategies for erosion control and conservation; soil conservation in hilly, arid, semiarid, coastal and diaralands. Management of forest, peat and muck soils.

Unit IV

Soil conservation planning; land capability classification; soil conservation in special problem are as such as hilly, arid and semi-arid regions, waterlogged and wetlands; land restoration and conservation techniques–erosion control, reclamation of salt

affected soils; mine land reclamation, afforestation, organic products, soil fauna and biodegradation.

Unit V

Watershed management-concept, objectives and approach; water harvesting and recycling; flood control in watershed management; socio-economic aspects of watershed management; case studies in respect to monitoring and evaluation of watersheds.

Unit VI

Agro-ecological regions of India; potentials and constraints of soils of different regions; land evaluation and rationalizing land use, decision support system with relation to land management; national and international soil policy considerations.

V. Teaching methods/activities

Classroom teaching with AV aids, group discussion, oral presentation by students.

VI. Learning outcome

Experience on the knowledge of soil resources on research for solving field problems.

VII. Suggested Reading

- Abrol IP and Dhruvanarayana VV. 1990. *Technology for Wasteland Development*. ICAR, New Delhi.
- Andriesse JP. 1988. *Nature and Management of Tropical Peat Soils*, Soil Resources, FAO Soils Bulletin 59, Management and Conservation Service, Land and Water Development Division, FAO, Rome
- Blackwell, Dent D and Young A. 1981. *Soil Survey and Land Evaluation*. George Allen and Unwin, London.
- Burrough A and McDonnell RK. 1998.*Principles of Geographical Information System*. Oxford University Press.
- Dan Binkley D and Fisher R. 2012. *Ecology and Management of Forest Soils*,4th Edition, Wiley.
- FAO. 1996. *Land Quality Indicators and their Use in Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development*. FAO Land and Water Bulletin.5. FAO, Rome.
- Faroq M and Siddique K. (Ed.). 2015. *Conservation Agriculture*, Springer Nature, Chennai, India.
- FESL. 1993. *An International Framework for Evaluating Sustainable Land Management, FAO World Soil Resources Report No. 73*, Land Development Division, FAO, Rome.
- ISSS. 1994. *Management of Land and Water Resources for Sustainable Agriculture and Environment*. Diamond Jubilee Symposium Publication, Indian Society of Soil Science, New Delhi.
- Lal R, Blum WEH, Valentine C and Stewart BA. (Editors). 1988. *Methods for Assessment of Soil Degradation*. CRC Press, Boca Raton.
- Mulders MA. 1987. *Remote Sensing in Soil Science*. Elsevier Science Publishers, Amsterdam.
- Sehgal J. 2014. *A Text Book of Pedology Concepts and Application*. Kalyani publishers, New Delhi.
- SSSA 1996. *Methods for Assessing Soil Quality*. SSSA Publication Number 49, Madison, Wisconsin, USA.

I. Course Title : Modelling of Soil Plant System

II. Course Code : Soil 607

III. Credit Hours : 2+0

IV. Aim of the course

To train the students in concepts, methodology, technology and use of systems

simulation in soil and crop studies

V. Theory

Unit I

Introduction, terms and definitions; classification of models; Taylor series; numerical methods of differentiation and integration.

Unit II

High level computer language: FORTRAN-its commands and usage; testing and evaluation of model.

Unit III

Description of spatially homogeneous models; K transformation model; nitrogen and phosphorus dynamics in soil.

Unit IV

Spatially heterogeneous models; equation of continuity; Simulation of water flow through soil; Explicit and Explicit-Implicit method; simulation of solute movement through soil with variable moisture flux by explicit-implicit method.

Unit V

Nutrient uptake model: Integration of nutrient movement in soil (mass flow and diffusion) and uptake by plants (Michaelis-Menten kinetics); Nutrient uptake model: Solubility and free ion activity model.

IV. Teaching methods/activities

Classroom teaching with AV aids, group discussion, oral presentation by students.

VII. Learning outcome

Experience on soil modelling concept for forecasting productivity

VIII. Suggested Reading

- Datta SC. 2008. *Theory and Principles of Simulation Modeling in Soil-Plant System*. Capital Publishing Company, New Delhi.
- Frame J and Thornley JHM. 1984. *Mathematical Models in Agriculture—A Quantitative approach to problems in agriculture and related science*. Butterworth and Co. Ltd.
- Freud PJ and Minton PD. 1979. *Regression Methods—A tool for data Analysis*. Marcel Dekker Inc., New York.
- Frissel MJ and Reinger P. 1974. *Simulation of Accumulation and Leaching in Sils*. Oxford and IBM Pub. Co., New Delhi.
- Hanks J and Richie JT. (Eds.). 1991. *Modeling Plant and Soil System*. Agronomy Bulletin No. 31, ASA, SSSA Madison, Wisconsin, USA.
- Lipschutz S and Poe A. 1978. *Schaum's Outline Series–Theory and Problems of programming with Fortran*. McGraw-Hill Book Co., Singapore.
- Penning de Vries FWT, Jansen DM, Ten Berge HFM and Baker A. 1989. *Simulation of ecophysiological processes of growth in several annual crops*. PUDOC, Wageningen.
- Shaffer MJ, Ma L and Hansen S. 2001. *Modeling Carbon and Nitrogen Dynamics for Soil Management*. Lewis Publishers, Boca Raton.

I. Course Title : Clay Mineralogy

II. Course Code : Soil 608

III. Credit Hours : 2+1

IV. Theory

Unit I

Definition and concepts of clays and clay minerals, Fundamentals of crystallography – unit cell, external characteristics of crystals, crystallographic notations, crystal systems.

Unit II

Structures and classification of silicate minerals, basics of phyllosilicates, laws governing structural characteristics of phyllosilicates, Goldschmitdt's laws – Laws I and Law II, Classification of Phyllosilicates.

Unit III

Kaolonite group of minerals, Dioctahedral kaolins and Trioctahedral kaolins.

Unit IV

Smectites; properties of smectites, Reference models of structure, principal types based on Hofmann-Marshal-Hendricks (H-M-H) models, occurrence of smectites, transformation and formation in soils.

Unit V

Micas: occurrence and origin in soils, polytypes of micas, structure and formation of muscovites and illite.

Unit VI

Vermicullites: structure, occurrence in soils, formation, relation between vermiculites and montmorillonite.

Unit VII

Chlorite: occurrence and structure of chlorites, "swelling chlorites", formation of chlorite.

Unit VIII

Non-crystalline clays (amorphous materials), subgroups and chemical composition, morphology and structure, physico-chemical properties, influence of non-crystalline clays on soil properties.

Unit IX

Interstratified clay minerals, occurrence and formation in soils, regularly interstratified and partially random interstratified minerals.

Unit X

Genesis and transformation of clay minerals, Generalized conditions for formation and persistence of common clay-size minerals in soils.

Unit XI

Surface chemistry of clay minerals, clay-organic complexes, nanoclay mineralogy.

Unit XII

Clay minerals in different soil orders, role of clay minerals in soil fertility management.

V. Practicals

- Separation of clay for mineralogical study
- X-ray diffraction analysis of clay
- Selective dissolution of clay minerals
- IR, DTA and SEM of clay minerals
- Identification and quantification of clay minerals
- Determination of surface charge of clay minerals
- Potentiometric titration of clay minerals.

VI. Teaching methods/activities

Classroom teaching with AV aids, group discussion, oral presentation by students.

VII. Learning outcome

Experience on soil clays and utility in soil research.

VIII. Suggested Reading

- Dixon JB and Weed SB (Co-editors). *Minerals in Soil Environment.*
- Gieseking JE (Ed). *Soil Component*, Vol. 2. Inorganic Components.
- Grim RE. *Clay Mineralogy*.
- Mukherjee SK and Biswas TD (Editors). *Mineralogy of Soil Clays and Clay Minerals.*
- Read HH. *Rutley's Elements of Mineralogy.*
- Wilding LP and Smeck NE. 1983. *Pedogenesis and Soil Taxonomy Part II – Soil Orders.*

I. Course Title : Recent Trends in Soil Microbial Biodiversity

II. Course Code : Soil 609

III. Credit Hours : 2+1

IV. Theory

Unit I

Microbial evaluation and biodiversity, Microbial communities in ecosystems, New insights in below ground diverse of plant performance.

Unit II

Qualitative ecology of microorganisms; Biomass and activities.

Unit III

Nitrogen fixing organisms, Trends in diversity of N fixing organisms. Molecular approaches in characterising N fixing microorganisms.

Unit IV

Serology and molecular characterization, ecological aspects of bio determination, soil waste and water management

Unit V

Biodegradability, testing and monitoring of the bioremediation of xerobiotic pollutants and bacterial fertilizers.

V. Practicals

- Determination of soil microbes using classical techniques.
- Determination of soil microbial diversity using molecular techniques.
- Estimation of soil microbial biomass carbon, nitrogen and phosphorus.
- Estimation of key soil enzyme activities.
- Community level physiological profiling of microbial diversity.

VI. Teaching methods/ activities

Classroom teaching with AV aids, group discussion, field visit

VII. Learning outcome

Experience on soil microbial diversity and planning for proper utilization.

VIII. Suggested Reading

- Lynch JM, Willey JM. *Soil Biotechnology*.
- Paul EA and Clark FE. *Soil Microbiology and Biochemistry*.
- Sherwood LM and Woolverton CJ. *Prescott's Microbiology*.
- Subba Rao NS. *Advances In Agricultural Microbiology*.

I. Course Title : Research and Publication Ethics

II. Course Code : Soil 610

III. Credit Hours : 2+0

IV. Theory

Unit I

Introduction to philosophy: definition, nature and scope, concept, branches

Unit II

Ethics: definition, moral philosophy, nature of moral judgements and reactions

Unit III

Scientific conduct: Ethics with respect to science and research, intellectual honesty and research integrity, Scientific misconducts- falsifications, fabrications and plagiarism (FFP): Redundant publications: duplicate and overlapping publications, salami slicing; selective reporting and misrepresentation of data

Unit IV

Publication ethics: Defination, introduction and importance. Best practices/standard setting initiatives and guidelines: COPE, WAME, *etc*., conflicts of interest. Publication misconduct: definition, concept, problems that lead to unethical behaviour and vice versa, type, violation of publication ethics, authorship and contributorship, Identification of publication misconduct, complaints and appeals, predatory publishers and journals

Unit V

Open access publishing: open access publication and initiatives: SHERPA, RoMEO online resource to check publisher copy right and self archiving policies; software tool to identify predatory publications developed by SPPU, Journal finder/journal suggestions tools, viz., JANE, Elsevier Journal Finder, Springer Journal Suggester etc.

Unit VI

Publication misconduct: Group discussions- subject specific ethical issues, FFP, authorship, conflicts of interest, complaints and appeals examples and fraud from India and abroad. Software tools: Use of plagiarism software like Turnitin, Urkund and other open source software tools

Unit VII

Database and Research metrics: Indexing data base, citation database, web of

science, scopus, *etc*. Impact factor of journal as per journal citation report, SNIP, SJR, IPP, Cite Score; Metrics: h-index, g index, i10 index altmetrics

V. Teaching methods/activities

Classroom teaching with AV aids, group discussion, field, laboratory and library visit

VI. Learning outcome

Quality research output and outstanding research publication with excellent impact factor.

Supporting Courses

The following courses are being offered by various disciplines (The list is only indicative). Based on the requirement, any of the following courses may be opted under the supporting courses. The syllabi of these courses are available in the respective disciplines. If required, the contents may be modified to suit the individual discipline with approval of the concerned BoS:

Code	Course Title	Credit Hours
STAT 501	Mathematics for Applied Sciences	2+0
STAT 502	Statistical Methods for Applied Sciences	3+1

Course Code	Course Title	Credit Hours
STAT 511	Experimental Designs	2+1
STAT 512	Basic Sampling Techniques	2+1
STAT 521	Applied Regression Analysis	2+1
STAT 522	Data Analysis Using Statistical Packages	2+1
MCA 501	Computers Fundamentals and Programming	2+1
MCA 502	Computer Organization and Architecture	2+0
MCA 511	Introduction to Communication Technologies, Computer Networking and Internet	1+1
MCA 512	Information Technology in Agriculture	1+1
BIOCHEM 501	Basic Biochemistry	3+1
BIOCHEM 505	Techniques in Biochemistry	2+2

2.3 Syllabus of Common Courses for PG programmes

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES (0+1)

Objective

To equip the library users with skills to trace information from libraries efficiently, to apprise them of information and knowledge resources, to carry out literature survey, to formulate information search strategies, and to use modern tools (Internet, OPAC, search engines, etc.) of information search.

Practical

Introduction to library and its services; Role of libraries in education, research and technology transfer; Classification systems and organization of library; Sources of information- Primary Sources, Secondary Sources and Tertiary Sources; Intricacies of abstracting and indexing services (Science Citation Index, Biological Abstracts, Chemical Abstracts, CABI Abstracts, etc.); Tracing information from reference sources; Literature survey; Citation techniques/ Preparation of bibliography; Use of CD-ROM Databases, Online Public Access Catalogue and other computerized library services; Use of Internet including search engines and its resources; e-resources access methods.

TECHNICAL WRITING AND COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS (0+1)

Objective

To equip the students/ scholars with skills to write dissertations, research papers, etc. To equip the students/ scholars with skills to communicate and articulate in English (verbal as well as writing).

Practical (Technical Writing)

- Various forms of scientific writings- theses, technical papers, reviews, manuals, etc.;
- Various parts of thesis and research communications (title page, authorship contents page, preface, introduction, review of literature, material and methods, experimental results and discussion);
- Writing of abstracts, summaries, précis, citations, etc.;

- Commonly used abbreviations in the theses and research communications;
- Illustrations, photographs and drawings with suitable captions; pagination, numbering of tables and illustrations;
- Writing of numbers and dates in scientific write-ups;
- Editing and proof-reading;
- Writing of a review article;
- Communication Skills - Grammar (Tenses, parts of speech, clauses, punctuation marks);
- Error analysis (Common errors), Concord, Collocation, Phonetic symbols and transcription;
- Accentual pattern: Weak forms in connected speech;
- Participation in group discussion;
- Facing an interview;
- Presentation of scientific papers.

Suggested Readings

1. Barnes and Noble. Robert C. (Ed.). 2005. *Spoken English: Flourish Your Language*.
2. *Chicago Manual of Style*. 14th Ed. 1996. Prentice Hall of India.
3. *Collins' Cobuild English Dictionary*. 1995.
4. Harper Collins. Gordon HM and Walter JA. 1970. *Technical Writing*. 3rd Ed.
5. Holt, Rinehart and Winston. Hornby AS. 2000. *Comp. Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*. 6th Ed. Oxford University Press.
6. James HS. 1994. *Handbook for Technical Writing*. NTC Business Books.
7. Joseph G. 2000. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 5th Ed. Affiliated East-West Press.
8. Mohan K. 2005. *Speaking English Effectively*. MacMillan India.
9. Richard WS. 1969. *Technical Writing*.
10. Sethi J and Dhamija PV. 2004. *Course in Phonetics and Spoken English*. 2nd Ed. Prentice Hall of India.
11. Wren PC and Martin H. 2006. *High School English Grammar and Composition*. S. Chand & Co.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND ITS MANAGEMENT IN AGRICULTURE (1+0)

Objective

The main objective of this course is to equip students and stakeholders with knowledge of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) related protection systems, their significance and use of IPR as a tool for wealth and value creation in a knowledge-based economy.

Theory

Historical perspectives and need for the introduction of Intellectual Property Right regime; TRIPs and various provisions in TRIPS Agreement; Intellectual Property and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), benefits of securing IPRs; Indian Legislations for the protection of various types of Intellectual Properties; Fundamentals of patents, copyrights, geographical indications, designs and layout, trade secrets and traditional knowledge, trademarks, protection of plant varieties and farmers' rights and biodiversity protection; Protectable subject matters, protection in biotechnology, protection of other biological materials, ownership and period of protection; National

Biodiversity protection initiatives; Convention on Biological Diversity; International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; Licensing of technologies, Material transfer agreements, Research collaboration Agreement, License Agreement.

Suggested Readings

1. Erbisch FH and Maredia K.1998. *Intellectual Property Rights in Agricultural Biotechnology*. CABI.
2. Ganguli P. 2001. *Intellectual Property Rights: Unleashing Knowledge Economy*. McGraw-Hill.
3. *Intellectual Property Rights: Key to New Wealth Generation*. 2001. NRDC and Aesthetic Technologies.
4. Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. 2004. *State of Indian Farmer*. Vol. V. Technology Generation and IPR Issues. Academic Foundation.
5. Rothschild M and Scott N. (Ed.). 2003. *Intellectual Property Rights in Animal Breeding and Genetics*. CABI.
6. Saha R. (Ed.). 2006. *Intellectual Property Rights in NAM and Other Developing Countries: A Compendium on Law and Policies*. Daya Publ. House.

The Indian Acts - Patents Act, 1970 and amendments; Design Act, 2000; Trademarks Act, 1999; The Copyright Act, 1957 and amendments; Layout Design Act, 2000; PPV and FR Act 2001, and Rules 2003; The Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

BASIC CONCEPTS IN LABORATORY TECHNIQUES (0+1)

Objective

To acquaint the students about the basics of commonly used techniques in laboratory.

Practical

- Safety measures while in Lab;
- Handling of chemical substances;
- Use of burettes, pipettes, measuring cylinders, flasks, separatory funnel, condensers, micropipettes and vaccupets;
- Washing, drying and sterilization of glassware;
- Drying of solvents/ chemicals;
- Weighing and preparation of solutions of different strengths and their dilution;
- Handling techniques of solutions;
- Preparation of different agro-chemical doses in field and pot applications;
- Preparation of solutions of acids;
- Neutralisation of acid and bases;
- Preparation of buffers of different strengths and pH values;
- Use and handling of microscope, laminar flow, vacuum pumps, viscometer, thermometer, magnetic stirrer, micro-ovens, incubators, sandbath, waterbath, oilbath;
- Electric wiring and earthing;
- Preparation of media and methods of sterilization;
- Seed viability testing, testing of pollen viability;
- Tissue culture of crop plants;
- Description of flowering plants in botanical terms in relation to taxonomy.

Suggested Readings

1. Furr AK. 2000. *CRC Hand Book of Laboratory Safety*. CRC Press.

2. Gabb MH and Latchem WE. 1968. *A Handbook of Laboratory Solutions*. Chemical Publ. Co.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, RESEARCH ETHICS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES (1+0)

Objective

To enlighten the students about the organization and functioning of agricultural research systems at national and international levels, research ethics, and rural development programmes and policies of Government.

Theory

UNIT I History of agriculture in brief; Global agricultural research system: need, scope, opportunities; Role in promoting food security, reducing poverty and protecting the environment; National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) and Regional Agricultural Research Institutions; Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR): International Agricultural Research Centres (IARC), partnership with NARS, role as a partner in the global agricultural research system, strengthening capacities at national and regional levels; International fellowships for scientific mobility.

UNIT II Research ethics: research integrity, research safety in laboratories, welfare of animals used in research, computer ethics, standards and problems in research ethics.

UNIT III Concept and connotations of rural development, rural development policies and strategies. Rural development programmes: Community Development Programme, Intensive Agricultural District Programme, Special group – Area Specific Programme, Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) Panchayati Raj Institutions, Co-operatives, Voluntary Agencies/ Non-Governmental Organisations. Critical evaluation of rural development policies and programmes. Constraints in implementation of rural policies and programmes.

Suggested Readings

1. Bhalla GS and Singh G. 2001. *Indian Agriculture - Four Decades of Development*. Sage Publ.
2. Punia MS. *Manual on International Research and Research Ethics*. CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar.
3. Rao BSV. 2007. *Rural Development Strategies and Role of Institutions - Issues, Innovations and Initiatives*. Mittal Publ.
4. Singh K. 1998. *Rural Development - Principles, Policies and Management*. Sage Publ.

2.4 Mandatory requirement of seminars

- It has been agreed to have mandatory seminars one in Masters (One Credit) and two in Doctoral programmes (two Credits).
- The students should be encouraged to make presentations on the latestdevelopments and literature in the area of research topic. This will provide training to the students on preparation for seminar, organizing the work, critical analysis of data and presentation skills.