


micaceous minerals that attribute high K supplying capacity to these soils. However, there is a threshold value of K depletion a soil could support, beyond which any further depletion would cause irreversible loss of K fertility levels, a major soil quality parameter. This may adversely affect the productivity of these soils.

Summary

Our study highlighted negative K_2O balances in many Indian states, which increased in 2011 compared to 2007. Therefore, adequate and balanced application of K is required to reverse the trend of K depletion in Indian soils. Potassium application needs to be based on assessed indigenous K supplying capacity, that varies spatially and temporally, and the K requirement for achieving specific yield targets of a particular crop. This will ensure sustained crop productivity and maintenance of soil health. 

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