

## Secondary and Micronutrients are Important

Welcome to the 11<sup>th</sup> issue of *Better Crops-South Asia*, focused on the management of secondary and micronutrients in enhancing the productivity and quality of crops. Secondary and micronutrients are common missing elements in crop fertilization programs across South Asia. This is notwithstanding the fact that their inclusion is critical to improve crop productivity and quality, and to enhance the nutrient use efficiencies of the major nutrients. These essential plant nutrients have significant human health benefits associated with their adequate intakes. Improved awareness and better appreciation of their role in the food system and in the broader context of population health would benefit the society.

**IPNI is in transition.** The International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI), erstwhile Potash & Phosphate Institute of Canada-India Programme (PPIC-IP), started its operation in India in 1989. Since then, the Institute has remained steadfast in its commitment to appropriate management of plant nutrients through research and education for achieving food security and economic development in an environmentally sustainable manner. We have invested strongly in research, education and extension of improved plant nutrition over the last 30 years through our engagement with the SAUs and the ICAR Institutions, State Departments of Agriculture, the CGIAR and other International organizations, the Fertilizer Industry, other Non-Governmental Organizations, and most importantly with the farmers.

Recently, the Board of Directors of IPNI has decided to merge IPNI and transfer its operations to The Fertilizer Institute (TFI), Fertilizer Canada, and the International Fertilizer Association (IFA). This essentially means that IPNI will cease to exist as an independent organization by mid-2019. This would end our engagement in India and elsewhere in South Asia that produced tangible and impactful outputs and outcomes. I am sure our collaborators in the region would agree that together we have brought in transformational changes in how plant nutrition is discussed and implemented in South Asia. There are several examples, but I think popularizing the concept of site-specific nutrient management through research and education, and developing the Nutrient Expert<sup>®</sup> fertilizer decision support tools for on-farm implementation of SSNM are two bright ones. We have a long way to go in the plant nutrient management space to ensure safe, accessible and abundant nutritious food for the population, that is responsibly produced without harming the environment. And we believe that innovations in plant nutrition research and outreach will continue in South Asia to ensure that.

It has been a remarkable journey for us which would not have been possible without the active support of our peers. We convey our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to our partners and collaborators who have been part of this journey to support our mission of promoting scientific information for the responsible management of plant nutrition for the benefit of the human family.

**BetterCrops**  
South Asia

International Plant Nutrition Institute  
5500 Triangle Parkway, Suite 300  
Peachtree Corners, Georgia 30092-6515  
[www.ipni.net](http://www.ipni.net)

*Kaushik Majumdar*

Kaushik Majumdar  
IPNI Vice President, Asia & Africa Group