



restoring degraded/desertified soils and ecosystems. If the traditional “Green Revolution” concept is valid for these regions, it will have to be realized through improvements in soil quality and sustainable management of soil and water resources in conjunction with the adoption of improved cultivars grown within ecologically compatible cropping/farming systems. Soil water management, expansion of irrigated land area, use of drip subsurface irrigation, and use of slow-release formulations of a new generation of fertilizers are among the key elements of such a strategy. Soil scientists must take the lead in winning the sacred battle of providing food for all and making “food as the basic human right” as their motto.

### **A Tortoise on the Fence Post**

If one comes across as a tortoise sitting on top of a fence post, seemingly enjoying the limelight and the view from the vantage position, it does not take a rocket scientist to figure out that it did not get to such a privileged position on its own. It must have been the thoughtfulness of the entire community (membership of SSSA) that not only raised it to this position but also provided an unconditional support throughout the duration of its stay on such a unique and privileged status. The panoramic view from the top of the fence post was also made pleasantly memorable by the dedication, commitment, and high professionalism of those who provided the best support on a day-to-day basis (the entire headquarters staff of the Societies).

While looking back to peer into the future, it is important to thank everyone for the unique privilege, the great honor, and the opportunity of a lifetime. While remembering the slogan “In Soil We Trust,” I remind you all of the sacred mission of “Food as the Basic Human Right” and “Improved Environment for Generations to Come.”

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