EDITORIAL

Sustainable Land Management (SLM) refers to practices and technologies that aim to integrate the management of land, water and other environmental resources to meet human needs while ensuring long-term sustainability, ecosystem services, biodiversity and livelihoods. The productivity and sustainability of a land-use system are determined by the interaction among land resources, climate and human activities. Implementing Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices are essential for minimizing land degradation, rehabilitating degraded land and ensuring the sustainable use of land resources.

In terms of neutrality, the Land degradation neutrality (LDN) concept aims to achieve a balance between expected new land degradation and future efforts to improve degraded land through land restoration and sustainable management of land. LDN is a unique approach that counterbalances the expected loss of productive land with the recovery of degraded lands. It strategically takes into account the measures to conserve, sustainably manage and restore land in the context of land use planning. Knowledge sharing, technology transfer, capacity-building and enabling financial mechanisms can strengthen adaptation and mitigation in the land sector under a changing climate.

In view of the above facts, the Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management, which has been established at the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun has supported the Indian Forester, to bring this special issue and helped financially as well as by contributing research and review articles covering different facets of land degradation neutrality and land management practices.

The present special issue on *"Sustainable Land Management Practices to Prevent Land Degradation"'* is an effort to highlight some of the issues of land degradation and its Management practices. I hope that the articles in this special issue would be useful to the readers and stakeholders in understanding the issue and all its related dimensions.

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Editor