

Paper Number: 2702

Soil: an indispensable component of Nepalese Culture

Vista, S.P.¹



¹Affiliation, Soil Science Division, Nepal Agricultural Research Council, Khumaltar, Lalitpur, Nepal,
prasadvista@rediffmail.com

Nepalese people consider soil as a precious gift of nature, at the same time one of the essential components forming the human body. Nepal is rich in soil and ethno-cultural diversity. It has different types of soils with varying properties located in different agro ecological zones and altitude ranging from 60 to above 5500 metres above the mean sea level. To preserve soil properties, Nepalese culture has been promoting with diversified cultural obligations from time immemorial. Its importance has been clearly mentioned in Veda too. Soil Conservation practices, quality improvement and sustenance are culturally bonded and in recent era those practices has been coming up as technologies. Soil erosion measures have been tied up with decorating home with red soils that restrict soil losses due to rainfall. Various ethnic communities of Nepal have faith and beliefs in conserving and utilizing soil in cultural rituals. This paper highlights and discusses some of the prominent geoethical values currently practiced in Nepal as cultural norms. Most of the cultures that follow Hinduism accept soil as an indispensable cultural component in Nepal.

