

From

**Dr. Amitava Rakshit** *PhD (IIT-KGP)*

*FSES, FTWAS.Nxt (Italy), FBiovision.Nxt (France), FCWSS, FSBSRD*

Department of Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry

Institute of Agricultural Science, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi-221005, INDIA

**E-mail:** amitavabhu@gmail.com

**Voice:** 05422-6701604 (O), +91-9450346890 (M), **Fax:** +91-542-2368465

## EDITORIAL

From the beginning of last year onward a looming threat is perceived to agricultural livelihoods and food security. There is a high time to scrutinize the challenges facing farmers and entrepreneurs and presents realistic solutions to conquer them. The first thing we need to understand is underinvestment on farms threatens harvests, food security, and livelihoods very badly. At the ground, out of the whole chunk, many countered to the economic challenges and uncertainties of the pandemic by cutting back on their investments in their farms. The reduction in the amount spent on seedlings, fertilizer, and other inputs has had profound impacts on agricultural productivity. These risks actually trapped farmers in a cycle of smaller harvests, lower earnings, and reduced investment. The other important issue which was felt is small businesses face a continued credit crunch. Majority of the entrepreneurs reported disruptions to their access to finance. Although many entrepreneurs have seen significant enhancement in their entrée to markets and supplies since the worst of the crisis, they continue to struggle to find the cash they need to run their businesses or make desired investments. And in the process digital technology is playing a key positive role in efficiently disbursing loans and grants to entrepreneurs. With this backdrop of last year's experience, this time we need to focus on issues like expanding access to digital infrastructure and tools, improving resilience to economic shocks and intensifying agricultural supply chains and improvement of small business adaptability.

Sincerely



**Amitava Rakshit, PhD**

Institute of Agricultural Sciences, BHU, Varanasi, India