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Soil Anthropization



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Preface

Soil is one of the primary resources available to humans. The use of this resource must not cause its deterioration (degradation) or destruction because the existence of humanity depends on maintaining its continuous production capacity. Recognising the paramount importance of land for human life and prosperity, states' economic independence, and increasing food production requires any prudent government to promote optimal land use, maintain fertility, and non-productive capabilities and comprehensive protection.

The interactive university textbook "Soil Anthropization" aims to provide students with basic knowledge about the impact of man on the soil pointing out the positive, but first and foremost, the negative impacts on the soil that cause its degradation. The individual types of soil degradation are organised in chapters as causes, consequences, preventive measures, and ways to restore the quality and health of degraded soil. Due to the wide multidisciplinary connection and the relatively large scope of the textbook, we tried to facilitate the study by presenting the subchapters, which are more broadly characterised by individual causes/consequences/measures of soil degradation and restoration, in clear points. Furthermore, in the text, we have highlighted the main terms, sentences, contexts to such an extent that if readers study only these sections, they will understand the basic concepts and the content of chapters. At the end of each one, they can test their knowledge by answering the study questions or calculating sample examples according to the instructions found in the chapters. The textbook is interactive, and it offers many links to various exciting websites, maps, and videos.

The principal goal of this textbook is to emphasise the significance of sustainable land use and protection as one of the most important natural resources that need to be cared for and valued. Its focus complements the basic knowledge acquired in the study of pedology and geology. The text presents current issues of anthropising agricultural and forest soils and the "man-made" transformation of natural ecosystems into urban. Aspects of modern soil assessment will be encountered more and more often in practice, and we hope that our textbook will help students in their overall orientation in the development and characteristics of current soils. Moreover, the knowledge gained from this textbook will also encourage them to take a comprehensive view on the development and characteristics of current soils and a worldwide perspective on the future development of society and natural resources.



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