

# Sulfur: A Missing Link between Soils, Crops, and Nutrition

Joseph Jez, Editor

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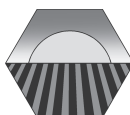
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# Foreword

The American Society of Agronomy, the Crop Science Society of America, and the Soil Science Society of America are pleased to publish this interesting, comprehensive, and very timely treatise on the role of sulfur in plant nutrition. In addition to the comprehensive coverage that readers of our monographs have come to expect, this volume includes a link to human health, which is increasingly critical given the many nutritional problems facing the world today.

As pointed out by the editor, Dr. Joseph Jez, sulfur is an essential mineral nutrient that is often overshadowed by nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. This book provides a current snapshot of the relationships between sulfur and nutrition of crops, animals, and humans. It brings a unique perspective of the interrelationships between sulfur and the dietary needs of animals and humans.

The Societies certainly appreciate the efforts of Dr. Joseph Jez, who chose an outstanding group of authors, and who skillfully and carefully guided the development of the book. We anticipate this excellent work will be a highly valued resource in the scientific community.

Kenneth Moore, President of the American Society of Agronomy

William Wiebold, President of the Crop Science Society of America

Gary A. Peterson, President of the Soil Science Society of America

# Preface

Sulfur is an essential mineral nutrient, although it is often overshadowed by nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. Because of its central role in soil condition, plant growth, and nutrition, understanding how plants utilize sulfur is critical for optimizing crop yield and quality. Moreover, sulfur incorporated into methionine and cysteine in plants directly impacts the nutritional value of human food and livestock feeds. The goal of this book is to provide an overview of sulfur's importance as a link between soil, plants, and nutrition by bringing together a group of authors with backgrounds that span from the molecular level to the field. The following chapters cover how sulfur cycles in the environment, the requirements for this element in soil and plants, the metabolism of sulfur compounds in plants, the importance of sulfur in specific crops, and the role sulfur plays in livestock and human health. As editor, I would like to thank all of the authors who made this book possible and the administrative help of Marti Shafer.

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