Nutrient Expert [continued from p. 25]

Another beauty of the tool is that it takes care of the resource availability of the farmers and allows them to decide their own yield target. This is a very unique feature that is missing in most nutrient recommendation processes but is vital for variable-resource-endowed farmers of South Asia. Validation trials and other studies have clearly highlighted the superiority of Nutrient Expert based recommendations over existing practices in terms of yield and profitability (Kumar et al., 2012; Satyanarayana et al., 2012), as well as for mitigation of greenhouse gases emitted from agricultural fields (Sapkota et al., 2013).

Nutrient Expert development and validation in South Asia was a collaborative effort among IPNI, the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), Research Institutes under the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR), state agricultural universities, the fertilizer industry, and many more stakeholders who are working towards balanced fertilization and crop productivity and profitability enhancement. After three years (2010–2013) of rigorous validation and modifications, the Nutrient Expert was successfully launched in June of last year for free public use.

References

