STATE SOIL SCIENTISTS have contributed much information during the past 50 years that has been useful in solving many soil and water conservation problems. Results of these research studies may be found in several hundred experiment station bulletins and technical publications. It would require more time than is available to review many of these publications. Consequently, a brief report on early research and recent studies that have solved segments of various soil and water conservation problems will be presented in this paper.

State soil scientists have provided technical information needed to maintain and improve crop production on more than 70 million acres of nearly level land in this country without any assistance from other disciplines. Optimum sustained yields also could be secured from 312 million other acres of gently sloping, or nearly level land, if soil-improving crop rotations and adequate fertilization were used with necessary drainage to remove excess water, or with one simple soil conserving practice such as strip cropping with contour farming.

The more complex soil and water conservation problems exist in this country where row crops are planted on more than 400 million acres of moderately sloping or steeply sloping soils. Much of this land occurs on low income farms. Many soil scientists prior to 1930 recognized that better methods of soil and water management were needed on this type of land. However, few of these scientists had sufficient funds for costly research, and perhaps many did not realize the importance of setting up research studies in which available soil and agronomic information could be utilized along with structural and vegetative practices to prevent excessive deterioration of valuable top soil.

Some individuals insist that all procedures or methods recommended to reclaim, protect, or improve the soil should be a part of a soil conservation program. If this broader concept of soil conservation is accepted, state soil scientists have provided much technical information that can be applied to make many severely eroded or saline soils more productive. They also have accumulated much information that can be used to protect potentially...