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Fertilizer Schedule for Sustainable Crop Production in Arid Vegetable Growing Pockets in Bikaner district of Rajasthan

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In hot arid areas, kachri, snap melon, mateera and cluster bean are most important vegetable crops and the Khichiya, Dholera, Sarayrupayat are major arid vegetable growing area of Bikaner district. Without prior knowledge of soil fertility the applications of fertilizers by the farmers in the fields have adverse effects on soil as well as on crop in terms the inadequate or overdose of fertilizers. It is, therefore, important to have information on the current fertility status of soil so as to formulate the fertilizer schedule for arid vegetable for sustainable productivity. Therefore, the present study was undertaken to assess the macro and micronutrient status of the soils of arid vegetable growing areas of Bikaner district to evaluate their magnitude of sufficiency/deficiencies and refine fertilizer recommendations and promote site specific nutrient management. A systematic soil survey was carried out during 2017 in arid vegetable growing areas of Bikaner district. The soil samples were analyzed following the standard method and results revealed that the soils were