Introduction to Section 1 (1l – Crop Rotation Effects: Optimize the Crop Synergy of your System)

**Ref.: Building Soils for Better Crops (Sustainable Soil Mgt. 3rd Edition)**

**Weed Control:** The more diversity in the rotation, the easier it is to control weeds. Cover crops compete with weeds and crop residue serves to suppress establishment of the weeds.

**Managing Diseases & Insects:** Crop rotations are the most effective way of reducing many pest populations. IPM includes Prevention, Avoidance, Monitoring & Suppression.

**Other Practices & Mgt.:**
- Irrigation System
- Irrigation Water mgmt.
- Salinity & Sodicity mgmt.
- Integrated Weed mgmt.
- IPM
- Alley Cropping
- Windbreak/Shelterbelt
- Stripcropping
- Mulching, etc.

**Beneficial Insectary:** Many of the nectar sipping & pest-eating insects that are attracted to flower pollen will also pollinate your fruit and vegetable crops & increase your yields.

**Pollinators:** Flowering plants that support pollinators also support beneficial predatory & parasitic insects.

Biodiversity with minimal soil disturbance drives Soil Health

Soil Health

Top Soil (the Farmers Capital)

Cover Crop mix

Harvest cover crop

Grazing Pasture & Cropland

Harvest hay harvest

plant cash crop

plant cover crop

graze crop

crop residue mgt.

graze residue

Residue mgmt.

cover crop (soil improvement)

INPUTS

Manure

Compost

FERTILIZER

Irrigation

Pesticides

Emphasis on managing a dynamic cropping system

Biodiversity is the key to sustainability

Grazing Pasture & Cropland

Manure

Compost

Top Soil (the Farmers Capital)

Biodiversity with minimal soil disturbance drives Soil Health

Soil Health