

## Editorial

*The most serious challenge before us in 21st century is the preservation of our earth in order to feed billions of new mouths over the next several decades and save the rest of life. Our growing demands for food, medicine, clothing and similar essential items will always urge us to understand and exploit the world's natural resources. Unfortunately the world's natural resources are fast depleting, largely due to the negligence of human race.*

*Worldwide the production system seems to be bent upon relentless growth. But if present patterns of production and consumption are generalized, it will lead to severe disruptions of ecological systems. Environment is a dynamic system controlled by physical, chemical and Biological forces which are changing with time. When these changes take place slowly the evolutionary process remains in equilibrium with it. But sometimes these changes take rapidly. In the ancient period man was living in harmony with nature. But today in quest of better living man has seriously affected the environment.*

*State of the environment in the 1970s brought the reports of finiteness of raw materials and above all of fossils fuels into the focus of public interest. Things then changed. Now, it is not only the scarcity of resources that is threatening to dictate limits to the economy but the limited capacity of ecological system to absorb pollutants and wastes of every kind. Since the earth summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, this realization has crystallized in a new conception of development. The new catchphrase is "Sustainable Development."*

*This makes it all the more important for us to stress here that sustainability is essence. With this new guiding concept goes the realization that environmental policy problems cannot be examined in isolation from economic and social developments. As a part of furtherance of concept of sustainability we need structure of facts and figures. With this aim to serve the important function of putting into perspective significant developments in environmental research and related activities and to reach from interested laymen, students, generalists, to specialists, policy makers, decision makers, nongovernmental organizations, government organizations and intergovernmental agencies, we started SPECTRUM: Journal of Science and society for sustainable development.*

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