The world’s soils are rapidly deteriorating due to soil erosion, nutrient depletion, loss of soil organic carbon, soil sealing and other threats, but this trend can be reversed provided countries take the lead in promoting sustainable management practices and the use of appropriate technologies, according to a new UN report «The Status of the World’s Soil Resources» produced by FAO’s Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils. The Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) Initiative has demonstrated that sustainable land management (SLM) can be profitable at all scales and within a relatively short time horizon. A concerted effort to scale up SLM would certainly help achieving a number of the critical post-2015 Sustainable Development
Goals, as well as supporting the G7 commitment that aims to lift 500 million people in developing countries out of hunger and malnutrition by 2030.

As we know, the global community has acknowledged the risks that degradation poses to stability, food security and livelihoods formulating Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15, «Life on Land». By 2030, this goal aims to protect, restore and promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems. Target 15.3 specifically states that «By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral (LDN) world». Therefore, the above indicates the relevance, importance and scientific value of the reviewed monograph.

The reviewed monograph is a first attempt to close the research gap in the literature and to promote research on the formation of competitiveness of agricultural enterprises based on sustainable soil management. One of the key advantages of this book is that, based on an interdisciplinary platform, it will expand the scope of a purely economic approach, including to cover soil ecosystem services, primarily regarding soil organic carbon sequestration.

This monograph presents the modern (new) unorthodox (heterodoxy) paradigm of the formation of sustainable competitiveness of agricultural enterprises based on sustainable soil management, which conceptually reflects the author’s view on the solution of the problem raised. The proposed modern paradigm consists of three interrelated concepts: methodological, theoretical and project-and-technological. Each of them includes a number of fundamental theoretical, methodological and conceptual provisions, the use of which creates a methodological framework for constructing unorthodox paradigm.

The monograph is structurally composed of the introduction, the main part, the general conclusions, references and annexes. The main part of the monograph consists of five sections:

Chapter 1. Economics of soil degradation and sustainable soil management in agriculture.


Chapter 3. Sustainable intensification of land use in the formation of competitiveness of agricultural enterprises and economical soil fertility.

Chapter 4. Economic substantiation of effectiveness of use of organic fertilizers by impact on potential and effective soil fertility.

Chapter 5. Transfer of innovations and efficiency of some measures for sustainable soil management at different levels.
In the first chapter the methodological background of the economics of soil degradation and sustainable soil management in agriculture had further development. Methodological approaches to economic study of sustainable soil management in the formation of competitiveness of agricultural enterprises are represented in section 1.1. Section 1.2 is concerned with the economics of soil degradation at agricultural enterprises of Ukraine. There are considered in the section 1.3 the methodological bases of economic assessing of losses due to contamination of agricultural soils. Section 1.4 and 1.5 highlights (i) the results of economic estimation of losses caused by erosion of agricultural soils as a basis for deciding on sustainable soil management and (ii) the results of case study of sustainable management of soil in danger of wind erosion: stakeholder engagement project.

The second chapter addresses the formation of economic mechanism of sustainable soil management in agriculture, including: (i) conception of sustainable soil management in Ukrainian agriculture; (ii) conceptual basis of economic mechanism of sustainable soil management in agriculture; (iii) formation of strategic priorities of economical provisions for sustainable soil management; (iv) sustainable management of soil organic carbon in the context of climate change and (v) potential sources of measures financing for sustainable soil management.

The third chapter includes five sections: (i) sustainable soil management based on the intensification of land use in the context of European integration of Ukraine; (ii) competitiveness and intensity of land use of agricultural enterprises of Ukraine’s regions; (iii) rational use of agricultural land as a factor of the development of rural areas of Ukraine’s regions; (iv) impact of the land concentration on the forming of competitiveness of agricultural enterprises; (v) competitiveness and efficiency of agricultural enterprises and forming of rational size of land use at regional level.

The fourth chapter is concerned with economic substantiation of effectiveness of use of organic fertilizers by impact on potential and effective soil fertility. The holistic methodology of evaluating the efficiency of improvement soil quality and land reclamation projects for sustainable soil management is described in section 4.2. In turn, section 4.1 explored cost-benefit analysis of use of liquid organic fertilizers on the example of crops such as corn and winter wheat; section 4.3 provided the comparative analysis of economic effectiveness of usage of liquid organic fertilizers, bio humus and mineral fertilizers.

Chapter 5 deals with the issue of transfer of innovations and efficiency of some measures for sustainable soil management at different levels. The fifth chapter deals with the following issues: (i) transfer of innovations in the field of protection and rational use of soil at agricultural enterprises; (ii) evaluation of investment
attractiveness of agricultural land use; (iii) economic efficiency of innovation-and-investment projects for sustainable soil management and (iv) efficiency of practices of sustainable soil management at the micro, meso and macro level.

The monograph «Sustainable soil management in the formation of competitiveness of agricultural enterprises» meets the requirements applicable for this kind of scientific monographs. The monograph is a definite contribution to the development of modern agrarian economics and management in the part of justifying the holistic (complex) conception of formation of competitiveness of agricultural enterprises based on sustainable soil management. This monograph provides with valuable knowledge at the national, regional and local levels on the economic losses from soil degradation and benefits of taking the practices of sustainable soil management in agriculture.

The reviewed book introduces an interesting and valuable material for the wide scope of stakeholders. The monograph may be recommended for policymakers, researchers, lecturers, managers and specialists of state administration, professionals of agricultural enterprises, graduates, students and anyone who is interested in economic issues of sustainable soil management in the formation of competitiveness of agricultural enterprises.