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From the Editor's Desk

As underscored by the United Nations Organization, there is a universal concern about the evidenced-based rapid rate of warming climates making it difficult both for the human inhabitants and biodiversity on the earth to adapt and survive. Habitat loss and the fear of extinction are looming high on millions of species, and outrageous pollution contaminating and unbalancing our ecosystem services is taking its toll. While all this and more have been spoken and written, more specifically, the voice is loud on specific occasions such as Earth Day, World Biodiversity Day, World Environment Day, etc. Furthermore, such congregations, both at the local and global scales are marked by themes and slogans, and pledges and plantations. While the role of plants can't be undermined in fighting the global climate change war, the second-largest diverse group of organisms called 'Fungi' never got their fair share of the role they have been playing from the time when even plants were nowhere on this planet. The large reservoir of microbes including fungi and their below-ground hyphal network is unswervingly involved in sequestering the carbon thereby reducing the atmospheric GHGs particularly CO₂ and consequently, reducing the effects of the climate change. Similarly, the fungi can be looked upon as the solution to myriad problems of rising pollution, dwindling and degrading biodiversity, food security, eco-friendly fuels, etc. While the technology exists to address such issues, the need of the hour is to innovate and collectively develop implementable transformative actions with holistic approaches involving fungi and other useful microbes. As has been envisaged for plants, getting 'myco-warriors' in the forefront can help address some of the imminent predicaments of climate change, food security, pollution, etc., confronting mankind. Natural recyclers (fungi) are, therefore, a more sustainable alternative for ecosystem restoration, individually as well as symbiotically. The futuristic approach, thus, calls for unravelling and admiring both the frontiers viz. plants as well as fungi in exploring solutions for everyone's well-being.

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