



In 2002 **GABRIELE BROLL** became a Professor of Geoecology and Agricultural Ecology at the University of Vechta, her main field of interest is soil science. Her research embraces soil ecological studies in arctic and alpine ecosystems as well as in grassland ecosystems in temperate regions. After obtaining her doctorate from the University of Münster she was engaged as its Academic Adviser and Head of Laboratory in the Institute of Landscape Ecology at the University of Münster, from where she went on to gain her professorship.



Since 1998 **WOLFGANG MERBACH** holds a professorship in Plant Physiology and Plant Nutrition at the University of Halle-Wittenberg. His main fields of research are the ecophysiology and the metabolism in the rhizosphere as well as the nitrogen cycle in agroecosystems. After obtaining his doctorate from the University of Jena and his professorship from the University of Halle-Wittenberg he headed the Isotope Laboratory at the Research Centre for soil fertility in Müncheberg. As of 1992 he became head of the Institute of Ecophysiology as well as being deputy director at the Centre for Agricultural Landscape and Land Use Research (ZALF) in Müncheberg.



In 2002 **EVA-MARIA PFEIFFER** became a Professor of Soil Science at the University of Hamburg. Her main fields of research are the study of methane emissions in wetlands as well as climate related ecological soil processes of permafrost-affected soils in Siberia. On receiving her doctorate from the University of Hamburg was a long serving member in Hamburg's Environment Commission, and after receiving her professorship was engaged as a Scientific Consultant and head of a research group by the Alfred Wegener Foundation for Polar and Marine Research.

Broll · Merbach · Pfeiffer (Eds.) ■ Wetlands in Central Europe

Wetlands are very sensitive ecosystems, functioning as a habitat for many organisms. Protection and regeneration of wetlands are of great importance in ecological research and in nature conservation. A huge amount of research has been done on the hydrology, plants and animals in wetlands. Knowledge about soil organisms and soil ecological processes of wetlands is still lacking. This knowledge is a prerequisite for landscape planning purposes or climate change predictions. In the case of climate change, trace gas emissions from wetlands are of great interest. The authors provide an overview of the state-of-the-art on soil ecology in wetlands. The book is divided into the following main chapters:

- Wetlands as habitats for soil organisms
- Soil ecological processes in fens and floodplains
- Carbon and nitrogen dynamics in soils with different water regimes and
- Trace gas emissions.

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