Nutrient losses in agricultural production, especially losses of nitrogen and phosphorus, impoverish farm economy and result in unfavourable environmental changes. To counteract these effects, vigorous studies have been developed in the last decades (especially in Western Europe and North America) on nutrient cycling in agriculture. A review of this problem based on literature data is presented in this paper. Particular emphasis is put on: changes in nutrient flow during successive phases of agricultural development and their consequences, the importance and possibility of modelling nutrient cycles, contemporary approach to the question of nutrient management. It was concluded that studies on nutrient cycling and management in farms are important for promoting agricultural methods based on the harmony of economic and ecological objectives and that their development is reasonably justified.

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