Soil erosion

Accelerated removal of topsoil from the land surface through water, wind, or tillage.

Each year, 20 to 30 Gt (billion tonnes) of soil is estimated to be eroded by water, 5 Gt by tillage and 2 Gt by wind on arable land. If the current trend of soil erosion remains unchanged the total annual production potential is projected to be reduced by 10% by 2050.

Average rate of soil erosion by wind, water and tillage is estimated at 0.9 mm per year.

Erosion rates can be reduced through the application of appropriate management techniques and structural measures such as terrace and waterway construction.
Soil erosion

SOIL THREATS

Condition

Very poor

Poor

Fair

Good

Trend

Improving

Deteriorating

Variable

Stable

NA
North America

LAC
Latin America and the Caribbean

NENA
Near East and North Africa

SSA
sub-Saharan Africa

E
Europe and Eurasia

NENA
Near East and North Africa

SP
Southwest Pacific

A
Asia

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