Our soils are in danger because of expanding cities, deforestation, unsustainable land use and management practices, pollution, overgrazing and climate change. The current rate of soil degradation threatens the capacity to meet the needs of future generations.

The promotion of sustainable soil and land management is central to ensuring a productive food system, improved rural livelihoods and a healthy environment.

WE DEPEND ON SOILS

Healthy soils are the basis for healthy food production

Soils are the foundation for vegetation which is cultivated or managed for food, fibre, fuel and medicinal products

Soils support our planet’s biodiversity and they host a quarter of the total

Soils help to combat and adapt to climate change by playing a key role in the carbon cycle

Soils store and filter water improving our resilience to floods and droughts

Soil is a non-renewable resource, its preservation is essential for food security and our sustainable future

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE YEAR

Raise awareness among civil society and decision-makers

Support effective policies and actions for the protection of soil resources

Strengthen initiatives in connection with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) process and Post-2015 agenda

Advocate for rapid capacity enhancement for soil information collection and monitoring at all levels

Educate the public

Promote investment in sustainable soil management activities

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

2015 International Year of Soils

healthy soils for a healthy life

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