

Global Soil Week

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Africa's Priorities for Sustainable Soil Management

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SSSA definition:

“Managing soil and crop cultural practices so as not to degrade or impair environmental quality on or off site, and without eventually reducing yield potential as a result of the chosen practice through exhaustion of either on-site resources or non-renewable inputs”

General considerations

- **Set of principles for SSM**
- **Consider challenges and priorities in regions and individual countries**
- **Priorities:**
 - **Soil organic matter / soil carbon**
 - **Maximize organic/mineral input efficiencies**
 - **Education in soil science**
 - **Platform for information exchange**
 - **Increased voice of soil scientists at policy level**

Main topics

- Policies
- Awareness
- Extension services
- Partnerships
- SSM Technologies



Policies

- **SSM Policy recommendations to governments**
- **Create favourable socio-economic and policy environment for farmers to invest in soils**
- **Direct investments in sustainable soil fertility management**
- **All countries encouraged to develop a national soil policy**

Policies

- **Partner with CAADP (10% of annual budget)**
- **Regular meetings of agricultural ministers**
- **Practice of balanced nutrient management to “kick-start” biomass production**
- **National ministers to agree on holistic farming systems**

Awareness

- Food security as main driver of SSM
- Communication plan for stakeholders, including schools and public
- Implementation and scaling out of practices and knowledge
- Common understanding of SSM, including social and ethical dimensions

Extension Services



- **Participatory learning services**

Partnerships



- **Africa should drive the process!!!**
- **Establish linkages with key stakeholders and sectors**
- **Tailor messages and info to specific sectors**

SSM Technologies

- **All activities that assist soil restoration**
- **Intensify agriculture based on using external and internally recycled nutrient resources**
- **No-till farming where appropriate**
- **Crop rotations**
- **Efficient plant nutrition**
- **Irrigation according to technical parameters**
- **Integrated soil and water management at watershed level**
- **Develop private/public partnerships to support SSM**

IASS – Funding and support

