



Soil Doctors  
GLOBAL PROGRAMME  
GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP

# Discovering the Soil Doctors Global Programme?



# What is the Soil Doctors Global Programme?

- **Farmers to farmers training** (from soil status assessment to problem identification and solving)
- On a volunteering basis
- Inspired by the Volunteer Soil Doctors programme from Thailand



# What is the Soil Doctors Global Programme?

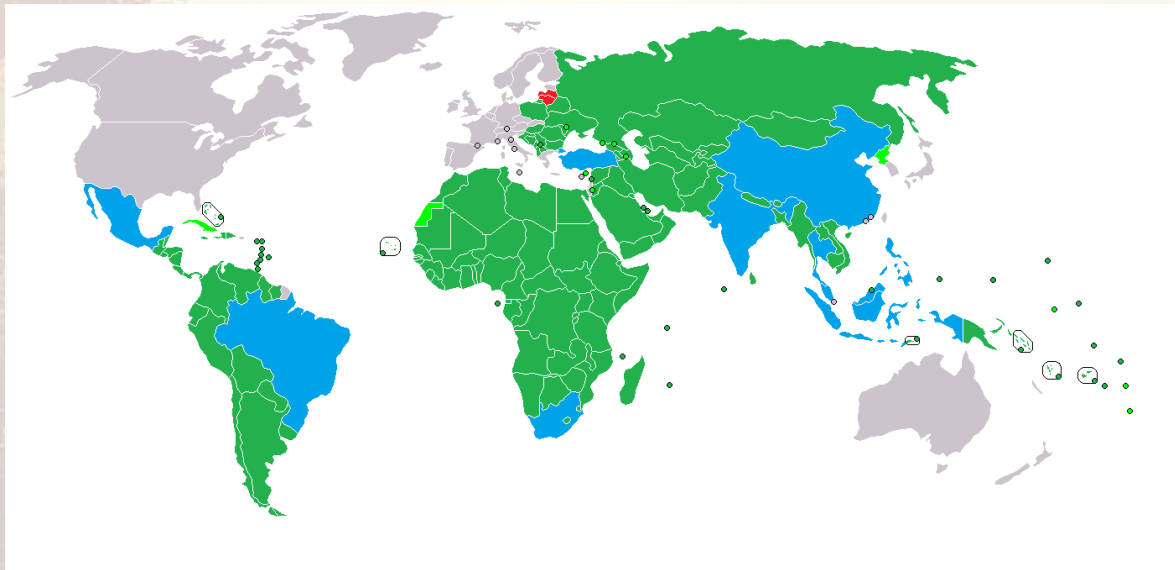
## Overall objective:

1. To build the capacity of small-holder farmers on the practice of SSM;
2. To support governmental agencies and organizations working on agricultural extension at the field level (broader impact, lower cost);
3. To enhance the quantity and quality of soil data and information and set the basis for establishing and/or reinforcing national soil monitoring activities;
4. To support field research based on interactions between universities and research institutes with the Soil Doctors including access to demonstration and experimental fields; and
5. To promote technical and scientific cooperation among countries for improving their soil testing procedures



# What is the Soil Doctors Global Programme?

It serves **developing countries especially** but it is designed to be flexible so to serve also developed countries as needed



■ Developing economies according to the IMF ■ Developing economies out of scope of the IMF ■ Graduated to developed economy ■ Newly industrialized countries

Map of developing countries according to the IMF as of 2014



# How does the Soil Doctors Programme work?

Identification of **champion farmers** (herewith called **Soil Doctors**) to educate other farmers in their community on soil science principles and to train them on the practice of sustainable soil management.

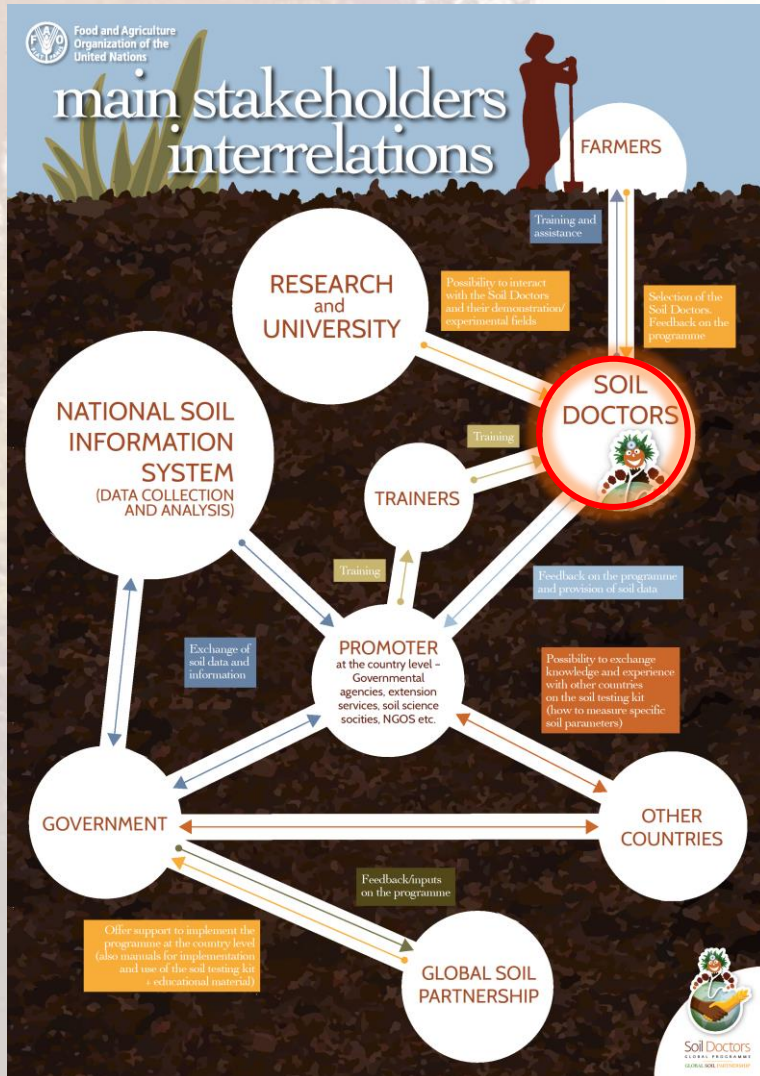


# How does the Soil Doctors Programme work?

This would **create a self-sufficient system** that will promote the practice of sustainable soil management independently from the availability of national subsidies and/or financial resources.



# Functioning and added value



## *Who they are?*

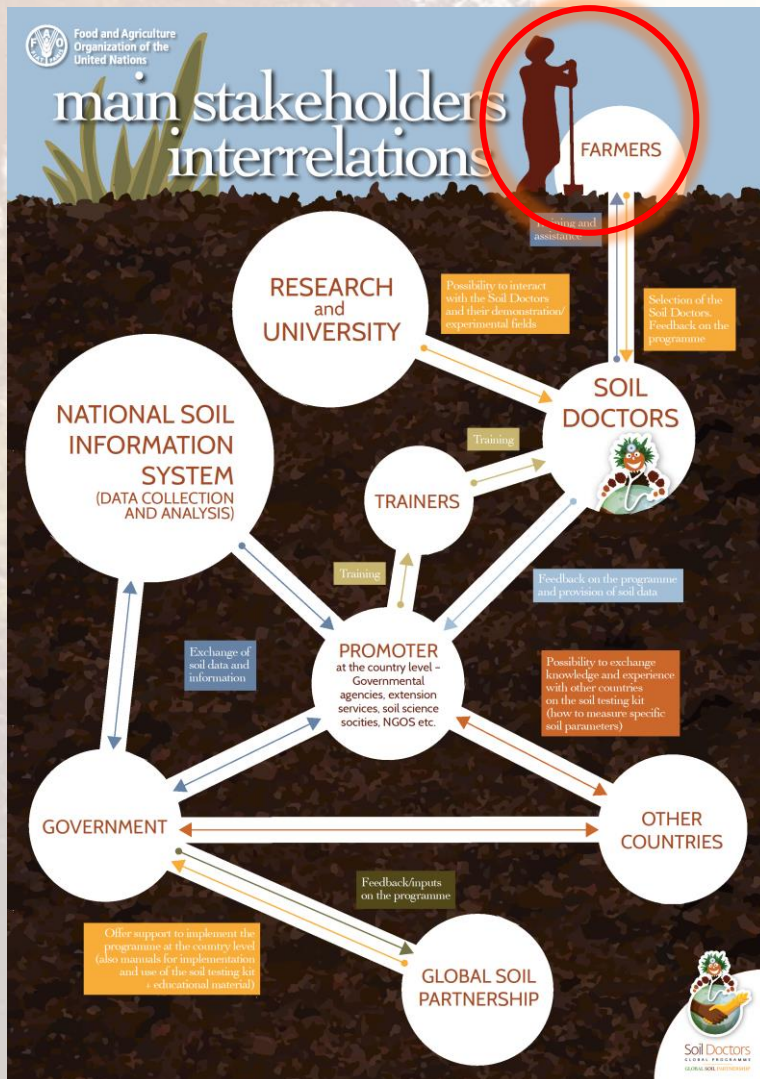
Champion farmers

### ➤ **Benefit(s):**

- Increased knowledge on soil and SSM (special trainings);
- Make immediate decisions in the field;
- Incentives provided by the promoter(s);
- Strengthen relations with the promoter, increasing their ability to request and report the needs of their community; and
- References for their community.



# Functioning and added value

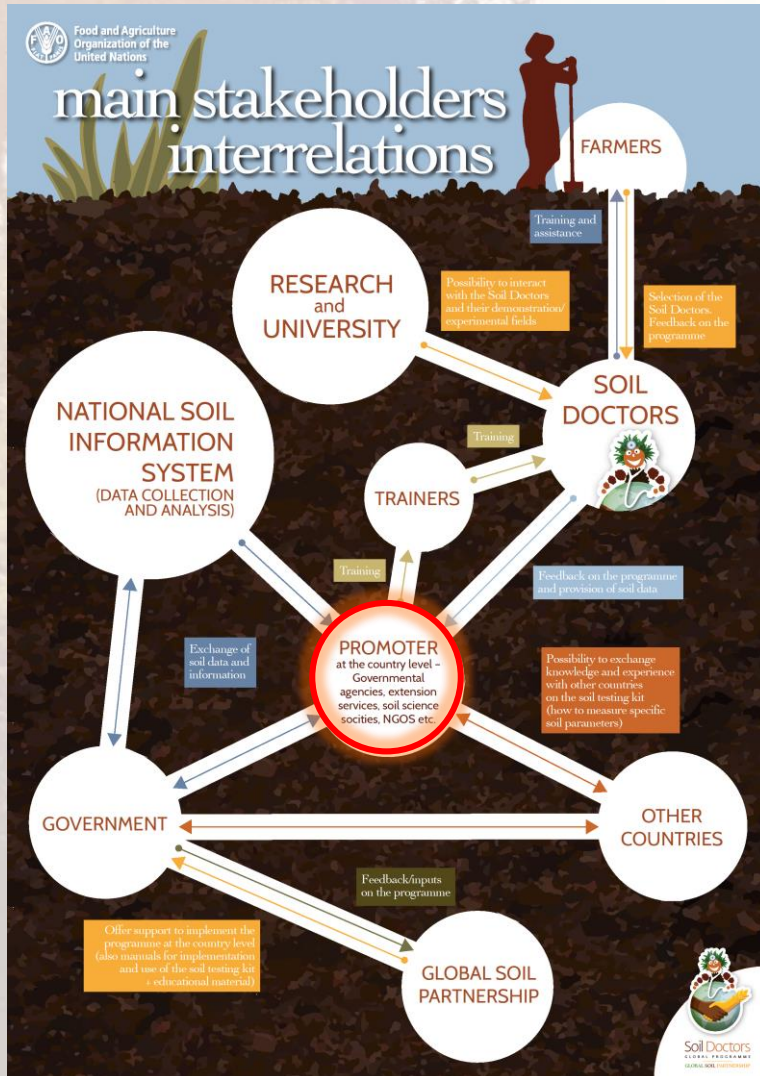


## ➤ Benefit(s):

- Improve their farming system and the quality/productivity of their soils.
- Increase their food security (quantity and quality of the harvest)
- Increase their knowledge on soil and SSM (trainings by the Soil Doctors); and
- Through their Soil Doctor, they will have a preferential channel to communicate with the promoter(s), particularly with regard to their needs.



# Functioning and added value



## Who they are?

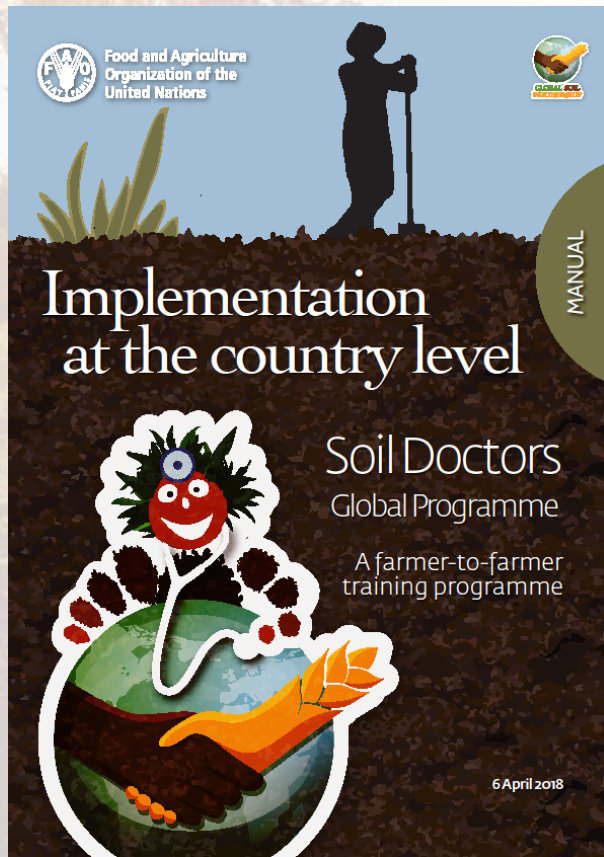
**Governmental agencies**, extension services, soil science societies, universities, NGOs, etc.

## ➤ Benefit(s):

- Reduce extension services costs;
- Increase soil data collection and support national monitoring activities
- Strengthen relations with smallholder farmers and rural communities;
- Strengthen relations with the GSP and its regional Secretariat; and
- Promote cross-regional technical and scientific cooperation



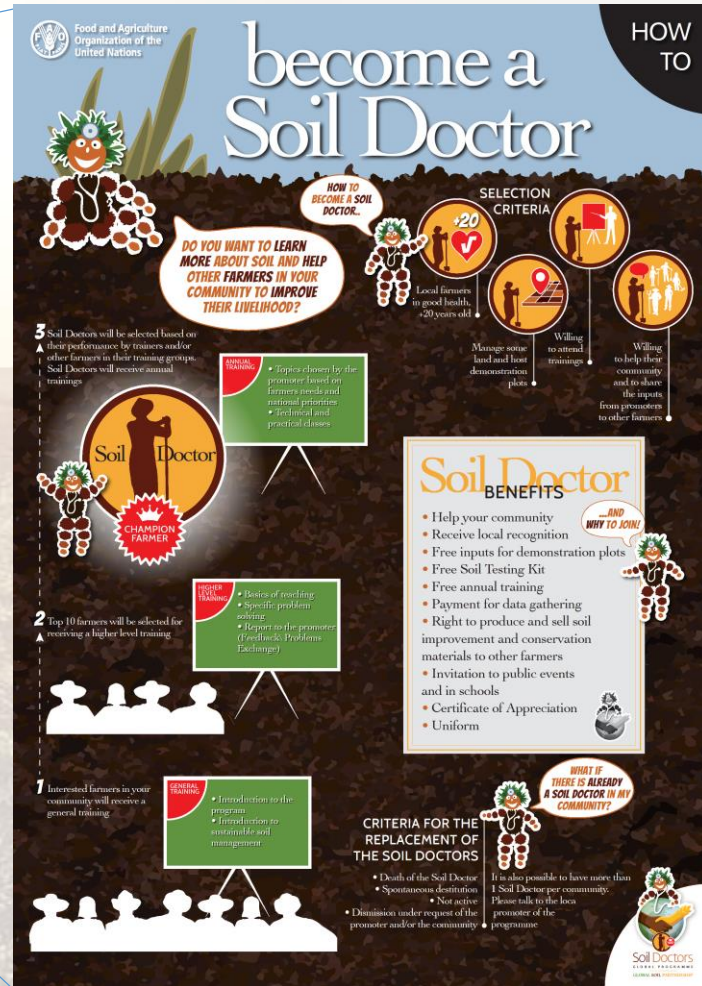
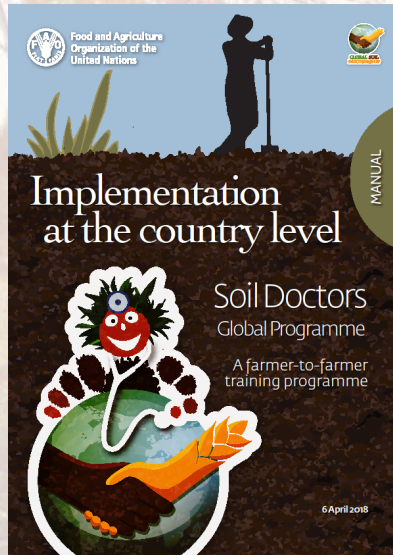
# Soil Doctors Global Programme



- Introduction to the programme
- Information on how the programme works, including the identification of the soil doctors
- Suggestions on how to implement the programme (also in case similar programmes are in place at the country level)



# Soil Doctors Global Programme



# Soil Doctors Global Programme

## Why this manual?

Soil information infrastructure in most countries is inadequate and fragmented

Characteristics:

- Need for assessing parameters that are critical to soil quality (for farmers)
- Manual provides detailed methods that can be used to assess these parameters using minimal equipment/ in the field when possible

Soil texture, soil moisture, soil pH, soil organic carbon, soil compaction and soil biodiversity

The development of methods to assess available forms of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium as well as soil micronutrient in the field is demanded to Pillar 3



# Soil Doctors Global Programme

## Education material

- How to teach (video and poster)
- “What is” & “How to” posters, including problem identification and solving



# Soil Doctors Global Programme – conclusions for the Plenary

- Countries (and governments) to join the programme and serve as promoters;
- Financial resources needed to support the implementation of the programme in countries that cannot self-finance this activity

