It is the basis for food, feed, medicines, ecosystem services, and fuel.

2050 THE CHALLENGE

Global population will exceed 9 billion.
Increased demand for healthier and nutritious food will only be met if agricultural production increases globally by 60% and developing countries by 100%.

Soils are under pressure of intensification and competing uses of forestry, cropping, pasture & urbanization.

OUR SOILS TODAY

33% of global soil is moderately to highly degraded through erosion, salinization, compaction, acidification, chemical pollution & nutrient depletion, hampering soils functions and affecting food production.
83% of rural people in Sub-Saharan Africa depend on their land for livelihood.
40% of Africa’s soils are currently degraded.

In most countries there is little opportunity for expansion of arable land.

SAVING OUR SOILS

Inclusive policies and governance, Targeted soil research, Effective education & extension programmes, Investment in sustainable soil management, Stopping soil degradation & restoring degraded soils, Soil information systems.

Sustainable soil management: Increasing soil organic matter content, Keeping soil surface vegetated, Using nutrients wisely, Promoting crop rotations, Reducing erosion.

These actions can lead to an average crop yield increase of 58%.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

faso.org/soils-2015

©FAO - February 2015