



2015
International
Year of Soils



SOIL IS A NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCE

It is the basis for



food



feed



medicines



ecosystem
services



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

60% globally

~100% developing countries



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



Investment in sustainable soil management



Targeted soil research



Stopping soil degradation & restoring degraded soils



Effective education & extension programmes



Soil information systems

Sustainable soil management

Increasing soil organic matter content

Keeping soil surface vegetated

Using nutrients wisely

Promoting crop rotations

Reducing erosion

can lead to an average crop yield increase of 58%



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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



#IYS2015



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