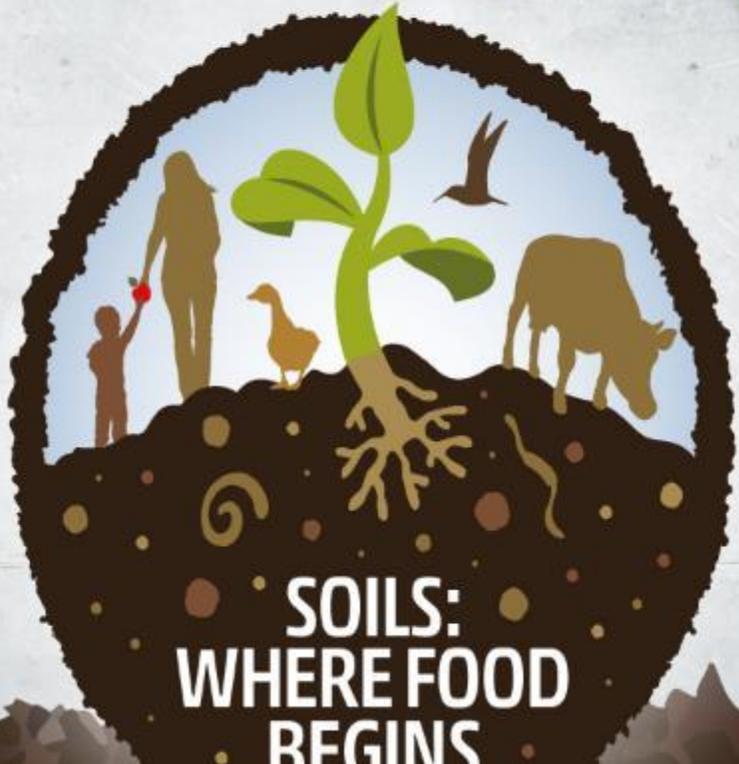




Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



From advocacy on global soil governance to consolidation into national soil priorities/legislation

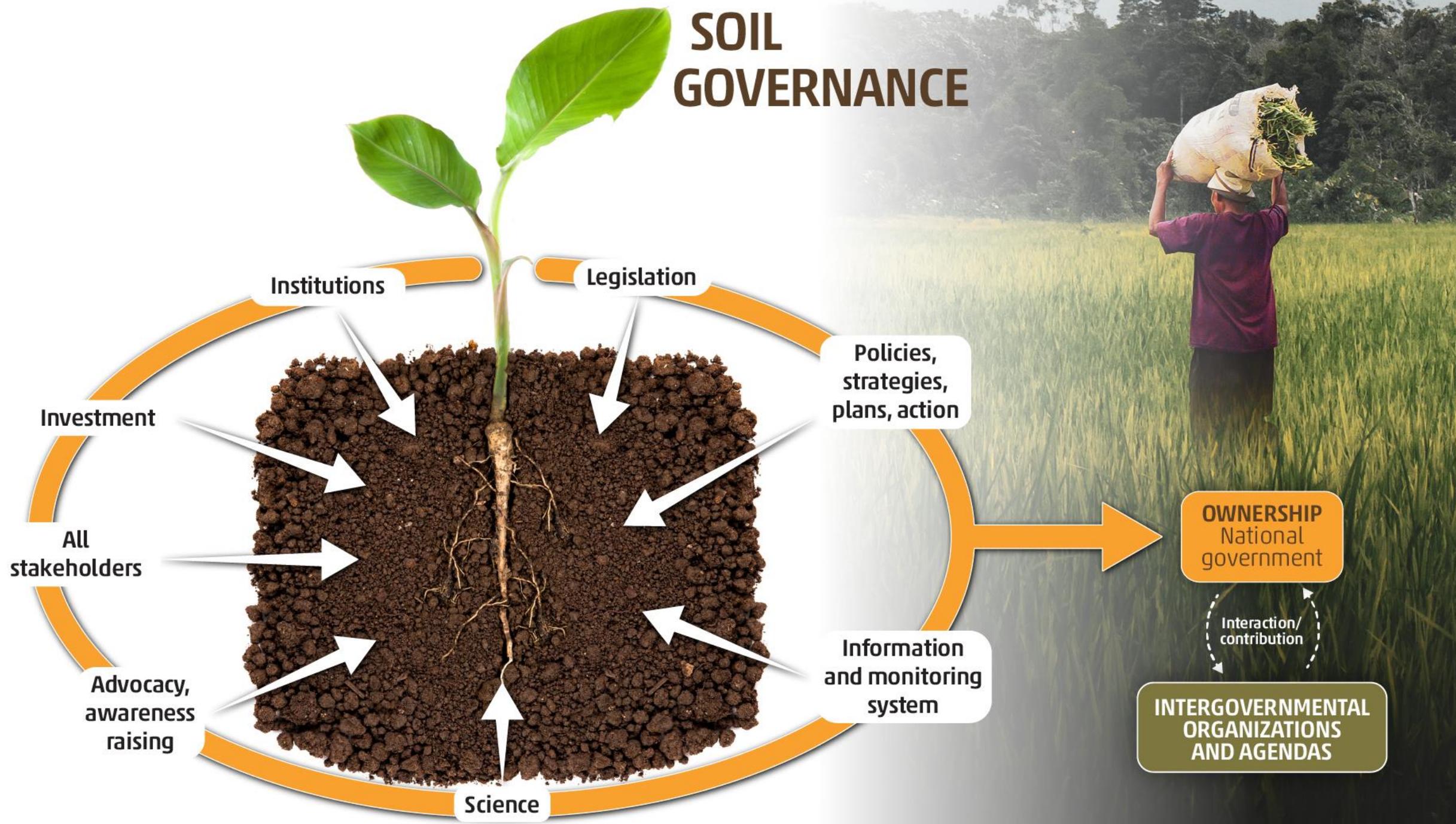


**SOILS:
WHERE FOOD
BEGINS**

Ronald Vargas
Secretary Global Soil Partnership, FAO



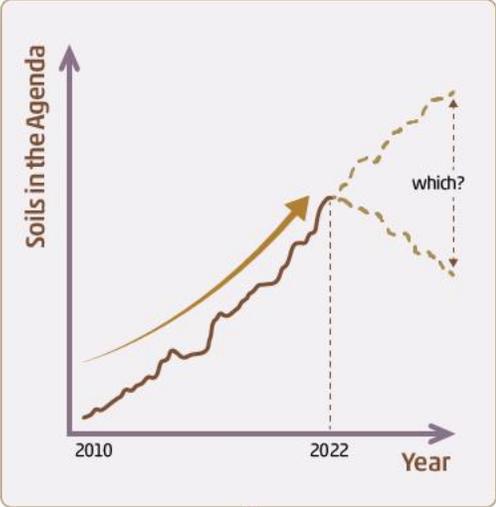
SOIL GOVERNANCE

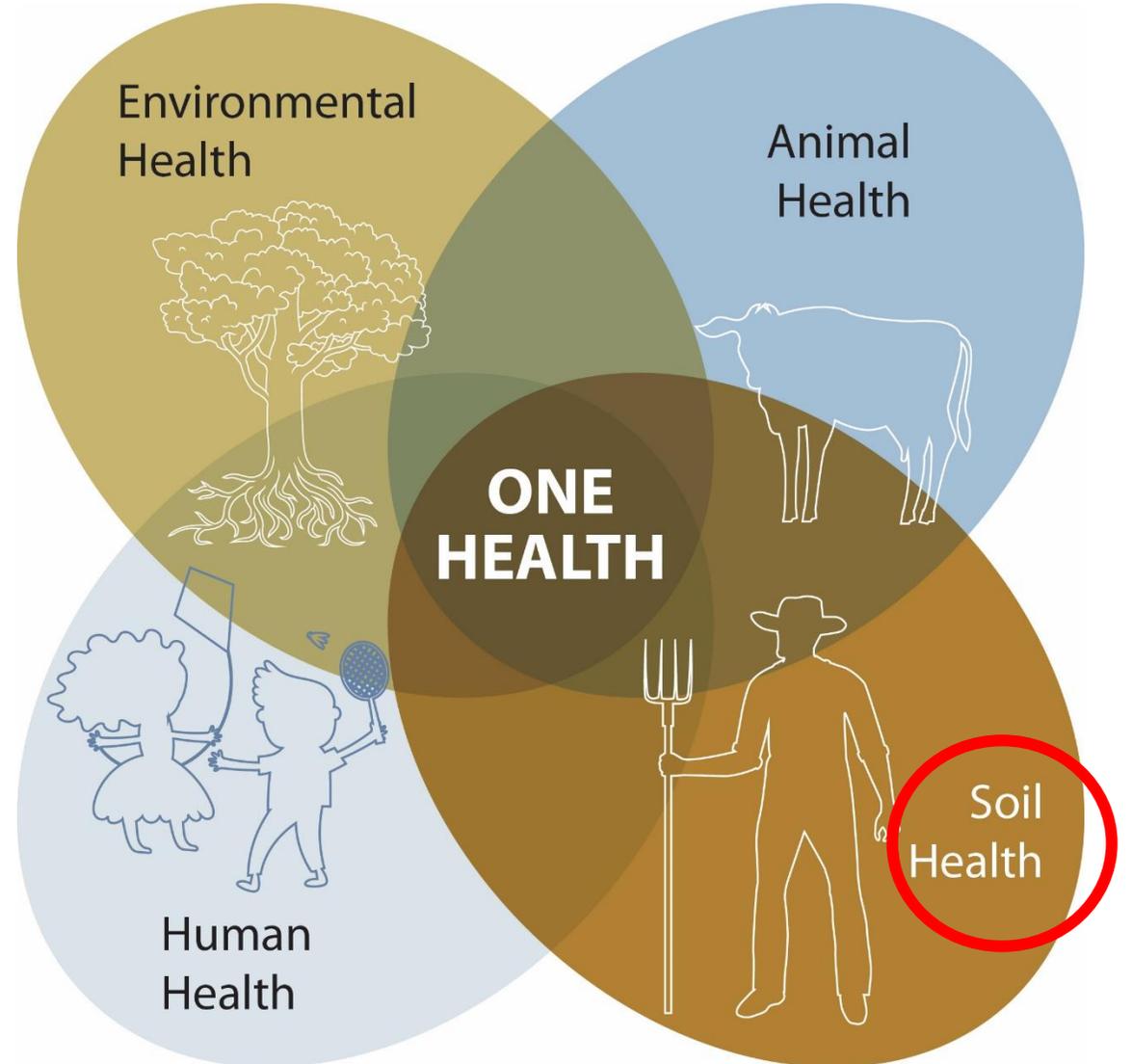
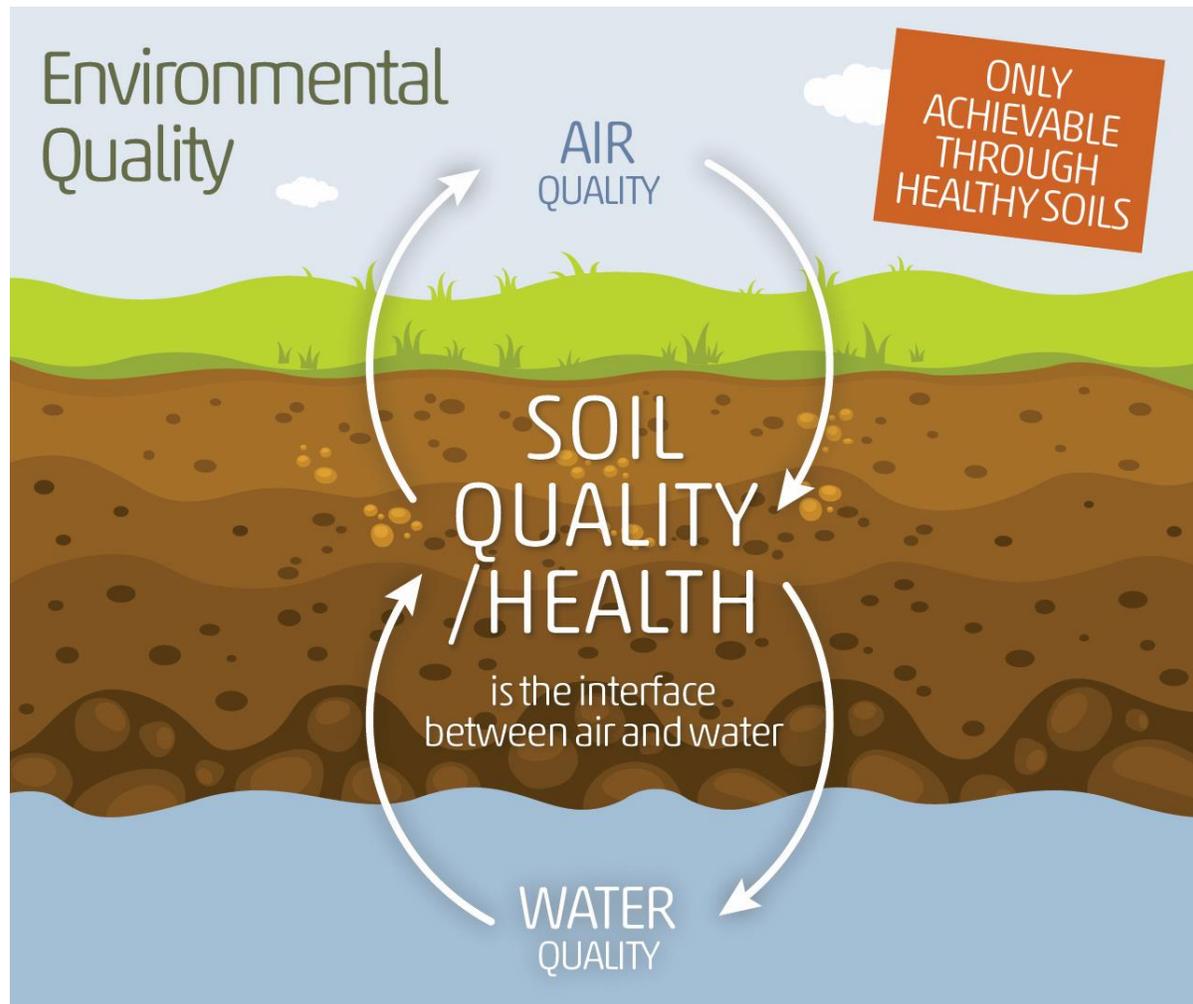


In 2010, soils were neglected or out of the global agenda.

Today, soils are like never in the global agenda.

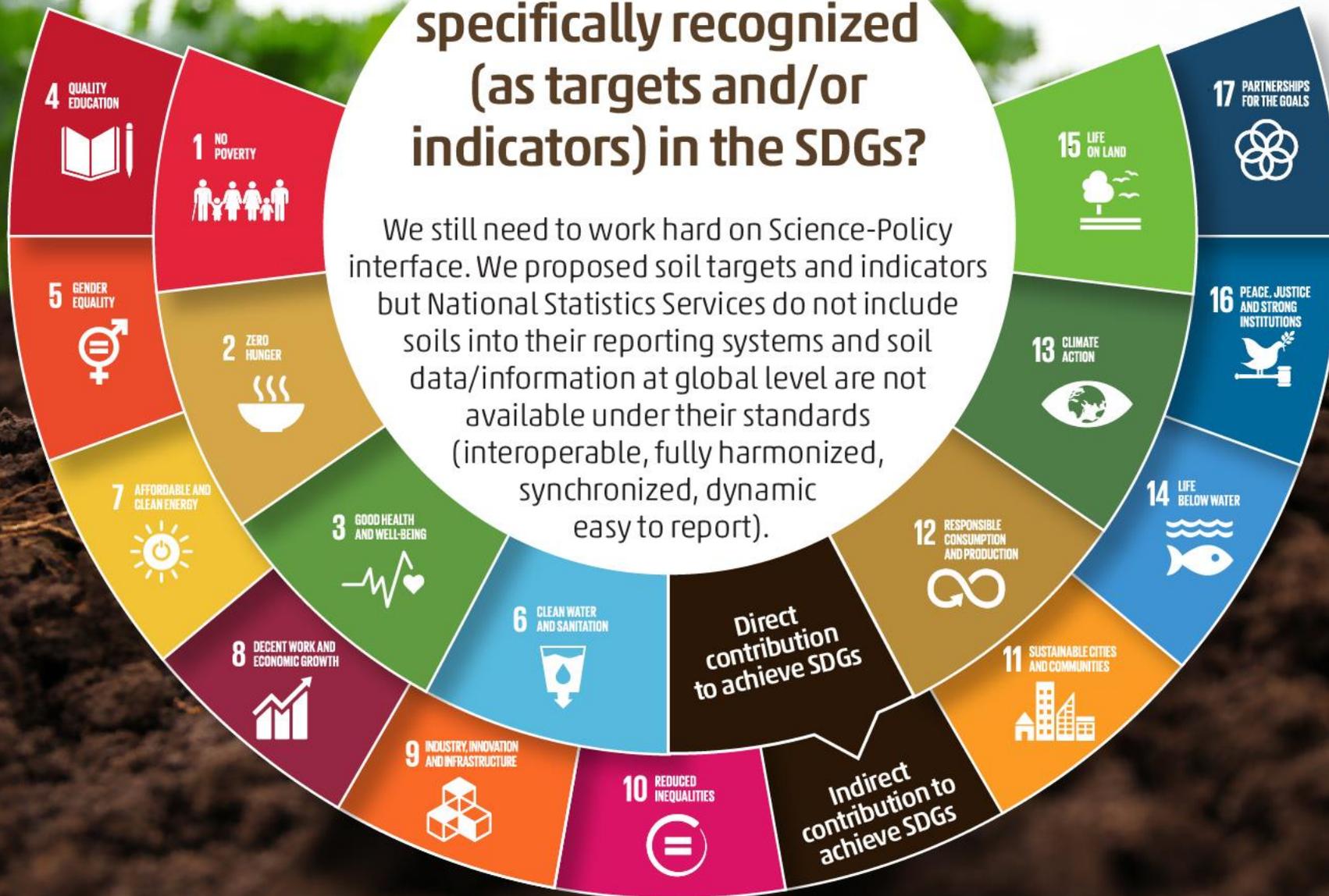
However, the challenge is on how to ensure that soils are always recognized.





Why are soils not specifically recognized (as targets and/or indicators) in the SDGs?

We still need to work hard on Science-Policy interface. We proposed soil targets and indicators but National Statistics Services do not include soils into their reporting systems and soil data/information at global level are not available under their standards (interoperable, fully harmonized, synchronized, dynamic easy to report).



Soil mapping uses this data, and we are keen on uncertainty when mapping but we should really care about data quality at the laboratory.

We established GLOSOLAN to respond to the need of having harmonized SOPs, quality control procedures (PT), interoperability and connecting soil labs with Soil survey/mapping agencies.



SOIL DATA STARTS FROM SOIL LABORATORIES



Soils are beautiful and provide multiple ecosystem and productive services

Advocacy and awareness raising should convey a positive message!

We should avoid saying soil is a complex resource.



Provision of fiber



Provision of wood



Aesthetics



Provision of support for animals



Cultural identity



Heritage values



Recreation



Carbon storage and greenhouse gas regulation



Provision of food



Regulation of pests and disease populations



Filtering of nutrients and contaminants



Flood mitigation



Provision of support for human



Detoxification and recycling of wastes



Provision of raw materials

Advocacy and awareness raising on the importance of soils are fundamental tools for consolidating soils in the global agenda.

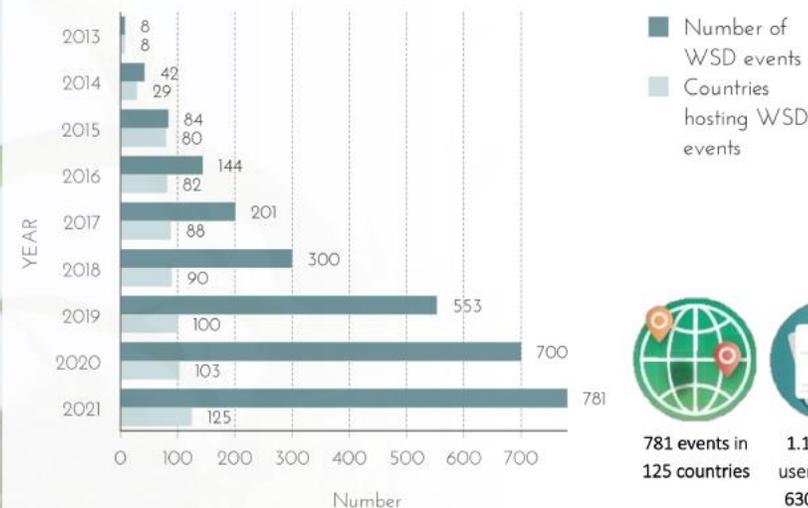
The International Year of Soils and declaration of UN World Soil Day were a game changer.



2015
International
Year of Soils



Number of Events: 2013-2021



781 events in 125 countries



1.15 billion users hit and 630 articles



Materials translated in 27+ languages



#WorldSoilDay reach: 330+ M on socials



3 M page sessions on GSP website



Videos: 1 M cumulative views



BBC Podcasts, local TV show



Pro bono ads in markets and rallies

The link between Soils & Nutrition is now in the news... ...the only way to move to general public and policy makers!

+ articles in the main world newspapers

FAO, la mappatura dei nutrienti del suolo in America Centrale e nell'Africa sub-sahariana, per un uso più efficiente dei fertilizzanti



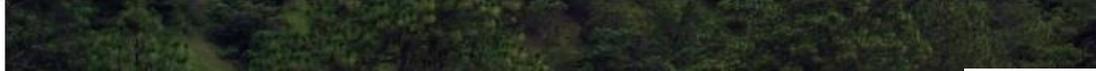
Investing in smallholder farmers

By DANIEL ESSIET — On Jul 27, 2022

United Nations | UN News | Global perspective Human stories

Home | Topics | In depth | Secretary-General

FAO warns 90 per cent of Earth's topsoil at risk by 2050



Soils, where food begins

ALARABIYA news

THE NATION

MIRAGE

entro il 2050 potrebbe essere a rischio il 90% del suolo fertile della Terra (VIDEO)

Fao e Global Soil Partnership promuoveranno la mappatura dei nutrienti del suolo in America centrale e nell'Africa subsahariana

Il 95% del cibo globale viene prodotto nel suolo. I suoli hanno la capacità di immagazzinare, trasformare e riciclare i nutrienti dei quali gli esseri umani hanno bisogno per sopravvivere. Dei 18 nutrienti essenziali per le piante, 15 sono forniti dal suolo, se è sano. Secondo la Fao, è probabile che entro il 2050 sarà a rischio ben il 90% del prezioso terriccio terrestre. Ogni 5 secondi nel mondo viene eroso suolo fertile per l'equivalente di un campo da calcio. Il problema è che ci vogliono circa mille anni per creare solo pochi centimetri di terriccio.

Il **Global Symposium on Soils for Nutrition**, organizzato da Fao e Global Soil Partnership e che termina domani, sta discutendo proprio della fertilità dei suoli globali e dei modi per migliorare la disponibilità di nutrienti del suolo per le colture senza danneggiare l'ambiente. Il meeting è stato l'occasione per presentare il **rapporto** "Soils for nutrition: state of the art" che ricorda che il cibo inizia dai suoli e, poiché la data



FAO @FAO - Follow

#DYK that 95% of our food comes from #soils?

Learn more about the relationship between healthy soils and healthy food bit.ly/3POzXsQ

#Soils4Nutrition

The planet survives only thanks to a few cm of healthy soil that grows 95% of our food

1:00 PM · Jul 27, 2022

81 Reply Share

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nation relevant to soil analysis.

AlKhaleej Today

UAE SAUDI ARABIA INTERNATIONAL BIZ SPORTS TECH

AlKhaleej Today - International
90% of Earth's topsoil at risk by 2050, FAO warns

FAO to boost soil nutrient mapping

There has been the notion for establishing a binding agreement on soils. But this was not taken as countries (governments) are the ones to decide upon.

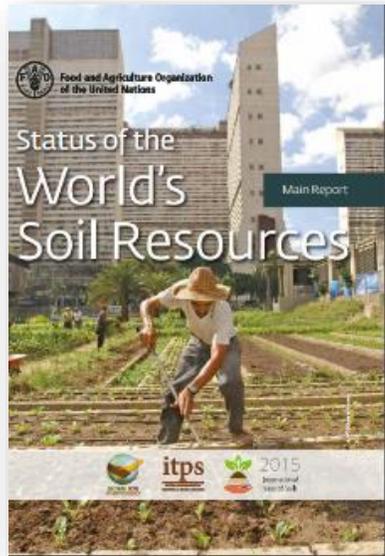
The Global Soil Partnership has been established to fill this gap (not binding but in FAO as an intergovernmental organization).

Our actions/efforts triggered adoption by countries of different definitions /tools (sustainable soil management; SOPs, maps).

We also triggered action by countries and multiple stakeholders (new projects, new activities).

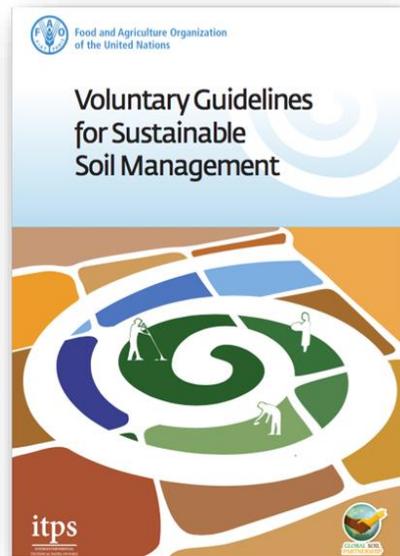


Implementation of normative tools (advancing soil governance)



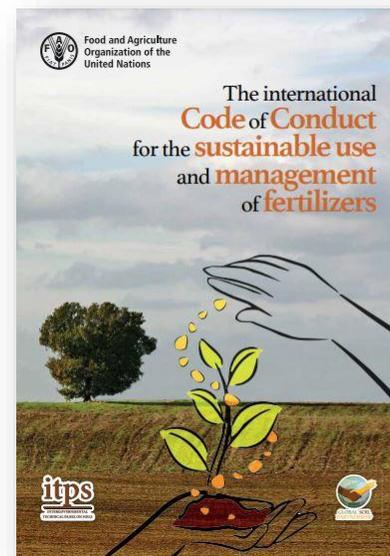
Main soil threats

2025



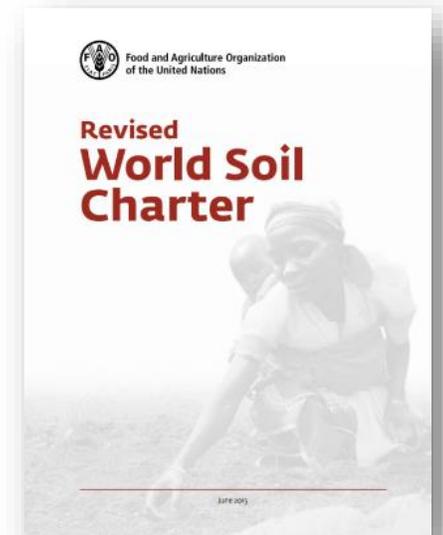
What to do?

1. Minimize soil erosion
2. Increase the organic matter content of the soil
3. Promote soil nutrient cycling and balance



Avoid nutrient imbalances

1. Underuse
2. Misuse
3. Overuse



Soil governance

Soil Legislation

- “**Soil Laws/Acts**”, to date there are **not even 30 countries** that have this type of specific law. (state, local and regional laws referring to the protection and sustainable management of soils).
- **Only 17** countries have a **systematic national regulation** (Harmonized national legislation tackling exclusively and comprehensively the soil and its protection).
 - not even **10 percent** of the **194 members countries** of the **FAO**

SoiLex



SoiLEX - Soil related legal instruments and soil governance

SoiLEX is a global database that aims to facilitate access to information on existing legal instruments on soil protection and prevention of soil degradation. The platform was created in coordination with FAOLEX, which is to date one of the largest databases of legal frameworks and instruments related to natural resource management, food and agriculture.



Soil strategies and action plans

- Data improve exponentially when we come to talk about soil **strategies and plans**:
- To date there are almost **400 acts** (strategies, national plan etc.) that **directly or indirectly** affect the soil.
- The vast majority of these, emanated from around **80 countries**.
- Of these, the one that certainly deserves special mention is the **European** one, with its modern and integrated approach, covering all or almost all aspects of soil management: *“EU Soil Strategy for 2030 - Reaping the benefits of healthy soils for people, food, nature and climate”*.
- At national level, on the other hand, the most modern national plans have been adopted by: **Australia, the United States, Ireland, Austria, Switzerland, Thailand, Moldova, England, China, and Italy**.
- Unfortunately, not all of these states have adopted legislation at the national level, which shows that **even the most soil-conscious states are not always able to produce**, at least in the short term, **legally binding acts aimed** exclusively at **soil protection**.
- This figure when compared with those on the previous slide shows the **difference between the declarations of intent** of the various countries and their **practical implementation**.
- In other words, while **many states have understood the importance of proper soil management**, **very little has been done to translate these statements into practice and legislation**.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 17.11.2021

COM(2021) 699 final

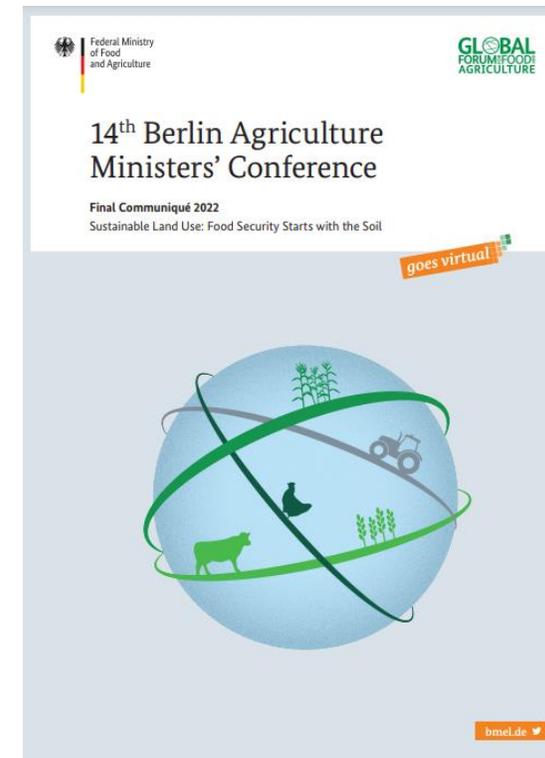
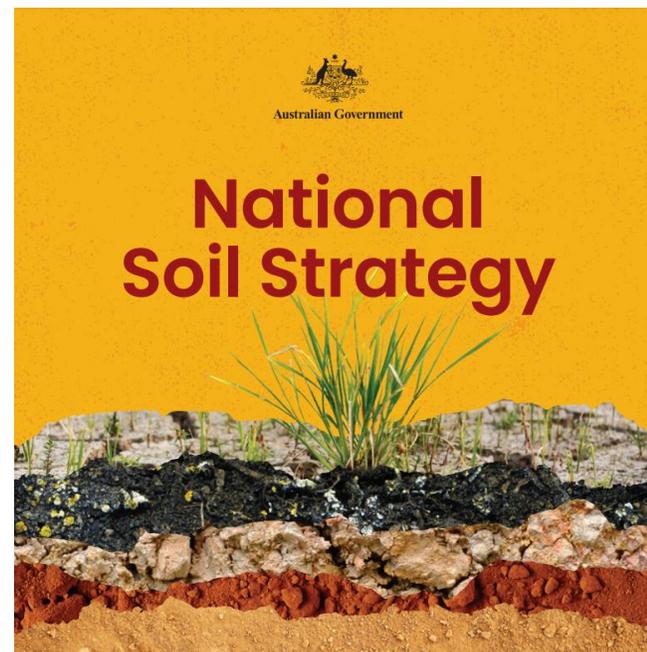
COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL,
THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE
REGIONS

EU Soil Strategy for 2030

Reaping the benefits of healthy soils for people, food, nature and climate

Febrero 3, 2022

Chile avanza en proyecto que establece una ley marco para
suelos



China Focus: New law on black soil protection comes into force

Source: Xinhua Editor: huaxia 2022-08-01 16:58:15



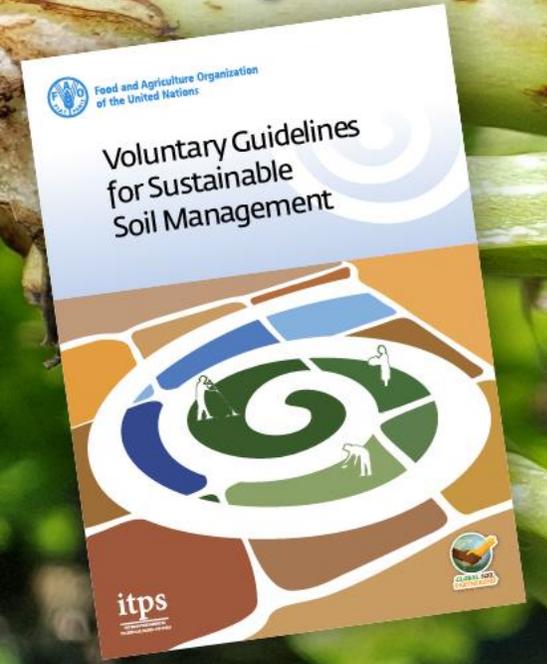
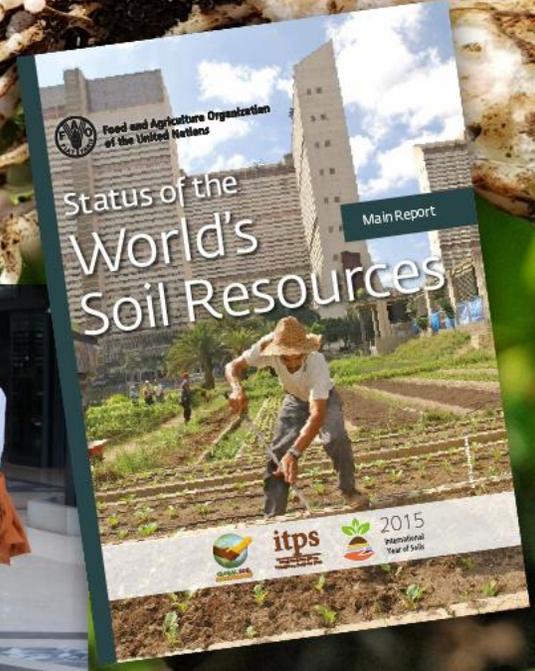
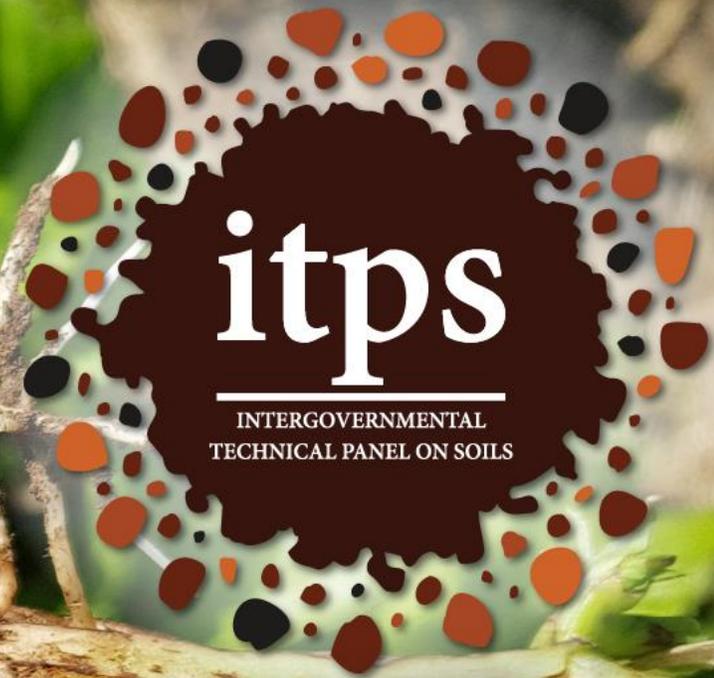
CHANGCHUN, Aug. 1 (Xinhua) -- A law on black soil protection, formulated as part of efforts to ensure China's grain security and protect the ecosystem, took effect on Monday.



Decision making for Sustainable Soil Management should be based on scientific evidence.

The Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils has been providing key scientific guidance and advice since 2013 (key products: Status of the World's Soil Resources Report, VGSSM, Global Symposia).

The scientific community could contribute with targeted research and work hand in hand with relevant organizations/ fora (where decisions are made by countries).



All stakeholders (governments, academia, research institutions, civil society, private sector) should work together promoting sustainable soil management (agreed terminology by governments).

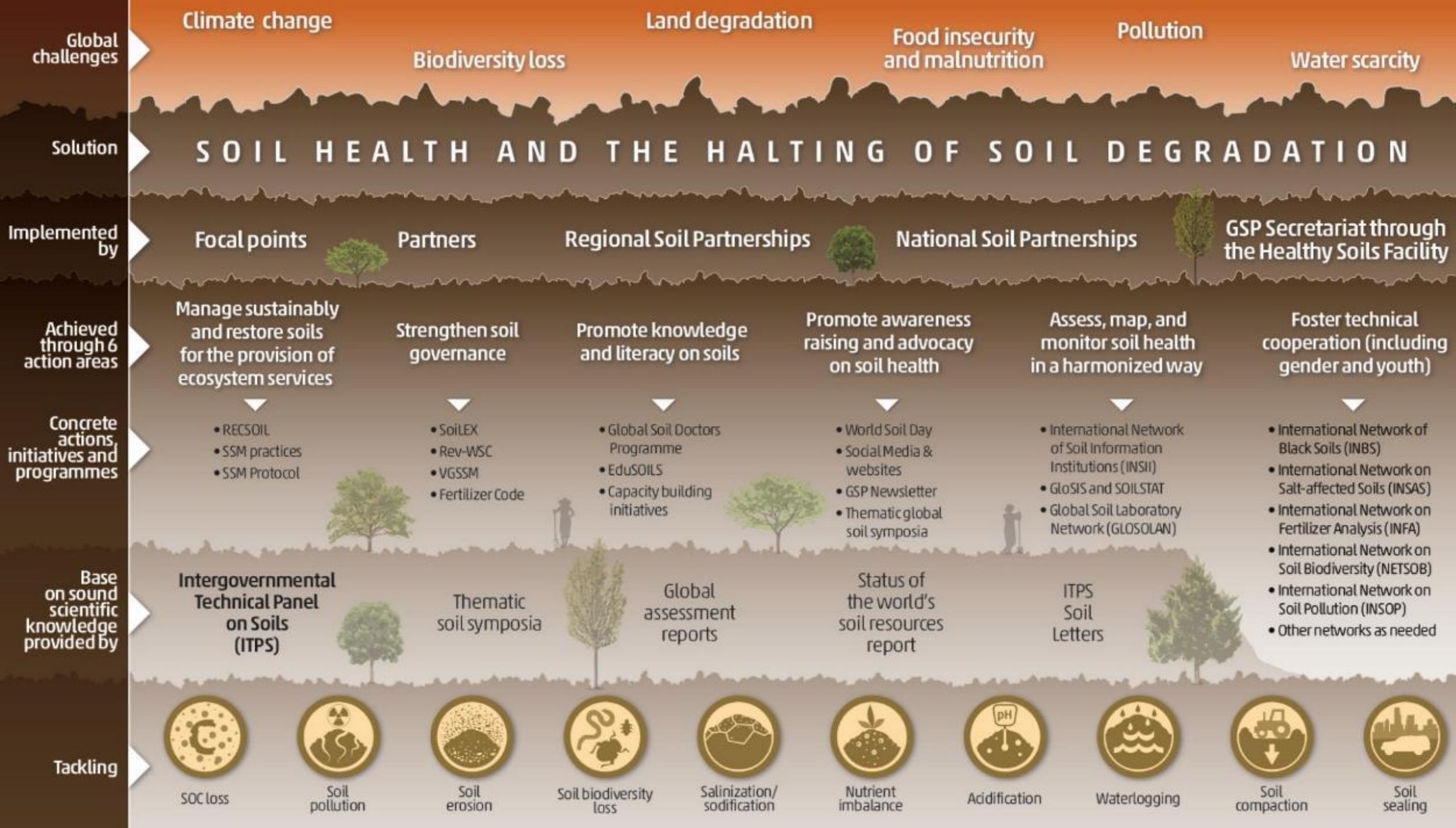
The proliferation of initiatives just brings a risk of duplication of efforts and competition for resources, reducing the potential of generating impact.

Partnership is crucial.





**Gender
balance
and inclusion
of youth
in soils
should be
a common
action.**



Way forward

- Continue advocating for Soil Governance at national level (all countries of the world should have soil governance in place). A global soils advocate? Successful example of Australia.
- Awareness raising of general public on the importance of soils (where food begins....). Continue UN World Soil Day as main platform but we could also explore a UN Decade.
- Implementation of the new GSP action framework and promote the achievement of the goal: **improve and maintain the health of at least 50 percent of the world's soils by 2030.**
- Promoting soils as a solution in the UN Conventions and integrating SSM to crosscutting fields.
- Promoting the development and application of solutions to real issues (enhancing soil fertility, addressing soil pollution, carbon sequestration, soil information, etc).
- Advocating for investment on sustainable soil management including targeted research on soils.
- Capacity development and supporting provision of technical guidance to farmers on soils.
- We invite you to join forces and partner towards healthy soils with one solid voice.



Thank you !