



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



SOIL IS ALIVE!

Soil
is home
to more than
25% of our
planet's
biodiversity

25%

Yet,
we know
only 1% of
this universe

1%



SOIL CONTAINS THE MOST DIVERSE TERRESTRIAL COMMUNITIES ON THE PLANET

In just 8 cm of soil, there are 13 quadrillion living organisms

8cm



The weight of bacteria in 1 hectare of soil is equivalent to the weight of 2 cows

1ha



There are more organisms in 1 gram of healthy soil than there are people on Earth

1g



SOIL ORGANISMS WORK IN A COORDINATED EFFORT TO SUSTAIN LIFE ON EARTH

Species richness
is an essential
component of a
healthy soil, which
in turn produces
more nutritious
and safer food



THE
GLOBAL
POPULATION
WILL REACH ALMOST
10 BILLION
BY 2050



7d 24^h
365^d

Soil organisms
support plant
growth and
improve
agriculture
production

58%

SUSTAINABLE SOIL
MANAGEMENT
COULD PRODUCE
UP TO 58%
MORE FOOD



SOIL ORGANISMS...

Are a source of medicines
and support human health



Contribute to the
remediation of soil
pollution by breaking
down contaminants



Play a key role in climate change
adaptation and mitigation by
storing carbon in the soil



50%

50% OF THE PLANET'S SOIL
PASSES THROUGH THE GUT
OF EARTHWORMS
EVERY YEAR



YET SOIL BIODIVERSITY IS IN **GREAT DANGER** FROM

Unsustainable soil
management
practices



MONOCULTURES LIMIT THE PRESENCE
OF BENEFICIAL BACTERIA, FUNGI AND
INSECTS, AND CONTRIBUTE TO
ECOSYSTEM DEGRADATION

75bn t

Erosion

EACH YEAR, 75 BILLION
TONS OF SOILS AND THEIR
ORGANISMS ARE STRIPPED
FROM THE LAND BY WIND
AND WATER EROSION

Pollution



POLLUTION CAUSES A CASCADE OF SOIL
DEGRADATION PROCESSES AND AFFECTS
SOIL ORGANISMS BY REDUCING BIOMASS
AND SPECIES RICHNESS

Surface
sealing and
urbanization

IN EUROPE,
11 HECTARES OF
SOIL ARE SEALED
UNDER EXPANDING
CITIES EVERY
HOUR

11 ha/h



COST OF INACTION:
50 BILLION €
PER YEAR AND COULD REACH
14 000 BILLION €
IN 2050



SOIL BIODIVERSITY IS A NATURE BASED SOLUTION

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

**SUPPORT
AGRO-ECOLOGICAL
TOURISM**

**MINIMIZE
THE USE OF
FERTILIZERS IN
GARDENS/
FARMS**

**TAKE PART IN
WORLD SOIL DAY
AND RAISE
AWARENESS**

**STIMULATE
INTEREST IN SOIL
BIODIVERSITY
AT SCHOOL**

**TAKE A
MAGNIFYING
GLASS AND ENJOY
THE SMALLER
THINGS IN LIFE**

**DISPOSE OF
YOUR GARBAGE
AND MASKS
RESPONSIBLY**

**CLEAN-UP YOUR
NEIGHBOURHOOD**

**REDUCE YOUR
FOOD WASTE BY
COMPOSTING**



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