



ANNUAL REPORT

2023

# The mission of the Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health (CA4SH) is to improve soil health globally.

We employ a proactive approach to addressing food and nutrition insecurity, climate change, socioeconomic returns and growth, productivity, rural livelihoods, and biodiversity loss from the soil up.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful for the support of Martin Frick (Deputy to the UNFSS Special Envoy), Agnes Kalibata (UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy to the 2021 UNFSS), Sasha Alexander (Policy Officer, UNCCD Secretariat), Ibrahim Thiaw (Under-Secretary General and Executive Secretary of the UNCCD), and Joao Campari (Global Leader, Food Practice, World Wildlife Fund International, and Leader of Action Track 3 under the UNFSS) for their support and enthusiasm during the Coalition's early days and beyond. We are also thankful to Yvonne Harze-Pitre (Director of Communications and Public Affairs, International Fertilizer Industry Association) and Robert Hunter (Chief Operating Officer, CropLife International) for spearheading the Private Sector Guiding Group throughout the UNFSS.

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# FOREWORDS



**DR LEIGH ANN WINOWIECKI**  
 Soil and Land Health Global  
 Research Lead, CIFOR-ICRAF  
 Co-Lead, CA4SH

As a soil scientist, I am often surprised at how soil is taken for granted, given the multiple ecosystem services soil provides. There is an urgent and growing need to reverse current degradation trends by investing in healthy soil. The UN Food System Summit (UNFSS) provided a dynamic platform to bring together the various organizations who submitted game changing solutions focused on building healthy soil ecosystems. While many initiatives previously existed, the Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health (CA4SH), filled a critical gap in soil advocacy and bringing together

diverse actors around one common goal: to scale soil health globally.

The past three years have been an incredible journey. It is amazing to see what CA4SH has accomplished in, officially, just two years, since the Coalition was launched at the UNFSS in July 2021.

A critical component of the success of CA4SH is the dedication and commitment of members who want to make a positive change in the world. Every year, the membership and engagement of the Coalition continues to grow, and every voice is heard, from small NGOs to International Organizations to Farmer Cooperatives and UN agencies and Member States. This engagement is palpable in our quarterly partner meetings, when the team is consistently blown away by the quality and quantity of participation, and these meetings represent just a fraction of how we collaborate with our partners and allies.

We are quite proud of our adaptive management and flexible leadership to be able to respond to critical issues and advocate for soil health at local, national, and international fora. CA4SH partners have hosted over 50 events over the past two years, elevating the importance of healthy soil, to a global audience. We now see more attention to soil health with the private sector, government, donors, and beyond.

We say that we are agnostic about the practices and committed to the outcome of healthy soil. We see soil as a unifier, bringing together actors from across sectors and across the globe, to truly tackle the global challenges facing society and the planet. There is still much that needs to be done, and which can only be tackled by committed individuals and organizations, like the ones we are proud to call members of CA4SH.



### DR RATTAN LAL

Distinguished University Professor of Soil Science, Ohio State University Laureate, 2019 Japan Prize and 2020 World Food Prize

Soil is the most precious of all natural resources. It is also finite, non-renewable over the human time frame and prone to degradation by land misuse. Soil mis-management is the major cause of undernutrition that affects about 3 billion people, especially children under 5 years old and nursing mothers. A recent IPCC report indicated that 30 percent of land is degraded due to climate change and 40 percent of ice-free land is affected by some degradation. Malnutrition is caused

by deficiency of micronutrients, protein and vitamins in food grown on soils that are polluted, contaminated, impoverished, degraded and scalped for brick making. In consequence, the food being produced is unhealthy. Food is also rendered unsafe when crops (including fruits and vegetables) are sprayed by pesticides and herbicides. Soil degradation and its agricultural impact to the environment is a complex issue that cannot be addressed by a scientific approach alone. We need to combine science with religious, theological, and spiritual ideas with a common thread to protect, restore, and manage.

CA4SH is playing a key role in addressing global issues, namely climate change, population growth and threats to food security, soil degradation, and water security threatened by scarce water supply and aggravating anthropogenic climate change. All these issues have one

thing in common; they are addressed by a movement that is spearheaded under the leadership of Leigh Winowiecki. CA4SH is addressing each of those issues effectively also because of the support and commitment of each member organization. I salute you all for taking up this noble cause, and it is also a great pleasure to work with you under Leigh's leadership. CA4SH's community is making a tremendous contribution in these issues of the 21st Century. With your support and commitment, CA4SH is translating science into action, and addressing these global issues together.

It is important that we keep up the momentum generated by CA4SH.



### DR JOAO CAMPARI

Global Leader Food Practice, World Wildlife Fund International

Soil is the source of life on Earth and sits at the intersection of the food security, nature, climate and development agendas. It is our most important environmental asset but, in the past, it's importance has been overlooked. Healthy soil is critical for hundreds of thousands of species, allowing biodiversity to flourish, and to sequester carbon and limit the impacts of climate change. What's more, we rely on soil to produce around 95% of our food - if we don't respect it and manage it as a fundamental asset that sustains all form of life on the planet (including ours!), we put our food security and ourselves at risk. There is no future for people and planet without healthy soil.

Delivering success in a unified agenda for people and planet requires protecting, sustainably managing and restoring soil. How we do this will look different in different landscapes around the world. Local stakeholders, especially the most vulnerable communities, must be included in making decisions on how to improve soil health, with modern science working hand-in-hand with traditional knowledge to deliver benefits for people and planet. Supporting farmers to produce enough healthy and nutritious food within planetary boundaries will help secure an equitable food future for all.

Yet food systems are not just a beneficiary of healthy soil. With huge amounts of degraded soil lying in agricultural lands, and farmers being our most important environmental stewards, we must harness the opportunity food systems transformation provides. Nature-positive production can actively improve and maintain healthy soil and empower communities to manage this valuable asset. At the same time, embracing circular food

systems that reduce loss and waste, and shifting our consumption patterns towards more diversified, healthier and more sustainable diets, will also play a valuable role in managing soil health. Food systems approaches, from farm to fork, will deliver benefits for people, planet, places and prosperity.

WWF is proud to be a founding partner of CA4SH, particularly as it emerged from the UN Food Systems Summit Action Track that we chaired with the support of more than 50 organizations. We deeply value the ambition, expertise and practicality of our fellow partners, and are committed to continuing to help shape global policies and accelerate implementation at scale. The partnership between governments, civil society, farmers and science is already delivering multiple benefits, and by continuing to work nimbly, innovatively and within local contexts CA4SH can help deliver significant impacts in landscapes around the world – for the good of all.

# WHERE WE BEGAN

The Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health (CA4SH) was rooted in the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) and anchored in the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Incited from the glaring need for a focus on soils as part of food system transformation, CA4SH has catapulted from the initiative of handful of dedicated stakeholders into multilateral, multi-stakeholder action to address food and nutrition insecurity, land degradation, biodiversity loss, and climate change by investing in healthy soil ecosystems.

Under the 2021 UNFSS preparations, 1,800 Game-Changing and Systemic Solutions were submitted through public participation forums, and those related to soil were brought together by Dr. Rattan Lal, Leigh Winowiecki and Joao Campari, leader of the **Action Track 3** theme on healthy soil ecosystems. By collating these initiatives, a core group was formed, originally called the Global Soils Hub. Building off of this, the Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health, as it is now known, was officially launched in September 2021 at the UNFSS. CA4SH also had the added support of a private sector guiding group within the UNFSS who supported our vision.

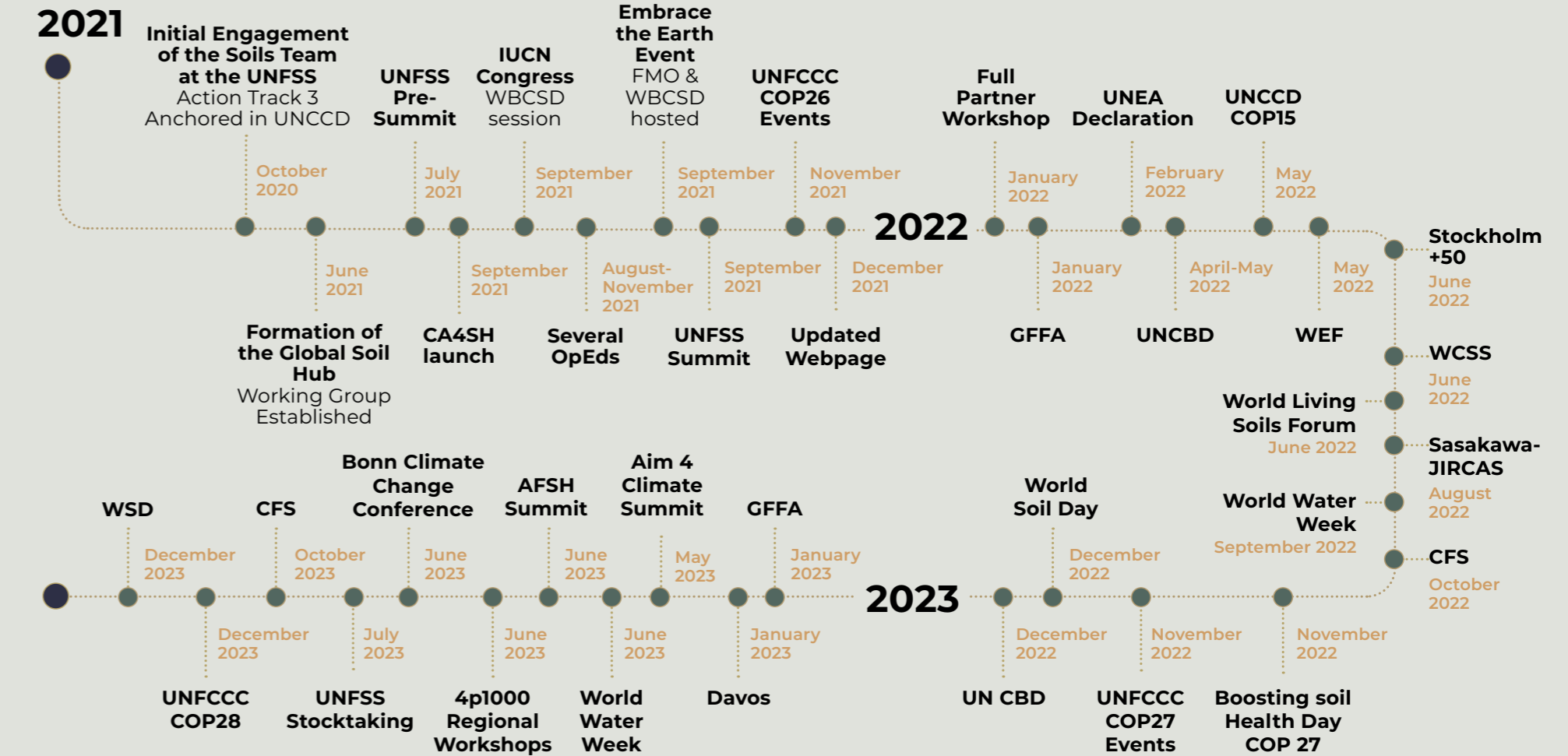
Since its inception, momentum around global soil health has taken root and grown exponentially. CA4SH came full-circle in 2023 by co-hosting a side event at the UNFSS Stocktaking Moment +2 alongside the **Agroecology Coalition**, the **Coalition of Action on Healthy Diets from Sustainable FS for Children and All (HDSFS)** and the **Food is Never Waste Coalition** – three of our sister Coalitions from UNFSS.

2023 also saw the launch of the **COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action** which states the intent from 159 countries to enhance soil health. This is a major step for global soil health.

[Learn more about our roots on YouTube](#)



## The Journey so Far



# Who we are

## CA4SH AT A GLANCE

The mission of the Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health (CA4SH) is to improve soil health globally. Our main objective is to improve global soil health by addressing critical implementation, monitoring, policy, and public-private investment barriers that constrain farmers from adopting and scaling out healthy soil practices.

**What is soil health?** Soil Health is “the ability of the soil to sustain the productivity, diversity, and environmental services of terrestrial ecosystems.”

- From the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS)

CA4SH advocates for multi-stakeholder partners to facilitate the adoption and scaling of a global mechanism and processes that foster an enabling environment which guides and catalyzes public and market-based private sector investments in soil health with positive outcomes for economic returns and growth, improved productivity and rural livelihoods, climate action and nature.

In addition, the CA4SH aligns with and leverages the work of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

### THE FIVE PILLARS OF CA4SH:

- 1 Accessible and inclusive multi-stakeholder actions to empower smallholder farmers.
- 2 Transparent and accountable business solutions for public and private investments that promote equity.
- 3 Evidence-based policy as an enabler for all, at all scales.
- 4 Capacity building for on-ground implementation and monitoring.
- 5 Implementation of robust soil health monitoring frameworks to track interventions over time.



### TARGETS<sup>1</sup>:

- Integrate **soil health considerations in policy** across the development, environment, and climate change domains, and along value chains.
- Significantly **increase the number of hectares of land under improved practices** for soil health.
- **Expand on research in development** into soil health practices, monitoring and evaluation, and financial tools and mechanisms.
- Significantly **increase investments in soil health**, by a margin of 5-10 fold above current financing commitments.

<sup>1</sup> The targets of CA4SH are being reviewed and refined in 2024 through a multistakeholder co-design process.

# GOVERNANCE

## CA4SH Steering Committee

CA4SH has grown exponentially since its formation in 2021, following the UN Food Systems Summit. With over 150 members by the end of 2023, the Coalition was ready for an Executive body to drive actions and capitalize on momentum for soil health in the global arena by harnessing the diversity of expertise that comprises the Coalition.

The inaugural CA4SH Steering Committee formed and launched in 2023 with 17 members committed to scaling global soil health. Membership backgrounds of SteerCo members are reflective of the diversity of voices across CA4SH. The SteerCo met for the first time in two sessions on 18th and 25th October 2023 to outline a way forward for the Committee and the Coalition.

### THESE ARE THEIR PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Provide guidance and strategic direction for CA4SH
- Help build strategic partnerships and identify opportunities for collaboration
- Provide expert input to help achieve CA4SH's four main goals
- Advocate for CA4SH's mission



**SASHA ALEXANDER**  
Policy Officer, UNCCD Secretariat

[Learn More](#)



**HENK VAN DUIJN**  
President & CEO, International Fertilizer Development Center

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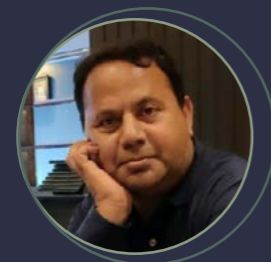
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Theme Leader: Soil and Land Health, CIFOR-ICRAF

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**VINCENT MAKIYI**  
Managing Director, Agri-Impact Malawi

[Learn More](#)

## CA4SH Secretariat

The CA4SH Secretariat provides backend support to all of CA4SH's activities. Since the Coalition's inception in 2021, this dedicated team<sup>2</sup> has been facilitating events, running the CA4SH website and communications channels, garnering support for the Coalition, creating knowledge management products, facilitating connections between CA4SH members, onboarding new members, reaching out to potential partners, and more.



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<sup>2</sup> In June 2023, the Coordinator position changed hands from Dr Jessica Lee to Daniela Solis, as Jess accepted a full-time research position. Both coordinators have brought incredible strength to the Coalition.

## MEMBERSHIP

### What does it mean to be a member of CA4SH?

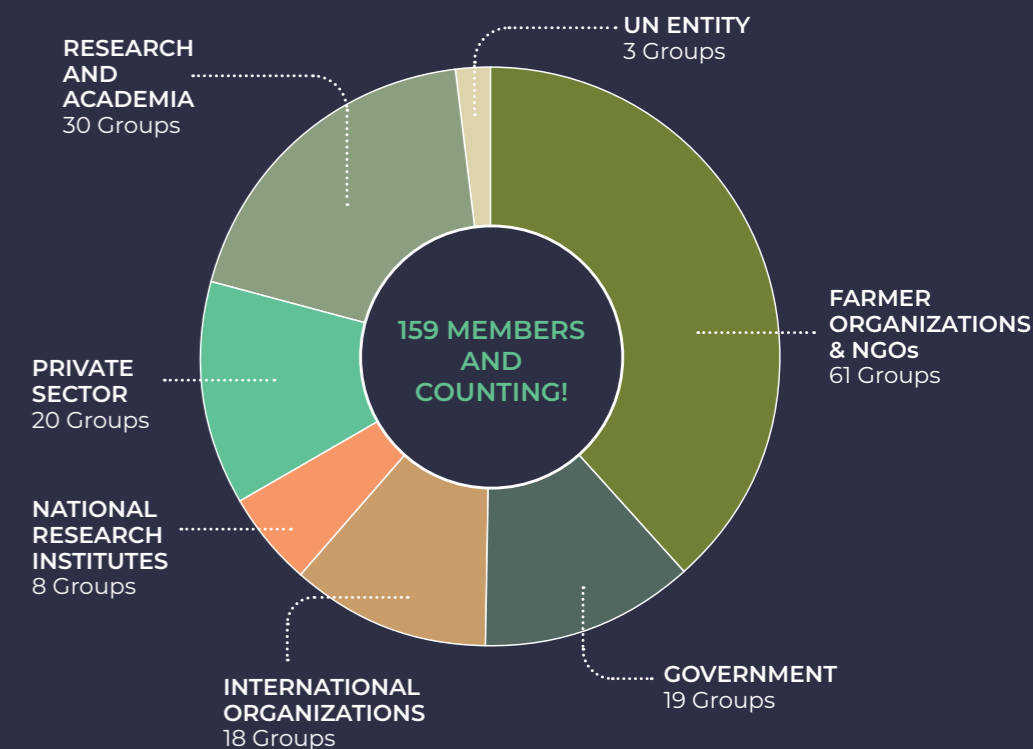
Stakeholders are invited to sign a support letter to become members of CA4SH. Membership is open and non-legally binding. There is no financial commitment, though there may be opportunities for interested members to fund activities.

Members can have their logo displayed on the website as well as share their flagship initiatives, events, and other updates that are elevated through CA4SH communication channels. Members are invited to join the Quarterly CA4SH Partner Meetings and are encouraged to engage through the Thematic Working Groups, engage in joint advocacy, raise funds for joint activities, and advocate for the Coalition.

### MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO:

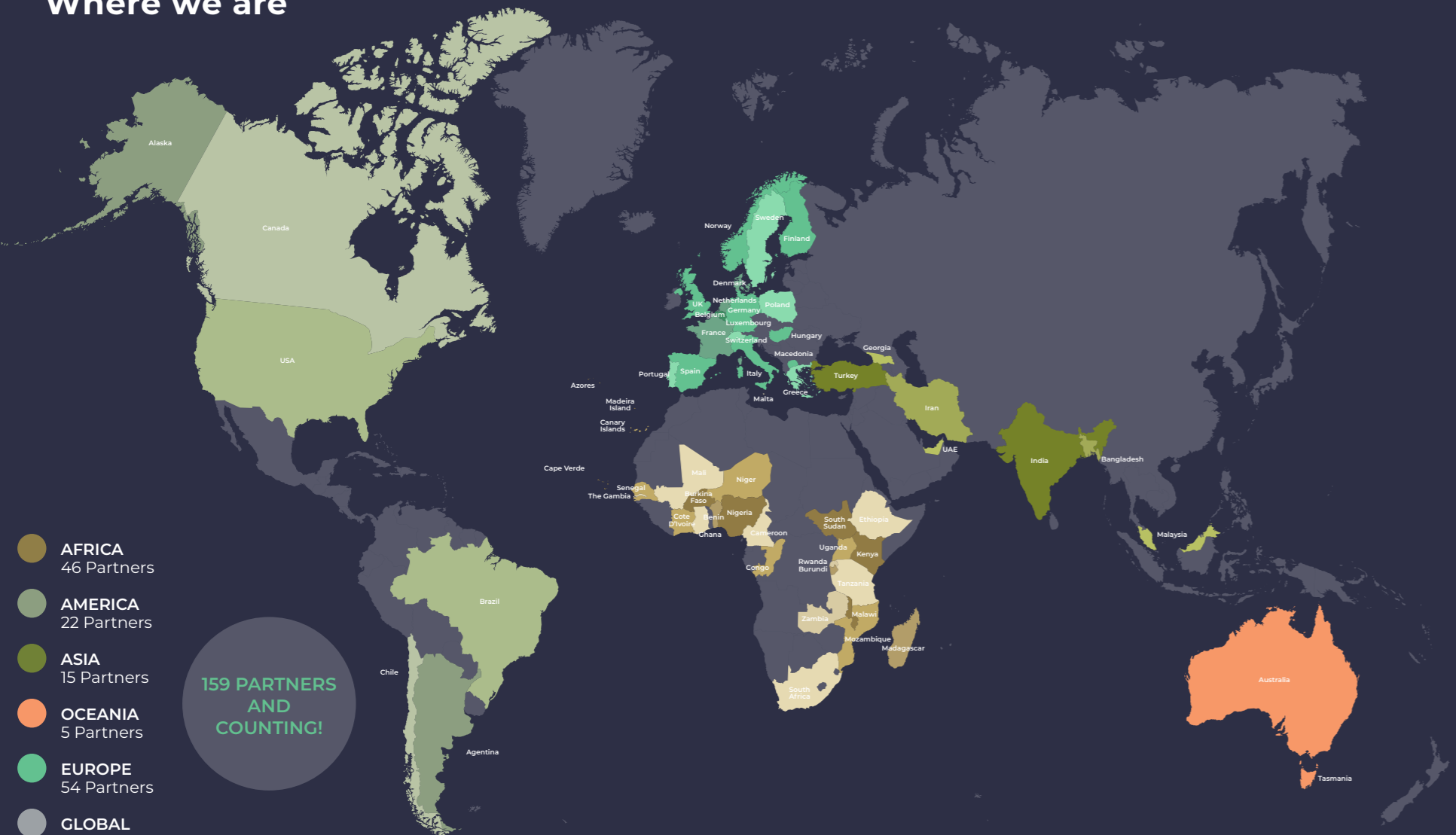
- Participate in global events and access speaking opportunities alongside leading actors in the field.
- Participate in policy advocacy and influence the global soil health agenda.
- Access and exchange knowledge with members and key stakeholders.
- Connect and collaborate with members and key stakeholders.
- Become part of a community that catalyzes multi-stakeholder action to address food and nutrition insecurity, land degradation, biodiversity loss, and climate change by investing in healthy soil ecosystems.

### A Multi Stakeholder Coalition





## Where we are



## FARMER ORGANIZATIONS, COOPERATIVES & NGOs



## GOVERNMENT



## INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS



NATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTES



PRIVATE SECTOR



RESEARCH & ACADEMIA



WORKING GROUPS

The **Thematic Working Groups** were launched in 2023 and are a space for CA4SH members to collaborate and move the needle forward. Members are invited to select working groups of their choice, interest, and expertise to contribute to. Groups meet regularly throughout the year to discuss group objectives, collaboration with other working groups, and activities centered around more targeted themes under CA4SH's **core targets** of scaling soil health.

Policy and enabling environment for soil health



MAIN ACTIVITIES FROM 2023

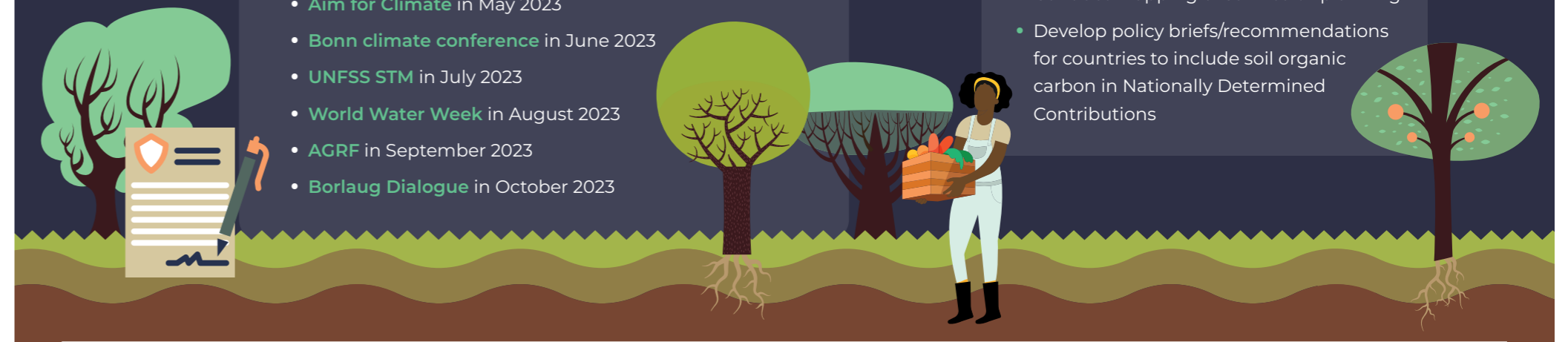
- Created a group ToR and implementation plan for 2023
- Met regularly throughout the year to coordinate the action of different actors around key international moments - identifying key milestones, messages, engagement as a unified voice for soil health.
- Organized side events at:
  - **Global Forum for Food and Agriculture** in February 2023
  - **Aim for Climate** in May 2023
  - **Bonn climate conference** in June 2023
  - **UNFSS STM** in July 2023
  - **World Water Week** in August 2023
  - **AGRF** in September 2023
  - **Borlaug Dialogue** in October 2023



LOOKING AHEAD

The main focus of the working group going into 2024 will be to:

- Continue to actively engage in policy advocacy and maintain soil health momentum in the global agenda
- Develop case studies integrating soil health into national policy
- Conduct mapping of soil health planning
- Develop policy briefs/recommendations for countries to include soil organic carbon in Nationally Determined Contributions



## Soil health monitoring, research in development, and project implementation



### MAIN ACTIVITIES FROM 2023

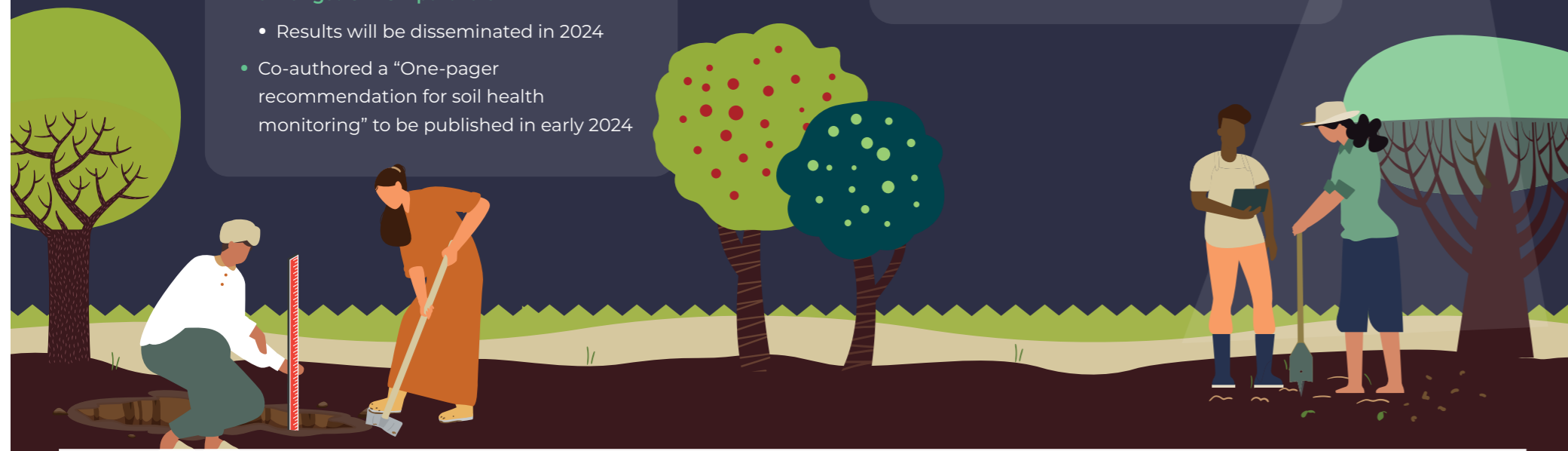
- Created a **group ToR and implementation plan** for 2023
- Three working groups (soil health monitoring, research, and implementation) were merged to address overlapping objectives, reduce redundancy, and increase efficiency
- Developed a **survey to understand soil health definitions and monitoring efforts amongst CA4SH partners**
  - Results will be disseminated in 2024
- Co-authored a “One-pager recommendation for soil health monitoring” to be published in early 2024



### LOOKING AHEAD

The main focus of the working group going into 2024 will be to:

- Drive alignment and harmonization of soil health definitions, metrics, indicators, tools/methods to assess and monitor soil health
- Fundraise to implement and track interventions, monitoring and communication
- Bring evidence-based data into policy



## Finance and investments for soil health



### MAIN ACTIVITIES FROM 2023

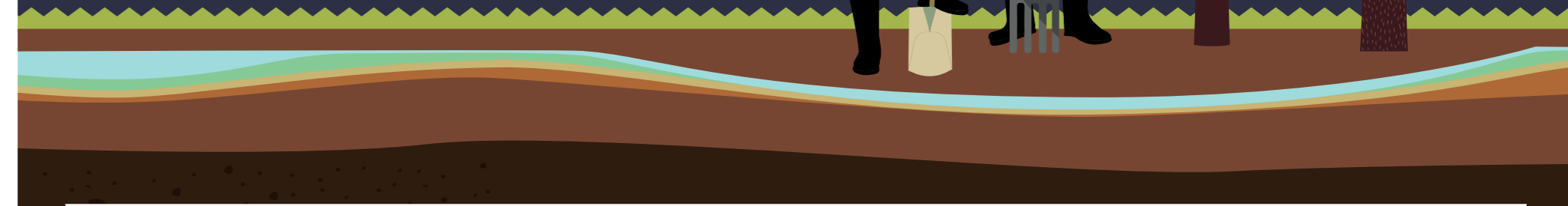
- Created a **group ToR and implementation plan** for 2023
- Gathered knowledge and insights gained through the work of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)'s Soil Investment Hub



### LOOKING AHEAD

The main focus of the working group going into 2024 will be to:

- Explore how it can be a mechanism for operationalizing the Soil Investment Hub on the ground
- Identify and drive alignment in investment mechanisms



## Stakeholder engagement and communicating soil health



### MAIN ACTIVITIES FROM 2023

- Created a group ToR and implementation plan for 2023
- Developed a clearing house website for all soil-related events at COP28
- Developed joint communication pieces:
  - Health of the Soil (HotS) International Launches the “Love in Soil Again” (LISA) Initiative To Boost Soil Health
  - Crop Residue Management for Healthy Soils
  - Backyard gardening: a Convenient and year-round food basket
  - Community stewards in Uganda turned their village into a forest
- Developed key messages for soil related events and contributed to creating communications campaign materials that elevate the message of soil health, to inform a social media toolkit for COP28



### LOOKING AHEAD

The main focus of the group going into 2024 will be knowledge management. The group is working to gather and communicate evidence of healthy soil practices, policies, and an enabling environment for scaling soil health from across the Coalition. These knowledge management pieces will include:

- Thematic op-eds,
- A series of good practice, lessons learned, and policy briefs, and
- A SOIL+ SDGs campaign

The group will engage other CA4SH working groups accordingly to participate in these initiatives



## What we do



# ENGAGEMENT

## Our Approach

Engaging a membership of 159 multi stakeholder organizations is an ongoing exercise. We offer our engagement and communications channels as a resource that is available to all of our members to amplify their work. With this in mind, we have adopted the following approach with the knowledge that our membership represents all sectors and all scales, and that every organization has different levels of capacity and different intersections of barriers or opportunities to engage:



### OBJECTIVES

- Ensure all voices are heard across the CA4SH membership.
- Underpin the work of organizations that operate with limited capacity to ensure that engagement is equitable.



### PRINCIPLES

- Offer support for member organizations that operate with limited capacity for communications, knowledge management, and engagement.
- Actively reach out to organizations across different geographies, sectors, and scales to join the Coalition.
- Actively engage and encourage CA4SH member organizations across different geographies, sectors, and scales to share their work through our engagement and communications channels.



### ONGOING AVENUES FOR ENGAGEMENT

#### Quarterly Partner Meetings

- 2-3 Member organizations are engaged to present an update from their organization, based on availability.
- The CA4SH Secretariat, Working Groups, and Steering Committee present updates from the work of the Coalition.
- Open discussion on the work of the Coalition, upcoming foci, and opportunities for collaboration.
- In 2023, we met on 30th January, 5 June, and 14th November.

#### Steering Committee Meetings

- The CA4SH Steer Co meets regularly to discuss strategic direction for the coalition.

### Internal Engagement

- Collaboration calls are continuous! The purpose of these calls are to brainstorm collaboration between CA4SH and our members, as well as between members, themselves.
- The CA4SH Secretariat meets monthly to discuss ongoing projects, support needed, and the way forward.

### Monthly Newsletter & News Cycle

- CA4SH members are encouraged to share their news with the Secretariat to be included in the newsletter and news channel.
- Updates, announcements and more are posted through the newsletter.

### Resource Library

- A compilation of resources submitted from across the CA4SH membership organizations, alongside original pieces prepared by CA4SH.

### Events

- CA4SH members are encouraged to share their events with the Secretariat to be included on the event calendar and raise awareness through our communications channels.
- CA4SH organizes events at most major global events and brings together speakers from across our membership to participate.

### Social Media Channels

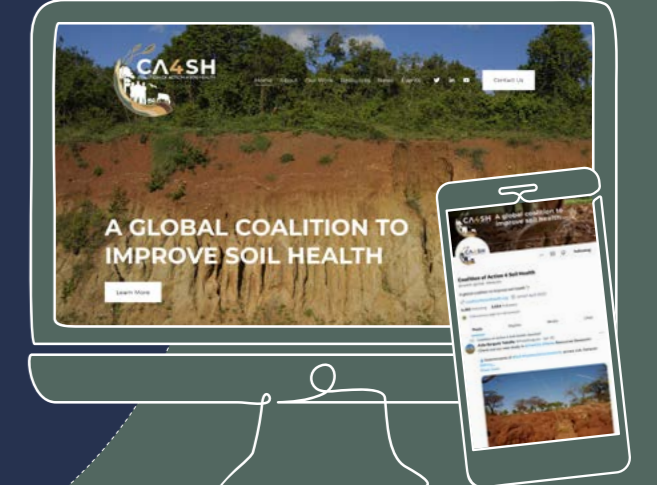
- CA4SH utilizes X (Twitter) and LinkedIn to share updates from the Coalition and amplify news from members.
- We also prepare social media assets like infographics to elevate evidence around soil health.

We nearly doubled our communications engagement this year!

- **14 799 Website Visits** - more than double that of 2022 (6258)
- **AIMforClimate coverage** was the **most-read story** of 2023 and the **most-clicked event** on the website
- 437 **Newsletter** subscribers
- 2854 Followers on **LinkedIn**
- 1982 Followers on **X (Twitter)**

Our favorite hashtags: **#SoilHealth** **#COPSoil** **#SaveSoil** **#Soil** **#ActionOnSoil** **#ActionOnFood**

Follow: **@ca4sh\_global**



## Fostering Linkages as a Coalition

In 2023, CA4SH developed several thematic resource pages to boost the message of soil health in dedicated spaces. These pages elevate the work of the Coalition by drawing linkages between initiatives, showcasing activities in these areas, and offering a space for partners to display their work. All contributions are amplified through the CA4SH communications channels to garner additional support and promote collaboration.



### SOIL HEALTH RESOLUTION

Documenting the progress of the Resolution so far.



### FLAGSHIP INITIATIVES

Presenting the work of initiatives across the CA4SH membership who are implementing soil health action on the ground.



### COPSOIL

Consolidating everything and anything related to soil health from the UNFCCC COP28 proceedings.



### RESEARCH ROOM

Highlighting on-going research into monitoring, evaluating, and communicating soil health.



### POLICY ROOM

Showcasing roadmaps towards implementing and developing soil health policy.

### Integrating soil organic carbon into Nationally Determined Contributions

On 21 October 2022, CA4SH participated in a policy roundtable organized by Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA), bringing together experts and developing recommendations on how to include soil organic carbon in Member States' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

With support from CA4SH, AICCRA produced six policy briefs focusing on AICCRA project countries. CA4SH is looking to scale this initiative into other countries alongside national partners.

Read the Policy Briefs in our [Policy Room](#)

Available for:

- Mali
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Senegal
- Ethiopia
- Zambia



## Key engagements from 2023

### JAN



**20 JANUARY**  
Expert Panel at the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture Food Systems in Crisis - Solutions for More Resilience



**30 JANUARY**  
Partner Meeting

### MAY



**10 MAY**  
Breakout session at AIM for Climate Summit  
Scaling healthy soil practices globally through innovative partnerships, financing and policy

### JUN

**5 JUNE**  
Partner Meeting

**6 JUNE**  
Side Event at the Africa Agribusiness and Science Week  
Developing the Implementation Modalities for the Soil Initiative for Africa and AFSH Action Plan



**15 JUNE**  
SB 58 Bonn Policy Dialogue Luncheon  
Building a Road Map for Soil Health in the Climate Change Agenda

### JULY

**12 JULY**  
Side event at the GSP Plenary Assembly, co-hosted with 4p1000  
Why a Soil Health Resolution at COP 28 of UNFCCC?

**24 JULY**  
Side event at UN Food Systems +2 Stocktaking Moment  
Towards Healthy and Sustainable Food Systems: Agroecology, Soil and Healthy Diets

**25 JULY**  
Side event at UN Food Systems +2 Stocktaking Moment  
From the soil up: how can agroecology and regenerative agriculture transform food systems?

### AUG



**21 AUGUST**  
Session at World Water Week  
Healthy rangelands for enhanced water security under a changing climate

### SEP



**4-6 SEPTEMBER**  
Side Events at the Africa Climate Summit



**4-5 SEPTEMBER**  
Africa Food Systems Forum (AGRF)  
Revitalizing Africa's food systems requires collective action and a clear vision for soil health

### OCT



**17 OCTOBER**  
Side Event at the World Food Prize Borlaug Dialogue  
Multi-stakeholder action for scaling soil health globally for food security now and in the future



**18, 25 OCTOBER**  
Soil Health Steering Committee Meeting

### NOV-DEC



**14 NOVEMBER**  
Partner Meeting

**30 NOVEMBER - 12 DECEMBER**  
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change COP28  
CA4SH co-hosted the Food Systems Pavilion and engaged in several dialogues alongside partners. See [www.coalitionforsoilhealth.org/soilatcop](http://www.coalitionforsoilhealth.org/soilatcop) to learn more

# FLAGSHIP INITIATIVES

## Africa

These initiatives demonstrate approaches, projects and actions underway across the coalition to address soil health. We are always interested in supporting new flagship initiatives on the website and through our communications channels.

**Regenerative Agricultural Practices for Improved Livelihoods and Markets (REALMS)**  
RWANDA, KENYA



**Cote d'Ivoire: Country Collaborators for the Global Soil Doctors Programme**  
COTE D'IVOIRE



**One Constituency One Million Trees Programme**  
UGANDA



**Drylands Transform**  
SOUTH SUDAN, ETHIOPIA, UGANDA, KENYA



**Scaling farmer centered land restoration in Africa**  
ETHIOPIA, KENYA, MALI, NIGER, TANZANIA



**Support in agroforestry and livestock for agricultural households in Kailo Territory at the Batake Plateau in the DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**



**SOILS-Space to Place**  
GHANA, NIGER, MALAWI, TANZANIA, ZAMBIA WITH SPILLOVERS IN KENYA, UGANDA, MOZAMBIQUE



**Green-Up Solutions**  
KENYA



**Dudu Dunia**  
KENYA



**Regreening Africa**  
ETHIOPIA, GHANA, KENYA, MALI, NIGER, RWANDA, SENEGAL, SOMALIA



**Soil Protection and Rehabilitation of Degraded Soils in Western Kenya (ProSoil)**  
KENYA



## Global

**U.S. Regenerative Cotton Fund**  
NORTH AMERICA



**Living Soils**  
LATIN AMERICA



**Honduras TREE (Training to Expand Ecoagriculture) Program**  
HONDURAS



**Trees for Farmers**  
BRAZIL



**Supporting the EU Mission: A Soil Deal for Europe**  
EUROPE



**17 Sustainability & Consultancy Services**  
GLOBAL



**Carbon Farming**  
GLOBAL



**Andhra Pradesh Community-managed Natural Farming Programme**  
INDIA



**Communicating the Importance of Soil Health**



## Thematic Work by CA4SH Partners on the Ground

These flagship Initiatives are independently implemented by CA4SH partners, and adhere to thematic targets focusing on policy, implementation, research, and investments to scale soil health action on the ground. These are just some examples of what this looks like in practice from across our membership in 2023.

Learn more about all of the Flagship Initiatives on our [website](#).

### ● INTEGRATE SOIL HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS IN POLICY

The **NATIOONS** project is supporting soil health policy at the national and regional levels by connecting policy makers and other key stakeholders with evidence to support healthy soil practices. Demonstrated practices feed into the EU Mission: A Soil Deal for Europe and support the European transition towards healthy soils by 2030.

On a more localized scale, **REALMS** supports and co-develops national and sub-national policies for the agricultural sector, based on experiences working with smallholder farmers to adopt regenerative agricultural practices.

### ● INCREASE INVESTMENTS IN SOIL HEALTH

When we think of soil health investments, many people first think of carbon farming, which is **Rabobank's** specialty. Through their global approach, they support farmers to transition to regenerative farming practices by generating carbon credits. The **U.S. Regenerative Cotton Fund**, on the other hand, provides support through technical knowledge and decision support tools, among others. **17 Sustainability & Consultancy Services** offers financial and business strategies to adhere to sustainable principles and values. In all its manifestations, investing time, effort and support into healthy soil practices enables transformation.

### ● SUPPORTING FARMERS TO SCALE HEALTHY SOIL PRACTICES ON THE GROUND

Healthy soil practices look different in every context, reflecting the needs of adjacent communities and environmental conditions. The **Honduras TREE programme** is supporting 1600 smallholder farms to transition to regenerative agricultural practices, win part by planting 1 million trees. In the community of **Andhra Pradesh** in India, the focus is on transitioning from input-based, industrialized agriculture to agroecological and nature-based solutions.

### ● EXPAND ON RESEARCH IN DEVELOPMENT

Advocating for healthy soils often necessitates actionable evidence. Flagship projects like **Drylands Transform** or the **Land Soil Crop Hubs** are doing so in Eastern Africa to provide farmers with useful agricultural data, and demonstrate areas of interest for policy makers.

In addition to generating evidence, decision-making tools like the **Regreening Africa** app or **SOILS-Space to Place** reach farmers directly.

## Highlighting success stories of implementation on the ground by CA4SH partners



**Flagship Case Study: Agri-Impact**  
MALAWI  
[www.agriimpactmw.org](http://www.agriimpactmw.org)



### PARTICIPANTS



**5000 FARM HOUSEHOLDS**  
**25,000 DIRECT BENEFICIARIES**



### ORGANIZATIONAL APPROACH

Agri-Impact Malawi (AIM) aims to achieve rural household resilience through food security, knowledge sharing on nutrition, and access to agricultural market solutions. We aim to help rural farm households achieve increased income, sustainable economic growth, and better livelihoods.

We promote the production, dissemination, and consumption of improved, climate-smart, and nutritious staple crops. We engage a transformative approach that aligns rural farm households to produce more nutritious foods sustainably and in a market-driven manner.



### MAIN APPROACH TO SOIL HEALTH

To enhance the localized diversity of farmer-led food systems, AIM engages in permaculture principles where people break free of monoculture systems and use the land around their homes intensively to sustain their livelihoods. As a regenerative agricultural technique, it supports reversing the effects of climate change by rebuilding organic matter and restoring degraded soil biodiversity.

We use soil health- and climate-resilience-centered activities, such as capacity building on rainwater harvesting and management loss and soil organic matter content restoration, such as compost manure-making and soil fertility, to harness soil productivity and crop yield.



### MAIN OBJECTIVE

Contribute to the restoration of lands and the well-being of people.



### ACTIVITIES

- Promoting the production and consumption of improved, climate-smart, nutritious staple foods
- Supporting post-harvest handling management, value addition and technology
- Agricultural markets linkages and business support
- Job creation for rural women and youth
- Provision of access to local, affordable and renewable energy solutions
- Provision of organic soil health-improving technologies and services





Ida standing in her groundnuts field which she fertilizes with organic manure from her chickens.

Image Credit: Agri-Impact Malawi

## AN EXAMPLE OF HOW WE HAVE SUPPORTED FARMERS TO TRANSITION TO HEALTHY LAND AND SOIL MANAGEMENT

Over time, poverty struck Idah Magalanga, one of the main progressive farmers under the Household Nutrition and Economic Empowerment Through Vegetable Production, Value Addition and Marketing (NEVAM) Project, implemented by AIM.

From her home in Salima village, Traditional Authority Chadza, in Lilongwe district, Idah shares the good news of how the compost manure-making component under the NEVAM project has helped her move from poverty to prosperity:

“**Had it been in the past, you would have already seen the drama. In the short period you have been here, you would have already witnessed a quarrel between me and those I owed huge amounts of money I used to buy chemical fertilizer [from].”**

Idah explains how a heavy reliance on loans made her life miserable. She used to harvest very little every season due to a lack of access to fertilizer and other requirements such as quality seeds, a lack of alternative reliable off-farm sources of income, and access to cash assets, among other barriers. Hunger and other needs affected her household year in and year out, as the mother of five with three grandchildren struggled to make ends meet. The family's situation left her with no choice but to fall into the trap of borrowing money with exorbitant interest rates. Failure to pay back the loans always landed her and her family into fights and confiscation of the few possessions the household owned. Idah admits that she saw no exit from her abject poverty.

Through the NEVAM Project, Idah received ten chickens to multiply and use to complement vegetable dishes made from her new organic home garden, improve access to diverse, nutritious foods, create income generation through chicken and egg sales, and harness her empowerment, as poultry are often the only livestock under the independent control of women in her area.

Ida was among the 93 household members trained in low-cost chicken pen construction, chicken feed formulation demonstration, and management of chicken droppings to generate organic fertilizer for her home vegetable garden and staple fields. After the compost manure training, she was among the first ten households to construct a chicken pen that harvests droppings. Meanwhile, the chickens multiplied to 108, easily filling 50 kg bags of chicken droppings to use as compost manure for her field.



Idah Magalanga (In blue) receiving her four Chickens during the distribution exercise at Salima Village, Lilongwe.

Image Credit: Agri-Impact Malawi

“**The chickens I received complimented well with the compost manure training I attended. I can now make my organic fertilizer for my one-acre field, which normally requires two 50kg bags of fertilizer, which I haven't been able to afford, year in and year out”**

Meanwhile, Ida has cultivated Groundnuts on her one-acre field using the compost manure methods she learned through the project. Idah intends to share ten chickens with fellow farmers 12 months after receiving the initial chickens so that all households within the village have access to chickens to support nutrition and also harness alternative sources of income and soil health enhancement.

## Highlighting success stories of implementation on the ground by CA4SH partners



### Flagship Case Study: Land & Health Association

Banikoara, Kandi, N'dali, Djidja, Ketou, Zinvié Townships

**BENIN**

[www.landandhealth.org](http://www.landandhealth.org)



#### PARTICIPANTS



**304 INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES**



**430 DIRECT BENEFICIARIES**



#### MAIN OBJECTIVE

Contribute to the restoration of lands and the well-being of people



#### CORE TARGETS

- Restore 300 hectares of degraded lands by 2030
- Train 850 smallholder farmers (30% women) in sustainable land management techniques by 2028
- Reforest with 5000 indigenous fruit-bearing plants by 2030
- Assist 100 women in securing their land by providing them with land titles by 2030
- Document indigenous sustainable land management techniques and methods for managing pests
- Contribute to a better understanding of the concept of land degradation neutrality amongst policymakers and NGOs
- Raise awareness, commitment, and financial support from the general public, businesses, and authorities regarding health issues caused by land degradation
- Train 1000 youth by 2030 on the concept of climate change, its impacts, consequences, and climate negotiations
- Document plant and fungal diversity
- Promote nature-based solutions as adaptation and mitigation techniques for greenhouse gas emissions



#### MAIN APPROACH TO SOIL HEALTH

To achieve our goals in the field of land restoration, we employ a combination of two approaches: the Farmer Leader - Plot Approach (FLPA) and the Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) approach. The first approach (FLPA) involves establishing demonstration plots in villages, where we collaborate with community farmer leaders to implement sustainable land management techniques. This approach demonstrates to small-scale farmers the impact of sustainable land management on water conservation, reduced use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and increased production, and utilizes farmer leaders as advocates and ambassadors for our organization among other farmers.

The second approach, FMNR, entails creating a movement of farmers to locate, prune, and maintain existing tree shoots, providing them with the space and protection needed to quickly regrow into trees. At a large scale, this technique effectively transforms semi-arid and arid landscapes into lush and productive environments. FMNR has been promoted because Benin's agricultural policies require farmers to leave at least 25 plants per hectare, facilitating the promotion of this technique among farmers.



Biochar training in Zinvié, Atlantique Department, Benin. Image Credit: Land and Health Association

## AN EXAMPLE OF HOW WE HAVE SUPPORTED FARMERS TO TRANSITION TO HEALTHY LAND AND SOIL MANAGEMENT

In 2021, we trained 30 Zinvié farmers on the manufacturing of biochar and compost (organic fertilizer) to improve the health and fertility of their land and crop yields. Zinvié is a semi-urban town of the commune of Abomey-calavi in southern Benin. The session took place in two stages: the co-construction of production materials (barrels for biochar production) and the co-production of biochar and compost with farmers. Feedback received after the training showed that farmers gained new knowledge

in sustainable agricultural land management through the manufacturing of biochar, and compost and their use in the fields for better soil health. Today this method is used in the area by 51 farmers for better agricultural yield and soil protection and mostly for the production of vegetables. Some farmers have become biochar and compost micro-entrepreneurs since they use the surplus of their production for sale in market gardens in the town of Cotonou.



Field work with Zinvié farmers.  
Image Credit: Land and Health Association

## UPCOMING PROJECTS

In 2024 and 2025, the Land and Health Association aims to execute two projects: the NOGRES project and the “Reducing the Environmental Footprint of Cotton Farming in Benin” project.

The NOGRES project aims to assist 40 women in transitioning to sedentary yam cultivation through agroforestry techniques, particularly the yam-Gliricidia sepium association. In tropical Africa, especially in Benin, yam cultivation is expansive and a major contributor to deforestation.

Please reach out to learn more and support: [lha@landandhealth.org](mailto:lha@landandhealth.org)

The “Reducing the Environmental Footprint of Cotton Farming in Benin” project aims to restore biodiversity in the cotton basin of Benin by establishing forested patches with indigenous fruit and flowering plants. The project plans to produce 10,000 plants, including shea butter (*Vitellaria paradoxa*), baobab (*Adansonia digitata*), tamarind (*Tamarindus indica*), black plum (*Vitex doniana*), etc.

Both projects will be associated with awareness-raising activities on nature preservation and sustainable land management.

## SOIL HEALTH RESOLUTION

The **Soil Health Resolution** is a set of commitments to enable and scale healthy soil practices to mitigate and adapt to climate change, restore biodiversity, improve water resilience, enhance food and nutrition security, and protect natural and cultural heritage. In 2022, CA4SH together with the International 4per1000 Initiative developed and advocated for the Soil Health Resolution at the UNFCCC COP 27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.

In 2023, the draft Resolution was refined in its original English version and translated into Spanish, French, Arabic and Chinese by CA4SH partners. The Resolution offers draft text to bring soil to the table in climate, environment, and food systems declarations, and galvanized support from member states to take the commitments of the Resolution forward.

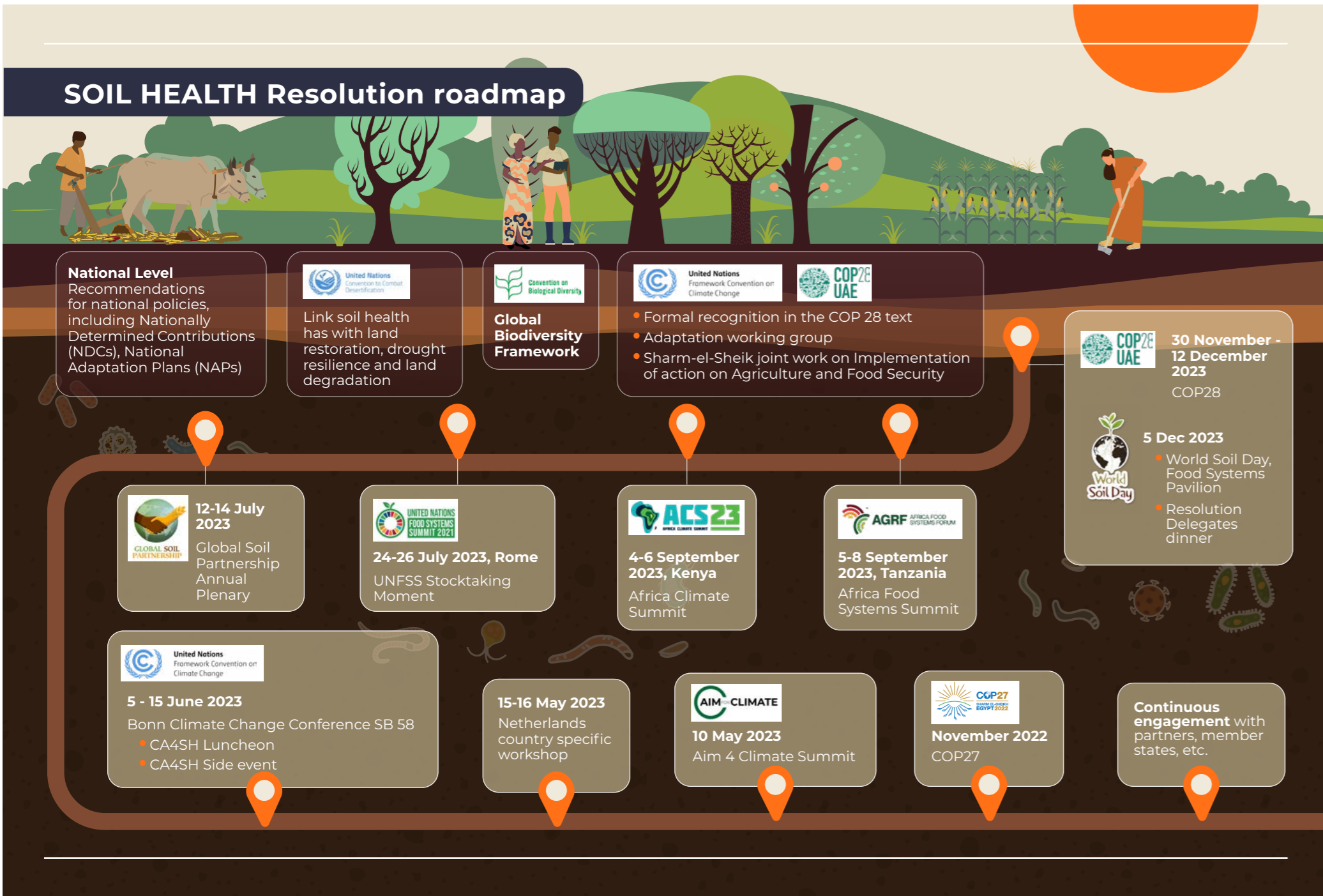
The Soil Health Resolution went on a long journey this year, culminating at the UNFCCC COP28 in Dubai, UAE. With support from Member States, advocacy from across the Coalition and our partners, awareness raising, and collaboration at scale, the Resolution contributed to the **COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action**.

## SEE OBJECTIVE 5 OF THE COP28 DECLARATION ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

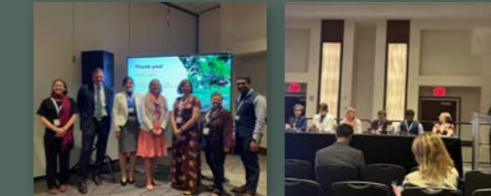
“**Maximize the climate and environmental benefits - while containing and reducing harmful impacts - associated with agriculture and food systems by conserving, protecting and restoring land and natural ecosystems, enhancing soil health, and biodiversity, and shifting from higher greenhouse gas-emitting practices to more sustainable production and consumption approaches, including by reducing food loss and waste and promoting sustainable aquatic blue foods.**”



## SOIL HEALTH Resolution roadmap



## Bringing the Resolution Forward



On 10 May 2023, CA4SH hosted a Breakout Session at the AIM for Climate Summit in Washington, DC, USA. The AIM for Climate Summit stems from the Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM4C), an initiative that brings together partners across sectors and scales towards a common goal of building resilient food systems from the ground up.

During the breakout session titled **Scaling healthy soil practices globally through innovative partnerships, financing and policy**, CA4SH members from the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, the Soil Health Institute, Bayer, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), Clim-Eat, and Sustainable Harvest International discussed the roadmap for the Soil Health Resolution.

The Resolution aligns with the objectives of AIM4C, and this breakout session was an opportunity to present it in a high-level policy space. Robert Bonnie, Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation at the US Department of Agriculture underscored the opportunity to meet farmers' skepticism on climate policy by aligning it with the agricultural agenda and providing support to rural people.

[Learn more on our website](#)

CA4SH is rooted in the 2021 UNFSS, so this year it was exciting to come full circle at the UNFSS STM+2. We co-hosted a side event alongside the **Agroecology Coalition**, the **Coalition of Action on Healthy Diets from Sustainable FS for Children and All (HDSFS)** and the **Food is Never Waste Coalition** – three of our sister Coalitions from UNFSS – titled **Towards Healthy and Sustainable Food Systems: Agroecology, Soil and Healthy Diets**.

In preparation for the STM event, we also reached out to 169 National Conveners directly (where possible!) and received 24 responses. From this initiative, we are so excited that the National Planning Authority of Uganda and Global Affairs Canada signed on to become members of CA4SH. Prof. Pamela Mbabazi (Chairperson, NPA Uganda) joined our Steering Committee, and we have had the pleasure of having representatives from Global Affairs Canada join CA4SH dialogues at COP28.

Conversations with other national conveners are still ongoing, and interest and momentum are continuously building around soil health. We look forward to strengthening our collaboration with national partners!

[Learn more on our website](#)

# #COPSOIL

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP28 took place in Dubai, UAE from 30 Nov – 12 Dec 2023, and culminated in a historic moment for soil health.

Having soil explicitly included in the COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action is a big step in soil health's journey in the negotiations from COP. Prior to COP27 in 2022, soil had never officially been recognized at COP, but made its way into the negotiations in the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture. CA4SH advocated actively for this by co-hosting the first-ever Food Systems Pavilion (FSP) at COP27, hosting a day at the FSP under the theme of BOOSTing soil health, and holding a High-Level Plenary for the Soil Health Resolution to mobilize action.

In 2023, we increased our presence at COP28 substantially through thematic sessions, co-Hosting the FSP again, creating a dedicated clearing house website for COP and hosting a High-Level Soil Health Leadership Dinner on World Soil Day (5 December 2023).



**Soil health is the basis of the farming system we have. There is no farmer without good soil health. The farmer is highly dependent on the health of the soil. Governments and other organizations that are developing policies need to have the farmer in mind.”**

- Phoebe Mwangangi, Farmer, Makueni County, Kenya (at a CA4SH side event at COP28 on 9th December 2023 at the UNCCD Pavilion)



## THE #COPSOIL WEBSITE

The **#COPsoil** web page is a clearing house of all things related to soil health at **COP28**.

The site featured **news stories and events submitted by CA4SH partners** on the theme of **soil health**.

In total, we **promoted 34 sessions** through this channel!



## Hosting World Soil Day at the Food Systems Pavilion

The Food Systems Pavilion (FSP) was first held at the UNFCCC COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, and CA4SH was invited to co-host. This year, we were invited to co-host again as part of the Food Systems Partnership, and host World Soil Day, which fell during the Convention on 5th December. To mark this serendipitous day, we held a breakout session to highlight the pivotal role of soil in supporting nature, people and climate.

In addition, CA4SH contributed a perspective of boosting soil health into two initiatives by the FSP:

- **A joint open letter to Parties to the UNFCCC** to “**acknowledge the critical role of food systems – including food production, consumption and waste, land use change, and nutrition – in achieving the Paris Agreement goals.**”
- **The Food Systems Pavilion Policy Asks for COP28**

“**The doors are more than open to strengthen soil. It’s important that it happens in an inclusive way, integrating all the people and stakeholders dealing with soil, including producers and consumers.**”

- Martina Fleckenstein, Global Policy Director, Food, WWF International



### COMMON GROUND: Soil Health Action for Nature, People, and Climate

**When:** 5th December

**Where:** Food Systems Pavilion

#### What we discussed

- Specific calls to action and suggested commitments from multi stakeholder perspectives to scale soil health
- How enhancing soil health can act as a powerful climate mitigation and adaptation strategy
- The multiple benefits of soil health: mitigate and adapt to climate change, restore biodiversity, improve water resilience, enhance food security, and protect natural and cultural heritage
- Examples of agricultural practices from soil health advocates on the ground and stories of scaling these approaches
- The role of policy frameworks and an enabling environment in promoting sustainable soil management, climate-resilient agriculture, and soil-centric agricultural policies

[Learn more on our website](#)

## Soil Health Leadership Dinner

CA4SH culminated World Soil Day (5 December 2023) with a high-level dinner to provide a forum for senior leadership from the private sector, UN organizations, farmers, NGOs, civil society, and other sectors to interact within the context of COP28.

The dinner aimed to:

- Garner specific commitments and pledges on soil health and carbon
- Seek formal recognition of soils in the UNFCCC
- Demonstrate the vital links between soils and climate
- Create a feedback and follow up mechanism for initiatives launched during the event

This dinner included a networking reception followed by a seated dinner. During the dinner, presenters discussed initiatives and pledges to enhance soil health in their future activities. The dinner was a multi stakeholder call to action for soil health which fostered connections between actors for greater synergy going forward.



**Soil is the skin of the Earth. Let's continue building on the momentum. Let's continue building partnerships, sharing knowledge and guiding policy to heal the Earth's skin."**

- Dr Eliane Ubalijoro, CEO, CIFOR-ICRAF



## CA4SH Sessions at COP28

In addition to our session on World Soil Day at the FSP and participating in a number of events organized by partners, soil health advocates, and CA4SH supporters, we organized two additional breakout sessions of our own:

### EVIDENCE GENERATION TO INFORM POLICY AND PRACTICE FOR SCALING SOIL HEALTH FOR RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS

**When:** 6th December

**Where:** Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet (GASP) Pavilion

#### What we discussed

- Evidence and examples of the impacts of enhancing soil health on food nutrition and security, climate change mitigation and adaptation, ecosystem restoration, and improved livelihoods
- On-the-ground examples of community engagement in evidence generation
- Getting soil health within the climate agenda via roadmaps based on evidence
- Advancements in soil health monitoring and the role of youth and communications
- Actionable insights and recommendations for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers to integrate evidence-based practices into policy and agricultural strategies to scale soil health globally



### STRENGTHENING NDCs FOR SOIL HEALTH: Learning from Practical Experience

**When:** 9th December

**Where:** Land & Drought Pavilion (UNCCD)

#### What we discussed

- Examples of successful implementation of actions for soil health
- Concrete measures being taken to strengthen soil health in NDCs and land degradation neutrality
- Opportunities from policy analyses for integrating soil health into NDCs
- Bringing together actors from government, research private sector, and development to scale healthy soil practices
- How to garner support to implement robust, simple, yet accurate soil health monitoring



[Learn more on our website](#)

# Looking ahead

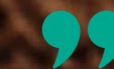
## THANK YOU

CA4SH has grown exponentially since its launch in 2021 at the UNFSS, and we continue to gain momentum and achieve milestones beyond our expectations.

We've seen soil health included in UN declarations, made connections between members and partners, elevating the collective voice of soil health advocates worldwide, and stood alongside organizations in development, environment, food systems, and climate change domains. Through collective action, we've underscored that soil is a unifier, and that collective action generates results for people and the planet.

Looking ahead, CA4SH will advocate for soil health, scale its presence, and drive implementation on the ground. The Coalition is growing fast, and we always encourage organizations and individuals to reach out and explore how we can collaborate. We are looking forward to fostering more linkages between organizations advocating for soil health on the ground.

We want to thank all of the members, partners, allies, and soil health advocates who contributed to this work this year. This is a Coalition of the extremely motivated, and we couldn't do it without you.



**If we're on the agenda, we're in the car, the car is moving, let's not take our foot off the accelerator now we have started to move. Let's keep the pressure on."**

- Louise Baker, Managing Director of the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD (at the CA4SH side event at COP28 on 9th December 2023)

# MAIN GOALS FOR 2024



## Increase implementation and action on the ground

Our vision is to increase the total land area under sustainable soil management practices through projects that are co-implemented in partnership with CA4SH members. These projects will support farmers in the transition to healthy soil practices, generate evidence for the role of soil in enhancing livelihoods, climate resilience, and benefits to nature. In addition, we hope to foster farmer networks that provide peer-to-peer support and create tailored materials that help disseminate local knowledge to adjacent communities.



## Mobilize resources to scale healthy soil practices and support soil health coordination and communication

We are looking for opportunities to leverage the power of a global coalition to fund research and implementation of healthy soil practices on the ground. This ties in with Goal 1 and extends to our advocacy and networking workstreams. We are planning to host a donor's event in the first half of 2024, with the intention of expanding our scope to include support for farmers and land managers, who are on the frontlines of soil and land degradation. We are always looking to expand our network and give more of our platform to farmer organizations who often work with limited resources.



## Enhance awareness and communication of soil health

A soil health advocate's work is never done, and we have big plans for the future when it comes to communicating the role of soil health in achieving climate, food security, biodiversity and livelihood goals. The coming year will center success stories from across the CA4SH membership through thought pieces, thematic webinars, co-created learning notes, and more.

## Way Forward



2021

CA4SH launched at the UN food Systems Summit bringing together multi-stakeholder group



2022

Policy advocacy and engagement at events



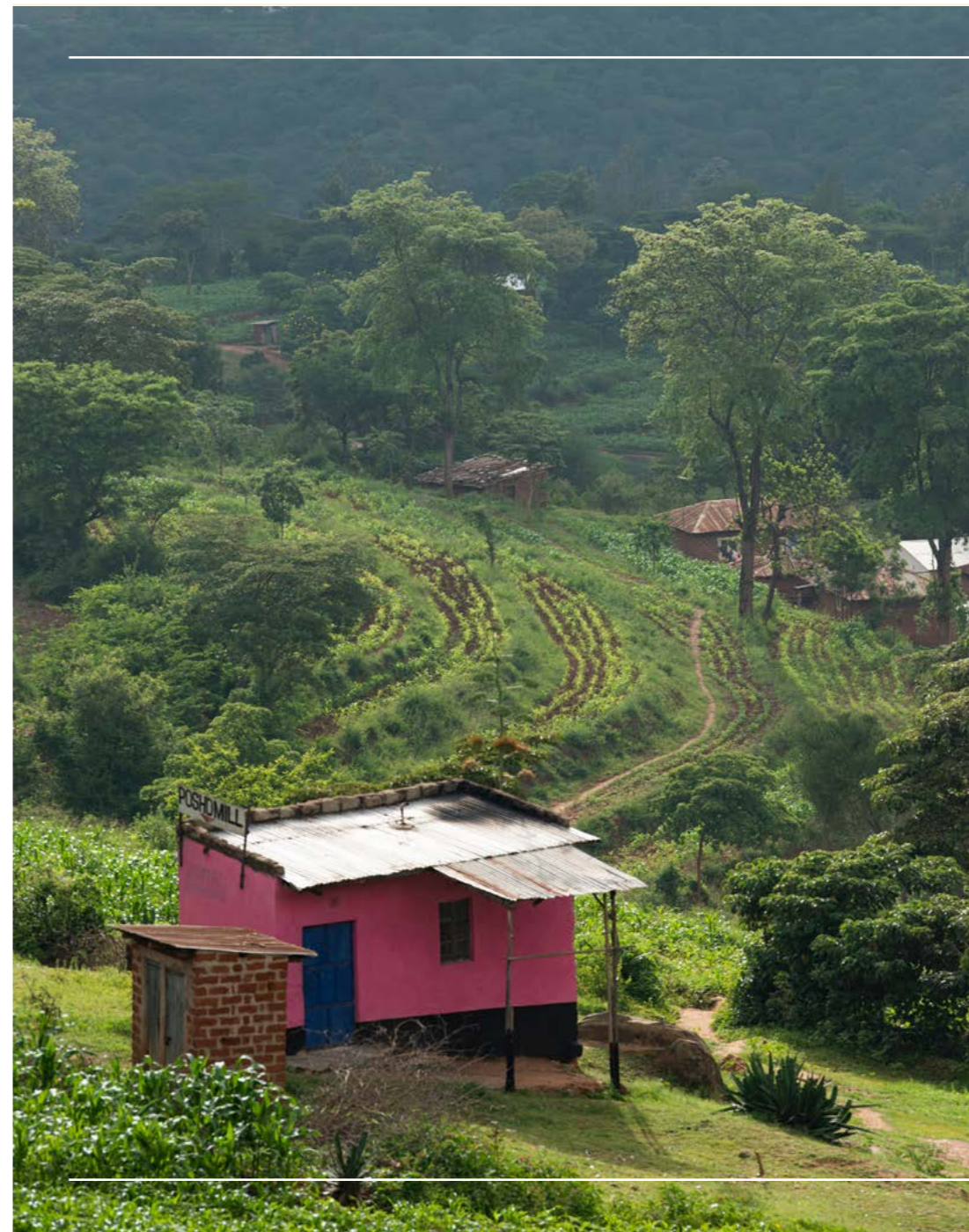
2023

Thematic Working Groups launched  
Getting Soil Health in the climate agenda



2024

Implementation and action on the ground  
Resource Mobilization



## ENGAGE WITH US

### Dr. Leigh Winowiecki

Soil Systems Scientist  
CIFOR-ICRAF Theme Leader  
Soil and Land Health

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