



## What is the 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.

## The Soil Health Resolution calls on government leaders to:

- 1 RECOGNIZE** that soils are the basis of life and that soil health<sup>1</sup> is the foundation of sustainable and regenerative food systems;
- 2 AFFIRM** that agricultural systems are part of the climate solution and that sustainable land management practices enhance productivity, resilience and biodiversity;
- 3 STRESS** the importance of aligning UN conventions and providing legal instruments to synergize organisational efforts and accelerate the action on the ground;
- 4 CONSIDER** the critical role played by increased soil health to achieve the objectives of the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, among other declarations;
- 5 REAFFIRM** the need for further international action and cooperation to revert current soil degradation processes.



## Why do we need it?


To achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, the **Sustainable Development Goals**, and restoration targets, we need comprehensive action. For a long time, energy-based solutions were the sole focus of climate policies. However, carbon solutions that use and increase the absorption capacity of natural carbon sinks offer advantages and co-benefits. Nature-based solutions can make an essential contribution to combating climate change.

The projected mitigation potential in agriculture via improved crop and livestock management is **1.8-5.5 Gigaton CO<sub>2</sub> (eq) per year in 2030**. This is comparable to the mitigation potential of wind energy. Yet, carbon sequestration in agriculture is still limited. If we manage soil intelligently, it can be an important ally in our fight against climate change.

We lose **24 billion tons** of topsoil every year. This is due to unsustainable land and soil management practices that accelerate degradation through erosion, salinization, compaction, acidification, loss of organic carbon and biodiversity, and chemical pollution accumulation. By scaling sustainable and regenerative farming and grazing practices, and supporting farmers, pastoralists and land managers on the ground who implement them, global agriculture can shift from being the world's largest driver of soil degradation to its greatest restorer.

<sup>1</sup>Soil health is "the ability of the soil to sustain the productivity, diversity, and environmental services of terrestrial ecosystems" (ITPS, FAO 2020).

## How can you support it?

- ✓ Raise awareness about the need for a Soil Health Resolution
- ✓ Read and share the draft resolution with member states for their feedback and comments to garner support for an official process at the UNFCCC COP28 
- ✓ Now is the time for multi-stakeholder action to build an enabling environment at multiple levels for supporting, financing, scaling and monitoring healthy soil ecosystems. The Soil Health Resolution is a step toward achieving this.



## About the Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health (CA4SH)

The Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health (CA4SH) was inspired by the UN Food Systems Summit in 2021 and formed by the Food Systems Soil Hub. The overarching goal of the Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health (CA4SH) is to improve soil health globally by addressing critical implementation, monitoring, policy, and public and private investment barriers that constrain farmers from adopting and scaling healthy soil practices.

Stay up to date with CA4SH through our **monthly newsletter**, **Twitter**, **LinkedIn** and **Mastodon** profiles

For more information, visit [www.coalitionforsoilhealth.org/](http://www.coalitionforsoilhealth.org/) or contact [coordination@colationforsoilhealth.org](mailto:coordination@colationforsoilhealth.org).



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