

UN Food Systems Summit Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health (CA4SH)

Private Sector - Call to Action

With the objective to ensure broad implementation of the outcomes of the Food Systems Summit, the Global Soil Hub of Action Track 3 has called for the establishment of the Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health (CA4SH).

The CA4SH is a multi-stakeholder approach to strengthen, facilitate and accelerate the adoption and scaling of soil health restoration practices with outcomes for productivity and economic growth, rural livelihoods, biodiversity protection, mitigation and adaptation to climate change and natural resource management.

The private sector supporters¹ fully endorse the establishment of the CA4SH and its ambition to enhance collaboration and galvanize a critical mass of stakeholders. The private sector *Call to Action on Soil Health* has been developed to support the goals and objectives outlined by CA4SH and to:

1. Recognize the need for private sector participation and engagement of farmers;
2. Acknowledge tangible outcome-related goals and solutions;
3. Highlight the work that is being accomplished through existing initiatives and alliances; and
4. Emphasize the need for science-based approaches and measurements.

Soil health is not only at the foundation of our food systems and critical for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, but soils function as major carbon reservoirs and water regulators, which makes them one of the most valuable resources to address climate change. Rising temperatures and increasing frequencies of droughts and floods accelerate soil degradation and make the call for improvement management even more urgent.

Recognizing the urgency for action and change, the private sector is committed to raise awareness about the central role of soils and elevate the global recognition of soil health among state and non-state actors to build increasing momentum and improve global adoption rates of better soil management.

¹ Private Sector Supporters include: BASF, Bayer, CF Industries, Corteva, Nestlé, Nutrien, OCP, Pepsico, Rabobank, Syngenta, Yara, CropLife International, International Fertilizer Association, WBCSD

CALL TO ACTION ON SOIL HEALTH

The private sector **recognizes the central role of soils as an asset** to drive food security and nutrition, economic development, climate change mitigation, nature and resilient livelihoods, pursuing the objective to provide a Return on Investment (ROI) up and down the value chain.

The private sector **acknowledges the important role of farmers as agents of change and innovation.**

The private sector **commits to facilitate and adopt the development of methods and tools** that allow “soils to function as a vital living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals and humans, and connects agricultural and soil science to policy, stakeholder needs and sustainable supply-chain management.” ([Lehmann, Bossio, Kögel-Knabner, Rillig, 2020. The Concept and Future Prospects of Soil Health](#)).

The private sector **seeks to galvanize, support and further enhance the specific food systems outcome related activities and goals** that are envisioned by Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health and existing soil health initiatives. We will work collaboratively with other stakeholders and in particular with Member States and civil society to accelerate implementation and uptake.

As such, the private sector will pursue, promote and scale a systems-based approach to soil health restoration and management that is:

- **science and evidence-based**
- **quantifiable and verifiable with globally adopted standards and definitions**
- **farmer-centered, providing income opportunities to farmers**
- **contributing to sustainable and productive agriculture with nature-positive impact on soil functions, including but not limited to increasing soil organic carbon**
- **embedded in the Sustainable Development Goals**

Private Sector supporters of the Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health commit to:

- ❖ *Defining a set of financial mechanisms and investment solutions that can support farmers in their adoption of soil best management practices, be tailored and scaled to different regions, and take into account government incentives and programs*
- ❖ *Proposing actionable roadmaps to enhance sustainable and productive agriculture, such as regenerative and precision agricultural practices.*
- ❖ *Empowering farmers and landowners, helping to design new business models that include compensation and rewarding schemes for ecosystem services*

- ❖ *Supporting the development of voluntary and transparent carbon market and pricing mechanisms, including carbon credits as an incentive to transition to sustainable agriculture and to provide extra income for farmers*
- ❖ *Advancing public-private soil health stewardship programs, technology and data measurement*
- ❖ *Aiming for a better connection between farmers and consumers by amplifying the global recognition of farm-led sustainability efforts and generating demand for ecosystem services and sustainability outcomes*
- ❖ *Adopting a full value-chain approach to soil protection*

Supporters of the Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health

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