

Theme 4. Governance of soil fertility/soil nutrients:
Main conclusions, key findings and way forward



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**SOILS:
WHERE FOOD
BEGINS**

Global Symposium on Soils for Nutrition | 26-29 July 2022



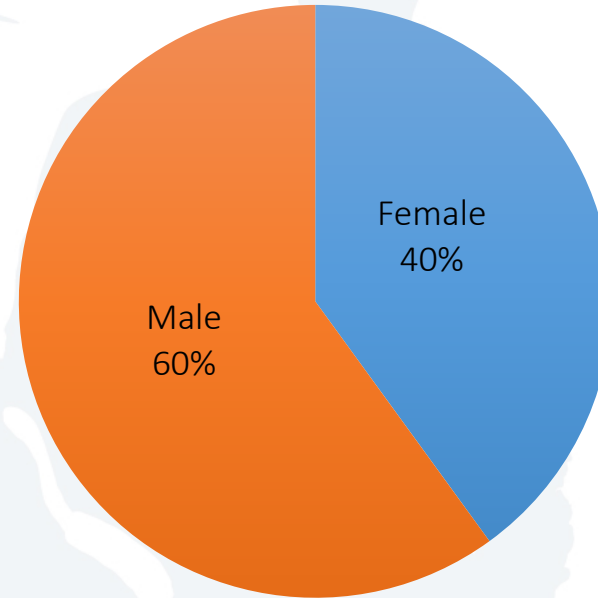
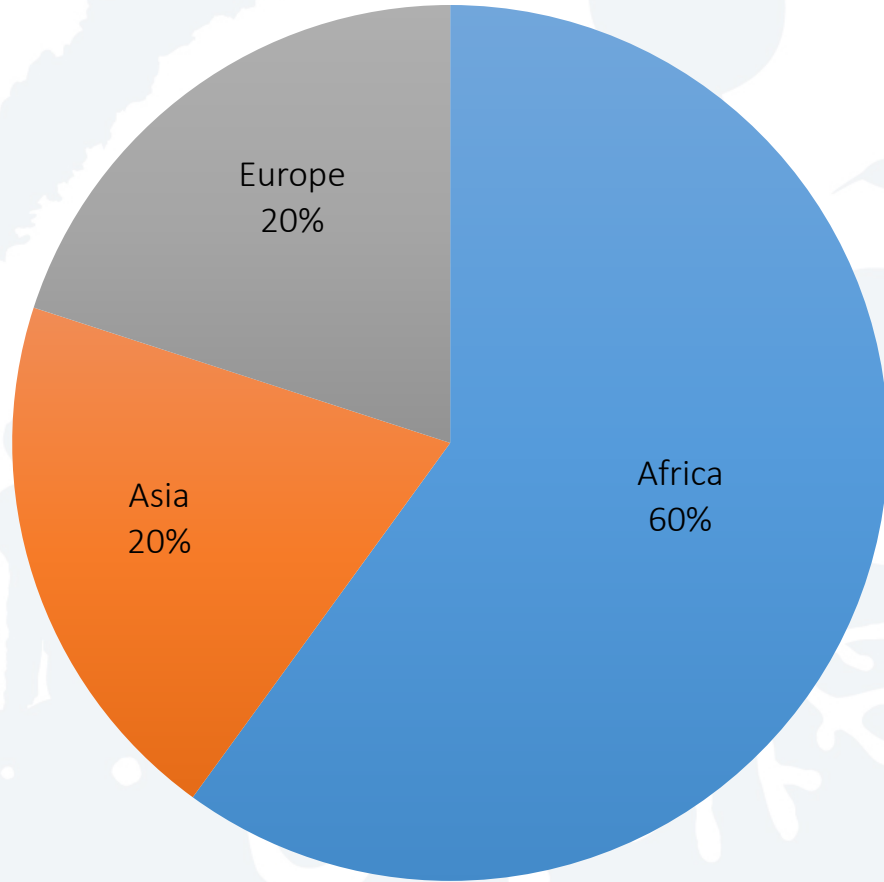
Theme 4. Governance of soil fertility/soil nutrients

Motivation: The smallholders who produced 1/3 of the world's food have been historically marginalized and affected by many factors including poverty, food insecurity, climate change as well as gender inequality and covid 19, making soil fertility management very complex and challenging endeavor.

Gap: There is a growing need to include soil fertility in the legal framework in articulation with crop and human nutrition, land tenure and land management.

Aims: Identify policies that maintain and improve soil fertility and nutrition; Encourage the adoption of effective practices that facilitate sustainable food production systems to meet food security.

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All stakeholders are from the academia

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July 28: Main topics developed

Manure management and soil biodiversity: Key findings

☞ *The abusive use of the abundant manure produced in the world may lead to N leaching and nutrient imbalance and negatively affect soil biodiversity depending on manure type (origin, treatment, and preparation) and the spreading phase (application, quantity, and environmental conditions);*

☞ *There is no clear regulations on the manure composition requirements, leading to a contamination risk. In addition, the link to biodiversity is not reported adequately.*

Conclusion for the topic: *considering the high volume of manure produced by the enlarging animal farming sector, manure quality is currently neglected.*

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Manure management and soil biodiversity: way forward

- ☞ Manure preparation and its application should be based on the soil and climatic conditions of the application area;*
- ☞ Radical changes in philosophies and practices of intensive animal farming needed to protect soil biota and to reduce environmental risks and costs.*
- ☞ Reinforce the countries Member States' commitment to embrace soil protection in national and regional legislations;*

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Sustainable soil management for food security and better nutrition in Sub-Saharan Africa: Key findings

- 👉 Drivers of soil constraints in Sub Saharan Africa are mainly related to low nutrient reserves and erosion. This leads to a great food insecurity and malnutrition issues in larger portion of the region;*
- 👉 Organic agriculture and SSM practices are being increasingly adopted by farmers, and are in many cases considered as key solution to solve the issue of soil nutrient deficiency.*
- 👉 So far no specific policy exists in SSA which focuses on SSM*

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Sustainable soil management for food security and better nutrition in Sub-Saharan Africa:

👉 **Conclusion for the topic:** *Organic agriculture and SSM practices appear to be the key solutions to address the soil constraints in SSA. However, the application of these strategies requires good policies to support their implementation.*

way forward: *SOM build up and combating erosion is the main solution to fighting soil degradation. There is the need to improve upon the micro nutrient status of soils as it has a direct link to malnutrition. There is a critical need of SSM policies in order to control food security.*

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Thank you !

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