

SOILS

We are surrounded by polluted soil every day. But a lot of people are not aware of that, so a lot of different organizations have to work really hard to replace that unawareness. Some of the main reasons, why soil is being polluted are:



Use of water and land resources and many others. But whose fault is this? Ours. We are the only ones, who can make a change. Soil is more important that we realize. It doesn't only produce the food for people and animals but it also plays a key role in global food security.

So, when we pollute soil, we also pollute our health.

It's very important, that we try to reduce pollution of soil. One of the organizations that deal with this is FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization).

FAO works to promote coherent approaches to sustainable land and water management. FAO's work in land and water is relevant to several dimensions of sustainable development. Through projects, studies and information-sharing, FAO helps increase scientific understanding of the biophysical and socioeconomic relationships between lands and water. FAO's coordinated approach to land and water management helps raise awareness of the degradation of water resources caused by inappropriate agricultural practices. FAO's work on drought brings together previously fragmented information on the land-water energy nexus and helps build technical and institutional capacities to better manage land and water in the face of climatic extremes.



THE KAGERA RIVER BASIN IN EAST AFRICA

Good management of the Kagera water flow regime is crucial for maintaining water levels of the Lake Victoria and outflow to the river Nile. The lives of people living in this area depend mostly on natural sources. The FAO project is introducing a new aspect for protection and saving the river basin and its inhabitants.



HONDURAS (CENTRAL

AMERICA) The main income for many families is agriculture. The country itself is often hit by natural disasters such as hurricanes and droughts. The country



is taking many measurements to protect households. Two programs which give very good results at sustainable agriculture are Lepira and El Paraiso. They also have support and help from the country. As the result, production of healthy and homemade food has increased.

Healthy soils are very important for food production and we are not paying enough attention to them. Very important factors are partnerships and collaboration. That is important especially for organizations, so they can get support and raise instruments for informing and educating people about our soils. Different occasions and meetings that take place all over the world, participate in spreading the knowledge of importance of healthy soils all around the world. The 'information box' provides information on soil and its products make this topic accessible to everyone.



Loss of soil organic carbon -due to inappropriate land use or the use of poor soil management, can cause a lower soil quality and lead to emissions of carbon into the atmosphere. Therefore, it is very important that the global stores of soil organic matter (organic carbon) are stabilized or increased. Solutions for improving the quantity of carbon in soil are, among other things, optimum use of organic fertilizers such as animal manure and properly processed human wastes.

ITPS (Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils) and GSP (Global Soil Partnership) are important organizations, which aim to improve management of limited soil resources and provide technical advices for global soil issues.

