

The Soil; the engine behind the realisation of the SDGs

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The soil is currently the basis under the world's economy, and literally the basis under human life. This paper shows that the soil is the basis of our economy and explores the idea of healthy soils being the primary answer to the sustainability challenges as formulated in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore, this paper shows that knowledge of the soil, availability of practical solutions, and collaboration between scientists, local population and authorities and NGOs, can actually have a large contribution to the SDGs at local level, and have a large potential for scaling.

At this moment in time we have all required carts in our hands; scientific knowledge on soils, success stories with impact, funding opportunities through the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund, smart business models like the CommonLand 3 zones 4 returns approach and worldwide sense of urgency to act. Hence, acknowledging that the soil is the basic driver of our economy, and the engine behind the required transitions, the soil scientific community can kick-start the engine and assure realization of the SDGs in 2030.

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