



The main objective of the Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health (CA4SH) is to improve soil health globally by addressing critical implementation, monitoring, policy, and investment barriers that constrain farmers from adopting and scaling healthy soil practices.

Soil Health is **“the ability of the soil to sustain the productivity, diversity, and environmental services of terrestrial ecosystems.”**

- From the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS)



Why achieving soil health is so critical

Soil health is the very foundation of our food systems and provides several vital ecosystem services, including land productivity, flood regulation, nutrient cycling, and carbon sequestration. Healthy soil is critical for increasing food and nutrition security, improving livelihoods, reaching climate change mitigation and adaptation goals, enhancing above and below ground biodiversity, restoring ecosystems and providing many other benefits for people.

Healthy soil hosts more biodiversity in one teaspoon than there are humans on Earth. Yet today's soils face an unprecedented crisis. Over one-third of the Earth's surface is degraded, negatively affecting over 3.2 billion people.

Top-soil is being lost at an annual rate of approximately 36 billion tons, and global cropland erosion at 17 billion tons, resulting in USD \$300 billion in lost agriculture production annually.

Continuing business as usual is no longer an option if both people and the planet are to thrive.

Globally we are at a crossroad. We need to ensure the pathway for achieving soil health addresses the critical economic, structural, and technical capacity barriers that prevent farmers and land managers from accessing finance, productive inputs and information. These are critical to enhance the scaling of healthy soil practices and ecosystem functioning.

CA4SH is rooted in the UN Food Systems Summit in 2021, and anchored in the UNCCD, as a result of the glaring need for a focus on soils as part of food system transformation.

CA4SH advocates for multi-stakeholder action, guiding and catalyzing public and market-based private sector investments in soil health with positive outcomes for food nutrition and security, economic returns and growth, improvement productivity and rural livelihoods, climate action and nature.



The four targets of the Coalition

- **Integrate soil health considerations in policy** across the development, environment, and climate change domains, and along value chains.
- **Expand on research in development** into soil health practices, monitoring and evaluation, and financial tools and mechanisms.
- Significantly **increase** the number of hectares of **land under improved practices for soil health**.
- Significantly **increase investments** in soil health, by a margin of 5-10 fold above current financing commitment.

Membership

Stakeholders are invited to sign a support letter to become members of CA4SH. CA4SH membership is open and non-legally binding. There is no financial commitment, though there may be opportunities for interested members to fund activities. Members can have their logo displayed on the website as well as share their flagship initiatives, events, and other updates that are elevated through CA4SH communication channels. Members are invited to join the Quarterly CA4SH Meetings and are encouraged to engage through the Thematic Working Groups, engage in joint advocacy, raise funds for joint activities, and advocate for the Coalition.

Members of the Coalition are invited to:

- Participate in global events and access speaking opportunities.
- Participate in policy advocacy and influence the global soil health agenda.
- Provide expert input to help achieve the Coalition's four main targets.
- Connect, collaborate, and access and exchange knowledge with members and stakeholders.
- Become part of a multi-stakeholder community committed to scaling global soil health

Coalition members



Government



Private Sector



Research and Academia



Farmer Organizations, Cooperatives and NGOs



National Research Institutions



International Organizations



At CA4SH we assist Governments, in collaboration with stakeholders, to enact policies that incentivize soil conservation practices while integrating soil health considerations into broader agricultural and environmental frameworks, thereby fostering sustainable land use practices worldwide.”

Prof. Pamela K. Mbabazi, Executive Chairsperson, National Planning Authority of Uganda and Member of the Soil Health Steering Committee





Soil Health Steering Committee

Formed and launched in 2023 to drive actions and capitalize on momentum for soil health in the global arena by harnessing the diversity of expertise that comprises CA4SH.

The primary responsibilities of the Steering Committee are to:

- Provide guidance and strategic direction for CA4SH.
- Provide expert input to help achieve CA4SH's four main goals.
- Help build strategic partnerships and identify opportunities for collaboration.
- Advocate for CA4SH's mission.



Working Groups

The Thematic Working Groups are a space for CA4SH members to collaborate and move the needle forward - continuing to position the role of soil health across domains. Members are invited to select working group(s) of their choice, interest, expertise. Groups meet regularly throughout the year to discuss objectives, collaboration and activities centered around more targeted themes under CA4SH's **core targets** of scaling soil health.



Policy and enabling environment for soil health

Carve a clear roadmap for action on soil health both within global and national level policy frameworks.



Stakeholder engagement and communicating soil health

Make connections between the SDGs through soil and communicate them through CA4SH's communications channels.



Finance and investments for soil health

Mobilize and catalyze public-private investments in soil health.



Soil health monitoring, research in development, and project implementation

Advance scientific research and innovation in soil health monitoring, develop effective methodologies for assessing indicators, and support implementation on-the-ground.

Timeline of Activities

2021

UNFSS Preparations

1,800 Game - Changing and Systemic Solutions are submitted through public participation forms, and those related to soil were brought together by Dr Rattan Lal, Leigh Winowiecki, and Joao Campari, leader of the theme on healthy soil ecosystems under Action Track 3.

2021

CA4SH is launched

Ca4SH is officially launched in September 2021 at the UN Food Systems Summit, with added support of a private sector guiding group within the UNFSS sharing the same vision.

2022

Building momentum

Since CA4SH's inception, momentum around global soil health has taken root and grown exponentially through policy advocacy and engagement at events.

2023

Thematic Working Groups are launched

Six Thematic Working Groups are launched, later merged into four groups, to position soil health across domains and to drive multi-stakeholder action.

2023

Getting soil health in the global agenda

Launch of the COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action which states the intent from 159 countries to enhance soil health.

2024

Implementation and action on the ground

CA4SH continues to actively engage in policy advocacy whilst focusing on implementation and action on the ground as well as resource mobilization.



Join Us!

CA4SH is open to all interested stakeholders who are committed to restoring soil health. To contribute to the CA4SH get in touch with the focal points below.



Further resources

- Blog - [Annual Report - 2023 In Review](#)
- Blog - [CA4SH at AGRF 2023](#)
- Blog - [CA4SH at UNEA-6](#)

- Blog - [A Call for Global Action for Soil Health on World Soil Day at COP28](#)
- Blog - [Soil+ the SDGs: the answer lies beneath our feet](#)

- Video on the Coalition
- Video on the importance of healthy soils for functioning ecosystems

Contact

Dr Leigh Winowiecki
Soil Systems Scientist
CIFOR-ICRAF Theme Leader
Soil and Land Health
L.A.Winowiecki@CIFOR-ICRAF.org

Daniela Solis
Coordination Lead
CA4SH
coordination@coalitionforsoilhealth.org

Hanna North
Communications Lead
CA4SH
communications@coalitionforsoilhealth.org



www.coalitionforsoilhealth.org