

**Title of coalition:****Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health (CA4SH)****Main objective of the coalition:**

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 public and private investment barriers that constrain farmers from adopting and scaling healthy soil practices.

Science based evidence to prioritize this coalition (scientific references):

Soil health is the very foundation of food systems and provides many vital [ecosystem services](#), including agricultural productivity, flood regulation, nutrient cycling, and carbon. The [concept of soil health](#) includes biological, physical and chemical aspects of soil ecosystems. With [soil health](#) being the capacity of soil to function as a vital living system within land use boundaries, a function which sustains the biological productivity of soil. Despite the wealth of benefits that existing soil-focused initiatives have delivered, degradation continues from unsustainable land management practices leading to [erosion](#), salinization, compaction, acidification and chemical pollution, with fertile topsoil lost at a rate of [24bn t/year](#). The world is at a crossroads, with about one third of the Earth's surface degraded and over [3.2 billion people](#) negatively affected, and continuing business as usual is no longer an option. Agricultural systems can be optimized to be a greater part of the solution through practices that [benefit nature and people](#) and ensure operation within [planetary boundaries](#), and that [increase soil organic carbon](#), replenish nutrients and support [biodiversity](#), and that help reduce the significant [GHG emissions from food systems](#), i.e. [nature positive solutions for soil health](#). If not, we will continue to jeopardize not only long-term soil health but the economic [productivity](#) of agriculture. Regenerative agricultural practices have the potential to [store organic carbon in the soil](#), serving as a nature-based solution for mitigating global warming by offsetting a significant amount of [global carbon emissions](#), while also ensuring long-term productivity and enhanced resilience. Advancing [soil stewardship](#) is key for meeting climate, biodiversity, land degradation neutrality, and sustainable development goals.

Mechanisms of implementation (Global to National levels):

CA4SH will function as a global coordination center for innovation and knowledge-sharing and action to build soil health by focusing on the following principles: 1) **Accessible and inclusive** multi-stakeholder partnerships that empower smallholder farmers; 2) **Transparent and accountable** business solutions and public and private sector investments that promote equity; 3) **Evidence-based** policy as an enabler for all, at all scales; 4) **Capacity building** for on-ground implementation and monitoring. CA4SH will deliver through regional and country hubs that build synergies across locally adapted initiatives to guide on-ground actions including: 1) **Locally-adapted investment mechanisms, methods and frameworks** that deliver farmer incentives for restoring and protecting healthy soils; 2) **Policies and processes** that reduce economic, social and technical barriers to uptake and scaling, particularly for marginalized groups including women, youth and Indigenous Peoples; 3) **Practical and scientifically robust, systematic and farmer-led soil monitoring procedures**, including indicators, tools and protocols for measuring and valuing soil health, carbon sequestration and other ecosystem services.

Strategic partners (members, private sector, civil society, academia):

Letters received: **International Organizations** (4p1000; CIFOR-ICRAF; IICA - **Research** (SLU, Sweden; Ohio State University C-MASC, USA; SUA, Tanzania) - **Farmer Orgs** (ADIF, DR-Congo; AGDBI, DR-Congo; CREA, Argentina; Aapresid, Argentina)) - **National Research Orgs** (INERA, Burkina Faso) – **NGOs** (EDAFOTEC, Spain; IFDC; JPAM, Ivory Coast; Labizey Hallassa Fight for the well-being of populations, Niger; Simpson Foundation, Malawi; Sustainable Harvest International; The Royal Norwegian Society for Development; Pour une Agriculture du Vivant, France) - **Member States** Department of Agriculture, Zambia; Ministry of Agriculture, Ethiopia; Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board, Republic of Rwanda; Ministry of Agriculture, Malawi. Kenya (tbc)Ministry of Agriculture, Ethiopia; Rwanda



Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board, Republic of Rwanda). **Private Sector Guiding Group.** *Working Group Members* include: Alliance for Development: FAO Global Soil Partnership; WBCSD; WOCAT; UNCCD; IFDC; University of East Anglia; ReNature Foundation; Soils4Climate; ISRIC-World Soil Information; ESMC; University of Sydney; Climate Focus; Breakthrough Solutions; Soil Health Institute; Global Alliance for the Future of Food; WWF US; WWF International; International Center for Biosaline Agriculture; RySS/Government of Andhra Pradesh, India; The Mulloon Institute; Climate Champions Team, and more.

Monitoring and Evaluation (clear quantifiable indicators and targets linked to SDGs)

By 2030: (a) 50% of all agricultural land under improved soil health; (b) 100 million farmers implementing improved practices for soil health; (c) US\$100 million of finance and investment mobilized in support of soil health; (d) Increase by 5 times the present amount of global CO₂ sequestered by soils annually.