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Degradation, Rehabilitation and Restoration of Agricultural Soils



Agricultural soil is a precious resource

- Suitable soils for agricultural production are only a fraction of the land.
- Today, every hectare of arable land feeds 5.2 people – in 2050, 6.9 people, if forests shall be safeguarded.
- 500 million hectares of degraded farmland has been abandoned.



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Soil degradation is a challenge

- 25% of usable land is degraded, causing an estimated economic loss of US\$ 40 billion per year.
- 12 million hectares are degraded annually by human activities – an area half the size of the UK.
- Farmland expansion is the main cause of deforestation and other land use change – causing about 1/10th of the global GHG emissions.



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Rehabilitation can be done

- By rehabilitating 12 million hectares annually, up to 1Gt of CO₂ emissions can be sequestered.
- Over two decades, mobilizing USD 50 bn can rehabilitate 300 million hectares, avoiding or sequestering 20 Gt of CO₂ emissions.
- Yara sees balanced crop nutrition as part of the solution for rehabilitating or restoring degraded land.

Sources: FAOSTAT, UN, WBCSD, UNCCD, Yara.



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