

IUCN World Conservation Congress

Soil health & Sustainable landscapes - transformative action at scale

Main information

Date: 07 September 2021

Time: 09:00 – 10:30 CEST

Format: Onsite & Livestreamed

Room: H6-E Ecrins

[IUCN Session Link](#)

Session Format

This will be a multi-stakeholder panel discussion. Opportunity for audience Q&A interaction will be based on available time for the session and availability of audience mics.

Associated Track

Thematic stream session

Landscapes (Managing landscapes for nature and people)

- Climate change (Accelerating climate change mitigation and adaptation)

Context & Session Description

The world is waking up to the need to conserve the world's soils health in order to contribute to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and address imminent global challenges: climate change, ecosystem degradation and food security.

The science is clear and the economic case strong: soil health is the foundation of our food system; it boosts the resilience of farms and supply chains to the effects of increased climate variability. Businesses collaborating in the WBCSD Food & Nature Program together with expert partners step up to address this need through action on investment with farmers and producers in soil health and sustainable landscapes.

This session aims to (1) enhance recognition of the multiple dimensions of benefits of investment in soil health beyond acting as carbon sinks, of sustainable landscapes, their simultaneous contribution to the objectives of 3 UN conventions: UNFCCC, UNCBD and UNCCD, (2) showcase transformative investments that support implementing action in soil health and sustainable landscapes, (3) and what are the critical barriers and lessons to be shared and learned to scale and accelerate investments into soil health action.

Proposed Speakers & Moderator

- Moderator: Robert Barbe, Manager, Scaling Positive Agriculture, WBCSD
- Keynote speaker

- Leigh Ann Winowiecki – World Agroforestry
- Science and Policy Panel
 - Betsy Taylor or Deborah Bossio
 - Anton Timpers – FMO
 - Rachel Creamer – Wageningen University
 - University of Glasgow
- Corporate Speaker Panel
 - Piet Van Asten, Head of Sustainable Production Systems, Olam
 - Guilia Stella - Director, Sustainable Sourcing, Digital and Carbon Solutions, Unilever
 - Varun Vats, Global Lead, Public Policy and Partnerships, Syngenta
 - Josiah McClellan, Corporate Responsibility Leader, Corteva

Session lead:

Robert Barbe
 Manager, Scaling Positive Agriculture
barbe@wbcsd.org

Agenda

Time (min)	Title	Speaker
0-5	Welcome and Introduction	Tom Williams, Director, Nature Action, WBCSD
5-25	Valuing Nature and Nature Positive Farming	Leigh Ann Winowiecki
25-55	Panel Discussion: Aligning the science and policy for soil health	Moderator: Robert Barbe, Manager, Scaling Positive Agriculture, WBCSD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Betsy Taylor/Deborah Bossio • Anton Timpers – FMO • Rachel Creamer – Wageningen • University of Glasgow
55-85	Panel Discussion: Putting it into practice	Moderator: Steven Lang - SystemIQ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piet van Asten • Guilia Stella • Varun Vats • Josiah McClellan
85-90	Summary and Close	Tom Williams

Speakers and Panel questions:

Opening and Welcome (5'): Tom Williams, Director, Nature Action, WBCSD

- Welcome participants and reaffirm the purpose of the session and how it contributes to the preparations for the Food System Summit

- General housekeeping
- Introduce this session: agenda, speakers, key objectives and the Soils Investment Hub call to action

Valuing Nature and Nature Positive Farming (20' Leigh Ann Winowiecki, Soils System Scientist, ICRAF)

- What are the practices across the different types of food and ag production that are causing soils to be degraded?
- What are the critical nodes for system change to support farmers/producers to accelerate and scale adoption of healthy soil practices?

1st Panel discussion: Aligning the science and policy for soil health (30'): Robert Barbe, Manager, WBCSD (moderator)

- Betsy Taylor/Deborah Bossio
- Anton Timpers – FMO
- Rachel Creamer – Wageningen
- University of Glasgow

Panel discussion: How to deep-dives into scaling and accelerating investments in soil health (50'): Robert Barbe, Manager, WBCSD (moderator)

- Piet Van Asten, Head of Sustainable Production Systems, Olam
- Guilia Stella - Director, Sustainable Sourcing, Digital and Carbon Solutions, Unilever
- Varun Vats, Global Lead, Public Policy and Partnerships, Syngenta
- Josiah McClellan, Corporate Responsibility Leader, Corteva

Each panelist will be asked one specific question, sequentially, and then one general question. Please keep answers to 5 minutes maximum. Before answering the first question, each panelist should briefly introduce the organization they represent and their role in soil health. Where possible, please include practical examples to illustrate key points. Panellists are welcome to follow-up or provide further detail on previous panelists points if relevant.

Question for Piet: Olam have been supporting soil health initiatives in their supply chains for some time, what have you learnt in terms of what is needed for companies to invest and support soil health within their supply chains? What are some of the barriers and enablers? Can you provide a specific example Olam's soil health investment/work?

Question for Guilia: Unilever has a massive regen ag practice that incentives soil health practices, how can the public and private sector come together to further accelerate and scale investment and incentives for the soil health across food and ag supply chains? What are some

o

Question for Josiah: Corteva is at the leading edge of ag innovation and tools, how does innovation play a role in the vision of supporting farmers to on generating healthier soils?

<https://www.corteva.com/sustainability/goals-to-benefit-the-land.html>

Question for Varun: Syngenta is along side other agri-businesses with powerful commitments to sustainable agriculture, can you share more about your commitment The Good Growth plan and the lessons learned in effectively providing technologies, services and trainings to farmers?

<https://www.syngenta.com/en/sustainability/good-growth-plan>

Question for Kellogg's: As a significant brand across the globe and global supply chains, how do you engage customers into soil health?

Question for all: What do we urgently need to get moving on to get finance flowing in the right direction for soils health – if you were to call out one thing for us to focus our energy on, what would it be?

Voice of the Farmer (10')

Speakers from farmers refer to their ambitions and work of implementing soil health practices where they have received support from the private or public sector. Speakers should speak to the barriers, lessons learned and the experience of shifting to soil health practices. Each speaker has 5 minutes maximum.

- Farmer from US
- Farmer from UK
- Farmer from Africa
- Farmer from Asia/South America

Wrap up and Close (5'): Maggie Charnley, Deputy Director, International Climate Finance: Forests, Land Use and Carbon Markets, Department for BEIS, UK

- Reaffirm key points and way forward to the FSS and COP26 as a key follow up event to continue engagement and action in this space – how will soils feature in COP26