FOOD & AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION

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GLOBAL MODEL FAO ROME 2026

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

SUSTAINABLE SOIL MANAGEMENT FOR FOOD SECURITY

Simulation: Sustainable Soil Management for Food Security (SSMFS)

Welcome to Global Model FAO 2026,

We are very pleased to introduce you to the most authentic simulation of the Food and Agriculture Organization in the world; and hope to contribute to your understanding of the organisation, its mandate, and its critical role in global affairs.

Through a series of pre-conference webinars that will be offered and documents – like this resource guide – we aim to educate you not only about the global issues on the UN agenda, but also about the ways and means through which those topics are discussed, debated and negotiated by real UN diplomats.

This resource guide will provide you with a head start in doing research to gain a deeper understanding of the global issue that you will be discussing and the actions that the government you have been assigned recommends that the international community should take to address this issue. To make the research process a bit easier, the resource guide has been divided into sections and sub-sections to assist you in researching these two components. We strongly recommend you to give a careful look through the sources listed below so that the interaction with your peers is as exciting as possible.

We wish you all the very best in this journey of learning!

TOPIC DESCRIPTION

Healthy soils are fundamental to food security. They provide nutrients and water for crops, support organisms that maintain soil fertility, store carbon and help regulate water flows. However, soils are being degraded by erosion, nutrient depletion, salinization, pollution, soil compaction and the loss of organic matter. These problems reduce agricultural productivity, threaten rural livelihoods and make food production more vulnerable to droughts, floods and other effects of climate change. Because soil forms and recovers slowly, severe degradation can have consequences lasting generations.

Soil degradation results from both natural conditions and human activities. Unsustainable cultivation, deforestation, overgrazing, inappropriate irrigation and excessive or poorly managed agricultural inputs can damage soil structure and fertility. In some regions, intensive farming has reduced organic matter and soil biodiversity, while in others, farmers struggle to maintain productivity because they cannot afford adequate fertilizers, irrigation or soil conservation measures. These differences mean that sustainable soil management cannot depend on a single approach applicable to every country.

The consequences extend beyond individual farms. Declining soil fertility can reduce crop yields and farmers' incomes, increasing pressure to cultivate additional land. Soil erosion can carry sediments and agricultural pollutants into rivers and reservoirs, affecting water quality and aquatic ecosystems. Salinization can make irrigated land less productive, while degraded soils may store less water, increasing vulnerability to drought. These challenges are particularly serious for smallholder farmers whose livelihoods depend on maintaining productive land with limited financial and technical resources.

FAO and its Member Nations have already developed several initiatives to address these problems. The Global Soil Partnership promotes cooperation on soil protection, sustainable management, information sharing and capacity-building. FAO's Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management provide internationally agreed guidance on preventing degradation and improving soil functions. The Global Soil Information System and related assessment initiatives help countries collect and share information about soil conditions. FAO's State of the World's Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture also examines pressures on agricultural land and water and the implications for food production.

Despite these efforts, implementation remains uneven. Many countries face shortages of soil data, trained specialists, extension services and financing. Farmers may be reluctant or unable to adopt new practices when the costs are immediate but improvements in soil health take years to become visible. Measures such as crop rotation, maintaining soil cover, adding organic matter, managing grazing, improving irrigation and controlling erosion must therefore be adapted to local environmental and economic conditions.

FAO Member Nations will examine how international cooperation can strengthen the implementation of sustainable soil management while supporting food security. Negotiations may address technical assistance, farmer training, soil monitoring, research and information sharing, and financing mechanisms that make sustainable practices accessible to small-scale producers. A central challenge is ensuring that soil conservation becomes a practical part of agricultural development rather than an additional burden on farmers who already face significant economic pressures.

Key Points and Main Issues

The central challenge is to maintain productive soils that support food security while preventing and reversing erosion, nutrient depletion, salinization, contamination and other forms of degradation. These threats differ in their causes and require responses adapted to local conditions. Protecting soil also depends on the resources available to farmers, the quality of national institutions and the ability to measure progress.

The following ten issues identify principal policy challenges and questions for delegates to investigate, with particular attention to existing FAO initiatives, national implementation and opportunities for international cooperation.

1. Preventing erosion and restoring degraded agricultural land

Water and wind erosion remove fertile topsoil and can reduce crop productivity for years. Practices such as ground cover, contour farming, terracing and restoration of vegetation are established, but they depend on local soils, rainfall, tenure arrangements and farmers' resources. FAO guidance and UNCCD decisions provide a starting point; the challenge is to strengthen adoption and evaluate results.

Questions for delegates:

- Which existing national restoration programmes show measurable reductions in erosion or recovery of agricultural land?
- How could FAO help countries adapt proven practices to local conditions and report comparable outcomes?

2. Maintaining soil fertility without creating new environmental problems

Crops remove nutrients from soil, while continuous cultivation and low organic matter can undermine productivity. Compost, crop rotation, residue management and appropriately applied fertilizers can complement one another, but farmers need reliable advice about local soil needs. Excess or poorly timed inputs may also damage water quality and increase costs.

Questions for delegates:

- Where do farmers lack soil-testing services or practical advice on nutrient management?
- How can countries strengthen extension services and share evidence on practices that maintain yields while protecting soil and water?

Key Points and Main Issues

3. Managing salinity, irrigation and water scarcity

Irrigation can improve yields, but unsuitable water, poor drainage and high evaporation can cause salts to accumulate in soils. Salinity can reduce crop growth and make productive land difficult to use. Existing irrigation rules and FAO technical support offer tools, but effective prevention requires coordinated management of soil, water and drainage.

Questions for delegates:

What evidence exists on the extent and causes of irrigation-related salinization in affected countries?

How could countries cooperate on monitoring, technical training and restoration without prescribing the same irrigation system everywhere?

4. Protecting soils from contamination and unsafe reuse

Heavy metals, industrial pollutants, pesticides and other hazardous substances can harm soil organisms, contaminate crops and threaten health. National approaches differ in how they set contamination thresholds, identify affected land and require remediation. Serbia's legal framework illustrates how standards, registers, monitoring and restoration obligations can operate together.

Questions for delegates:

What gaps remain in identifying contaminated agricultural land and enforcing existing soil-protection rules?

Could FAO support comparable assessment methods, laboratory capacity and exchange of remediation experience?

Key Points and Main Issues

5. Improving soil data, laboratories and monitoring

Governments need information about soil texture, nutrients, organic carbon, salinity, contamination and erosion to target interventions. Yet surveys can be outdated, laboratories under-resourced and datasets difficult to compare. FAO's Global Soil Partnership and soil laboratory networks already support harmonized methods and training.

Questions for delegates:

Which indicators are already collected nationally, and where are the most serious data gaps?

How could existing FAO networks help countries improve quality control and share results without duplicating reporting systems?

6. Helping small-scale farmers adopt sustainable practices

Farmers may understand the benefits of soil conservation but face upfront costs, uncertain returns, limited access to equipment or competing demands for crop residues. FAO's Soil Doctors Programme uses farmer-to-farmer learning to strengthen practical assessment and management. Training counts alone, however, do not establish lasting adoption or improved yields.

Questions for delegates:

What barriers have existing farmer-training and extension programmes successfully addressed?

What follow-up support and evaluation would show whether practices are sustained and benefit smallholders?

Key Points and Main Issues

7. Financing soil restoration and rewarding long-term stewardship

Soil restoration often requires investment before benefits become visible, while small farmers may lack credit or secure tenure. Governments have used grants, public programmes and incentives, but programmes must consider who can participate and whether promised environmental benefits are measurable. Funding arrangements need to support maintenance, not only initial projects.

Questions for delegates:

- What financing mechanisms already support restoration, and which farmers remain excluded?
- How could countries and FAO strengthen access to technical and financial assistance while evaluating environmental and livelihood outcomes?

8. Safeguarding soil biodiversity and soil organic carbon

Soil organisms break down organic matter and help cycle nutrients; soil carbon influences fertility, water retention and climate resilience. Organic amendments, reduced disturbance and diversified cropping can help in some settings, but their effects vary by climate and management. FAO's RECSOIL initiative offers an existing framework for field-based soil-carbon work.

Questions for delegates:

- How are countries already measuring soil organic carbon and biological soil health?
- What safeguards and shared methods could make soil-carbon initiatives credible while maintaining food production?

Key Points and Main Issues

9. Strengthening national laws and institutional coordination

Agricultural, environment, water and land authorities may regulate overlapping aspects of soil management. National strategies and laws can set responsibilities, but implementation requires funding, inspection, data exchange and cooperation with farmers. The Australian and Serbian examples show different institutional tools, not a single legal model for all countries.

Questions for delegates:

Where do responsibilities or enforcement gaps impede implementation of existing soil policies?

How could FAO assist countries in comparing legal approaches and building institutional capacity while respecting national systems?

10. Connecting national action with existing international commitments

FAO's Global Soil Partnership, the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management and UNCCD decisions already provide substantial policy foundations. Negotiations should therefore identify what remains difficult to implement rather than propose duplicate institutions. Countries face different soils, capacities and food-security pressures, making practical cooperation and flexible implementation essential.

Questions for delegates:

Which commitments and technical initiatives are already in place, and where does implementation evidence show persistent gaps?

What specific cooperation on guidance, capacity-building, finance or monitoring could FAO Member Nations agree to strengthen existing work?

Key Points and Main Issues

Overall negotiating challenge

The central question for delegates is not whether soil conservation or food production should receive greater attention. Sustainable food production depends on healthy soils, and restoration efforts must also recognize the immediate needs and constraints of farmers.

Delegates will need to identify where existing national programmes, FAO technical initiatives and international commitments fall short in implementation, and negotiate realistic cooperation on information, technical assistance, financing and monitoring. The strongest outcomes will specify practical actions, responsible actors and ways to assess whether soil management and food security improve together.

General

FAO — Status of the World's Soil Resources 2026 — 2026

A global assessment of soil threats and the uptake of sustainable soil management, with regional chapters and recommendations on governance, capacity, monitoring, incentives and partnerships. It distinguishes knowledge of effective practices from the challenge of scaling implementation.

FAO — The GSP Plenary endorses proposal for a UN Decade on Soil Health and adopts key decisions to strengthen global soil governance — 2026

FAO reports that the June 2026 Global Soil Partnership Plenary endorsed a proposal for a UN Decade on Soil Health (2031–2040) for further consideration by FAO governing bodies. This is a proposal under consideration, not an adopted UN decade.

UNCCD — COP16 report: action taken (ICCD/COP(16)/24/Add.1) — 2024

Lists adopted decisions, including Decision 19/COP.16 on avoiding, reducing and reversing land and soil degradation of agricultural lands. Provides a concrete baseline for assessing implementation gaps.

UNCCD — Decision 19/COP.16: Avoiding, reducing and reversing land and soil degradation of agricultural lands — 2024

A directly relevant adopted decision addressing agricultural land and soil degradation. Students can examine which measures are already agreed under UNCCD before considering complementary FAO action.

General (cont.)

UNCCD COP16 — Riyadh Political Declaration — 2024

The political declaration adopted at COP16 expresses broad commitments on land restoration and drought resilience. It is a collective declaration rather than a transcript of national statements.

FAO — Positioning the Soil Doctors Programme as a Mechanism That Matters — 2022

Describes FAO's farmer-to-farmer Soil Doctors approach, with implementation relevant to Bangladesh, Malawi and Mexico. It should be listed once as a shared FAO resource, not three times as separate national publications.

FAO — Global Soil Doctors Programme — n.d.

Describes farmer-to-farmer training and practical soil-health assessment; relevant to the barriers facing agricultural extension and smallholders.

FAO — Global Soil Partnership — n.d.

FAO's international cooperation platform for sustainable soil management, technical networks and policy support. The website is an ongoing portal rather than a dated report.

FAO — RECSOIL: Recarbonization of Global Agricultural Soils — n.d.

Programme materials on soil organic carbon and field implementation, including incentives and monitoring. Useful for comparing pilot projects with national-scale adoption.

Africa

FAO — Kenya launches its National Soil Partnership, Soil Laboratory Network and Soil Doctors Programme

2026

FAO describes Kenya's September 2026 launch of a national soil partnership, laboratory network and Soil Doctors rollout under SoilFER, in cooperation with national research institutions. These initiatives seek to improve soil data, testing and farmer guidance; the launch itself does not establish their eventual impact.

FAO — Angola Advances Sustainability Goals with the Conclusion of the ZAEC Project

2025

FAO reports that Angola's ZAEC initiative combined agroecological zoning, landscape restoration and land-use decision tools. The project established a zoning unit and WebGIS system, supported sustainable management planning and directly worked with more than 4,800 farmers. It illustrates how mapping, local participation and institutional capacity can support land restoration, although reported reach is not an independent impact evaluation.

FAO — Ouémé Climate-Resilience Initiative in Benin

2025

The initiative aims to reduce soil erosion and improve land and water management in the Ouémé Basin through climate-smart agriculture and agroforestry. Its stated targets include 95,000 hectares and 330,000 smallholder farmers; these are project objectives, not verified achievements. FAO reports using household resilience assessments to help target farmer field schools and adaptation measures.

Africa (cont.)

Global Soil Doctors Programme implementation in Mozambique — 2024

FAO records 20 trainers, 130 Soil Doctors and an estimated 3,380 farmers reached in Mozambique, with training in May 2024. These figures demonstrate programme activity, but do not establish soil-health outcomes.

FAO — Soil Doctors Training in Burkina Faso — 2022

Describes FAO-supported training of Soil Doctors trainers in Burkina Faso, including the use of farmer extension networks to spread practical soil-health knowledge. It documents programme activity rather than verified improvements in yields or soil quality.

National soil information system in Togo — 2019

FAO describes a technical cooperation project completed in January 2019 to develop digital maps of soil suitability and fertility and strengthen national soil-information and monitoring capacity. This is an accessible replacement for a wrongly assigned Lao PDR link, not a verification of that original page.

FAO — RECSOIL Implementation in Togo — n.d.

The RECSOIL pilot in Alibi Canton covers 250 hectares and involves 45 farmers growing crops including cashew, yam, maize and soybean. FAO documents baseline sampling and practices such as cover crops, compost, crop rotation and agroforestry to address erosion, soil-carbon loss and nutrient imbalances. The figures describe a pilot and should not be interpreted as national results.

Asia and the Pacific

Global Soil Doctors Programme implementation in Lao People's Democratic Republic

2023

FAO records 22 trainers, 100 Soil Doctors and an estimated 1,063 farmers reached, with training in Savannakhet in 2023. These are programme monitoring figures, not proof of improvements in soil health.

Europe and Central Asia

UNDP — The path to sustainable agriculture: new financial tools help restore Kazakhstan's soils

2025

UNDP describes financing tools developed with Kazakhstan's Ministry of Agriculture to encourage crop rotation, reduced tillage and perennial grasses. The proposed pilots illustrate ways to link agricultural finance to sustainable practices, but do not demonstrate nationwide results.

OFFICIAL UN RESOURCES ON THE TOPIC (CONT.)

Latin America and the Caribbean

FAO completes training on soil scanners to boost Antigua and Barbuda's agricultural out-put 2025

FAO supplied two portable soil scanners and trained 21 ministry staff and farmers in May 2025. The devices measure soil properties and nutrients to support more targeted fertilizer advice. The report documents equipment and training, not measured improvements in crop yields.

FAO — Soil Doctors programme in Belize 2025

Describes a national training initiative with the Ministry of Agriculture and illustrates practical extension support for soil assessment.

Global Soil Doctors Programme implementation in Saint Lucia 2023

FAO records a Soil Doctors training initiative in Saint Lucia in November 2023 and estimates that 200 farmers were reached. The figures document extension activity but not verified improvements in soil quality or crop production.

FAO — Guyana: SOILCARE Project and National Soil Survey n.d.

FAO's Guyana project listing describes a national soil survey under the Caribbean SOILCARE initiative, soil-analysis capacity building, and demonstration farms using soil assessments to guide climate-smart irrigation and cultivation. It provides a country example of connecting soil information with practical farming investments; the listing describes work under way rather than completed national improvements.

Near East and North Africa

FAO and Ministry of Environment Advance Iraq's Land Degradation Monitoring with Handover of Field Monitoring Equipment — 2026

FAO reports the delivery of 16 field-monitoring packages to Iraq's Ministry of Environment and training for 46 specialists. The equipment will support a national platform combining field observations, satellite imagery and digital mapping to monitor soil and land degradation. This documents implementation capacity, but does not establish that land degradation has already been reversed.

Combating the root cause: tackling soil salinity for advancing agriculture in Saudi Arabia — 2024

FAO describes the effects of saline soils on Saudi agricultural production and the soil and water constraints that make managing salinity difficult. The resource illustrates how water scarcity, irrigation and soil properties intersect in arid agricultural systems.

FAO — Regional Action Plan for Sustainable Soil Management in the Near East and North Africa — 2024

FAO reports the December 2024 launch of a regional action plan addressing soil salinity, erosion and climate pressures that undermine agricultural productivity. The plan provides an existing framework for regional cooperation; delegates can examine how countries coordinate implementation, monitoring, laboratory capacity and technical assistance.

Near East and North Africa (cont.)

FAO — Muscat Communiqué on Sustainable Soil Management in NENA

2023

A statement adopted by representatives of 12 Near East and North African countries in 2023. It identifies regional priorities for soil information, laboratory capacity, sustainable soil management and cooperation; it does not establish each country's separate negotiating position.

FAO SoilEX — Jordan soil legislation

n.d.

Identifies national soil-protection and agricultural policy instruments. The resource can support discussion of legal tools, while actual enforcement and current implementation require separate evidence.

FAO — Near East and North African Soil Laboratory Network

n.d.

Identifies Iran's 2025–2027 chairmanship of the regional soil laboratory network, relevant to quality assurance and harmonization of soil analysis. The network role should not be conflated with a domestic law.

General

Türkiye — National Strategy and Action Plan to Combat Desertification 2024–2030 — 2024

Sets national priorities for combating desertification and land degradation, with measures on sustainable land management, institutional coordination, research, monitoring and cooperation. It provides a government strategy against which later implementation and reporting can be assessed.

India — National Action Plan to Combat Desertification and Land Degradation Through Forestry Interventions — 2023

Addresses land degradation through agroforestry, assisted natural regeneration, stabilization of sand dunes, tree planting, restoration of rangelands and other landscape interventions. It also discusses financial incentives, policy support and monitoring. Its focus is forestry and landscape restoration rather than agricultural soil management alone.

Mexico — Estrategia Nacional de Suelo para la Agricultura Sostenible — 2022

Mexico's national strategy sets out a coordinated approach to agricultural soil conservation and restoration of degraded land, providing a framework for soil monitoring and cooperation across institutions.

Australia — National Soil Strategy — 2021

Australia's national strategy prioritizes soil health, knowledge, stewardship and coordinated policy. Its action planning illustrates how a government can organize longer-term work on soil monitoring and management.

General (cont.)

Serbia — Regulation on Systematic Monitoring of the Condition and Quality of Soil

2020

Sets requirements for soil-monitoring locations, sampling methods, parameters, measurement frequency, reporting and indicators of land-degradation risk. It replaces an earlier 2019 regulation and provides a practical example of national soil-quality monitoring standards.

Angola — Presidential Decree No. 150/19 creating the National Coordination Committee for the Implementation of the National Action Programme to Combat Desertification (CNC-PANCOD)

2019

Angola's decree establishes an interministerial committee, coordinated by the Minister for the Environment, to oversee its National Action Programme to Combat Desertification and coordinate implementation of the UNCCD. It documents a governance mechanism, not evidence of restoration outcomes.

Australia (South Australia) — Landscape South Australia Act 2019

2019

Establishes regional landscape boards, regional landscape plans and water-allocation planning. It provides financing arrangements and allows authorities to require action plans when land management causes or risks unreasonable degradation. It illustrates how land and water conservation can be supported through enforceable regional institutions.

General (cont.)

Benin — Plan d'Actions National sur la Gestion Durable des Terres (PAN-GDT) 2018–2027

2019

Benin's plan calls for avoiding and reducing land degradation and restoring degraded soils, with a target of restoring at least 1.25 million hectares by 2030. It proposes integrating sustainable land management into agricultural planning, improving tenure security, expanding farmer training, and mobilizing public and private investment. These are policy targets, not confirmed outcomes.

Canada (Ontario) — On-Site and Excess Soil Management (Ontario Regulation 406/19)

2019

Regulates assessment, movement and beneficial reuse of excess soil, including consideration of previous land uses and potential contamination. It illustrates provincial safeguards for reusing excavated soil instead of automatically treating it as waste; its relevance to agricultural soil management is indirect.

Benin — Plan de gestion de la sécheresse 2019–2024

2019

Benin's national drought plan sets out monitoring, early warning, risk assessment and adaptation measures to reduce drought impacts, with particular attention to vulnerable communities. It illustrates a preventive approach relevant to soil conservation and agricultural resilience.

General (cont.)

Canada (Saskatchewan) — Irrigation Act, 2019 — 2019

Establishes the legal framework for irrigation districts and services, including the operation and maintenance of irrigation infrastructure and cooperation with government authorities. It illustrates agricultural water-management governance, though it does not itself set detailed soil-health standards.

Serbia — Regulation on the Content and Manner of Keeping the Cadastre of Contaminated Sites — 2019

Establishes an electronic register administered by the Serbian Environmental Protection Agency, covering site identification, investigation, planned remediation, completed work and post-remediation monitoring. The register supports standardized oversight of contaminated land.

Serbia — Regulation on the Content of Remediation and Reclamation Projects — 2019

Specifies the assessments, contamination data, alternative remediation options, implementation plans, supervision and monitoring required in projects to restore polluted or degraded land. It demonstrates how restoration obligations can be translated into project-level requirements.

General (cont.)

Serbia — Regulation on Limit Values of Polluting, Harmful and Dangerous Substances in Soil

2018

Sets measured contamination thresholds and remediation values for harmful substances in soil, with separate values for groundwater-bearing layers. The regulation complements Serbia's requirements for monitoring contaminated sites and carrying out remediation projects.

General

European Commission. Soil Monitoring Law — 2025

Explains the EU law that entered into force in 2025 and establishes requirements for monitoring and assessing soil health, addressing contaminated sites and supporting sustainable soil management. It offers an example of common monitoring obligations and phased implementation.

African Union. Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan — 2024

Presents the continental action plan endorsed following the 2024 Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit, linking improved soil health to sustainable fertilizer use, agricultural productivity, investment, capacity-building and implementation by Member States.

African Union. Nairobi Declaration on Fertilizer and Soil Health — 2024

Records African leaders' commitments to restore soil fertility and improve access to appropriate fertilizers, extension services, investment and soil-health monitoring. It provides an existing regional policy baseline against which implementation gaps can be evaluated.

General

Solidaridad Network — Fostering Regenerative Agriculture through the PRASL Project in Mozambique

2026

Solidaridad describes a project supporting regenerative agriculture among smallholder farmers in Mozambique's Boane District, with a goal of reaching 4,000 farmers during 2024–2027. It highlights farmer-led approaches to improving soil health, livelihoods and resilience, while distinguishing project targets from verified outcomes.

Rainforest Alliance — Regeneration Takes Root: 2025 Annual Report

2026

The organization reports examples of regenerative farming and soil restoration in coffee and cocoa production, including farmer experience in Brazil and other countries. Its account illustrates how technical support and market arrangements may encourage soil stewardship, although programme claims should be assessed against independent evidence.

Solidaridad Network — Technical Assistance as a Key Strategy to Support Small-Scale Farmers Globally

2026

Drawing on cases in Africa, Asia and Latin America, this publication examines extension models such as farmer field schools, digital advice and community groups. It identifies both reported benefits and challenges in sustaining assistance after project funding ends, relevant to helping farmers adopt improved land-management practices.

General (cont.)

Soil Association — No Drought About It: Farming Agroecologically for Climate Resilience — 2026

The Soil Association proposes measures to improve farming resilience, including stronger soil-protection targets, financing for good soil management, agroforestry, lower reliance on inputs and better baseline monitoring. It represents a civil-society policy position rather than an adopted government programme.

Solidaridad Network — Water and Soil Accelerator Project Supports Zambian Farmers — 2026

This NGO field account describes work with Zambian smallholders on soil fertility, water management and climate-information tools. The project aims to support 75,000 farmers, a target rather than an independently verified outcome. It offers a practical perspective on the advisory services and investments needed for adoption.

Rainforest Alliance — Regenerative Agriculture Standard: Farm Requirements — 2025

This voluntary private-sector standard sets farm-level requirements addressing soil health and fertility, biodiversity and climate resilience. It offers an example of non-governmental incentives and verification mechanisms for agricultural soil management, while raising questions about affordability and accessibility for smaller farms.

General (cont.)

Solidaridad Network — East and Central Africa 2025 — 2025

Solidaridad reports farmer adoption of minimum tillage and integrated soil-fertility practices in Kenya and describes monitored biochar trials in Tanzania. Its account provides programme-reported results and practical implementation examples, but should not be treated as independent proof that the same outcomes will occur elsewhere.

Soil Association — Annual Impact Report 2024–25 — 2025

This civil-society impact report describes farmer-led field trials, soil-health advisory training and collaboration on soil-data tools and agroecological farming. It illustrates how nongovernmental organizations can support practical experimentation and knowledge sharing, while its reported activities should be distinguished from independent assessments of soil improvement.

IISD Earth Negotiations Bulletin — UNCCD COP16 Summary — 2024

Independent reporting on the 2024 UNCCD negotiations, including positions and disagreements over drought cooperation, land tenure and implementation. Useful for comparing interventions, but distinguish journalistic summaries from official verbatim statements.

Swisscontact — Soil Doctors Training of Trainers — 2024

Swisscontact reports a four-day training in Cambodia that prepared local trainers to support farmers in soil testing, fertility, organic matter and conservation practices. It provides an example of extension support for sustainable soil management.

General (cont.)

CARE — Soil Literacy and Testing Guidance Note 2024

CARE describes how soil testing, locally appropriate advice and farmer training can support better nutrient management. It includes a Kenyan pilot involving portable testing devices and farmer cooperatives, and discusses affordability, partnerships and access to finance as barriers to scaling soil services.

Land Portal, Oxfam and Landesa — Progress toward SDG Land Degradation and Restoration Commitments 2024

This civil-society review examines national reporting on SDG target 15.3 and finds gaps between land-restoration commitments and implementation, particularly beyond forests. It provides an independent perspective on policy priorities, reporting and accountability that complements government and UN sources.

Soil heavy metal pollution and food safety in China: Effects, sources and removing technology 2021

This peer-reviewed article examines sources of heavy-metal contamination in Chinese soils, the implications for food safety and possible remediation approaches. It is a research resource, not an official statement of China's national policy.