



Healthy soils for a healthy life

Our soils are in danger from expanding cities, deforestation, unsustainable land use, pollution, overgrazing and climate change, all of which compromise sustainable agriculture, food security and the provision of ecosystem services. To draw attention to their plight, the United Nations has declared 2015 the International Year of Soils, and 5 December World Soil Day*. Discover the work of ISO's technical committees to improve the quality of soils.

* Declared by the United Nations (UN) and implemented by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). FAO has 39 liaisons with ISO technical committees and subcommittees.

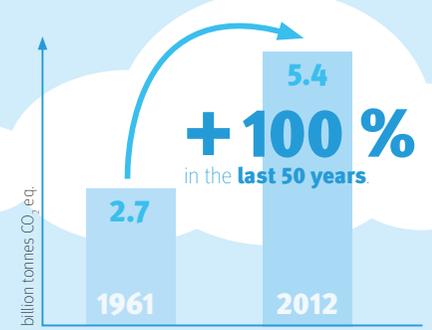


Soils **store and filter water**, improving our resilience to floods and droughts

Of the estimated **1.4 billion hectares** of crop land worldwide, **≈ 80 %** are rain-fed and account for about **60 %** of global agricultural output.

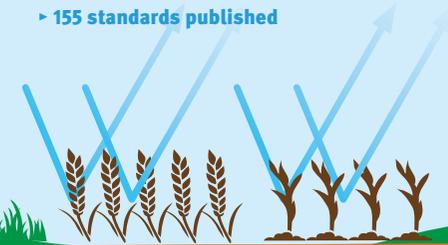
- ISO/TC 147, *Water quality*
- ISO/TC 282, *Water re-use*
- ISO/TC 275, *Sludge recovery, recycling, treatment and disposal*
- **293 standards published or in development**

Soils **help combat and adapt to climate change** by playing a key role in the carbon cycle



Global emissions from agriculture (crops & livestock) continue to increase.

- ISO/TC 146, *Air quality*
- **155 standards published**



Healthy soils are **the basis for healthy food production**



95% of our food is directly or indirectly produced on our soils

- ISO/TC 34, *Food products*
- **824 standards published**

Soils **support our planet's biodiversity** and they host a quarter of the total

Over **1 000** species of invertebrates can be found in **1m²** of forest soil



- ISO/TC 190, *Soil quality*
- ISO/TC 23, *Tractors and machinery for agriculture and forestry*
- **515 standards published**

Soils are **the foundation for vegetation** which is cultivated or managed for feed, fibre, fuel and medicinal products



26% of the earth's terrestrial surface is occupied by grazing

- ISO/TC 134, *Fertilizers and soil conditioners*
- ISO/TC 238, *Solid biofuels*
- ISO/TC 255, *Biogas*
- **52 standards published or under development**

Soil is a **non-renewable resource**. Its preservation is essential for food security and our sustainable future



Sustainable soil management could produce up to **58 %** more food

- ISO/TC 207, *Environmental management*
- ISO/TC 81, *Common names for pesticides and other agrochemicals*
- **44 standards published**