



Soil Carbon Sequestration Update

March 2021 - Soil Carbon Sequestration Update

Research

Tremendous soil loss in the corn belt of the USA is cause for great concern.

<https://www.pnas.org/content/118/8/e1922375118>

<https://e360.yale.edu/features/how-the-loss-of-soil-is-sacrificing-americas-natural-heritage?fbclid=IwAR2kBwaI6OTrXgiG0T7XOjc8hsp3wlYTUPpcUwMyCDcl2lb7rYfsItgG2fI>

A new white paper from New Zealand sets out 17 priorities for research to support regenerative agriculture and suggests 11 guiding principles for the field. Over 200 farmers, land stewards, scientists, NGO leaders, business leaders, and finance experts participated and helped provide input.

https://ourlandandwater.nz/news/regen-ag-white-paper_feb-2021/

Jock Gilchrist has compiled a comprehensive overview of the science and practices related to regenerative agriculture with support from E2 (a project of Natural Resources Defense Council) and Natural Capital Solutions. "The Promise of Regenerative Agriculture" describes the science-based business case for regen ag and explores mechanisms to scale up its adoption. You can access the report [here](#).

Agroforestry holds great promise in India

https://www.academia.edu/42768685/National_Agroforestry_Policy_in_India_a_low_hanging_fruit

The Soil Health Benchmark Study is a model for engaging farmers, citizen scientists, and research groups in establishing and monitoring changes in soil carbon and other soil attributes.

https://www.futureharvestcasa.org/resources/soil-health?mc_cid=05769795e4&mc_eid=1f2c10f5e2

This recent study points to agriculture as a driving source of emissions threatening the Paris Climate Accord.

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/02/global-farming-emissions-threaten-paris-agreement-goals/>

New global study assesses soil organic carbon stocks up to 5 centimeters down - surface soils <https://phys.org/news/2021-02-global-surface-soil-carbon.html>

NASA tool gives farmers, researchers and officials access to details on moisture in soils <https://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2021/nasa-data-powers-new-usda-soil-moisture-portal>

Microbes in permafrost could trigger a huge release of carbon <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-00659-y>

Pledges, Plans, and Programs for Nature-Based Solutions

E2 releases a report on healthy soils as a key to economic recovery for American farmers and to mitigating carbon emissions.

<https://e2.org/reports/healthy-soils-climate-connection-2021/>

WWF releases its Kunming Plan for Nature & People

https://www.wwfca.org/en/kunming_plan_for_nature_and_people/

Indigenous groups are leading the way in protecting Nature

https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/11/climate/nature-conservation-30-percent.html?action=click&block=more_in_recirc&impression_id=5fc89c90-83ee-11eb-b5d1-9941db027178&index=0&pgtype=Article®ion=footer

Inga Foundation supports agroforestry and alley cropping in Honduras through its Land for Life program. <https://www.ingafoundation.org/land-for-life/> and

<https://vimeo.com/312129881> (a short video telling the story)

Earth Day 2021 has a global focus on regenerative agriculture.

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/02/global-farming-emissions-threaten-paris-agreement-goals/>

Any individual can pledge to be a global food system hero by how they consume, farm, garden, or care for the land. See here for details.

<https://www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit/become-food-systems-hero>

Policy Developments & Analysis

USDA seeks comments on plans to address climate disruption through agriculture. Please send in your comments before April 29.

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/03/16/2021-05287/notice-of-request-for-public-comment-on-the-executive-order-on-tackling-the-climate-crisis-at-home>

The US Covid Relief bill provides \$5 billion dollars for farmers of color and Senator Cory Booker explores additional policy efforts to support Brown and Black farmers

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2021/03/08/reparations-black-farmers-stimulus/>
<https://centraljersey.com/2021/02/17/addressing-injustice-to-black-farmers-feb-24/>

Bloomberg investigation slams The Nature Conservancy and major corporations for dealing in “meaningless” carbon credits to protect forests

<https://www.bloomberg.com/features/2020-nature-conservancy-carbon-offsets-trees/>

Respected carbon farmer reflects on his testimony before Congress

<https://www.agriculture.com/farm-management/programs-and-policies/what-gabe-brown-learned-by-testifying-before-congress> In this short video, Gabe Brown talks about how things have changed in a positive way. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-vBpOuagyy0>

Conferences, Webinars and Events

The UN Food Systems Summit in July 2021 will host numerous side-events. The Summit and several affiliated, sponsored events will include a strong focus on healthy soils and soil carbon.

<https://www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit/>

Eurosoil will hold a scientific online gathering for researchers focused on soil issues

<https://eurosoil-congress.com/>

Chico State will hold its annual conference on sustainability with a focus on diversity in soils, communities, and economies. This year’s event includes a workshop on carbon farming.

https://whova.com/web/twts_202103/

The Chesapeake Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture archives its webinars, packed with helpful tips and resources for farmers focused on regenerative agriculture techniques.

<https://www.futureharvestcasa.org/resources/webinar-recordings>

International Day of Forests webinar focuses on ecological restoration

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jUk2cnVzTtWgFW3bQRipfQ

Schumacher Center for New Economics explores the role of land trusts with a focus on land access for all producers and communities.

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1tyEu0e9T7W5iQo8VNNXCO

Educational Resources and Tools

The Regenerative Agriculture Podcast offers wonderful programs led often by farmers and producers on the details, joys, and challenges of shifting to regenerative agriculture.

<http://regenerativeagriculturepodcast.com/2021>

This video looks at the links between regenerative practices, biodiversity, and pollinators

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUXPH-CZxZw>

European Union supports Regenerative Agriculture Revolution programs

<https://www.eitfood.eu/projects/the-regenerative-agriculture-revolution-2020>

Grants and Funding

The Agroecology Fund makes innovative grants to support agroecology

<https://www.agroecologyfund.org/grantmaking>

Funders for Regenerative Agriculture adds more members and welcomes a new Executive Director, Jennifer O'Connor from Guidelight Strategies.

<https://forainitiative.org/>

The Regenerative Agriculture Foundation continues to invest in the field.

<https://regenerativeagriculturefoundation.org/>

The Transformational Investing in Food Systems does just that.

<https://www.tifsinitiative.org/>

The USDA compiles a list of private and public sources of funding for general agricultural initiatives that fit various guidelines.

<https://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/guide-to-funding-resources>

Media, News, and Opinions

Canadian grapegrowers improve wines through regenerative practices.

<https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2021/03/18/niagara-grape-growers-getting-to-the-root-of-good-wine-with-regenerative-agriculture.html>

African efforts to advance agroforestry show promise and pitfalls

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2021/02/great-green-wall-could-save-africa-can-massive-forestry-effort-learn-past-mistakes>

Low-carbon farming in Latin America gains momentum

<https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/latin-america/stories-in-latin-america/growing-our-way-healthier-climate/>

Food companies face complexity with regenerative agriculture

<https://www.greenbiz.com/article/food-companies-shifting-regenerative-ag-practices-complicated>

Celebrating the role of women and regenerative agriculture

<https://www.soil4climate.org/women-of-regenerative-ag.html>

Carbon farming in Australia gains growing interest and support

<https://visiontimes.com/2021/03/19/carbon-farming-in-australia.html>

Biochar markets are rapidly expanding and projected to grow

<https://www.marketwatch.com/press-release/biochar-market-to-witness-high-growth-in-near-future-to-2025-2021-03-16>

Remembering a grandfather who farmed using positive practices

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/19/opinion/america-agriculture-food-farming.html>

Voluntary carbon credits get moving with Bluesource and Locus Agricultural Solutions

<http://www.bluesource.com/press-releases/new-agricultural-carbon-initiative-pairs-buyers-with-american-farmers-to-accelerate-fight-against-climate-change/>

PA farmers face growing threats. How they treat their soil may make all the difference.

https://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2021/02/23/climate-change-threatens-pa-s-farmers-a-solution-for-them-and-for-reducing-carbon-could-lie-in-the-soil/?fbclid=IwAR3_mcpYXbCST-3PkfHlqvsvp1NrjzidZkqinmJrhZVPncf9hHerSe2FXxs

Recent droughts in Europe are the worst in 2000 years.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/mar/15/climate-crisis-recent-european-droughts-worst-in-2000-years>

Biden Administration should look to regenerative agriculture to address climate change

<https://www.cnbc.com/2021/01/28/op-ed-biden-administration-sregenerative-agriculture-can-help-advance-new-climate-action.html>

For more information, go to [our website!](#)

To help someone new join our listserv on Soil Carbon Sequestration [click here.](#)