



Donor Consultation Meeting
World Bank, Washington 7 April 2010
Key Issues

- The *GlobalSoilMap.net* product is a public good.
- The project focuses on generating digital quantitative soil information serving the main information demands in the areas of food security, climate change adaptation, water scarcity, biodiversity hotspots, bioenergy crops and land degradation.
- The key driver for resource mobilization is climate change.
- There is a need to train a new generation of soil scientists, the nodes are the ideal platform to accomplish this goal. The project is designed around nodes of excellence in every continent to allow for the exchange of information and dissemination of the data.
- We need institutional support on a scale that matches the FAO investment in the early 1970s
- Two simultaneous approaches are suggested to move the project forwards:
 1. To produce a global map of a significant soil property, that is: carbon or available water.
 2. To produce a digital soil map and information systems all the way to the user interface for a particular country and Malawi could be used for this. In addition Bolivia, Peru and Vietnam were suggested.
- Near infrared spectrometry can be included as an “App” in iPhones and similar hand-held devices.
- The *GlobalSoilMap.net* project needs an Advisory Board that goes beyond the scientific community.
- *GlobalSoilMap.net* product should allow feedback and develop an open access system where users can view and submit soil data. Allow developers to contribute with new applications.
- Provide different visualizations of the product that show the characteristics of the soils giving possibilities of comparison and showing their evolution or changes in a span of time.
- Online training in addition to the curricular programs developed in the Universities part of the Consortium. Australia is already developing a Masters Program.
- The informal dialogue towards an open source platform for key drivers like soils, water, forests produced the following ideas:
 1. Must have carbon-positive farming.

2. Current fertilizer technology is only 30% effective. No new fertilizers have been developed for agriculture since 1949. Although efficiency can be increased by better timing and placement, the world needs a quantum jump.
3. Nitrogen fixation is situ, with leguminous trees and cover crops can capture large quantities of nitrogen from the air at zero carbon cost, in contrast with the cost of 1 ton of C emitted for every ton of fertilizer N in manufacturing and transport and application. While mineral fertilizers are subsidized in most of Africa, N-fixing trees and cover crops are not, and their adoption commonly drops after the initial spurt, because they are not receiving financial stimulus. Such stimuli should be an integral part of carbon-positive farming.
4. Going from 1 to 3 tons per hectare of cereal grains is the quantitative definition of the African Green Revolution that's beginning to happen.
5. Eastern India and Bangladesh are similar to Africa in terms of hunger.