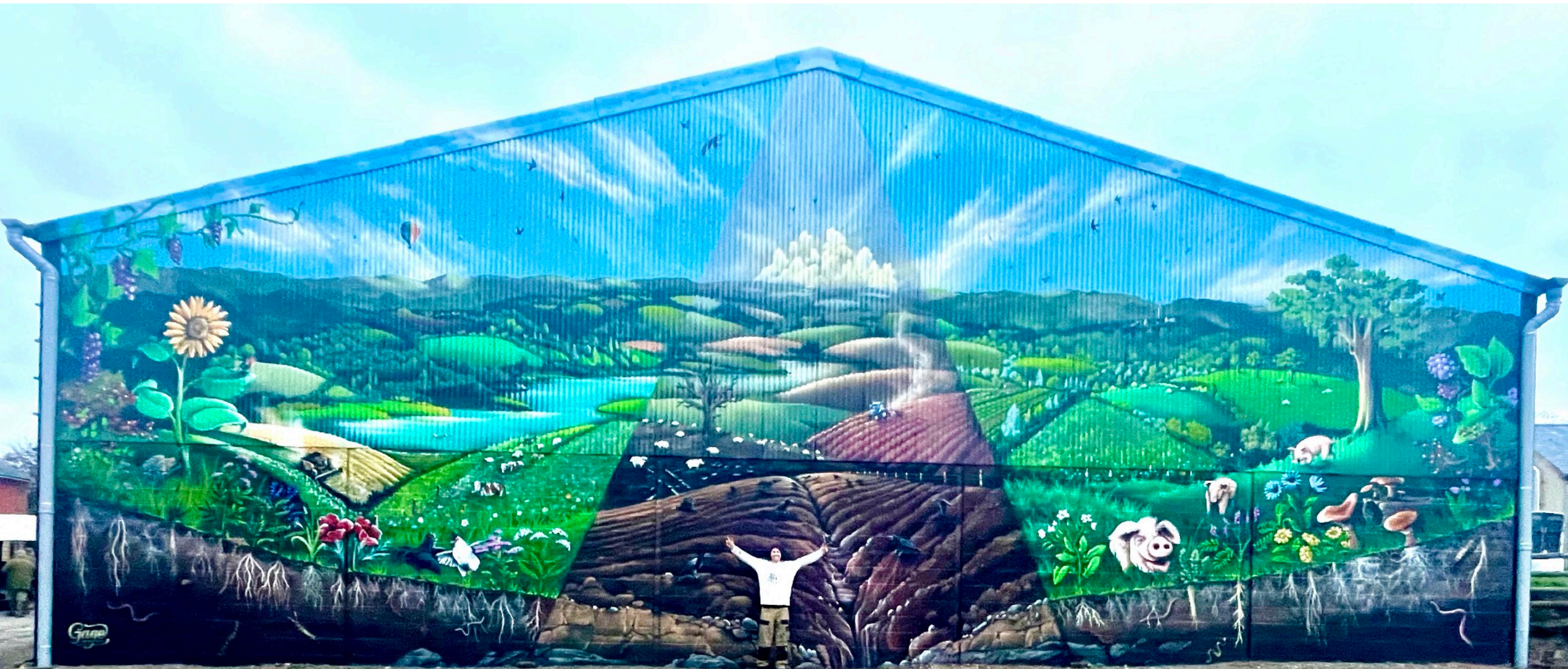




## Regenerative agriculture approach







## Section 1

**“Our soils are great - why do we need to regenerate them”**



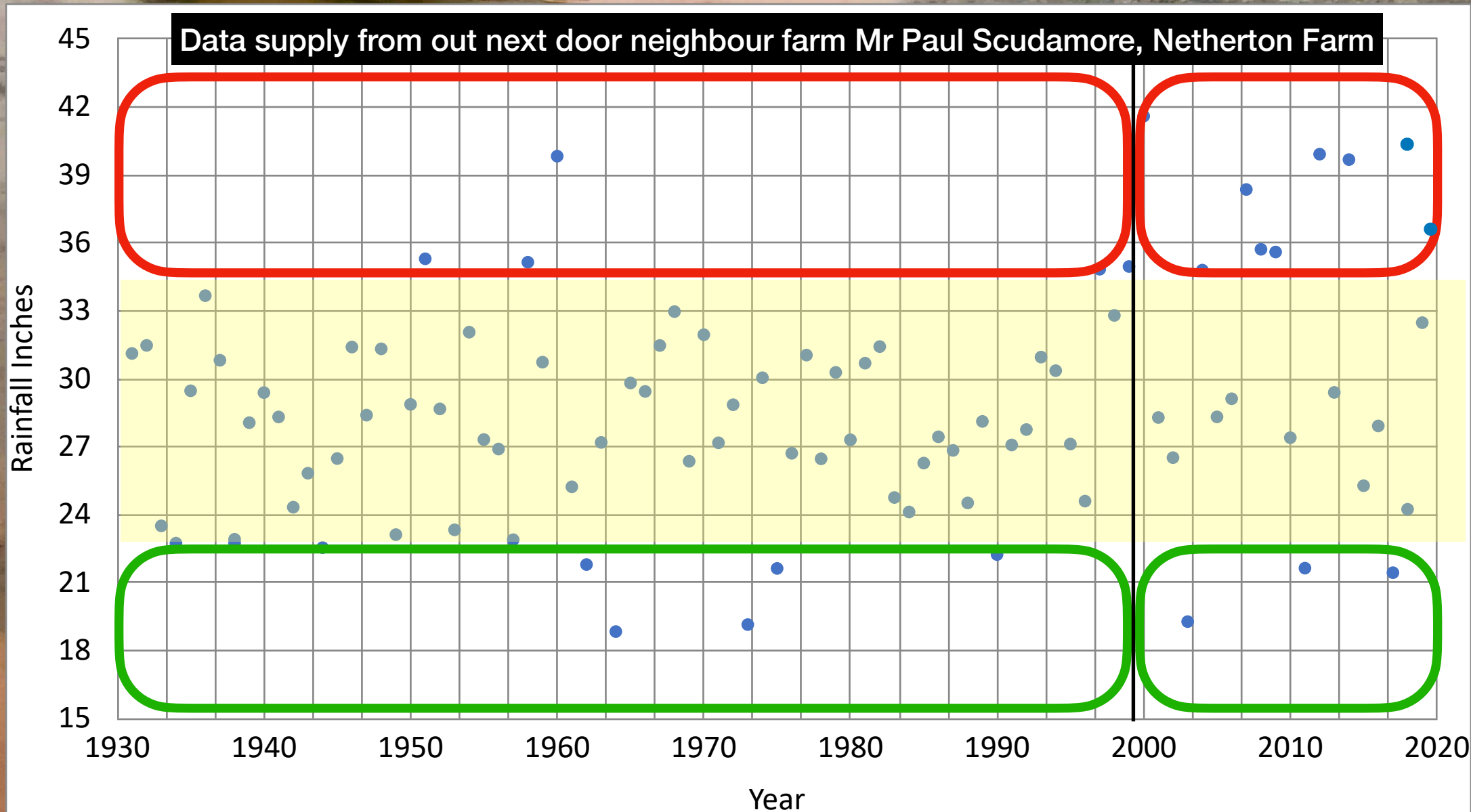


So were ours!





# Rainfall extremes and climate change



Excessively  
wet

Average  
rainfall

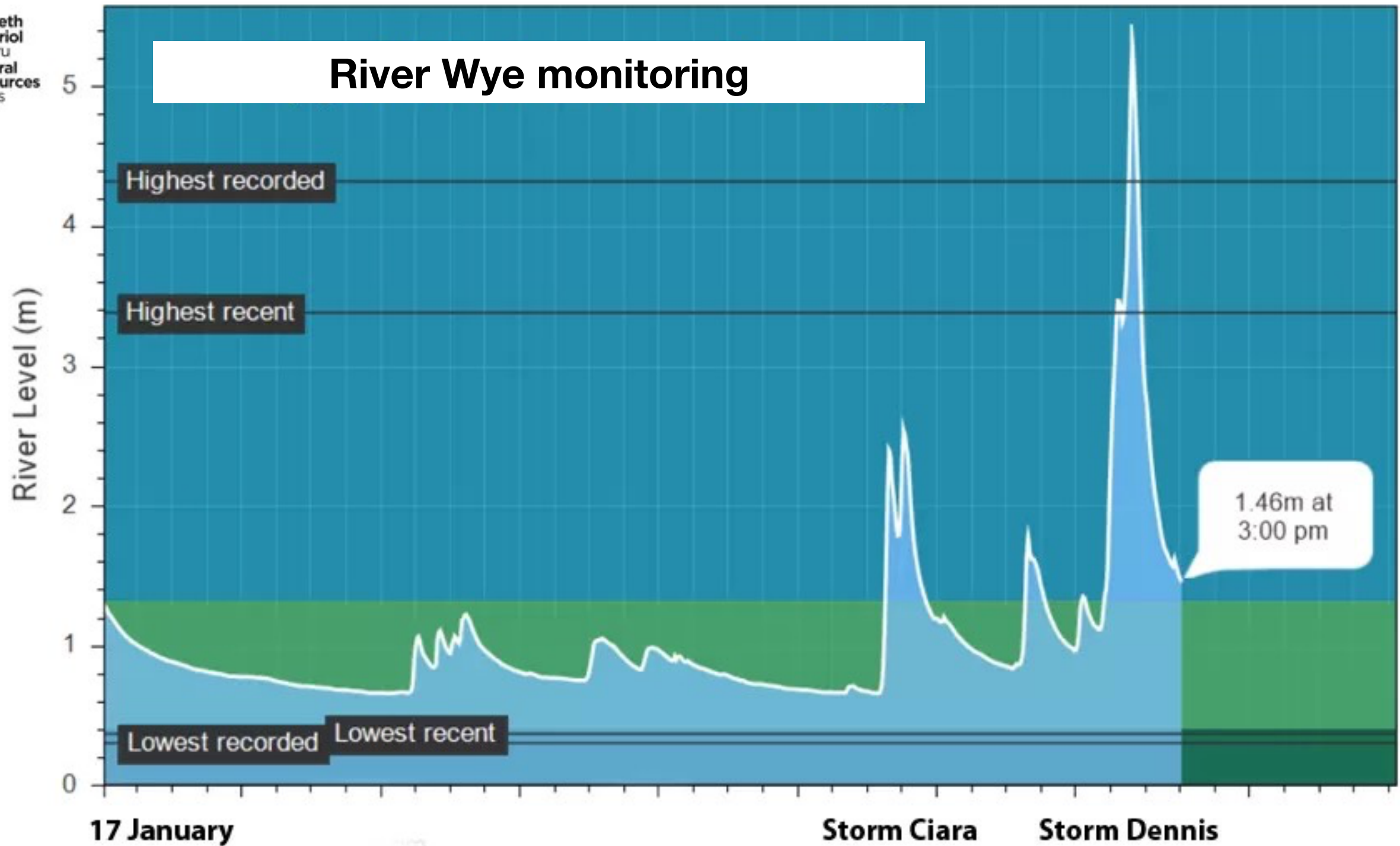
Excessively  
dry

There are more weather extremes in the past 22 years than there were in the previous 70 years!



Nothing in the catchment to 'slow the flow' cause extreme flooding events

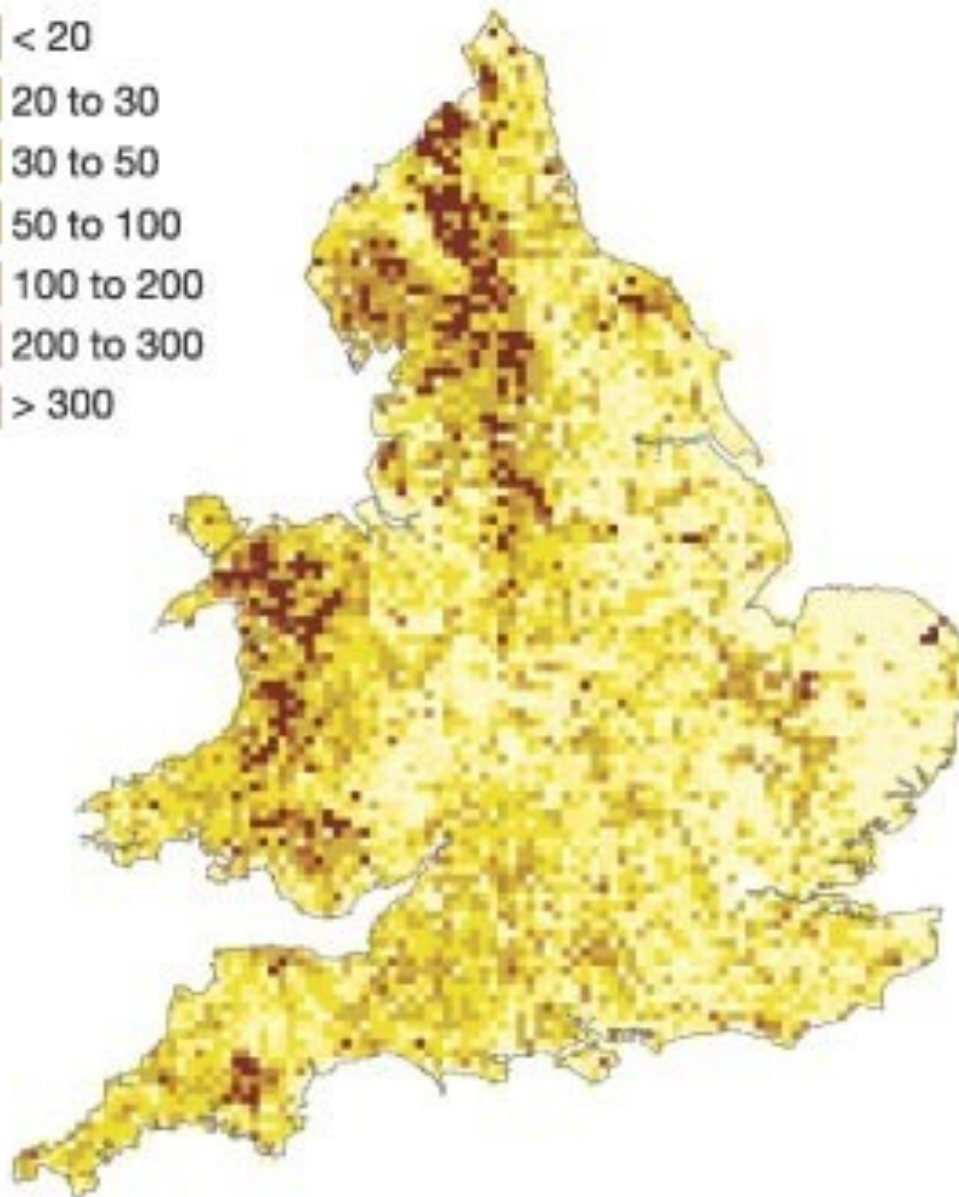
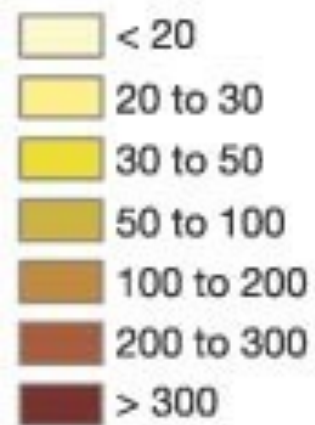
## River Wye monitoring



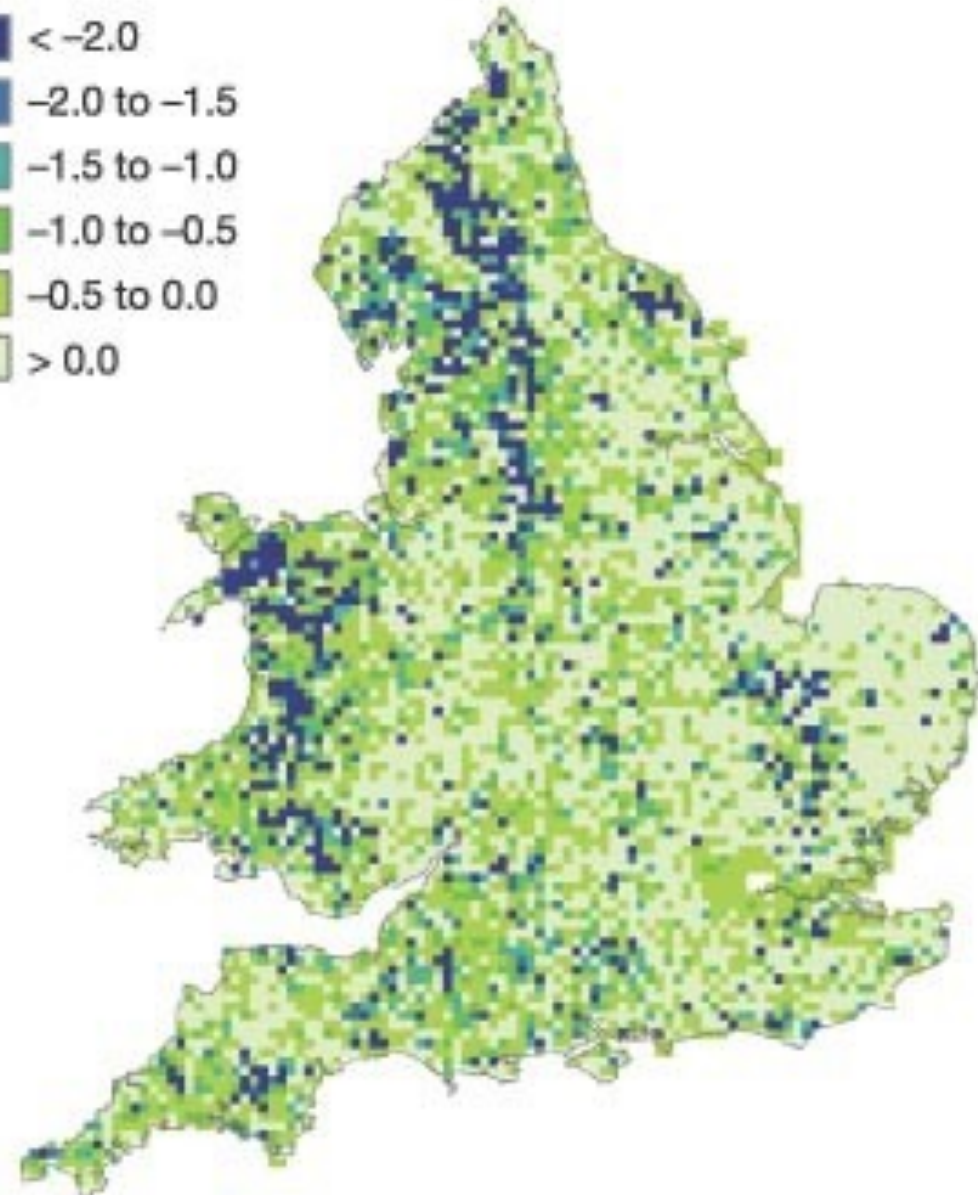
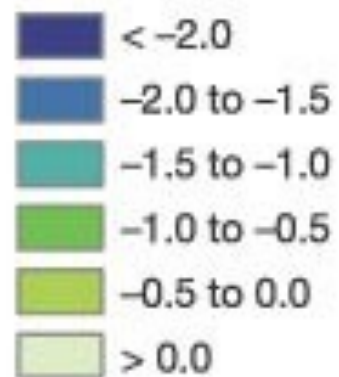


# England & Wales Carbon Loss 1978-2003

**a** Original  $C_{org}$  ( $g\ kg^{-1}$ )

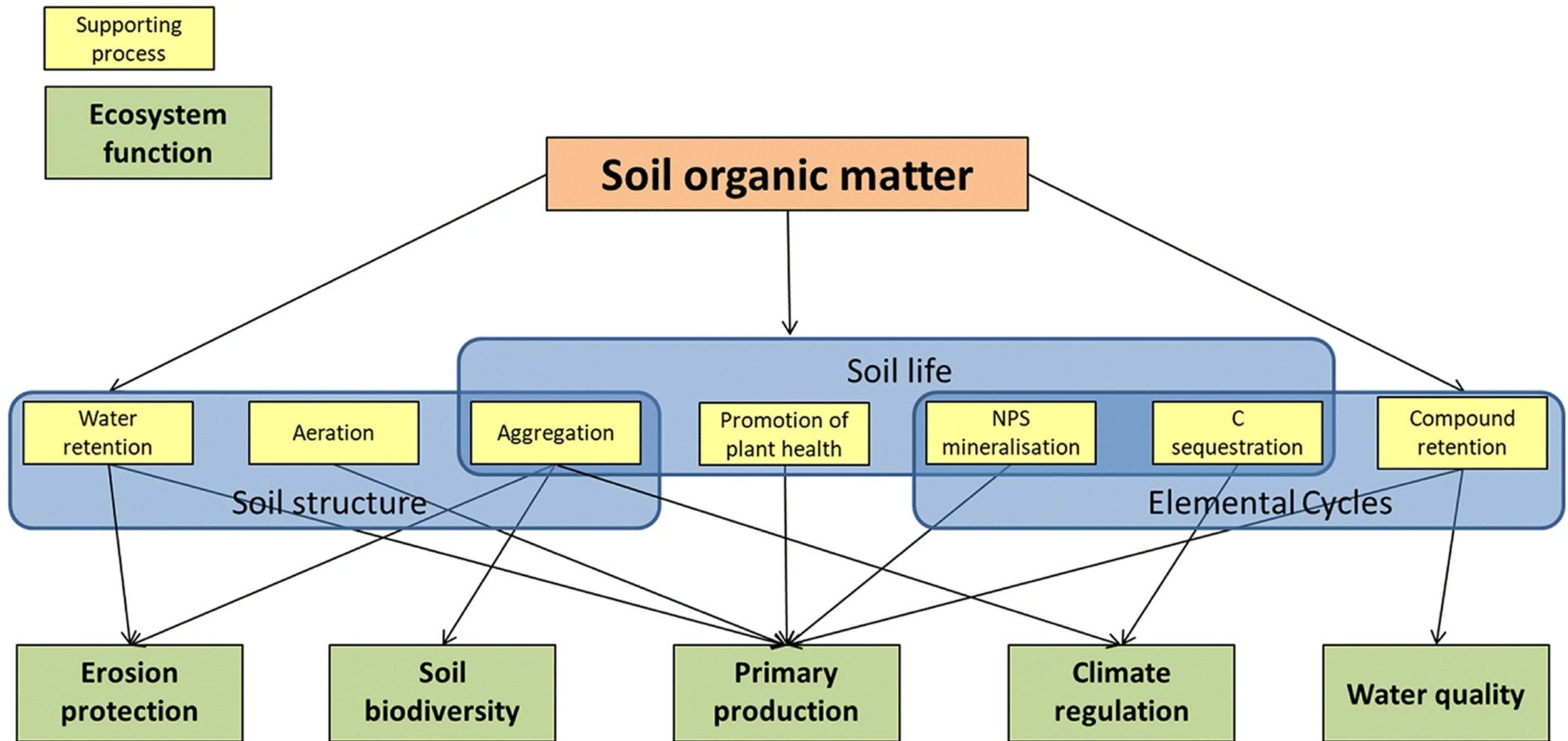


**b** Rate of change ( $g\ kg^{-1}\ yr^{-1}$ )





# The importance of soil organic matter





# Healthy soils - Why?



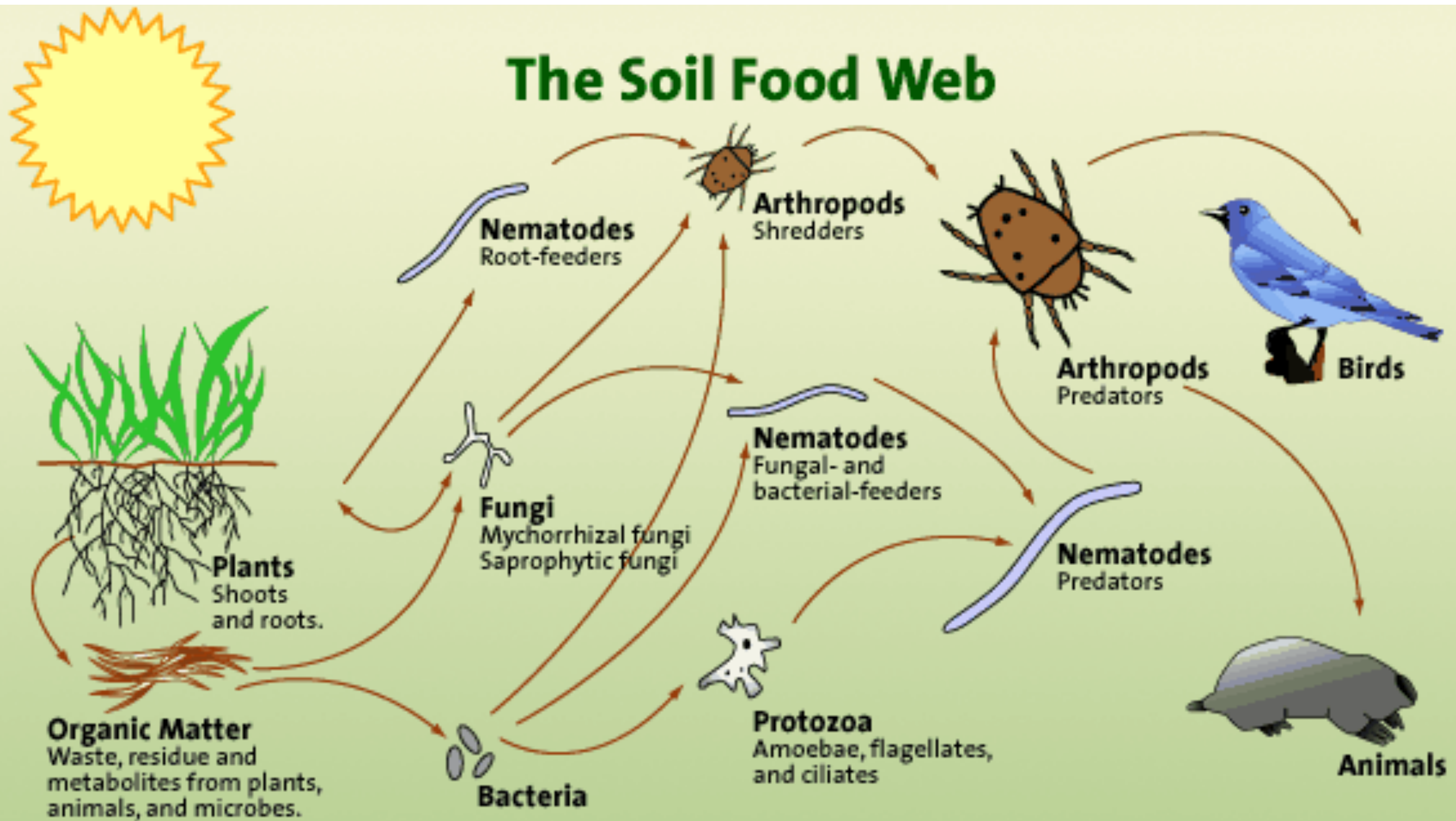


The most important of all farming tools





# The Soil Food Web



**First trophic level:**  
Photosynthesizers

**Second trophic level:**  
Decomposing Mutualists  
Pathogens, Parasites  
Root-feeders

**Third trophic level:**  
Shredders  
Predators  
Grazers

**Fourth trophic level:**  
Higher level predators

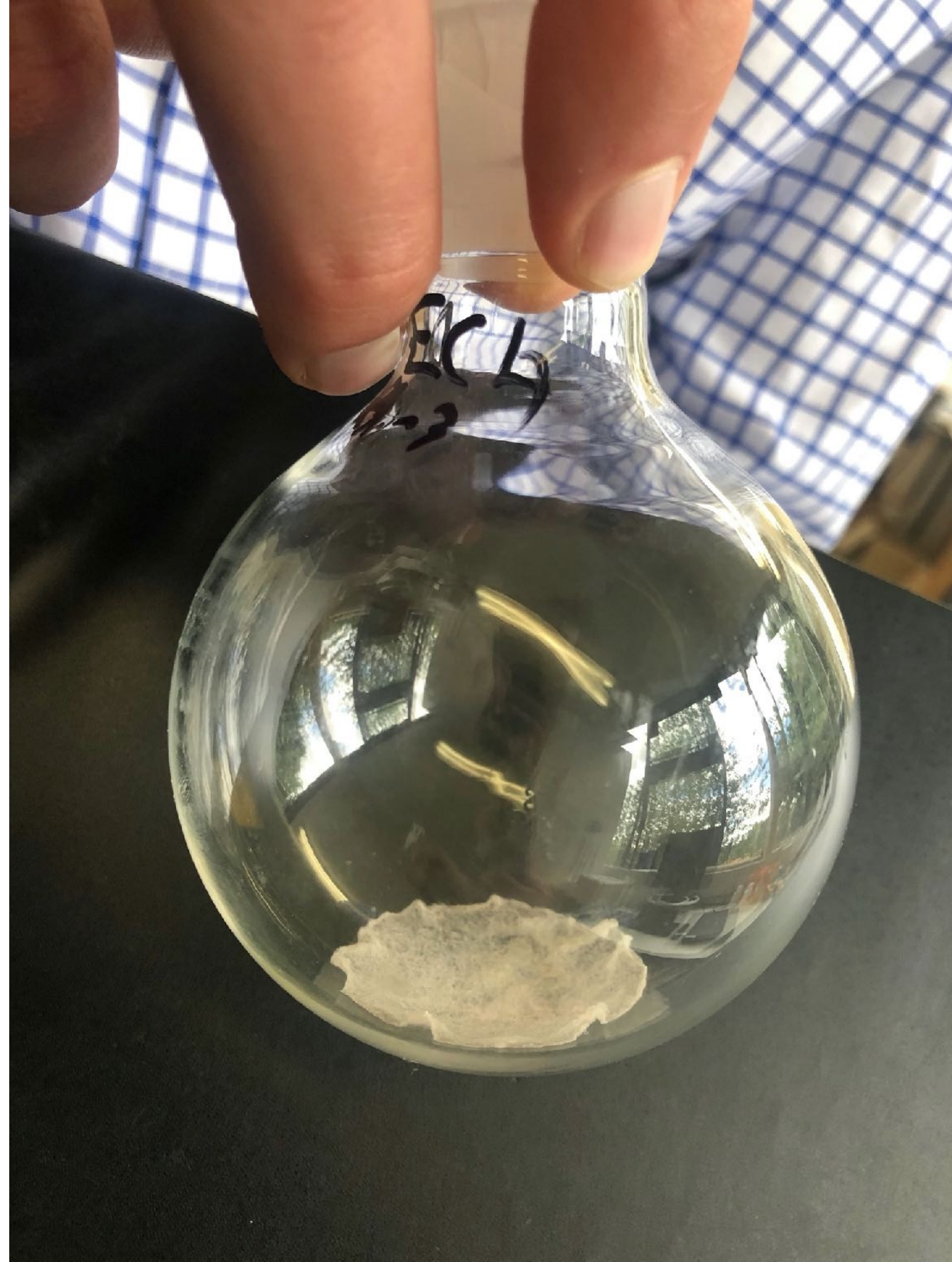
**Fifth & higher trophic level:**  
Higher level predators



**The exudates of 12 wheat plants in the first 14 days of growth (produced in pure water) and then freeze dried.**

**Carbon rich (52%) Amino acids produced to feed the below ground biology.**

**In turn, the below ground biology scavenges nutrients to give back to the plant - Plant/soil symbiosis at its finest**

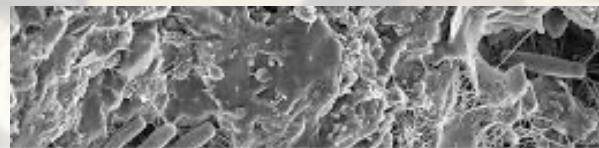




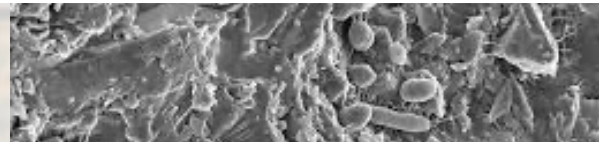
Everyone is a livestock farmer!



It's just most livestock is invisible!

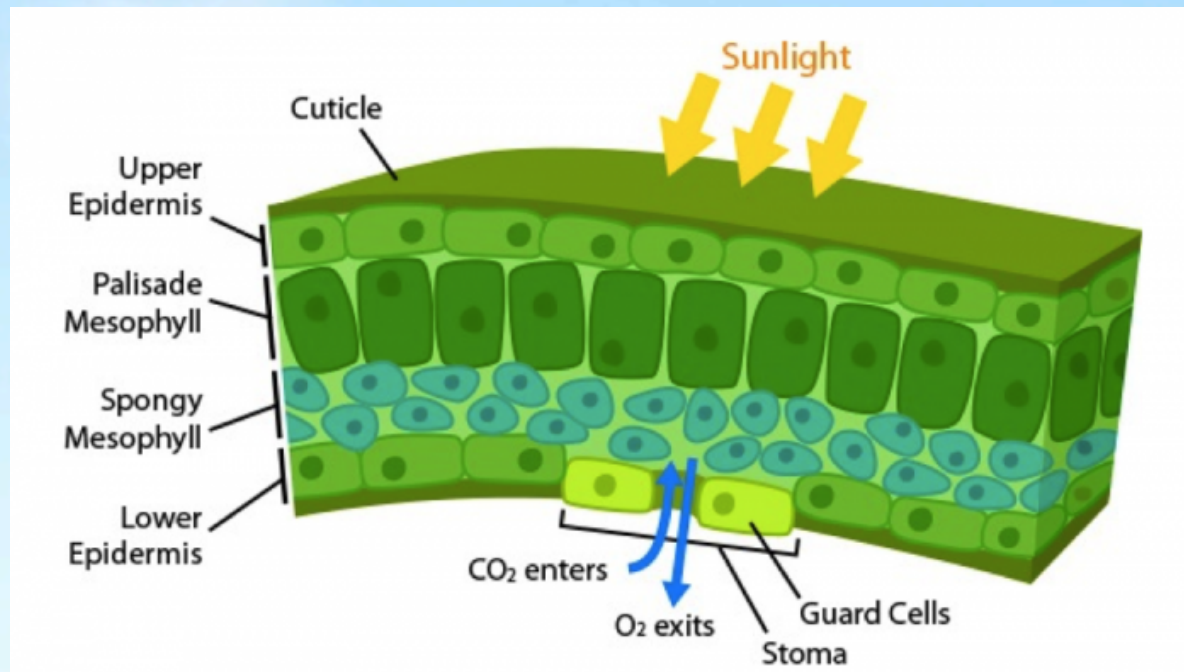
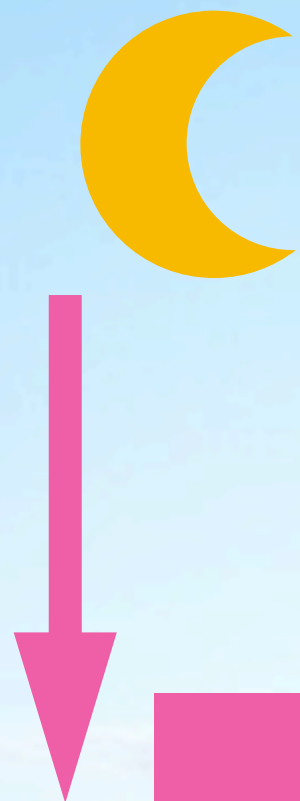


Feeding livestock above and below the ground - no days off!



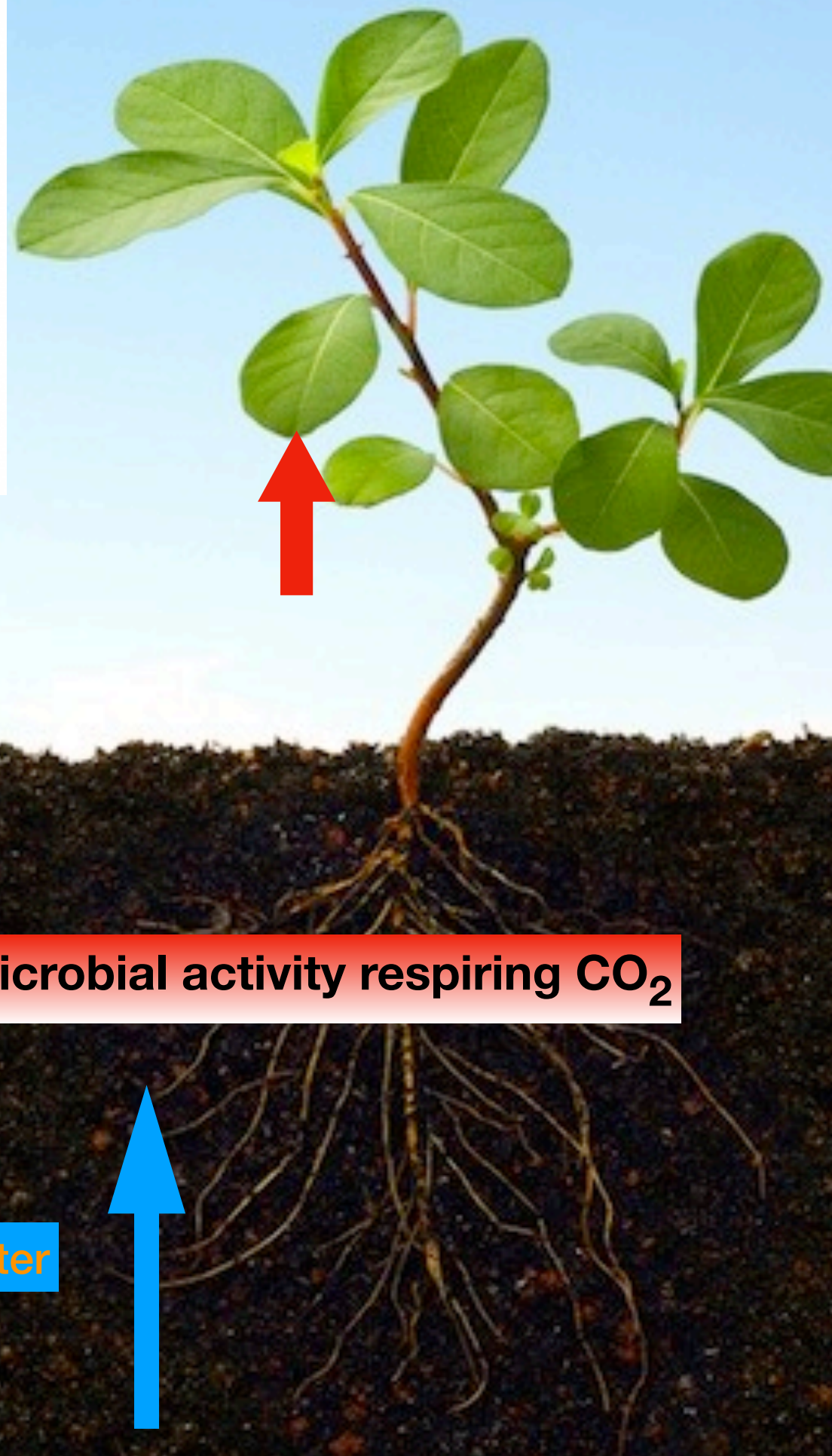
Soil microbes in healthy soils weight of 5 cows per hectare!  
In order of preference for food  
1.Amino acid root exudates  
2.Dead plant roots  
3.Crop residues.  
4.If none of this is available they will feed on OM, reducing the quantity and quality.





O<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>  
replenish into the soil

**Stomata**  
(underside of leaf)



**Microbial activity respiring CO<sub>2</sub>**

Mixing with H<sub>2</sub>O to  
form carbonic acid



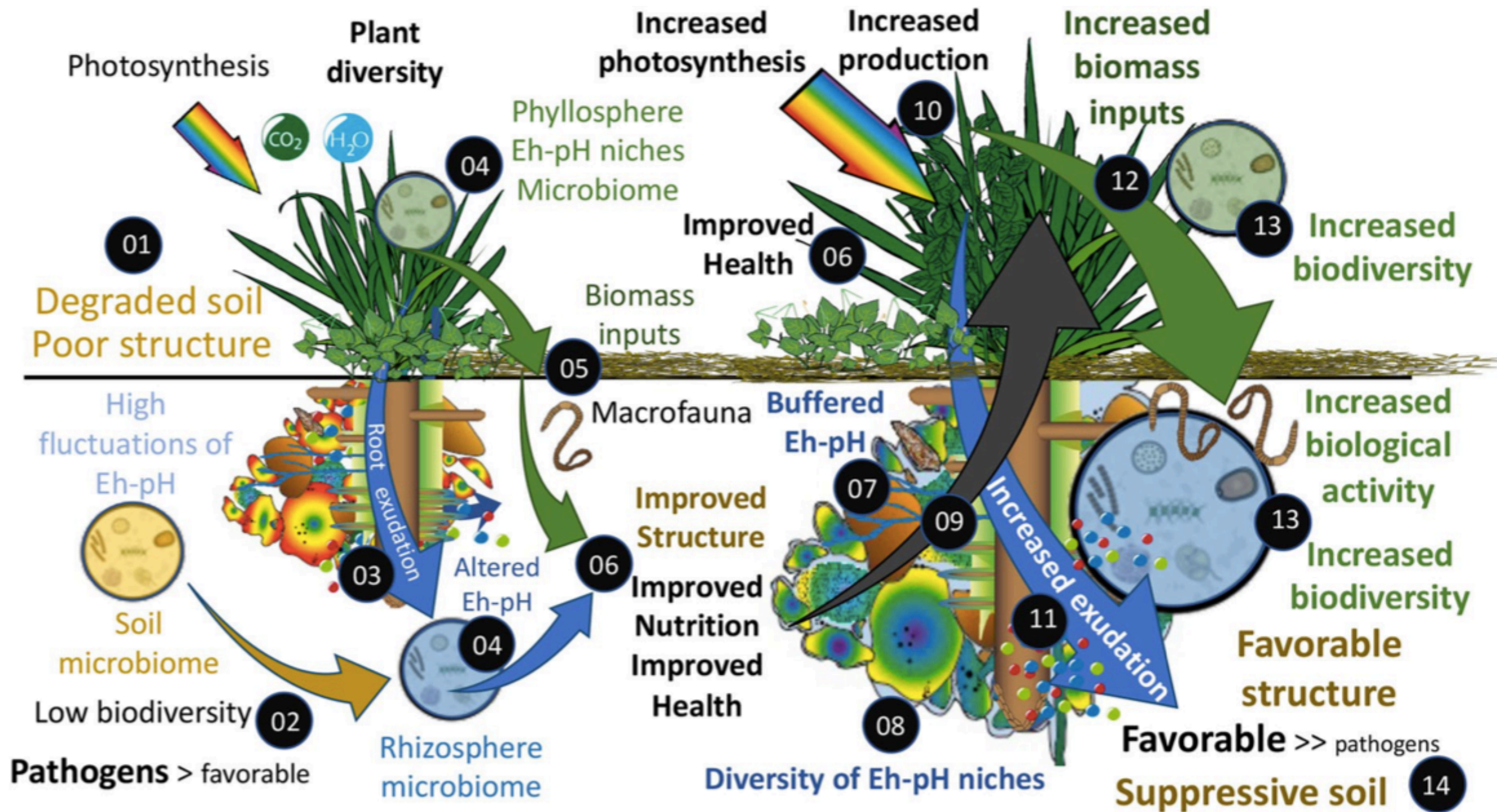
Moon pulls water



**Soil moisture**



# How a well structured soil changes everything!











## **Section 2**

**“The 5 regenerative principles”**





## 5 principles of soil health

**Living roots.** Maintain a living root in soil as long as possible throughout the year. Living roots are feeding soil biology by providing its basic food source: carbon. This biology, in turn, fuels the nutrient cycle that feeds plants.

**Limited disturbance.** Limit mechanical, chemical, and physical disturbance of soil. Tillage destroys soil structure. It is constantly tearing apart the “house” that nature builds to protect the living organisms in the soil that create natural soil fertility. The result of tillage is soil erosion.

**Armour.** Keep soil covered at all times. Bare soil is an anomaly—nature always works to cover soil. Providing a natural “coat of armour” protects soil from wind and water erosion while providing food and habitat for macro- and microorganisms. It will also prevent moisture evaporation and germination of weed seeds.

**Diversity.** Strive for diversity of both plant and animal species. Where in nature does one find monocultures? Only where humans have put them! Grasses, forbs, legumes, and shrubs all live and thrive in harmony with each other. Diversity enhances ecosystem function

**Integrated animals.** Nature does not function without animals. It is that simple. The major benefit is that the grazing of plants stimulates the plants to pump more carbon into the soil. This drives nutrient cycling by feeding biology. If you want a healthy, functioning ecosystem on your farm, you must provide a home and habitat for not only farm animals but also pollinators, predator insects, earthworms, and all of the microbiology that drive ecosystem function.



# Living Roots





Limited disturbance





N 14:38 

---

Speed warning

--- mph

37.0 °C

---

0 km/h

Bare soil



Armour

Standing crop



Mulch



12th August



# A simple example of diversity in wheat



Mixture of 144 varieties

Single variety



# Integration of Livestock





# Mob graze cover crops For soil health and capturing nutrients





# Diversity in the flerd









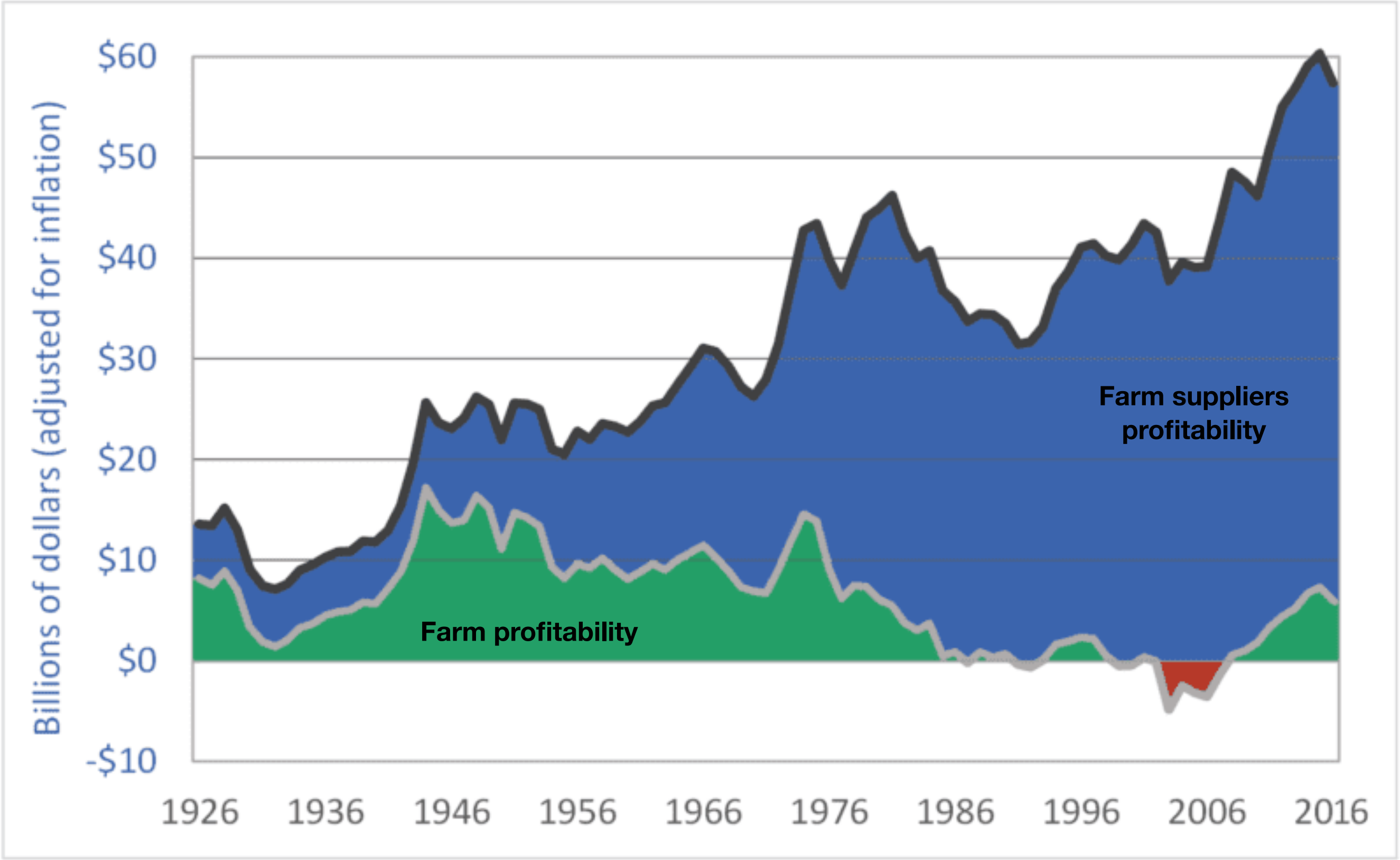
A close-up photograph of a soil profile. The top of the image shows green vegetation, including some white flowers and long, thin leaves. Below the surface, a dark, rich brown soil is visible, with numerous thin, light-colored roots extending downwards. The soil has a crumbly, granular texture. The text "Section 3" is overlaid in the center of the image.

# Section 3

**“In practice”**



Canadian farm profitability





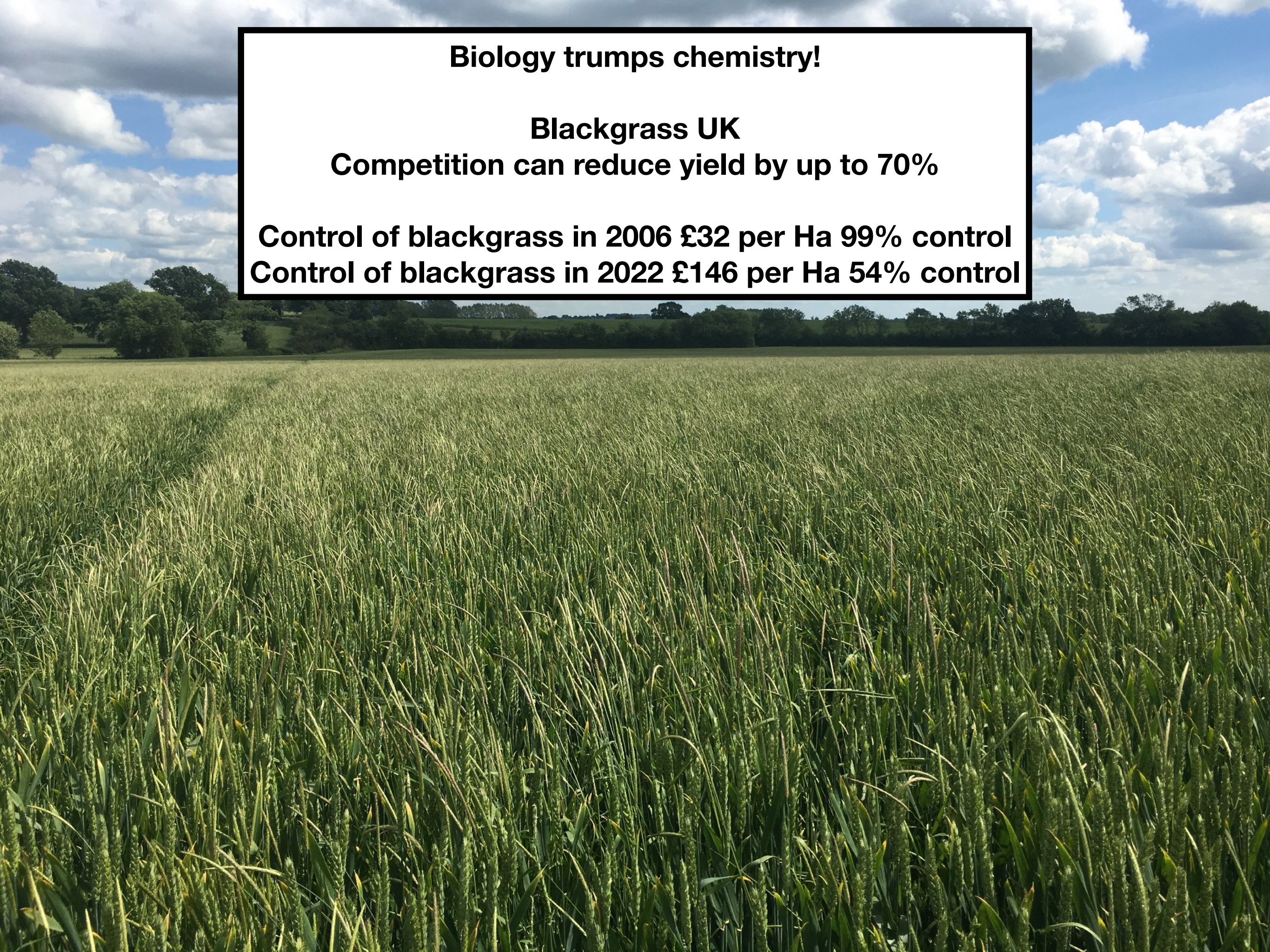
**Biology trumps chemistry!**

**Blackgrass UK**

**Competition can reduce yield by up to 70%**

**Control of blackgrass in 2006 £32 per Ha 99% control**

**Control of blackgrass in 2022 £146 per Ha 54% control**





Political resistance





**Insects do NOT compete with humans for food!**



**Insects only feed upon food that is considered unfit, nutritionally poor, dead or dying.**



**“Insects are nature’s garbage collectors and diseases are her cleanup crew”  
William Albrecht**







Are you a more-on?



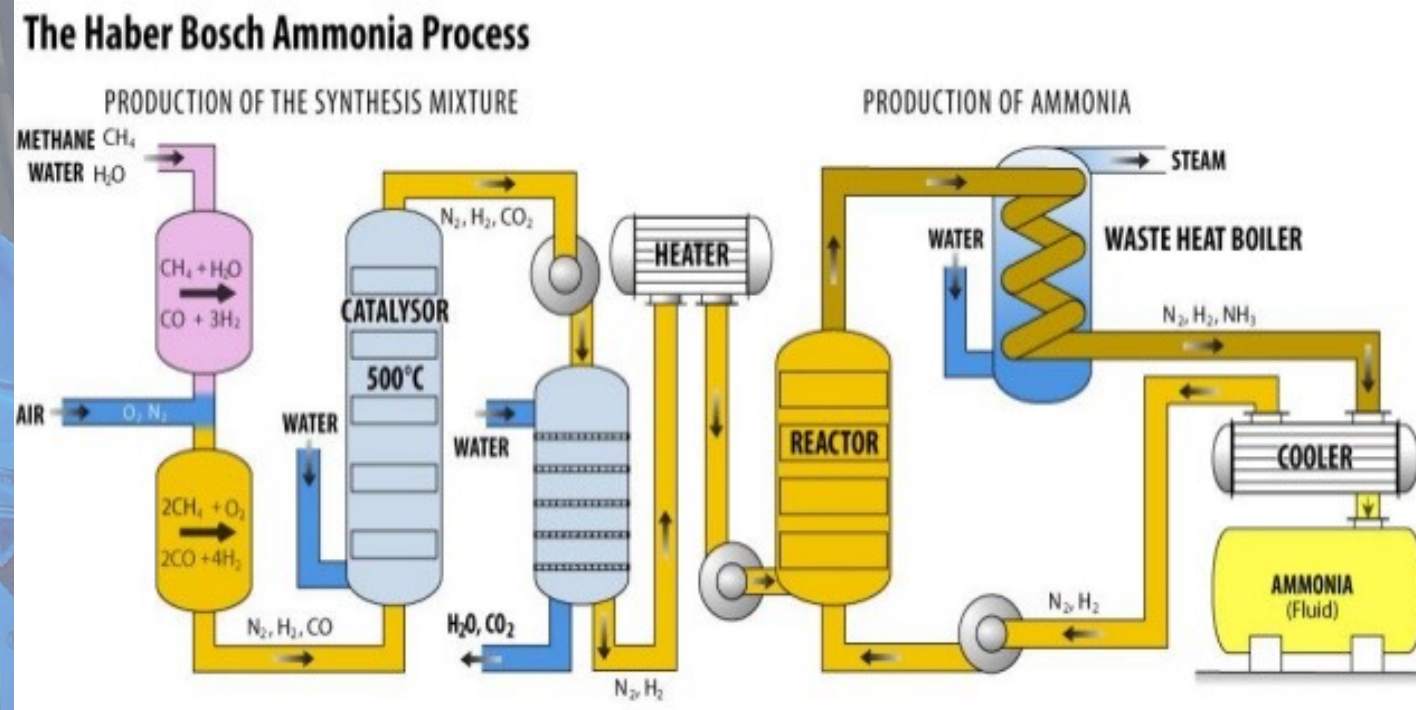
The pest colonisation of a vacuum



**The Dutch Saying:  
"Fertiliser Is Good For The  
Father And Bad For The  
Sons"**



# Nitrogen - How many plants are deficient of N in a natural environment?



Same result - just a different scale!



Nutrition as salts and therefore all soluble!



# Replacing death with life!

Regenerative fruit, salad and vegetable production  
For a more sustainable future  
For increasing profits  
For improving produce quality and storability

Keep harvesting the sun's energy to feed the soil life





**Maize growing with  
zero artificial inputs?**



Compaction





Road building, stabilise the soil to allow road to go down hard, deep ripping to remove all natural structure

O<sub>2</sub>

Soil microbes in healthy soils weight of 5 cows per hectare!

In order of preference for food

1. ~~Amino acid root exudates~~

2. ~~Dead plant roots~~

3. ~~Crop residues~~

4. Organic Matter, reducing the quantity and quality and ultimately soil health



Rip and drip







**living roots only**

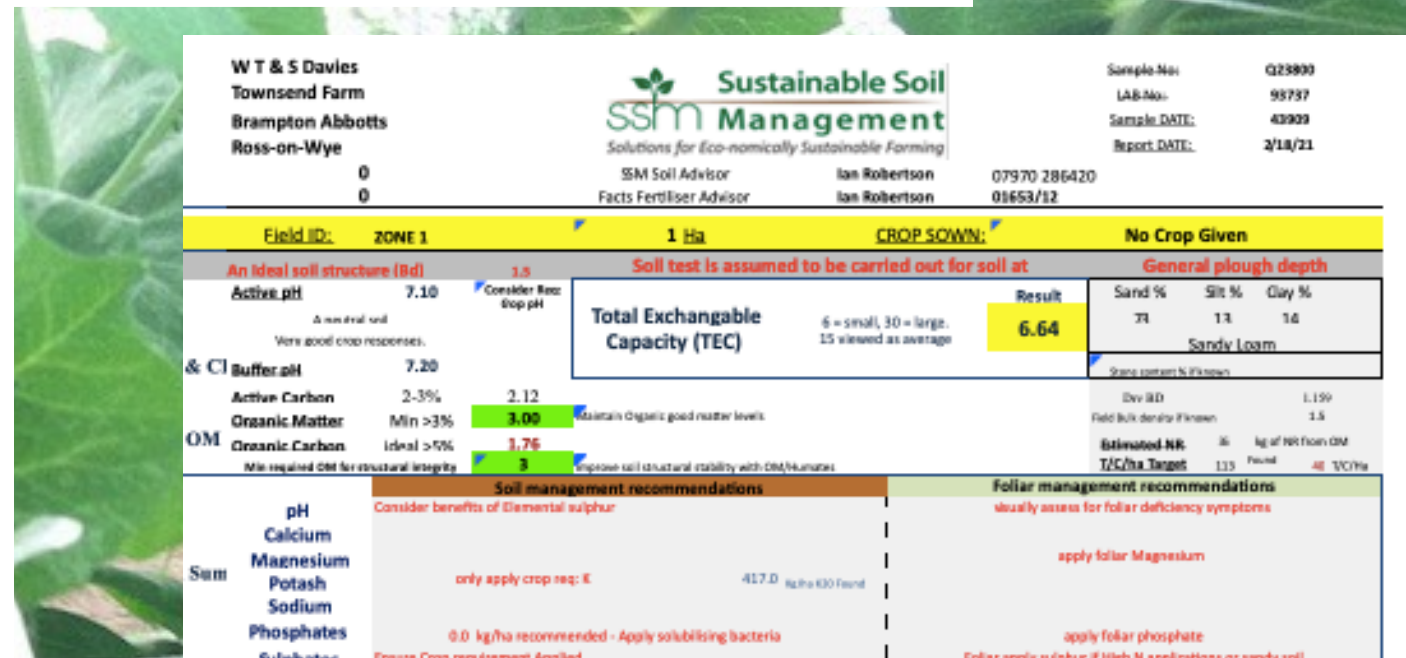


**Rip + living roots**

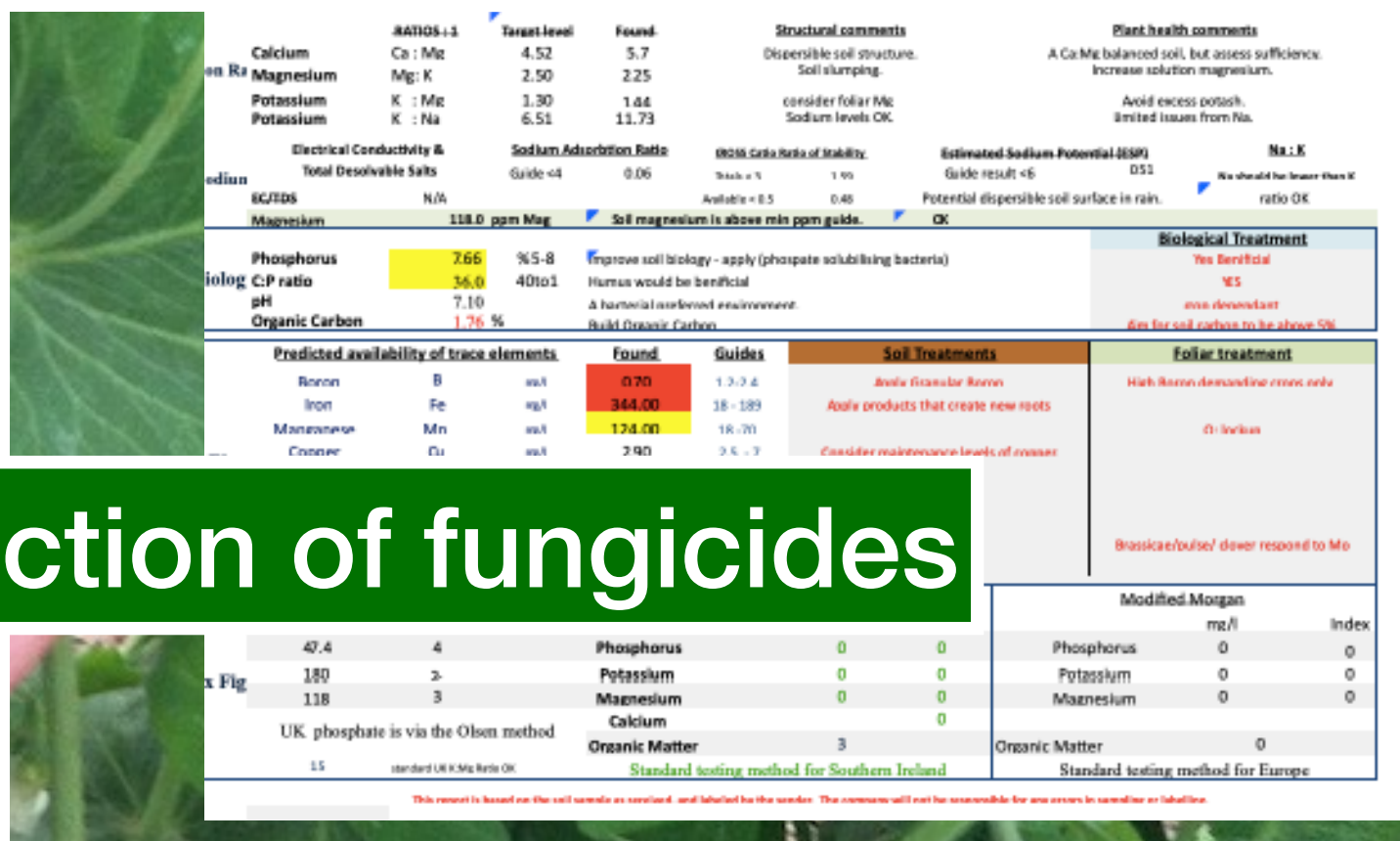


**Rip, drip + living roots**





**A healthy plant with the correct nutrition will be far better suited to resist pest and disease attack**





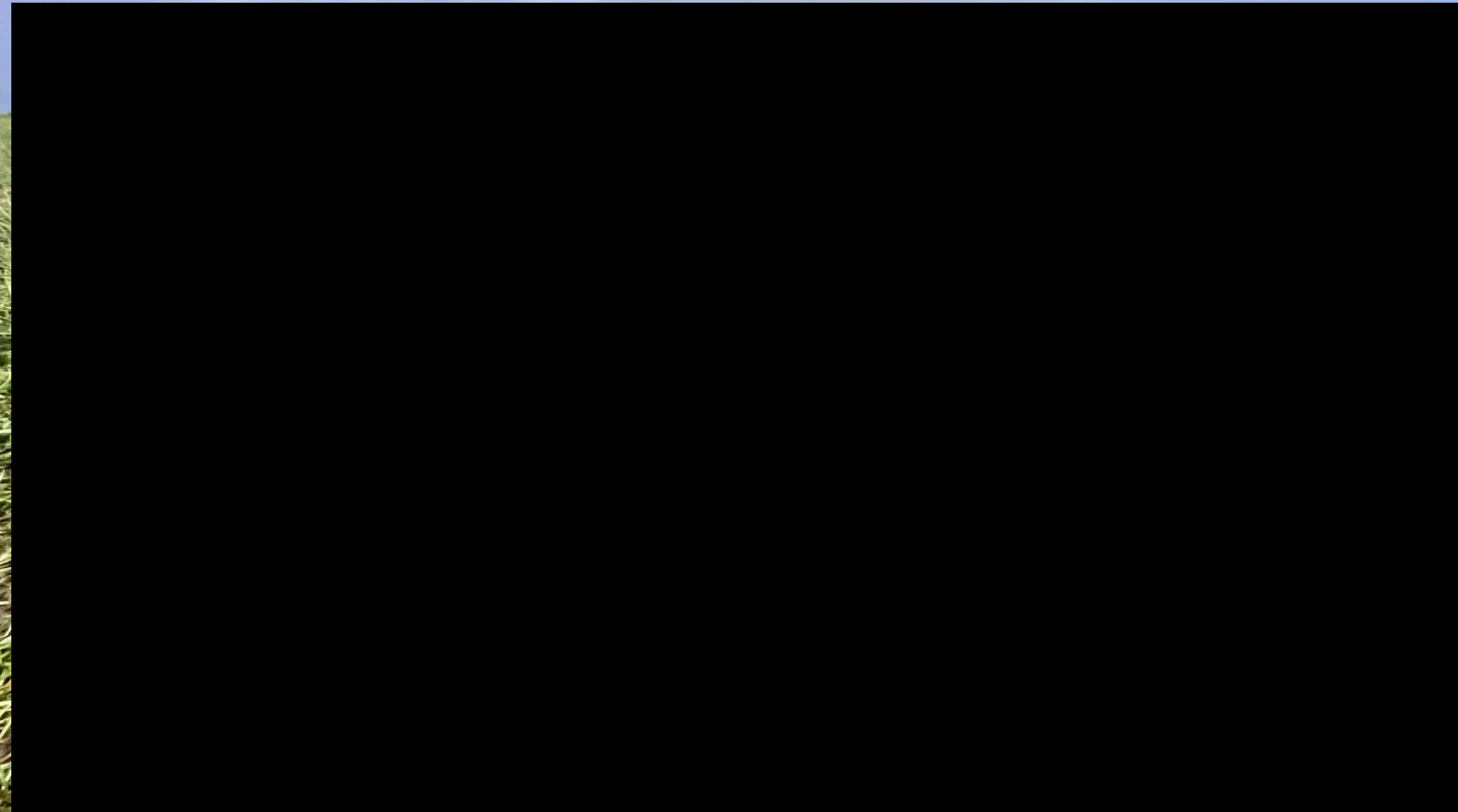
Who's growing veg?





Proof ?

Soil building and resilience in a vegetable rotation









A close-up photograph of a soil profile. The top layer shows green grass and a cluster of small white flowers. Below the surface, the soil is dark brown and crumbly, with numerous thin, light-colored roots extending downwards. The text 'Section 4' is overlaid in the center of the image.

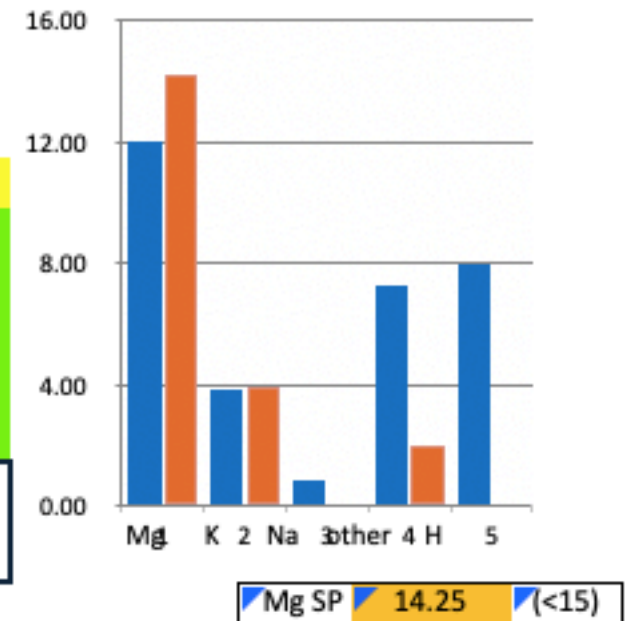
# Section 4

“Estonia?”



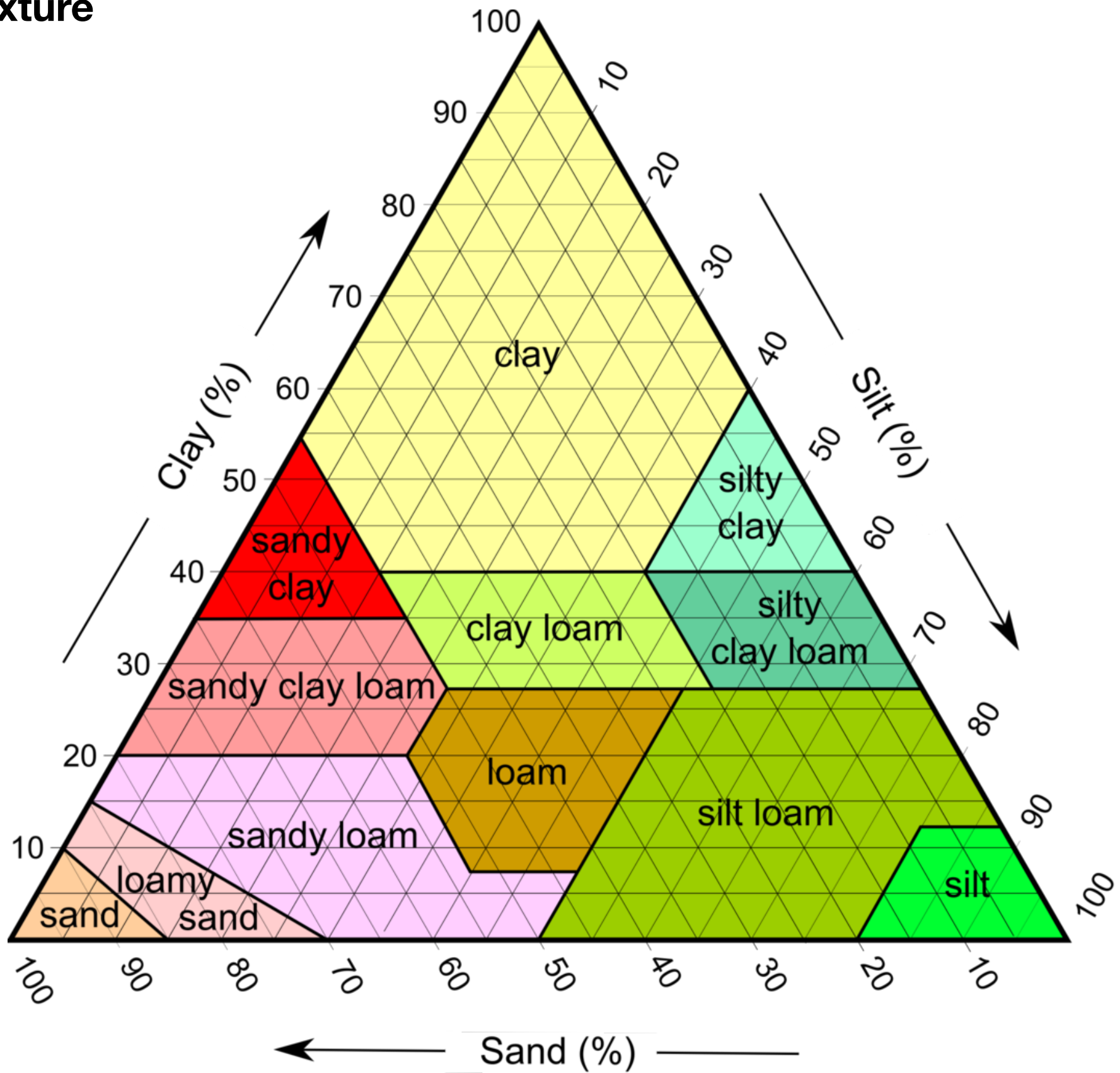
# What have you got?

Field ID: MAEMOISA K										1 Ha		CROP SOWN:		No Crop Given							
An Ideal soil structure (Bd)				1.5		Soil test is assumed to be carried out for soil at						General plough depth									
Active pH		7.70		pH is restricting nutrient availability.		Total Exchangeable Capacity (TEC)				6 = small, 30 = large. 15 viewed as average		Result		10.04		Sand %		Silt %		Clay %	
A slightly basic soil.		Moderate crop responses.														71		16		13	
& Cl Buffer pH		7.40																		Sandy Loam	
																				Stone content % if known	
Active Carbon mg & %		594		2.77%		Co2 Burst		0		Co2 Burst Index		0				Dry BD				1.165	
Organic Matter		Min >3%		3.90												Field Bulk density if known					
OM Organic Carbon		ideal >5%		2.29		C:N ratio		10.96		Guide		24				Estimated NR		46		kg of NR from OM	
Min required OM for structural integrity				3												T/C/ha Target		98		Found 45 T/C/ha	
				Soil management recommendations						Foliar management recommendations											
pH																					
Calcium																					
Magnesium				Reduce Soil magnesium levels																	
Potash										357.5 Kg/ha K2O Found											
Sodium																					
Phosphates																					
Sulphates																					
Reported as kilograms/hectare - elemental (kg/ha)										% Base Cation Saturation Ratios (BCSR)											
Major Elements in Elemental form		CROP AVAILABLE NUTRIENTS			TOTAL IN SOIL Reserves																
		kg/ha DESIRED	kg/ha Found	Difference	ELEMENTAL kg/ha			DESIRED			FOUND										
Calcium Ca ++		2662	3122	460	5196			68.00			79.75										
Magnesium Mg ++		282	335	53	2645			12.00			14.25										
Potassium K +		293	298	5	1337			3.83			3.90										
Sodium Na +		40	4	-36	60			0.89			0.09										
Other elements		7%	2.00		Minor Importance			7.28			2.00										
Hydrogen		8%						8			0										
Sulphate (S03)		67	43.85	-23	251																
Phosphate (P205)		96	97	2	924																
General comment on Structure										Mg SP 14.25 (<15)											
RATIOS : 1		Target level		Found		Structural comments				Plant health comments											
Calcium		Ca : Mg		5.67		2.0															
Magnesium		Mg: K		3.13		1.98															
Potassium		K : Mg		0.32		0.51															
Potassium		K : Na		4.31		22.19															





# Soil Texture





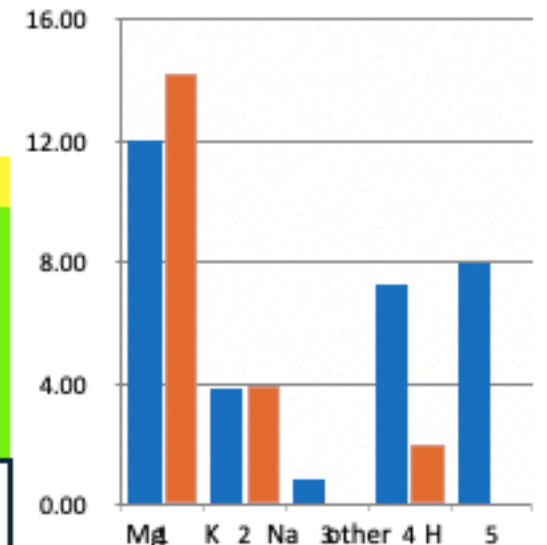
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Moderate crop responses.																		Sandy Loam		
& Cl Buffer pH			7.40															Stone content % if known		
Active Carbon mg & %			594		2.77%		Co2 Burst		0		Co2 Burst Index		0		Dry BD				1.165	
Organic Matter			Min >3%		3.90										Field Bulk density if known					
OM Organic Carbon			ideal >5%		2.29		C:N ratio		10.96		Guide		24		Estimated NR		46		kg of NR from OM	
Min required OM for structural integrity					3										T/C/ha Target		98		Found 45 T/C/ha	
			Soil management recommendations					Foliar management recommendations												
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Sulphates																				
Reported as kilograms/hectare - elemental (kg/ha)										% Base Cation Saturation Ratios (BCSR)										
Major Elements in Elemental form		CROP AVAILABLE NUTRIENTS			TOTAL IN SOIL Reserves															
		kg/ha DESIRED	kg/ha Found	Difference	ELEMENTAL kg/ha		DESIRED	FOUND												
Calcium Ca ++		2662	3122	460	5196		68.00	79.75												
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RATIOS : 1		Target level		Found		Structural comments		Plant health comments												
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Potassium		K : Mg		0.32		0.51														
Potassium		K : Na		4.31		22.19														



# What have you got?

Field ID:		MAEMOISA K		1 Ha		CROP SOWN:		No Crop Given															
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Min required OM for structural integrity				3										T/C/ha Target		98		Found		45		T/C/ha	



Mg SP 14.25 (<15)



# What have you got?

						Biological Treatment			
biolog	Phosphorus	4.21	% 5-8						
	C:P ratio	48.3	40to1						
	pH	7.70							
	Organic Carbon	2.29	%						
Elen	Predicted availability of trace elements			Found	Guides	Soil Treatments		Foliar treatment	
	Boron	B	mg/l	1.10	1.2-2.4				
	Iron	Fe	mg/l	130.00	18 - 189				
	Manganese	Mn	mg/l	105.00	18 -70				
	Copper	Cu	mg/l	0.00	2.5 - 7				
	Zinc	Zn	mg/l	0.00	4 - 10.				
	Chlorine	Cl	mg/l	6.00	9-20.				
	Iodine	I	mg/l	0.00	1				
	Molybdenum	Mo	mg/l	0.50	0.5-0.7				
	Cobalt	Co	mg/l	0.50	0.5-2.				
x Fig	Standard UK index to ISO/IEC 17025-2005				Morgan / Reams		Modified Morgan		
	mg/l	Index	Buffer pH	7.4	Index	Mg/l	mg/l	Index	
	25.4	2	Phosphorus		0	0	Phosphorus	0	0
	159	2-	Potassium		0	0	Potassium	0	0
	161	3	Magnesium		0	0	Magnesium	0	0
			Calcium			0			
	UK phosphate is via the Olsen method		Organic Matter		3.9		Organic Matter	0	
	1.0	standard UK K:Mg Ratio OK	Standard testing method for Southern Ireland				Standard testing method for Europe		



















## Nature - the interface of environments









Thank you

COME AND VISIT!

Reg  
ben

Farming that won't cost the earth