

Save Our Soils Fund

The Save Our Soils Fund was initiated in February 2015 and aims to simplify the access to agricultural best practices and experience exchange among farmers. We have the knowledge – now it is time to be practical and spread the word between the farmers around the world, because soils are extremely important for our future:

- 99.7 % of our food comes directly from the soil
- Healthy soils are a sink for carbon and can store large amount of water
- Soils protect us from erosion, flooding and draughts

Activities in 2015 – Ghana

General Overview

Location	Aponoapono (Suhum, Eastern district)
Date	10/2015
Product	Cocoa (<i>Theobroma Cacao</i>)
Farm sizes	34 ha

Project description

On-site study to assess the impact of the ELITE bio-organic fertilizer (IFOAM-approved) on soil fertility and cocoa yield. and soil erosion at 16 smallholder cocoa agroforestry farms in Ghana. These farmers belong to the ABOCFA Cooperative and grow organic cocoa. Furthermore, soil erosion was estimated with the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation.

Project results

We visited 11 trial and 5 adjacent control farmers, listened to their issues, worked through a farming management questionnaire and assessed the farm agro-ecosystem. Together with farmers and the ABOCFA staff a soil sampling including a training was carried out. The samples were analytically analyzed and full nutrient balances calculated.

The soil analysis showed that after 1.5 years the ELITE bio-organic fertilizer is a good start to tackle challenges of organic cocoa growing – a yield plus of 19% and more humus and exchangeable cations. But there are still some nutrient deficiencies, especially Phosphorous, because the fertilization rate was relatively low.

It was shown how composting (incl. crop residues) could triple the application rate, without risking the loss of the full soil cover, i.e. erosion control, the crop residues currently provide.



For more information visit:
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