

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 – Indonesia

(North Sumatra)

General Overview

Location	Lintong (Dolok Sanggul, North Sumatra)
Date	10/2015
Product	Coffee
Farm sizes	3.5 ha

Project description

On-site study to assess the impact of organic fertilizers enriched with local microorganisms (MOL-technique) on soil fertility at 17 smallholder coffee fields in Indonesia. The farmers are strongly supported by Progreso Foundation, Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and the Orangutan Information Centre (OIC).

Project methods

We visited 9 farms, where trial and control field were directly adjacent to each other and compared them. A detailed farming management questionnaire was prepared and the farm agro-ecosystem was assessed. Together with farmers and OIC staff a soil sampling including a training was carried out. The samples were analytically analyzed and full nutrient balances calculated. Erosion was quantified with RUSLE.

Project results

The soil analysis showed that after several months MOL-enriched organic fertilizers are a good start – the trial fields show more humus and exchangeable cations. But there are still nutrient deficiencies, because the fertilization rate was relatively low at some fields.

It was shown how to overcome these deficiencies and soil erosion through increased MOL application, mulching, legume catch and cover crops, etc.



For more information visit:
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