

SOIL HEALTH NOW!

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND CONSORTIUM MEETING



Science, technology and business intelligence for measuring, monitoring and increasing soil health

FULL PROGRAMME

8, 9 AND 10 APRIL 2025

WAGENINGEN INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS CENTRE - WICC

WAGENINGEN, THE NETHERLANDS

LAWICKSE ALLEE 9, 6701 AN WAGENINGEN



TOPICS

This conference focuses on the urgent need for common soil health indicators, technology, and standards. This event aims to connect EU Agencies and Programs, researchers, farmer associations, technology leaders, and business intelligence/entrepreneurs to develop tools, protocols, standards, and datasets for measuring, monitoring, and increasing soil health across the European continent. Please note that this is the first version of the programme, and the agenda will be updated in the next weeks.

Specific topics of interest include:

- Soil health indicators
- Pan-EU soil health assessment
- In-situ measurement of soil health
- Soil organic carbon
- Soil-climate-agriculture
- Technology demonstrations
- Soil biology
- Earth Observation data for monitoring soil health
- Soil spectroscopy
- eDNA and similar topics

POSTER SESSIONS

Explore the latest advancements in soil health at our poster session. Featuring a diverse range of topics, this session showcases research on soil health indicators, monitoring techniques, and innovative technologies. From Earth observation to soil spectroscopy and AI, discover how cutting-edge approaches are being used to assess and improve soil health across Europe. Engage with researchers and learn about projects focused on everything from carbon sequestration to soil biodiversity and more.

DISCUSSION PANELS

The Soil Health Now! Conference will feature three expert discussion panels focusing on key challenges and opportunities in the field of soil health. These interactive sessions will bring together diverse perspectives to foster dialogue and collaboration:

- Day 1 - Soil health innovation: What can Earth Observation, soil spectroscopy and AI technology offer to enable soil health assessment for every farmer?
- Day 2 - Business to science and back: How to sample, quantify and report soil health? How to scale-up carbon farming, regenerative agriculture and rapid soil assessment methods?
- Day 3 - How can we make soil health work for farmers?

Moderators will guide the conversation, encourage audience participation, and help synthesize key takeaways from each panel.

SOIL HEALTH NOW!

8 - 10 of April, 2025
Wageningen, The Netherlands

Day 1 - April 8, Tuesday

	HUGOTECH	EXPERT ROOM 7	EXPERT ROOM 11
08:00 - 09:00	Registrations		
09:00 - 09:30	Welcome Plenary (HUGOtech)		
09:30 - 10:00	Keynote: <i>To be Confirmed</i> by Panos Panagos		
10:00 - 10:30	Keynote: <i>To be Confirmed</i> by Madlene Nussbaum		
10:30 - 11:00	Keynote: "Monitoring, reporting and verification of soil health - what can we learn from the soil carbon experience" by Pete Smith (Online)		
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee Break (Break Area, 1st floor)		
11:30 - 12:00	Keynote: <i>To be Confirmed</i> by Tobias Bendel		
12:00 - 12:30	Discussion Panel: Soil health innovation: What can Earth Observation, soil spectroscopy and AI technology offer to enable soil health assessment for every farmer?		
13:30 - 14:00	Lunch (W-Invite, Ground floor)		
14:00 - 14:15	Oral Talk: "Advancing circular agriculture: The Waste4Soil Project for sustainable fertilizer development from food processing residues" by Vera Proskynitopoulou	Workshop: "Soil Health governance: tools and methods to enhance soil literacy and facilitate the decision making processes" by Annalaura Vannuccini	Oral Talk: "Expanding access to soil data: SoilHive strategy to promote global collaboration" by Ester Miglio
14:00 - 14:30	Oral Talk: "Using evidence chains to predict nature's contributions to people (NCPs) under conventional and organic farming systems across Europe" by Els Dhiedt		Oral Talk: "The Role of Reference Soils in Enhancing Database Interpretation" by Yuri Gelseichter
14:30 - 14:45	Oral Talk: "Developing Robust MRV Systems for Carbon Farming: Insights from the MARVIC and Credible Projects" by H. Xu		Oral Talk: "Probability based stratified sampling for both mapping and estimating the population parameters of the soil health indicators at field scale" by Thomas Gumbrecht
14:45 - 15:00	Oral Talk: "Spatiotemporal prediction of soil organic carbon density for Europe (2000--2022) in 3D+T and its uncertainty" by Xuemeng Tian		Oral Talk: "Exploring key VNIR-SWIR bands for predicting nickel in an urban soil using eXML" by Mahsa Nakhostinrouhi
15:00 - 15:15	Oral Talk: "Mapping Soil Issues in Southwest Europe for Sustainable Land Management Solutions" by Ana Romero Freire		Oral Talk: "Monitoring Soil Resilience: A Combined STL and Autoencoder Approach to Dynamic SWRC Prediction" by Nedal Aqel
15:15 - 15:30	Oral Talk: "Pan-European mapping of ponding time as soil health indicator for absence of compaction and structure formation" by Peter Lehmann, Annett Wania		Oral Talk: "Utilizing machine learning models for mapping salt affected soils of Surat and Bharuch, Gujrat, India" by Amresh Chaudhary
15:30 - 16:00	Coffee Break (Break Area, 1st floor)		
16:00 - 16:15	Oral Talk: "Soils4Africa: a continent-wide soil information system for monitoring and assessment of soil health in Africa" by Bas Kempen	Workshop: "Soil spectroscopy as a near real time tool to monitor soil health indicators" by Tomislav Hengl	Workshop: "Optimization of sampling designs for monitoring the soil health indicators" by Xuemeng Tian
16:15 - 16:30	Oral Talk: "Comparison of SOC trends from national soil monitoring networks and soil carbon maps" by Laura Sofie Harbo		
16:30 - 16:45	Oral Talk: "In-situ soil health indicators beyond physico-chemical properties" by Lur Epelde		
16:45 - 17:00	Oral Talk: "Enhancing Nutrient Efficiency: Adsorption and Release Kinetics of Vineyard Prunings Biochar" by Olena Dorosh		
17:00 - 17:30	Poster Session		Internal Meetings
17:30 - 18:00		Internal Meetings	
18:00 - 20:00	Happy Hour - Drinks and Bites (W-Invite, Ground floor)		

SOIL HEALTH NOW!

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Wageningen, The Netherlands

Day 2- April 9, Wednesday

	HUGOTECH	EXPERT ROOM 7	EXPERT ROOM 11
08:00 - 09:00	Registrations		
09:00 - 09:30	Welcome Plenary (HUGOtech)		
09:30 - 10:00	Keynote: "Creating a business case for soil health in food and ag value chains" by Anne-Sophie Leroy		
10:00 - 10:30	Keynote: To be Confirmed by Anouk Schoorts		
10:30 - 11:00	Keynote: To be Confirmed by Geert van der Veer		
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee Break (Break Area, 1st floor)		
11:30 - 12:00	Keynote: To be Confirmed by Kat Bruce		
12:00 - 13:00	Discussion Panel: "Business to science and back: How to sample, quantify and report soil health?"		
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch (W-Invite, Ground floor)		
14:00 - 14:15	Oral Talk: "The quality paradigm and selecting soil indicators" by David Robinson	Workshop: "Automated Machine Learning for soil data: EO-soilmapper" by Xuemeng Tian	Oral Talk: "Soil water repellency in natural and semi-natural habitats is influenced by carbon and prokaryotic communities " by Anne-Cathrine Storgaard Danielsen
14:00 - 14:30	Oral Talk: "Potential soil biodiversity indicators for soil health assessment" by Lucas Gomes		Oral Talk: "Benchmarking soil organic carbon (SOC) concentration provides more robust soil health assessment than the SOC/clay ratio at European scale" by Chris Feeney
14:30 - 14:45	Oral Talk: "How to use microbial data as soil health indicators – experiences from Denmark" by Sebastian Gutierrez		Oral Talk: "Symbiotic microorganisms as a tool for recovering soil health in heavily polluted sites" by Mario Paniagua-López
14:45 - 15:00	Oral Talk: "Fertilize to feed the crop or build soil health?" by Anne Hoek van Dijke		Oral Talk: "Influence of cover crops on the enzymatic activity of vineyards in a semi-arid climate (SANCHOSTHIRST project)" by Juan Pedro Martín Sanz
15:00 - 15:15	Oral Talk: "Bridging the Gap: A Multilevel Approach to Soil Health Assessment across Various Land Uses" by Niklas Schmücker		Demo Session: "A cutting-edge molecular tracking technology for microbial-based products used in agriculture" by Loredana Canfora
15:15 - 15:30	Oral Talk: "High resolution soil quality products for Europe" by Laura Poggio		
15:30 - 16:00	Coffee Break (Break Area, 1st floor)		
16:00 - 16:15	Oral Talk: "Tracing the Roots of Land Degradation: EO-Based Identification of Climate and Anthropogenic Drivers" by Mustafa Serkan Isik	Workshop: "Accessing and using Soil Health Data Cube" by Yu-Feng Ho	Demo Session
16:15 - 16:30	Oral Talk: "Promising Preliminary Spectral prediction of Soil health Indicators in the Soils4Africa Project" by Nondumiso Zanele Sosibo		Demo Session
16:30 - 16:45	Oral Talk: "A Physics-Based Spectroscopic Approach for Rapid Estimation of Soil Properties Essential to Soil Health: Particle Size Distribution and Water Retention Curves" by Sarem Norouzi		Demo Session
16:45 - 17:00	Oral Talk: "A commercial-scale embodiment of in situ VisNIR reflectance spectroscopy for commercial-scale soil C MRV: The Yard Stick promise made real" by Jason Ackerson		
17:00 - 17:30	Poster Session	Internal Meetings	Internal Meetings
17:30 - 18:00		Internal Meetings	
18:00 - 20:00	Dinner (W-Invite, Ground floor)		

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Day 3- April 10, Thursday

	HUGO TECH	EXPERT ROOM 7	EXPERT ROOM 11
08:00 - 09:00	Registrations		
09:00 - 09:30	Welcome Plenary (HUGOtech)		
09:30 - 10:00	Keynote: "The mother of all solutions is the soil" by Maarten van Dam		
10:00 - 10:30	Keynote: "Monitoring Soil Health in the framework of the future EU soil directive: lessons learned and recommendations from the EJP SOIL" by Claire Chenu		
10:30 - 11:00	Keynote: "Monitoring, reporting and verification of soil health - what can we learn from the soil carbon experience" by Fabio Volkmann		
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee Break (Break Area, 1st floor)		
11:30 - 12:00	Keynote: "Soil Health monitoring from perspective of an entrepreneur" by Sonia Meller		
12:00 - 13:00	Discussion Panel: "Making soil health work for farmers"		
13:00 - 14:00	Closing Remarks (HUGOtech)		
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch (W-Invite, Ground Floor)		
15:00 - 19:00	Field Excursion to 't Gagel Farm Departure time from the conference venue is 15.00		

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FIELD EXCURSION TO 'T GAGEL FARM

The field excursion to 't Gagel farm on the final day of the public Conference offers a unique opportunity to experience regenerative agriculture in practice. This community farm, located in Lochem, Netherlands, serves as a European model for regeneration, with a mission to facilitate life through agriculture. The farm is part of the Lenteland network, emphasizing the active role of the community surrounding the farm. Participants will have a chance to see firsthand how the farm operates as a community enterprise and a model of regenerative agriculture. The experience will provide a practical perspective on the theoretical concepts discussed during the Conference.

What to expect during the excursion:

Regenerative Agriculture Focus: The farm's core mission is to facilitate life through agriculture, focusing on ecological, social, and economic benefits. This approach results in vital, pesticide-free food, a thriving community, and healthy soil.

Community Involvement: 't Gagel is a community farm where the surrounding community plays an active role. Individuals can become co-owners by purchasing certificates, investing in the farm, and supporting regenerative agriculture for future generations. This model ensures that farmland is available for future generations and supports the growth of other Lenteland farms in the Netherlands.

ERF Residency Program: The farm has an ERF (Eat, Reconnect, Farm) residency program, which brings together talented apprentice farmers, artists, and cooks to develop a new food culture. This program highlights the farm's role as a learning space.

Lenteland Farm: As a Lenteland farm, 't Gagel emphasizes community involvement, offering vegetable subscriptions and opportunities to become co-owners. The community aspect ensures both farmers and consumers are part of a regenerative future.

The field excursion to 't Gagel farm is designed to be an immersive and educational experience, highlighting the importance of community-driven, regenerative agricultural practices for the future of soil health. It provides a tangible link between the scientific and technological aspects of soil health and the practical application of these methods in a farm setting.



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