



Why Soils are the Essential Foundation for Food (and Water) Security

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Panel: Under Our Feet
Why Soils Hold the Key for Food Security and
Climate Change Adaptation
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faith. action. results.

The critical nature of soil, and the impacts of loss...

Humankind... owes its existence to a six-inch layer of topsoil and the fact that it rains. (Anonymous – Dust bowl days)



The critical nature of soil, and the impacts of loss...

“...and rainfall runoff takes away about 40 percent of the nutrients applied to the soil [in Africa] through organic and mineral sources of fertilizer¹⁰⁷.” (1) **RUE = 15%...**



Photo by P. Aargaard

Landscape – level interventions..

There are a lot of different ways to restore landscapes

In hilly areas the most effective way is through Watershed Management

Improved seed and fertilizer are not going to help until the foundation is restored.



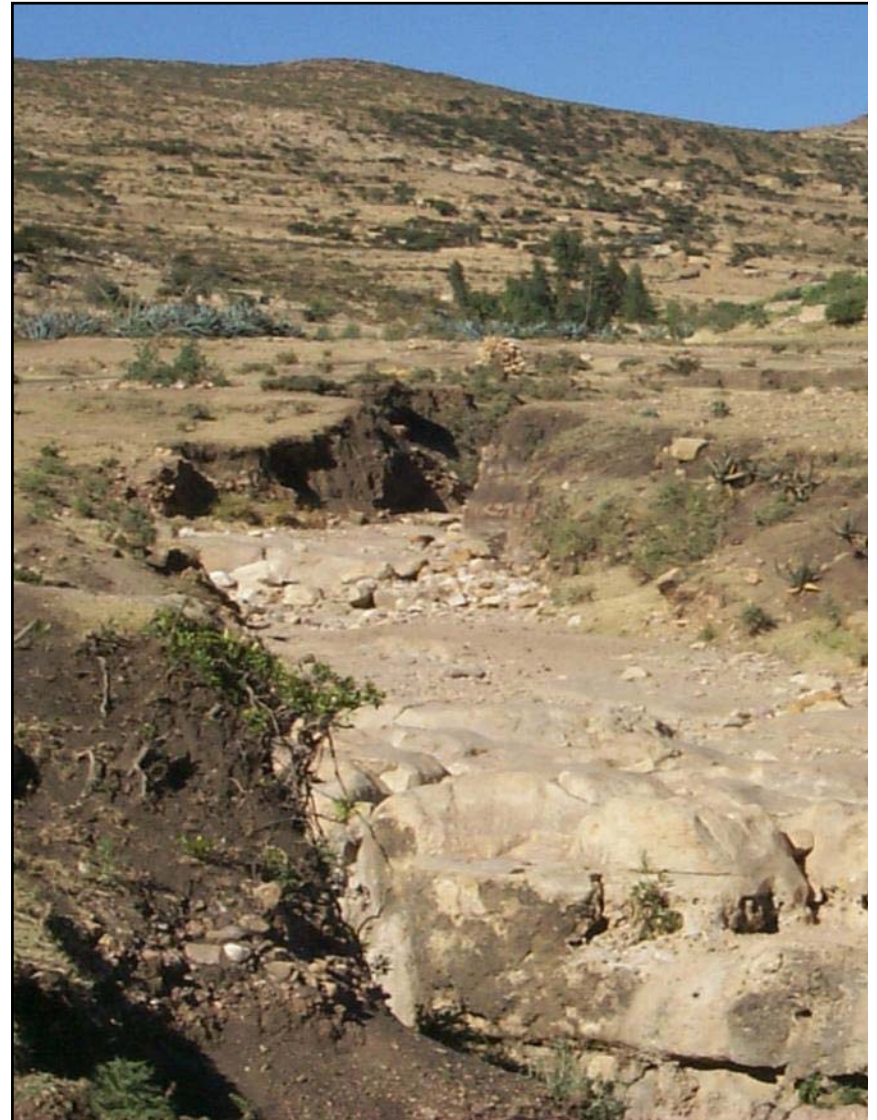
Some additional data and observations⁽⁴⁾:

65% (+) of arable land is already damaged in Africa

- **And 38% + of land world wide**

Climate Change impacts will be greater on degraded soils than on Healthy soils (*)

Soil is the cornerstone of food security... and its conservation needs to become a major global priority



Example: FFP Project in Malawi called WALA.

**CRS-Led; S. Malawi.
2009 - 2014**

WALA implemented Watershed Management programs in 22 communities

In addition to contour trenches they put in these gully plugs (see picture)

This is a photo of one of those plugs (called check dams)

