



FERTILE SOIL FOR OUR FUTURE

Monday 18 June, 13.30-15.00, Rio Centro (Room T-2)

SPECIAL EVENT WITH FIRST-HAND INSIGHTS FROM ETHIOPIA

Soils are the basis for life on earth. They are crucial for food production, sustainable use of water and energy, and poverty eradication. Moreover, soils play a key role in adaptation and mitigation strategies for climate change. Nevertheless, soils have been taken for granted for too long. Land degradation directly affects 1.5 billion people and costs about 40 billion US dollars each year. First-hand insights show how proper land management can improve soil fertility as the basis for sustainable development. Delegates and the media are invited to join.

DEMONSTRATION AND INSIGHTS FROM THE FIELD

Presentation of the “Habitat Restoration” Project in Addis Abeba; Selamawit Aseffa, Director, BioEconomy Africa; Mariam W. Ehite, President, Gurara Women’s Association. *Short film sequence on the project, directed by Jan van den Berg.*

THEMATIC INPUTS FOLLOWED BY A DISCUSSION

Restoring soil fertility through sustainable agriculture: Hans R. Herren, Laureate of the World Food Prize, President, Biovision and the Millennium Institute

Fertile soils to mitigate and adapt to Climate Change: Speaker is to be confirmed.

Relevance of fertile land for Food Security: Speaker is to be confirmed.

Connecting the Dots: Soil – a cross cutting issue with the need for coordinated global action: Jochen Flasbarth, President, German Federal Environment Agency


Closing remarks by Hans Hurni, President of the Centre for Development and Environment, University of Berne

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The event will be preceded by a sandwich lunch starting from 13h00.