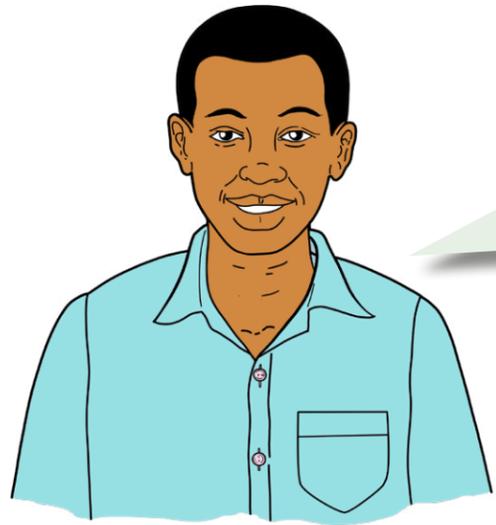
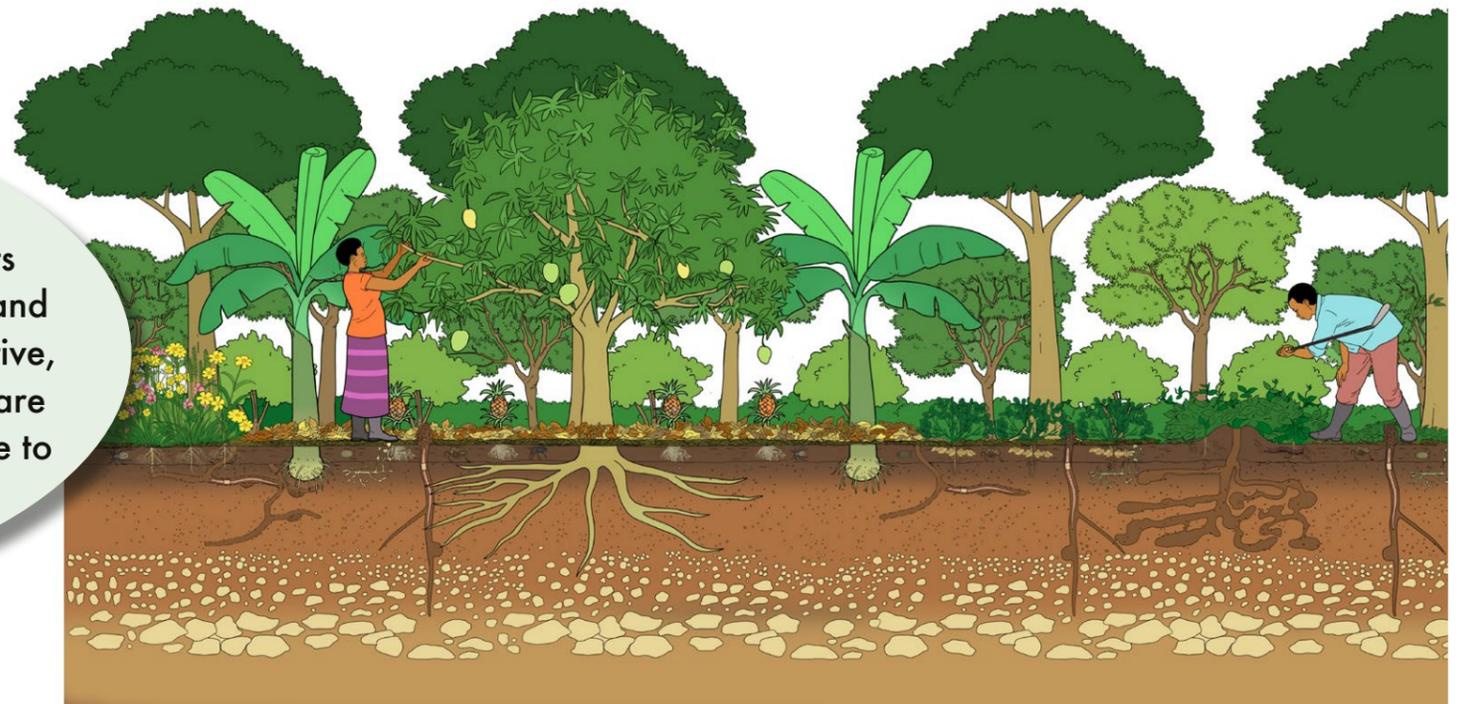


Ecological approach to soil fertility and health in the Tropics

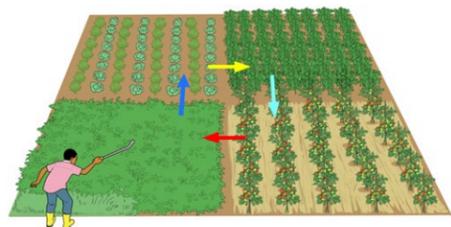


Soil is the topmost layer on the land surface, where plants grow. It is made of living and nonliving matter and support plants structurally while also providing them with water and nutrients for growth. From an agricultural perspective, soil is the most important production factor. Soils are diverse and complex systems, full of life, and home to fungi, plants, animals and micro-organisms, all interacting with each other.



What farming practices contribute to soil health and fertility?

Active, organic farming effectively protects, restores and builds soil fertility at a faster rate, and can better support sustainable soil fertility management and crop production compared to conventional production systems. These improvements are due to the on-farm practices implemented over time. Here, these practices are explained:



Crop rotations

Growing a series of different crops sequentially in the same area.



Composting

A controlled natural process of recycling organic wastes into nutrient-rich organic fertiliser.



Intercropping

Growing two or more crops on the same plot, at the same time.



Cover crops, green manures

Crops grown to protect and enrich the soil.



Mulching

Using dead plant material to cover the soil between crops.



Agroforestry

The integration of agriculture and trees, including the agricultural use of trees.

Knowledge product funders



Projects involved



Project funders



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