

Good Soil, Good Health



Johannes Lehmann
Professor, Soil and Crop Sciences

CURRENT RESEARCH

Building innovative techniques to improve soil health, increase food security, and benefit the rural poor

Of the many things we might often overlook, soil is perhaps the most important. Fertility in soil - or the lack thereof - has direct ties with the food that we eat and the nutrients we receive. With the advancement of technology and the Green Revolution, many countries experienced a huge growth in soil fertility and food security over the past century. However, soils in Africa did not reap much of the benefits of the Green Revolution, which completely bypassed Africa and left little conservation efforts there. Soils, agroecology and socioeconomic situation in Africa pose specific constraints to crop productivity that needs to be addressed; just by knowing U.S. agriculture, we cannot transform the soils in Africa. We need to not only utilize the scarce resources in the African farms, but also strategize creative solutions for the small farm holders to meet the needs of their soil conditions. Dr. Johannes Lehmann, Professor of Soil Science at Cornell University, therefore develops simple strategies to improve soil health for all farmers in a sustainable way, not only in the U.S. but also in Africa, in order to increase food security and alleviate poverty.

Collaborating closely with nongovernmental organizations and development agencies, Dr. Lehmann works with an interdisciplinary team of experts in economics, sociology, and engineering who study the basic principles and applied solutions of how organic matter and nutrients in soil work, how to increase them, and how to avoid losing organic matter and nutrients. The roadmap that these teams develop are reflective of priorities by local organizations which allows to 'test-drive' it under real-life scenarios. Throughout his research, Dr. Lehmann has experienced...

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AFFILIATION



Cornell University

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. in Soil Science 1997, University of Bayreuth
- M.S. in Soil Science 1993, University of Bayreuth

AWARDS

- International Research Award and Fellow, Soil Science Society of America, Agronomy Society Foundation, 2014
- Highly Cited Researcher distinction, Thomson Reuters, 2014
- Marion L. and Chrystie M. Jackson, Soil Science Award, U.S. Soil Science Society of America and the Agronomic Science Foundation, 2012
- SUNY Chancellor Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Development and Institutional Development, 2010
- Sir Frederick McMasters Fellowship, CSIRO, Australia, 2007

RESEARCH AREAS

Environment, Ecology, Global Policy

FUNDING REQUEST

Your contributions will support Dr. Johannes Lehmann at Cornell University and his team continue to develop innovative techniques to improve soil health and global climate, benefiting the rural poor. Donations will allow him to work with hundreds of farmers in Ethiopia to test and implement locally made fertilizers, and pilot bioenergy plants in Kenya to both generate energy and fertilize soil. Partner with Dr. Lehmann as he tackles some of the toughest challenges in Sub-Saharan Africa.