

# Welcome



## Soil for Society Network

*Advancing land & soil management for food security and climate adaptation*

### **XVIII World Water Congress, Beijing** ***Special Session SS-68***

September 14th; Room 12, 14:00 - 15:30



# Agenda

1. Introduction to the Network
2. Network Engagement Activities
3. Discussion
4. Reflections & Closing Remarks





# Core Team



Anita  
Thompson (PI)



Shanon  
Hankin



Tala  
Awada (Co-PI)



Debu  
Misra (Co-PI)



Rabi  
Mohtar (Co-PI)



Prem  
Parajuli (Co-PI)



Francisco  
Arriaga



Bassel  
Daher



Khalil  
Dirani



Majdi  
Abou Najm



Art  
Nash



Gretchen  
Sassenrath

5 PIs, 6 senior personnel, & a project coordinator from 7 Land Grant Institutions along a climate gradient from Alaska to Texas.





# Collaborators



**ROTHAMSTED RESEARCH**



**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**



**International Water Management Institute**



**CGIAR**



**ATTRA**  
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

**African Union**



**Global EverGreening Alliance**



**Indian Council of Agricultural Research**



**RODALE INSTITUTE**



**MAHATMA PHULE KRISHI VIDYAPEETH**  
अन्नं बहु कुर्यात् तद् ब्रह्म



**SLU**



**SOIL HEALTH INSTITUTE**



**LINCOLN UNIVERSITY MISSOURI**



**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**



**UNITED SOYBEAN BOARD**



**USBI**  
Building the future from the ground up.



**CIRCUMPOLAR AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION**



**DLG**



**UFS**

**UNIVERSITY OF Nebraska Lincoln**



**PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY**

**UNIVERSITE DE PARAKOU**



**NRCS**  
Natural Resources Conservation Service



**McGill UNIVERSITY**



**THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS**



**SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY**



**WISCONSIN UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**



**BHAUDDIN ZAKARIYA UNIVERSITY MULTAN**



**Global Landscapes Forum**



**Odyssey Collaborations, LLC**

*Leadership Coaching and Consulting*



**SAVONIA ammattikorkeakoulu**



**NEMEDUSSA**



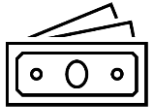
**CENTER for RURAL AFFAIRS**



**Soil for Society Network**



**NSF**



## Funding



National  
Science  
Foundation

## AccelNet - Design

Accelerating Research through International  
Network-to-Network Collaborations

- To support strategic linkages among U.S. research networks and networks abroad.
- To leverage resources to tackle grand research challenges requiring significant coordinated international efforts.
- To foster high-impact science and engineering by providing opportunities to cooperatively identify and coordinate efforts to address knowledge gaps and research needs.





# Soil for Society Network

**Vision:** *To empower a globally connected network of soil systems advocates for sustainable development.*

**Mission:** *To co-create a diverse and inclusive soil systems community of scientists, practitioners, and society toward climate-smart, sustainable, food and water systems.*





# Motivation

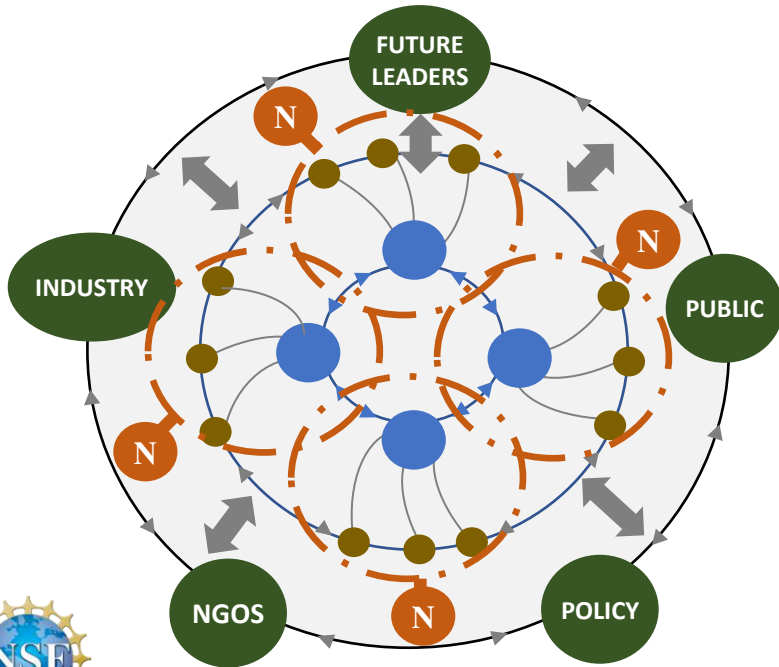
- 1) How can the global community transform the management of soil systems to support a growing population, store carbon, & enhance resiliency?
- 2) How can society shift the paradigm to view soil & land use as a solution?
- 3) How can we create a diverse, inclusive, & supportive learning environment that transcends environmental, political, and social stressors impeding global coordination to advance soil as a critical resource?





## Engagement

Collaboration between researchers & working partners is needed to solve grand challenges of land & soil management at a global scale.



## *Help us co-design the network*

- Farmers & Practitioners
- Next Generation (early career professionals)
- Public Sector (governments & municipalities)
- Non-governmental Organizations & Non-profit's
- International Organizations
- Private Sector (industry)
- Society Members
- Underserved Communities





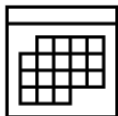


## Values

# Our strategic and inclusive global network of networks upholds to:

1. **Create Community:** *A diverse and inclusive, evidence-based community of soil-enthusiasts spanning career stages, geographies, cultures, disciplines, and sectors of society.*
2. **Build Capacity:** *Preparing a NextGen workforce of systems thinkers to address complexities of future sustainable development.*
3. **Provide Space:** *An inclusive space that fosters a culture of integrated systems thinking.*
4. **Co-design Solutions:** *Community based, innovative solutions driven by a systems approach across social and economic dimensions.*
5. **Exchange Knowledge:** *Creating a platform for transparent, safe, data and knowledge exchange*
6. **Facilitate Access to Knowledge:** *Facilitating access to data & knowledge through transdisciplinary collaboration.*
7. **Empower Communities:** *Empowering communities with local knowledge and applied tools to guide adoption of evidence based decisions and policies.*





# Project Timeline



The workshop series informs the structure & focus of the network.



## 1. DISCOVER

*Taking Soil out of Silos to Accelerate Change*

In-person Network Launch at the Global Water for Food Conference



## 4. DELIVER

*Defining the Success of the Design of Network of Networks*

Network Design

Capacity Building

Knowledge Synthesis

## 2. PLAN

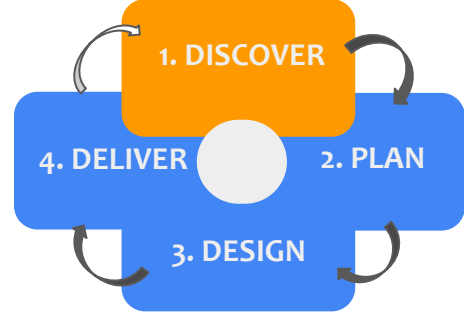
*Designing Activities to Facilitate Transdisciplinary Coordination*

## 3. DESIGN

*Designing Activities to Engage Emerging Professionals & Underserved Groups*



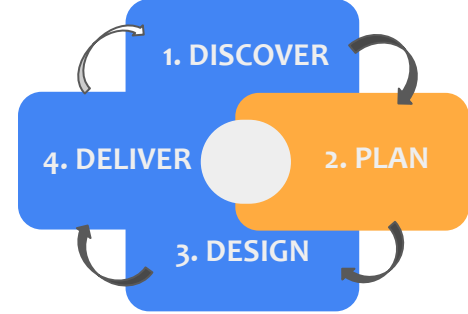
# 1. Taking Soil out of Silos to Accelerate Change



- **Importance of soil:** human/community health, food & water security, ecosystem services, climate adaptation & mitigation, and is a non-renewable resource.
- **Barriers to the adoption of sustainable soil management practices:** financial investment, misinformation, cultural limitations, resource limitations, policies & incentives.
- **The network of networks can accelerate change through:** fostering transdisciplinary collaboration, informing and engaging policy-makers to advocate for soil-focused incentives, promoting co-design with farmers and land users, and addressing knowledge gaps through participatory research.



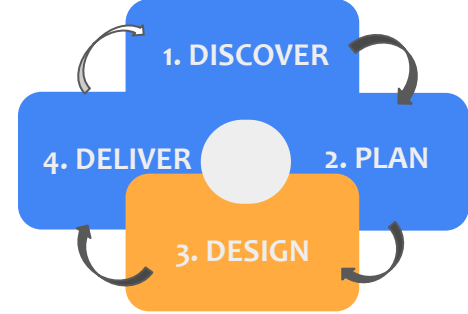
## 2. Designing Activities to Facilitate Transdisciplinary Coordination



- **The stakeholders:** government, agriculture, conservation groups, international organizations, Indigenous leaders, media, scientists.
- **The barriers to engagement with stakeholders:** economic, trust & relationship building, incentives, accessibility, misinformation, limited communication channels, non-inclusive messaging & communication, carbon markets have misguided farmers & public, power dynamics leading to divergent goals & agendas.
- **Activities to engage stakeholders:** an online platform for farmers & community leaders to connect & share, utilize local languages and communication tools, foster curiosity & relationship building, inspirational interaction through grassroots & student leadership.



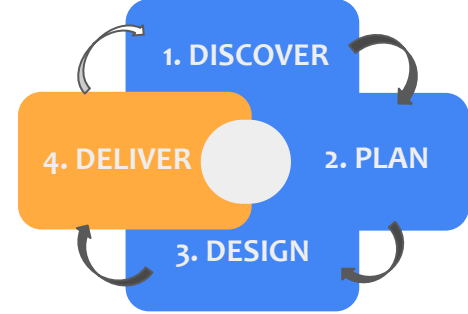
### 3. Designing Activities to Engage Emerging Professionals & Underserved Groups



- **Engagement methods & activities:** integrating the sciences, art & humanities, human-centered design & systems thinking, and workshops, competitions, & citizen science projects.
- **Skills to develop:** leadership & communication, systems & critical thinking, human-centered design, transdisciplinary skills, open access to data, building support networks, hard skills (GIS, data science, programming, AI, digital communication).
- **Leadership roles:** mentoring, publication sharing, workshops, event organization, storytelling, empower Indigenous communities, create & distribute newsletters.



## 4. Defining the Success of the Design of Network of Networks



- **Metrics of Success:**

- Participation, collaboration & partnerships (quantity/quality & over time)
- Knowledge dissemination & sharing (citations, publication, media coverage, & invitations)
- Capacity building activities (quantity/quality & over time)
- Adoption of network recommendations in policy
- Ability to secure funding





# Network Objectives

- **Objective #1**: *Establish a diverse network of networks that is global, and crosses disciplines, societal sectors, and cultures.*
- **Objective #2**: *Conduct capacity building activities that provide training in skills needed for emerging professionals & underserved communities (critical and systems thinking).*
- **Objective #3**: *Synthesize knowledge leveraged by the network and develop the communication mechanisms needed to share with local communities, practitioners, and legislatures.*







# Questions

- 1) *Why is soil an important resource?*
- 2) *What is limiting the adoption of sustainable soil management practices?*
- 3) *What can a global network of networks like Soil for Society address to accelerate change?*
- 4) *What do you hope to gain from joining the network?*



# Discussion Summary





<https://soilforsociety.org>





# Join the Network



**Soil for Society Network:** a strategic network to address global challenges of land & soil management for food security & climate adaptation.

NSF AccelNet - Design

shankin@wisc.edu [Switch account](#)



\* Indicates required question

Email \*

Your email

*Disclaimer: The intention of this survey is to engage and credit our partners in co-designing Soil for Society Network.*

## **Our Vision**

Our aim is to design a global community to promote the awareness of soil as a critical resource in securing access to food and climate adaptation. In addition to promoting awareness, the community of researchers will accelerate the science of soil conservation through leveraging diverse partnerships at a global scale.





Thank you!



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