

# S.O.S.

# Save Our Soils

20 May 2015, 09:00 - 13:00  
Palladium, Södergatan 15, Malmö  
Sweden

David R. Montgomery

Mary Scholes

Rattan Lal

Sten Stymne

and others

“ Unless more immediate disasters do us in, how we address the twin problems of soil degradation and accelerated erosion will eventually determine the fate of modern civilization.

-David R. Montgomery



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Healthy soils are the basis for a sustainable food production, yet the role of soils is often neglected and public awareness of soil health and management is generally low. Therefore, 2015 is named the International Year of Soils, an initiative from the UN to reverse this trend and raise widespread understanding about the importance of soils. This seminar seeks to address these and other soil related questions by creating a space for discussion between scientists and practitioners, who battle with soil degradation every day.

## Programme:

Moderator: Peter Sylwan, Science journalist



- **09.00 Welcome and introduction**, Mätta Ivarsson, Region Skåne
- **09.15 Losing ground. The historic links between soil erosion and the fall of civilizations**, David R. Montgomery, Professor of Earth and Space Sciences, University of Washington in Seattle
- **09.45 The living soil. An introduction to the global scientific frontline of soil microbiology, and sustainable management of soil**, Mary Scholes, Professor at School of Animal, Plant and Environmental Sciences, South Africa
- **10.15 Six feet under. How soil microbial life works to bury atmospheric carbon – and how management can make them sequester more carbon**, Rattan Lal, Professor of Soil Science, Director of the Carbon Management and Sequestration Center, Ohio State University
- **10.45 Break**
- **11.15 Saving our Soils How different agricultural practices affect soil health**, Katarina Hedlund, Professor, Centre for Environmental and Climate Research, Lund University
- **11.45 Breeding for life. How perennial crops keep the soil in place, increase fertility and sequester carbon in the soil**, Sten Stymne, Professor, Department of Plant Breeding, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
- **12.15 Panel discussion on application: Comments from practitioners, international agencies, aid organizations and policy makers**, Henrik Brundin, Vi-skogen, Henrik Smith, Lund University, Ola Möller, Sida, Mätta Ivarsson, Region Skåne, Representative of the Swedish Board of Agriculture
- **13.00 Closing remarks**

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