

Global Soil Week 2017 - Key policy messages Workshop 3

Implementing SDG 12 and SDG 15 catalyses the achievement of a multitude of other SDGs. The concepts of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SDG 12) and of Land Degradation Neutrality (SDG 15.3) can be linked to optimize land use decisions via multi-stakeholder approaches.

Implementing Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) has set off a unique policy process which includes local participation and the LDN principles can foster an enabling environment for integrated land use management and planning to halt degradation. However, LDN is being implemented at national levels and strives to achieve land degradation neutrality within national borders. It does not take into account how consumption patterns inside one country affect land resources in other countries.

Current consumption patterns (mostly in the Global North) do undermine shared prosperity for all and often lead to externalisation of impacts and costs of land use. To live up to the principle of universality, tools and mechanisms to account and monitor consumption and production, such as the global ecological footprint, should be used to link displaced land use to national and local land use decisions and LDN implementation. Thus, the two concepts can be linked and complement each other.

To achieve sustainable development, multi-stakeholder approaches are needed to develop transformation pathways with clear visions of the future, prioritized targets and courses of action. Furthermore, the public and private sector need to be held responsible to act on the knowledge already available and created in the frame of reporting on the SDGs.

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