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Save the soil to save the planet

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Introduction

The challenges we face in dealing with land degradation, a changing climate, food and water security, energy demands and the needs of increasing populations are unprecedented.

I believe that these challenges are interrelated and that landscape management practices, including but not limited to agriculture, forestry and fire have caused significant damage. Our precious resources of soil, water and vegetation, necessary to sustain life, are being lost globally at unsustainable rates. We have altered natural bio-systems and subsequently diminished our ability to effectively deal with these challenges.

Current situation

Despite the excellent work of innovative farmers across many regions of Australia and some good science, the reality is that this degradation is continuing. Impacts are already being felt including depletion of soil carbon and declining soil health,