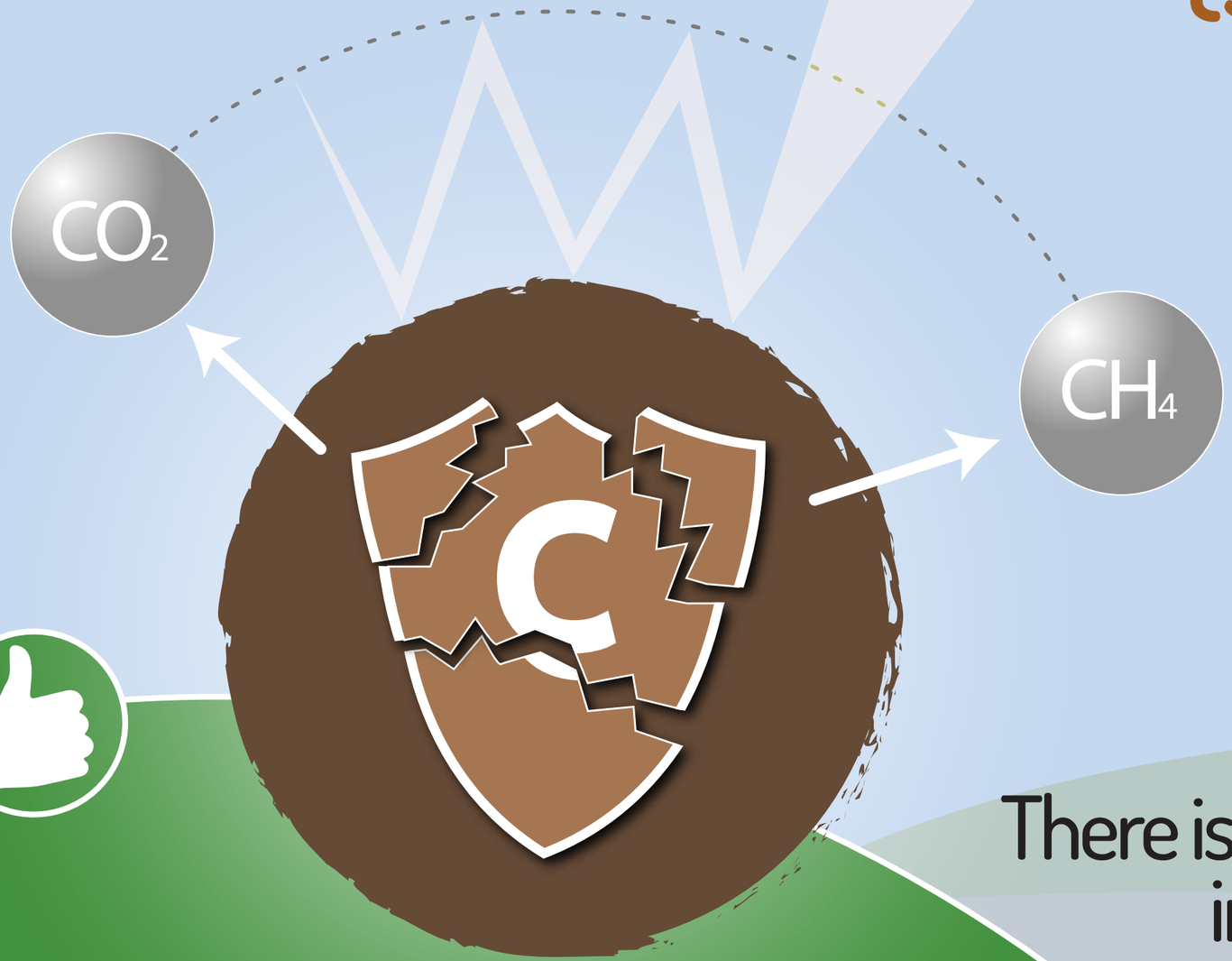
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Soil organic carbon (SOC) loss



Decline of organic carbon stock in the soil affects its fertility status and climate change regulation capacity.

Approximately 1 417 billion tonnes of SOC are stored in the first meter of soil and about 2 500 billion tonnes at two meters soil depth. The global loss of the SOC pool since 1850 is estimated at about 66 billion tonnes (±12), mainly caused by land use change.

SOURCE: STATUS OF THE WORLD'S SOIL RESOURCES - MAIN REPORT

SUSTAINABLE SOIL MANAGEMENT FOSTERS CO_2 SEQUESTRATION, BOOSTS SOIL HEALTH AND CONTRIBUTES TO ACHIEVING THE SDGs, ESPECIALLY CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPATATION AND MITIGATION

There is more organic carbon in the soil than there is in the vegetation and atmosphere combined

World Soil Day 2016

GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP

E Europe and Eurasia

NA
North America

NENA
Near East and North Africa

A
Asia

SSA
sub-Saharan Africa

LAC
Latin America and the Caribbean

SP
Southwest Pacific

SOIL THREATS

Soil organic carbon loss

Condition

Very poor

Poor

Fair

Good

Trend

Improving

Deteriorating

Variable

Stable