

# World Bank contribution to soil health and soil carbon sequestration

**Martien van Nieuwkoop**  
Global Director

Agriculture & Food  
The World Bank



9 December, 2020

# The case for Investments in healthy soils.

- Unless we act now, agricultural emissions can be 70% of total allowable emissions for all sectors by 2050.
- by 2050, food demand will increase by 56%.
- GHG emissions need to decline 67% by 2050 to restrict the global temperature rise to 1.5°C.
- We will need to feed 10 billion people, without using more land, while improving climate resilience and lowering GHG emissions.

We need to deliver on – **healthier people, economies and planet** – all at the same time

## Healthy People

Better diets  
One Health/Prevention  
of zoonotic diseases  
Improved food safety



## Healthy Planet

Reduction  
in GHGs  
Reduction in pollution  
Improved land, water  
and food loss and  
waste (FLW)  
management



## Healthy Economies

Promotion  
of productivity  
growth  
Increased job creation  
Maintaining trade  
flows

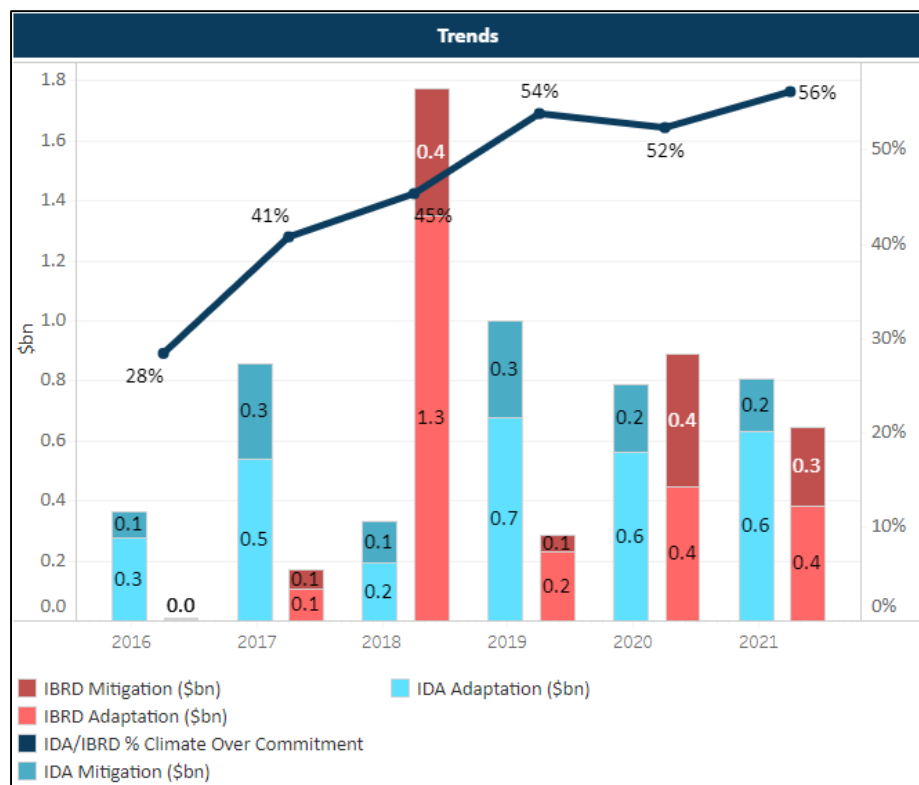


- We need to support **transition to more resilient agriculture and food systems**,
- **Sustainable intensification** will support the 3 elements of sustainable agriculture and Food systems.
- Investments that **promote healthier soils** offer an important low-hanging option.

# What the World Bank is Doing

## The World Bank Is Committed to Action on Climate Change and Sustainable Soils in Agriculture

- WBG climate targets for 2021-2025, are doubling current 5-year investments to around \$200 billion.
- Since the 4per1000 initiative began, the World Bank Agriculture investment portfolio has yielded increasing adaptation and/or mitigation climate Co-Benefits. Climate Co-Benefits have risen significantly, Doubled over a few years.



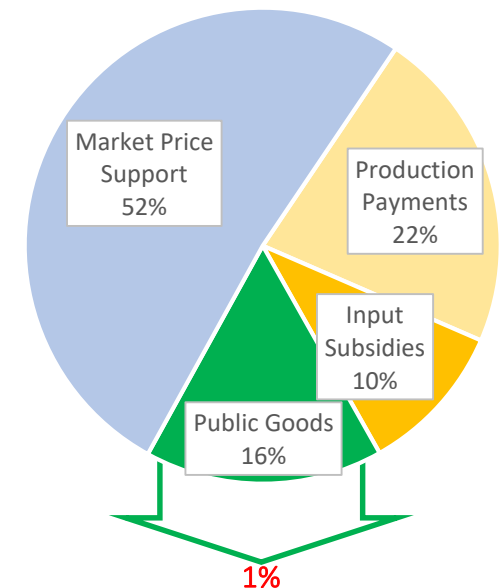
- By 2025, we will increase the share of projects with Climate Smart Agriculture ‘triple wins’ to 66%
- We will reach at least 20 countries and 10 million farmers with widely available and proven on the ground CSA approaches, to achieve triple wins for a sustainable agriculture and food systems.
- Soil health enhancing CSA practices will form a good portion of these investments.

# Soil health as a public good

Our work on Soil Health aims to increase value generation through soils for farmers, as a public good and towards a host of Co-Benefits.

- The WBG is rapidly **scaling up** financing and action via Climate Smart Investment Plans (CSAIPs). Recently completed CSAIPs identify more than **\$2.5 B worth of investments** in 10 countries in CSA practices and technologies, a great deal of which contribute to soil health.
- Supporting client countries in the identification of **repurposing options for agricultural policies and public support programs** to promote sustainable, environmentally friendly agriculture.

- ***\$600bn per year in public support to agricultural producers*** (across 50+ countries), 84% in the form of direct or indirect subsidies.
- The bulk of this support as subsidies is towards productivity (inputs and production costs), and output markets support
- Highly distortionary, creating dis-incentives for producers to behave in a manner that is sustainable and climate friendly
- **Repurposing** this \$600bn presents an immense opportunity for public support for sustainable agriculture, esp. healthy soils.



A major constraint for repurposing the \$600bn in public funds for sustainable, environmentally friendly practices for soil health is the need for transparent, accurate, consistent and comparable MRV protocols.



# We need fit-for-purpose MRVs to drive investments

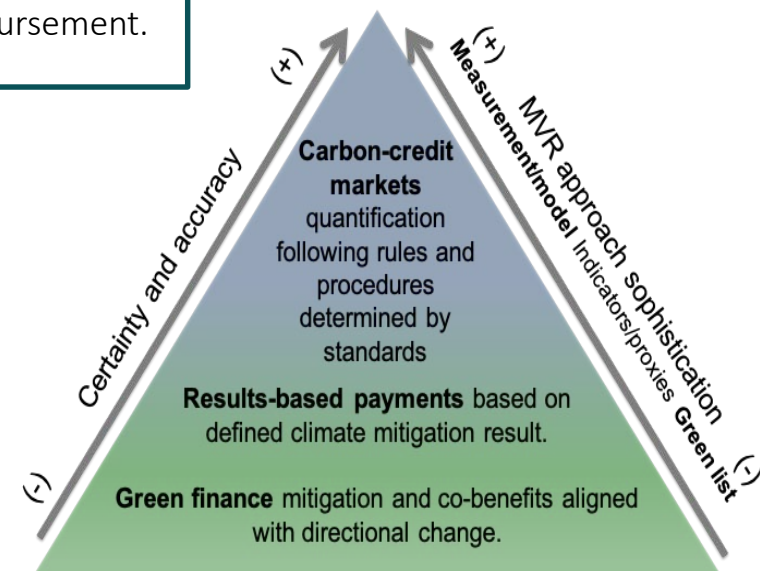
- For the finance community, to invest in soil carbon projects, MRV is key & should provide rationale for the use of funds, align with best practices & global goals (e.g., Paris Agreement and SDGs), support positive impact & societal co-benefit.

## Kazakhstan: Sustainable Livestock Development Program P4R (\$500m)

- Expected to increase the share of public expenditure in support of green growth and sustainability in the beef sector via DLIs to environmental goals.
- Expected to increase soil carbon sequestration through improved grazing management and landscape restoration practices.
- Requires a suitable MRV system to support tracking of impact & disbursement.



- The World Bank is working with partners to explore such Monitoring, Reporting and Verification protocols for projects such as the Kazakhstan Sustainable Livestock Program and the growing portfolio of CSA projects.
- We need to continually work to reduce uncertainty and increase accuracy, without making the perfect an enemy of good-enough to develop fit-for-purpose MRVs to support enhanced public (and private) investments.



*Fit-for-purpose MRV of soil carbon.*

# Thank you



A warming world means it's high time to rethink the composition of agricultural support towards sustainable agriculture e.g. through soil health.