The Fertile Grounds Initiative
Creating Markets for Soil Fertility

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The Fertile Grounds Initiative (FGI)

- Population growth increase food demand, but soils are degrading

- Need for sustainable nutrient management
  - Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM)
    
    ‘A set of soil fertility management practices that necessarily include the use of fertilizer, organic inputs and improved germplasm combined with the knowledge on how to adapt these practices to local conditions, aiming at optimizing agronomic use efficiency of the applied nutrients and improving crop productivity. All inputs need to be managed following sound agronomic and economic principles’. (Bationo et al., 2012).
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- But implementation of ISFM remains difficult:
  - Separated worlds of mineral and organic fertilizers
  - Increasing imbalance in nutrient availability on various scales
The approach

- Bringing together various actors working on organic and inorganic nutrient management
- Connecting areas of nutrient accumulation with areas of nutrient depletion
Eight components

1. Inventory of demand
2. Inventory of potential supply
3. Product formulation and processing
4. Brokerage
5. Trade and logistics
6. Capacity building
7. Institutional embedding
8. Creating an enabling environment for economic growth
Case studies for proof-of-concept

Ziway

- Collaboration with Soil&More Ethiopia
- Waste from rose farmers
- Analysis of compost quality
  - Different qualities for different uses
- Analysis of effect of compost on impact on soil nutrient status, soil structure, yield, income
- Challenges
Case studies for proof-of-concept

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- Collaboration with Land Investment for Transformation programme (LIFT) and Soil&More Ethiopia
- Sources of nutrient accumulation
- Analysis of compost quality
- Analysis of effect of compost on soil nutrient status, soil structure, yield, income
- Sufficient nutrient input?
Next steps

- Proof-of-concept
- Scaling up
- Awareness creation
Thank you!

More information: www.fertilegroundsinitiative.info