

GB-NEWS

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Quote of the week

Be faithful in small things for in them your strength lies

Verse of the week

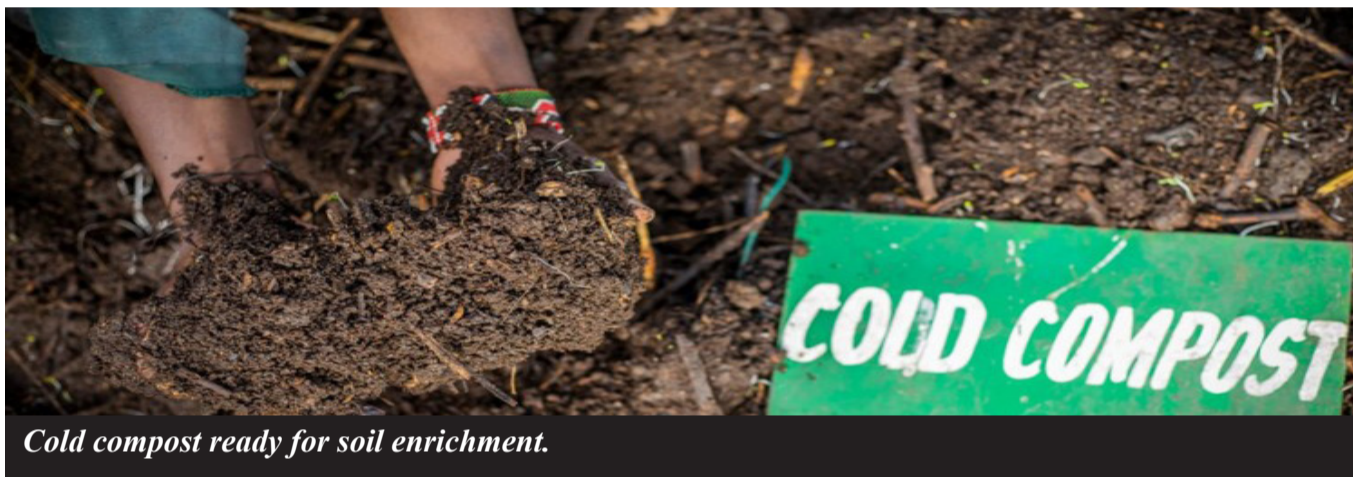
Whoever can be trusted in very little can also be trusted with very much.

Luke 10:16

Healthy Soils, Naturally

A soil health webinar led by Collins Chibole urged farmers to rebuild fertility with compost, crop diversity, deep soil preparation and a better understanding of each field's structure and texture.

Hosted by Kennedy Mburu for the Grow Biointensive Agriculture Center of Kenya



Cold compost ready for soil enrichment.



Webinar poster used to promote the session

Compost, residues and living organisms were presented as the engine of resilient soil.

WEBINAR REPORT

Collins Chibole told participants that soil health is the foundation of both food production and community wealth. His presentation linked weak yields, degraded land and rural poverty to declining soil quality, then argued that many solutions are already available in local materials and farming practice.

The webinar framed healthy soil as a living system made up of mineral particles, air, water, organic matter and organisms. Good structure, Collins explained, creates larger pores that allow roots to move deeper, water to infiltrate and nutrients to circulate more effectively. Poor structure does the opposite: water stays near the surface, air exchange falls and crops struggle.

A central practice in the session was double digging, a deep preparation method used to break compacted layers and loosen soil below the topsoil. The goal is not simply to turn the land over.

Collins also cautioned against treating every field the same way. Farmers were encouraged to study texture, structure, pH and nutrient condition before adding amendments such as compost or biochar.

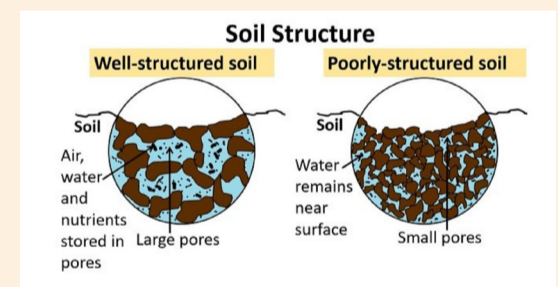
Sandy, loamy and clay soils hold water differently, drain differently and respond differently to management.

Organic matter was presented as the hinge point of soil recovery. Composting, returning crop residues, protecting manure and avoiding residue burning can all rebuild fertility while feeding the soil organisms that keep nutrients cycling.

Participants also heard that monocropping and heavy chemical use reduce soil life. While diversified fields produce both food and the biomass needed to keep compost systems running.

The session closed with a focus on contour farming, crop diversification and practical questions from farmers about managing crop residues and animal manure.

Why structure matters



Well-structured soil stores air, water and nutrients more effectively.

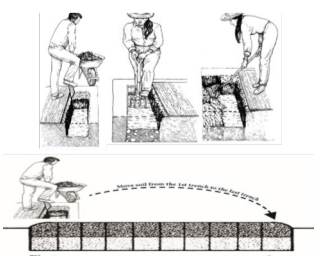
Living soil



Earthworms indicate active, healthy soil biology.

Organic matter and soil organisms were highlighted as the highest boost in building soils

“Different soils require different approaches - know your soil”



Step-by-step digging for deep soil preparation



Diverse crops thriving in a healthy garden.



Healthy roots spread through rich soil.



Cracked soil shows severe drought conditions.