

## Holistic soil health evaluation of agricultural fields with BLN 2.0 / Open Soil Index

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### Description:

Healthy soil in agricultural lands plays a crucial role not only in food production but also in many other ecosystem services. To promote and valorize soil health, a solid method to holistically evaluate soil quality has been designed and illustrated for the Netherlands. The framework gives insight in the distance to target for multiple soil functions related to crop production, climate mitigation, and nutrient retention and efficiency on the one hand, and recommendations for soil quality improvement as well. The framework has a modular structure and is open-source, which facilitates application for different regions and objectives.

This masterclass starts with a brief introduction about the frameworks to evaluate soil health, followed by hands-on exercises with the Dutch implementation version of BLN2. First, the participants will get familiar with the web-based tool by trying it out with real soil data of various types of fields. Subsequently, the participants will go deeper into selected topics as aggregation of scores, discussion on specific soil functions, contribution of visual soil assessments and application in Long Term Experiments. Finally, a discussion session is organized to exchange ideas on how country specific knowledge and needs can be incorporated to improve the assessment framework.

**Theme:** Soils for society

**Keywords:** soil functions, ecosystem services, soil quality, soil health,

**Type of masterclass:** Tutorial, also lot of room for discussion

