

Interactive comment on “Facing policy challenges with inter- and transdisciplinary soil research focused on the SDG’s” by Johan Bouma and Luca Montanarella

Johan Bouma and Luca Montanarella

johan.bouma@planet.nl

Received and published: 19 March 2016

Reaction to reviewers comments on SOIL-2016-2 (Bouma and Montanarella)

Reviewer1 We thank the reviewer for his positive reaction to this paper(“this is a very interesting manuscript analysing a recent “hot” topic”). In answer to his queries: 1. Line 57: Indeed, the internet is with us for 20 years! We will change this. 2. We will include reference to “open” data as suggested and to Robinson (2015). 3. We will refer to a broader audience than just our own students. 4. Line 175: correct; we will include a broader reference. 5. Line 182: we will include a reference to the published report. 6. L309: we will include the quotation marks. 7. Line 351: Indeed, since 2003 we should refer to Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions (GAEC). This will be changed.

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Good point! 8. Lines 3651-358. We will include the two suggested references as they are relevant in strengthening the discours. 9. We agree with the general comment on the role of soil scientists, but point out that being focused on ecosystem services, let alone on the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations, requires cooperation with other disciplines, the need for which is pointed out by the reviewer. We have incorporated this statement in the text of the revised manuscript and will refer to Keesstra et al (2016) where this point is emphasized and illustrated.: Keesstra, S.D., J.Bouma, J.Wallinga, P.Tittonell, P.Smith, A.Cerda, L.Montanarella, J.Quinton, Y.Pachepsky, W.H.van der Putten, R.D.Bardgett, S.Moolenaar, G.Mol and L.O.Fresco. 2016. The significance of soils and soil science towards realization of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's).SOIL (doi:10.5194/soil- 2015.88). 10. Indeed, UNCCD (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification) is added.

Reviewer 2 We thank the reviewer for his statement that this is a “strong paper”. In reaction to his comments (excluding his grammatical suggestions that we will follow) : 1. Line 57: Yes, the internet is with us for a longer period than 15 years. We changed that . 2. Line 65: We will add a specific reference to a Dutch publication that documents the education levels of our young farmers. 3. Lines 186-205: yes, we will add some additional references. Aside from the suggested one by Tabor et al 2011, Italian work by Bonfante et al will be cited and two recent publications by Montanarella that include references to field work (Nature, 528(7580), 32-3, 2015 and Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability , 15, 41-48. 2015). Also, the Keesstra et al (2016) paper, cited above, contains relevant references.

Interactive comment on SOIL Discuss., doi:10.5194/soil-2016-2, 2016.