

Interactive comment on “Soil: the great connector of our lives now and beyond COVID-19” by Rosa M. Poch et al.

Anonymous Referee #3

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A very important part of this document is the statement that “It is vital that soils in or near cities are available, uncontaminated and sustainably managed, to ensure that they can contribute to the safety of local food production systems”. Thoughts that are also part of the essential approaches of the “Slow down” movement that is practiced today by various communities in many countries and perhaps examples of positive achievements of this could be referred and/or analyzed.

However, to give more weight to the article and make it more beneficial and interesting, precisely because the “soils are finite and non-renewable”, I propose that the authors go one step further in the 5 strategies proposed to delve into how the ITPS considers that firmly and consistently progress can be made towards achieving these five strategies: “Access to land, rational land use planning, sustainable land management,

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research, education, and extension.”

How do you propose to move forward effectively and prioritized to achieve it?

I think that the main contribution of this article can be to create opinions and generate the necessary discussion on important issues for soil, agriculture, and its impact on humanity, such as what production and conservation alternatives are proposed by a world-class organization such as FAO, indicating how to implement its five strategies.

I share the author’s vision when his text indicates that: “Indeed, appropriate soil management is imperative for solving and anticipating food security and nutrition requirements that governments and individuals will face in the post-pandemic world.” However, I want to make a comment strongly provocative but equally essential for those of us in science, whose must begin to offer clarity about the limit of growth in the development (Meadows, 1977) that the thermodynamic state of the planet’s ecosystem balances imposes on us (Progogine, 1974) as an indispensable part of the “new normality”, and ask:

Is it not time to recognize that the human population cannot, and should not continue to grow at the current rate, and initiate powerful awareness-raising actions in this regard? Should not we start talking and writing about the need for conscious population control to really guarantee soil, food, water, and life sustainability?

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