

## ***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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Thank the authors for your answer.

I believe that mentioning some of these cases on local and successful production strategies would enrich your document by making the reader aware of real alternatives that allow us to guarantee the resilience of societies around the world in the current crisis.

Of course, this will be at the discretion of the editor. Although your information responds to my comment, this is not an absolute requirement on my part but an attempt to bring the reader closer to those tangible examples of successful experiences.

As an extra comment, Slow Down is a broad movement of which Slow Food is only a part, and its importance lies in the fact that it seeks to promote all kinds of sustainable,

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and empowering actions of the communities and that offers successful examples of organization in different countries, continents, and areas of social interaction.

Thank you for your proposal to insert the following two comments:

1) "From its inception in 2012, the Global Soil Partnership of FAO is working in all these aspects through its five pillars of action (Soil management, Awareness raising, Promoting research, Information & data, Harmonization), which will acquire more importance in the light of the global crises."

A) I consider it necessary because it makes clear that beyond the proposals there is a Plan and actions in this regard to carrying them out.

2) "It will also be increasingly important to ensure that populations do not exceed the carrying capacity of the lands on which they depend."

A) Indeed, talking about human population growth IS, and it has always been a sensitive and controversial topic for many different reasons. However, and precisely before all the pain and damage caused by the current pandemic, we must consider the changes that humanity requires today to recognize everything that needs to be modified to move towards true sustainability and in the prevention of future catastrophes.

Everything can be said if you look for a way to do it to be heard, and the inclusion of the phrase "It will also be increasingly important to ensure that populations do not exceed the carrying capacity of the lands on which they depend.", is sufficiently clear to those who they know how to read.

In this way, we do not ignore our knowledge about that the control of human population growth is the principal aspect of agricultural sustainability and food security, and, if on the contrary, we are calling to the reflection about it.

Finally, I agree, education is the most effective means of raising the general level of development and promoting sustainability, but also are educating when we write with that intention towards the reader. Hence the importance of writing about what despite,

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being controversial, needs to be said.

However, as I wrote before, it will be the editor's judgment that ultimately determines what is appropriate.

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