

The role of microbiological indicators for soil quality and health: A perspective for sustainable development and land management

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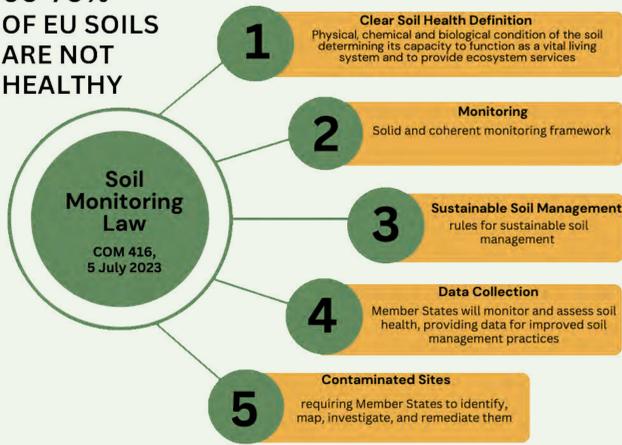
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Background:

- **Importance of Soil Health:** Fundamental for environmental sustainability and agricultural productivity.
- **Microbiological Indicators:** Includes microbial biomass, enzymatic activity, and microbial community diversity.
- **Study Focus:** Investigates the application of microbiological indicators to evaluate soil management policies.
- **European Initiatives:** Emphasis on recent initiatives aimed at enhancing soil quality, particularly the Soil Monitoring Law.

60-70% OF EU SOILS ARE NOT HEALTHY



Agricultural Policy Vosviewer Analysis:

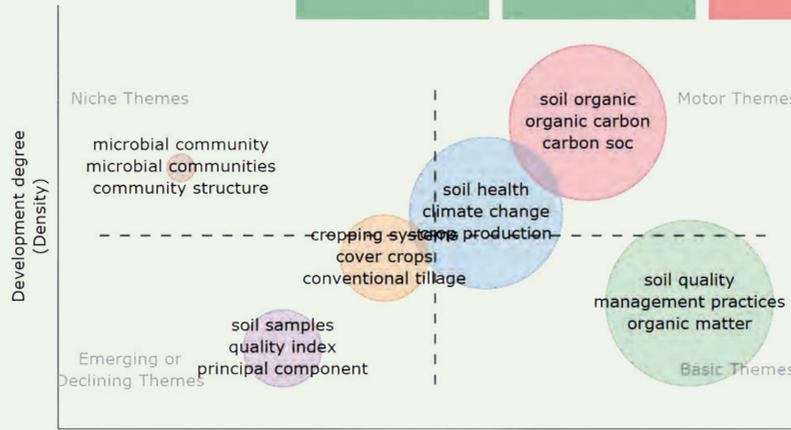
Despite its peripheral position in the diagram, the term "microbiome" remains interconnected with crucial terms, underscoring its significant role in influencing soil health and agricultural productivity within European legislative discussions on sustainability. This analysis was conducted using VOSviewer to examine various European policies.

- **Microbiome's Connections:** The diagram reveals that the microbiome is linked to key concepts such as soil health, precision farming, water quality, and crop rotation. These connections highlight its relevance in sustainable agriculture and environmental management.
- **Integrated Approaches:** The microbiome's interaction with terms like "One Health" and "precision farming" suggests its potential to address both human and environmental health. This indicates that microbiome research can contribute to integrated approaches for holistic health solutions.
- **Legislative Implications:** The visual representation emphasizes the necessity of incorporating microbiome research into the Soil Monitoring Law and broader policy frameworks.



Soil monitoring law GAP Analysis:

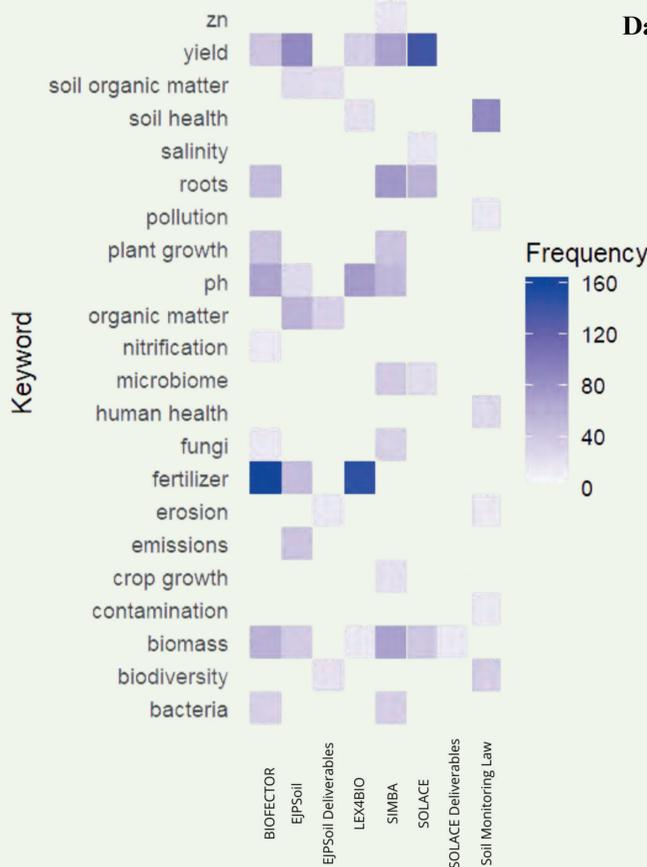
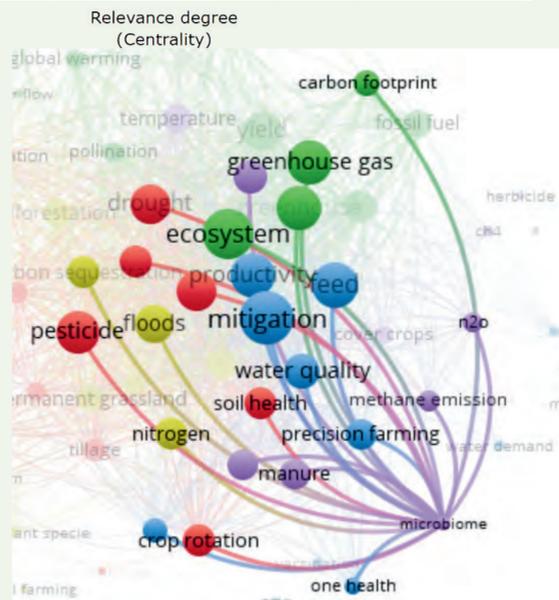
Missing indicators related to genetic diversity, taxa, and antibiotic-resistant genes. These gaps highlight areas needing more comprehensive monitoring and regulation to ensure soil health and sustainability.



Big Data Thematic map:

The thematic map organizes various soil health topics based on their relevance (Centrality) and degree of development (Density). This map is the result of a bibliometric analysis of approximately 8000 scientific papers using Bibliometrix (RStudio Ver.4.3.1). It addresses existing gaps in the Soil Monitoring Law. Key Findings:

- **Microbial Communities:** Specialized but well-developed area of research. This suggests that microbial communities are of great interest and extensively studied, despite being niche topics.
- **Soil Health and Climate Change:** Located near the center, these topics show good relevance and steady development, highlighting the growing importance of these issues in soil health research.
- **Soil Quality and Management Practices:** As Basic Themes, they need more study to reach the level of Motor Themes, emphasizing the need for further research and development in these fundamental areas.



Data Mining Analysis in EU Project:

- **Broad Focus :** The Soil Monitoring Law stands out for its comprehensive approach, emphasizing a wide range of keywords including 'soil health', 'sustainability', and 'biodiversity'. This broad focus indicates a commitment to integrating ecological health and sustainable practices within regulatory frameworks.
- **Human Health and Environmental Impact :** Unlike other projects, the Soil Monitoring Law also prioritizes 'human health' and 'emissions'. This integrative perspective links soil quality directly with human well-being and broader environmental impacts, showcasing its unique approach among soil management initiatives.
- **Comparative Emphasis :** In contrast to EU projects which concentrate on agricultural productivity through keywords such as 'fertilizer', 'biomass', 'ph', and 'yield', the Soil Monitoring Law incorporates broader environmental and sustainability issues. This highlights its role as a regulatory framework aimed at long-term environmental stewardship and soil ecosystem enhancement.

Conclusion

Soil Monitoring Law Gaps: The Soil Monitoring Law lacks indicators related to genetic diversity, taxa, and antibiotic-resistant genes. These omissions highlight the need for more comprehensive monitoring and regulation to ensure soil health and sustainability.

Microbiological Indicators: Indicators such as microbial biomass, enzymatic activity, and microbial community diversity are essential for evaluating soil health. Integrating these into the Soil Monitoring Law can enhance its effectiveness.

Integration with European Initiatives: As part of broader European efforts to improve soil quality, the law integrates findings from extensive bibliometric analysis, highlighting the need for ongoing research and development in soil management.

Microbiome's Central Influence: The microbiome is crucially linked to vital agricultural practices and sustainability measures. Its integration in the law underlines its significance in advancing sustainable agricultural and environmental management.

Framework for Future Legislation: The Soil Monitoring Law exemplifies how integrating scientific research into legislative frameworks can address both agricultural productivity and long-term environmental sustainability, setting a model for future policies.

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