

Soil Conservation Council Of Canada (SCCC)



Update to Partners
Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Crops
November 23, 2017

SCCC – who are we

- ❑ Only national soil care organization in Canada.
- ❑ Provide leadership, improve understanding, facilitate communications, encourage sound policy and engaging others to work collaboratively.
- ❑ We are the face and voice of soil conservation in Canada.

SCCC – What we care about?

- ❑ Soil Health and Conservation – taking actions
- ❑ Tillage and Soil Disturbance – less is better for long term soil health both physical, biologically and ecologically
- ❑ Awareness of the Costs and Consequences of Ignoring Soil Health – the legacy we leave behind

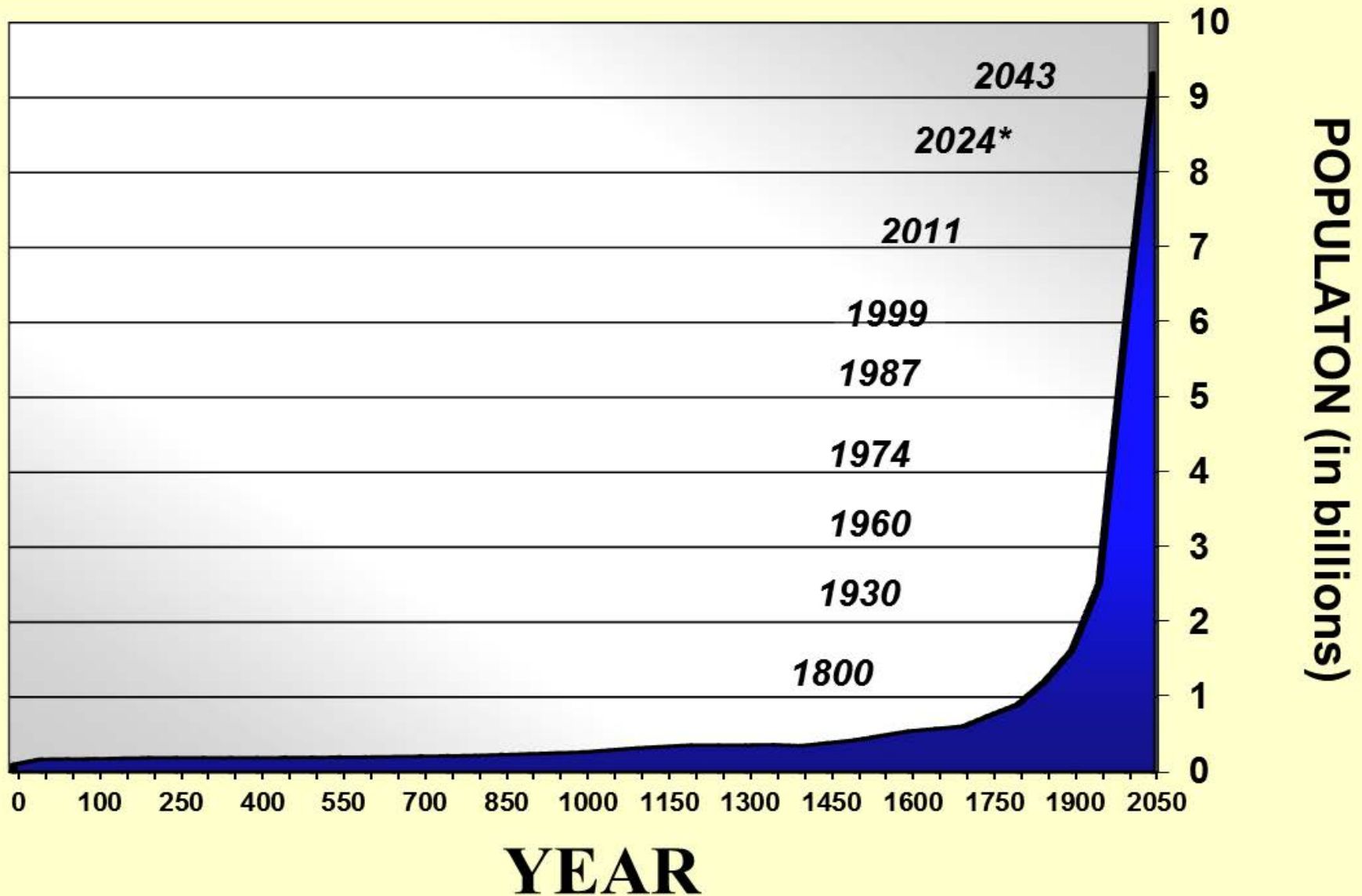
SCCC – Why we care

- Tilling the soil is the equivalent of an earthquake, hurricane, tornado, and forest fire occurring simultaneously to the world of soil organisms
- Tillage is bad for the soil!!



SCCC – Why we care

Human Population 1 AD - 2050 AD



SCCC – What we do (major meetings)

❑ 6th World Congress on Conservation Agriculture

- ❑ Winnipeg July 2014, 400 attendees, 100 countries

❑ Conservation Practitioners Meeting

- ❑ Ag Groups and ENGOs develop a shared vision for the ag. landscape

❑ National and Regional Soil Summits

- ❑ Dec. 2015 - **Calgary**, Nov. 2016 - **Moncton** Aug. 2017 - **Dauphin** Nov. 2017 Aug. 2017 – **Guelph** 2019 - Role of Agriculture on a Shared Landscape location tba.

SCCC – What we do (bring people together)

The Summit on Canadian Soil Health 2017 increased participant's overall knowledge of the costs and consequences soil degradation

These kinds of events are a means to change the mindsets and attitudes and increasing knowledge on soil health

Summit participants demonstrated that they want to learn more about soil health and do more to prevent soil degradation



SCCC – What we do (bring people together)

The Summit identified key barriers that can impede action on soil degradation and health

- ❑ Economic barriers to on farm implementation
- ❑ Gaps in knowledge and technology delivery mechanisms to the farmer
- ❑ Scientific knowledge gaps
- ❑ Technical gaps or barriers

- ❑ Economic barriers most significant impediment
- ❑ All others significant but similar



SCCC – What we do (Public Outreach)

- ❑ National Soil Conservation Week
 - ❑ 3rd week of April every year
 - ❑ Opportunity to speak to all Canadians about Soil Health
- ❑ Operation Pollinator
 - ❑ Partnership with Syngenta Canada
- ❑ Soil Your Undies
 - ❑ A cheeky way to talk to all Canadians.





SCCC – What we do (Public Outreach)

SCCC Awards (Annually)

- ❑ Canadian Conservation Hall of Fame
- ❑ LB Thomson Conservation Award

SCCC – What we do (Advocate)

- ❑ Inform Federal and Provincial politicians as often as possible
- ❑ Regular discussions with senior F/P officials
- ❑ AAFC National Food Strategy
- ❑ House of Commons Standing Committee
- ❑ Ontario Soils Strategy

Soil Conservation Opportunities

- ❑ Increase no-till acres across the country
 - ❑ Benefits for soil air and water
- ❑ Build the economic case for soil health and conservation
 - ❑ Estimated yield loss of around \$3 billion/yr in Canada is foundational to the economics of conservation
- ❑ Continuous Research
 - ❑ needs are constantly evolving
 - ❑ improve interaction between researchers and producers

Recommendations

- ❑ Make soil conservation and health a key commitment under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership
- ❑ Develop a long term, national strategy to promote soil conservation and improve soil health
- ❑ Provide funding to:
 - ❑ re-assess the costs and consequences of soil degradation in Canada
 - ❑ enhance knowledge dissemination/demonstration of the latest BMPs to producers

Thank you!

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