



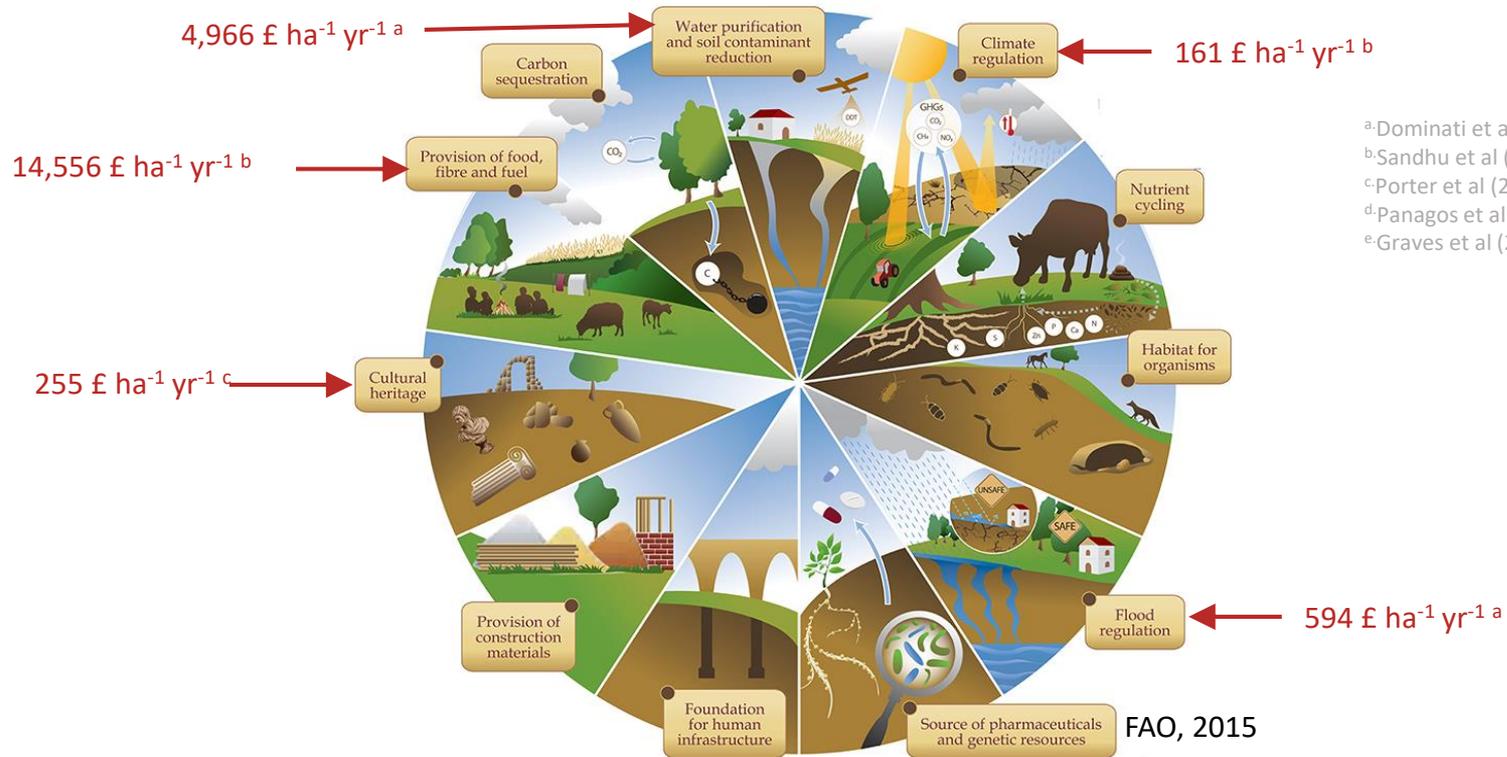
Soil Natural Capital – valuation needs for sustainable management in agribusiness

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Soils are valuable

but they're degrading



- ^aDominati et al (2014) Ecol Econ
- ^bSandhu et al (2008) Ecol Econ
- ^cPorter et al (2009) Ambio
- ^dPanagos et al (2018) L. Degrad.
- ^eGraves et al (2015) Ecol. Econ.

Crop productivity losses due to soil erosion in the EU
 €1.25 billion yr⁻¹ ^d

Soil carbon loss in England and Wales
 £570 million yr⁻¹ ^e



Five benefits for business

Soils underpin agribusiness.

Taking a natural capital approach to soils in agri-food businesses, and investing in improving soil natural assets offers five main opportunities:

1. **Business risk and resilience**
2. **Reducing costs**
3. **Increased product value**
4. **Co-benefits**
5. **Stewardship**



Natural capital is key to long-term sustainable business model.

Natural Capital Accounting needs



Understanding risk: capture the whole pathway between drivers, supporting processes, soil natural capital stocks, services and benefits.



Building a strong business case: consider the diverse range of soil benefits not only crop productivity.



Differentiating benefits: recognising both private and public benefits, whilst acknowledging that public benefits also have private value.





Soil natural capital valuation in agri-food businesses

Valuing Nature | Natural Capital Synthesis Report

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valuing-nature.net/SoilNC

Future steps

Science understanding

- There are gaps, but we know enough to get started.
- Need to consider wider range of soil ecosystem services and benefits.
- Need for dynamic representation of soil stocks and integration of processes.

Bridging the science-business gap

- Closer partnership between science and business.
- More funding mechanisms that allow science-business co-creation.
- To develop a community of practice around soil natural capital.

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