

About this book, editors and contributors

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The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is investing in soil health as an important component of the African Green Revolution, a thrust that is intended to bring food security and improve the living standards of millions of poor, small-scale farmers in sub-Saharan Africa. During 2007, the Foundation commissioned the Tropical Soil Biology and Fertility Institute of CIAT to develop a series of concept papers and technical reports on Integrated Soil Fertility Management for its internal use in designing an African Soil Health Initiative. In response to that challenge, a team of fifteen experts was drawn from Africa and elsewhere to prepare these reports that later served as the structure for the development of this book, an effort that was further assisted by a grant from the Foundation. This grant permitted 4000 copies of this book to be printed by the United Nations of Nairobi Printing Unit and distributed free-of-charge to development specialists, educators, extension specialists and agricultural scientists throughout Africa. Those requiring a copy of this book are invited to contact TSBF-CIAT in Nairobi.

About the editors

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In addition to long-standing association with the IITA and TSBF-CIAT, collaboration has been established with a large number of universities and research institutes in Sub-Sahara Africa and Southeast Asia. Before joining the Katholieke Universiteit, Leuven, he was a research scientist for the Directorate for Agricultural Research at Wageningen, The Netherlands. Roel has supervised more than 30 Ph.D. students, and has authored or co-authored over 200 papers in peer-reviewed, international journals. Email: roel.merckx@agr.kuleuven.ac.be

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