

SOIL AGGREGATION: A KEY INDICATOR OF SOIL HEALTH

Workshop Agenda

9:00 – 9:30 | Build Soil Sieves

Participants will construct simple, low-cost soil sieves for collecting and evaluating soil aggregates on-farm.

9:30 – 10:30 | Soil Aggregation and Soil Health

Learn how soil aggregation reflects biological, chemical, and physical soil health and why it is one of the most responsive soil health indicators.

10:30 – 11:00 | Break

11:00 – 12:00 | Soil Porosity and Soil Aggregation

Soil porosity (open space) is defined by aggregate size and shape and influences water and air movement, root growth, and microbial activity.

12:00 – 1:00 | Lunch

1:00 – 2:20 | Soil Aggregation and Management

Explore how tillage, residue management, cover crops, grazing, and other practices affect soil aggregate formation and stability. Regenerative practices are often linked to improved aggregation.

2:20 – 2:40 | Break

2:40 – 3:15 | Measuring Soil Aggregation with Homemade Sieves

Participants will visually assess soil aggregate stability using soils they bring or samples provided. Results will be discussed in relation to management decisions.

3:15 – 4:00 | Putting It All Together

Why is soil aggregation a strong indicator of soil health? How does management influence aggregation? What practical steps can you take at home?

Questions, comments, criticisms, and concerns welcome.