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United States Department of Agriculture

USDA's  
93rd  
Annual

# Agricultural Outlook Forum

## A New Horizon: The Future of Agriculture

February 23-24, 2017 • Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel, Arlington, Virginia

Presentation from the USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum 2017

United States Department of Agriculture  
93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Agricultural Outlook Forum  
“A New Horizon: The Future of Agriculture”

February 23-24, 2017  
Arlington, Virginia

# Environmental Quality Track Soil Health Management Systems: Challenges and Opportunities



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Sheldon R. Jones  
Chief Operating Officer

**SOIL HEALTH**

— I N S T I T U T E —

# Mission

Safeguard and enhance  
the vitality and productivity of soil  
through scientific research  
and advancement



**SOIL HEALTH**

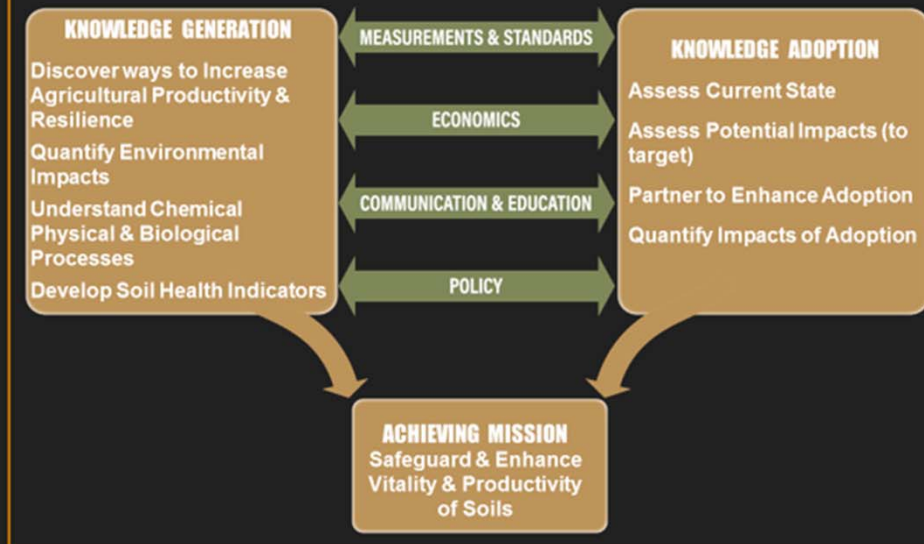
— INSTITUTE —

# Roles of the Institute

- Build research/implementation strategies & corresponding networks/synergies
- Obtain funding to address gaps
- Administer accountable, transparent, and technically proficient grants program
- Ensure impact of investments
- Incorporate research results into educational materials
- Enhance partnerships for increasing tech transfer and adoption

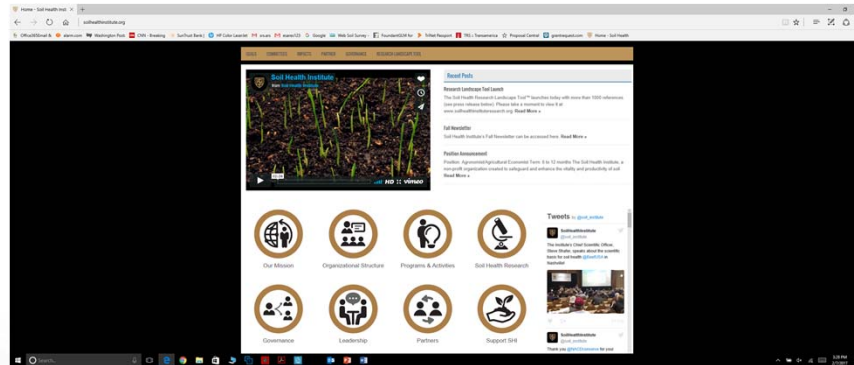


# Soil Health Institute Strategy



# The Soil Health Institute's Action Plan

- Developed through an iterative process with the community of Soil Health scientists and practitioners
- Goals
  - Desired Outcomes
  - Information Gaps and Management Needs
  - Specific Priorities for Action
    - Specific needs to address information gaps
    - Anticipated products
    - Intended impact
    - Actionable steps



[www.soilhealthinstitute.org](http://www.soilhealthinstitute.org)



- The Institute's priorities in soil health research are:
  - Optimize available water holding capacity in the soil
  - Optimize water infiltration
  - Optimize suppression of soil-borne diseases
  - Optimize plant nutrient availability
  - Improve H<sub>2</sub>O quality (by increasing nutrient use efficiency and reducing nutrient losses)
  - Increase C sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions
  - Establish and expand the current state of knowledge on the relationships between soil health and human health
  - Developing reliable methods for measuring soil properties and processes vital to soil health







[www.soilhealthinstitute.org](http://www.soilhealthinstitute.org)

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