Creating a Research Chair in Soil Health

Soil health is the continued capacity of soil to function as a vital living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals, and humans—an issue that impacts every living being. $1.5 million is required to create a Research Chair in Soil Health at the University of Guelph in the School of Environmental Sciences (SES).

Impact Statement:
Climate change is happening and how well we respond, whether measured by human health, environmental sustainability, or economic impact, will depend on being proactive rather than reactive.

Studies in soil health have the ability to change our world. Research in this area goes toward reducing the impact of climate change and mitigating of greenhouse gas emissions, improving water quality, carbon sequestration and enhancing crop productivity with reduced inputs. The work done in collaboration with OMAFRA, led by this chair, will be of international significance scientifically and help make Ontario and the University a world leader in addressing and promoting sustainable agricultural management.

Goals:
Soil science and sustainable agriculture are key research and teaching areas for SES. This position will build upon our existing strengths and create comprehensive expertise in the school. The candidate will also play a major role in the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs’ (OMAFRA) new strategy on Soil Health and Conservation and address the priorities on soil health identified by the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario.

The Chair in Soil Health will:
- Ensure continued strength in the area of soil health
- Provide expertise in areas currently not covered by existing faculty
- Support/direct OMAFRA and other agencies around soil health and water quality issues
- Work collaboratively with a range of disciplines on key agricultural and environmental issues

Learn more at uoguelph.ca/givingpriorities or contact alumni@uoguelph.ca