

# Soil Health Sampling

TEST	SAMPLING				
	WHEN	LOCATION	METHOD	DEPTH	WHAT MUST BE INCLUDED?
VOLUMETRIC AGGREGATE STABILITY (VAS) %	Throughout the year	Choose a sample of 3ha or smaller. Avoid wet, lumpy, fine or powdery soil. Avoid dead zones or barren soil	Remove top mulch layer ( $\pm$ 5 cm). Take 10-20 sub-samples, mix them well and combine into one 500g-2kg sample	Top 5-15 cm, in humus layer	Include 500 g - 1 kg soil
MICROBIAL RESPIRATION					
HANEY ANALYSIS					
PLFA ANALYSIS					
NEMATODE COMMUNITY PROFILE ANALYSIS					2 kg of soil
	<b>For all above mentioned soil health tests samples should be taken following a specific action e.g. pre/post planting of cash or cover crop, pre/post termination of cash or cover crop. Repeat samples must be taken when same action is repeated.</b>				
MYCORRHIZAE COLONISATION	At least 2 months after planting	Area with healthy, living plants	Cut roots from living plant	No deeper than the root zone	10 g fine roots <b>in soil</b>

**SAMPLE PREPARATION:** Place sample in a clearly marked plastic bag. **NB:** Include a completed submission form and attach it to the outside of the bag

**SAMPLE CARE:** Samples should be kept cool and dry on their way to the lab. They can be kept for short periods on cement or tiles, but never in vehicles or in direct sunlight.