



Hi All,

Time management has been a bit poor this week, so only a few CoP Opinion Piece articles on offer – but they do contain some awesome quotes.

Cheers

Brian

Soil Isn't Sexy



Richard Mills

Ahead of the herd

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1335 words - Reading time : 3 - 5 minutes

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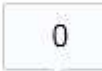
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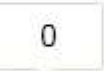
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Category : Today article

Disclaimer

After watching *Interstellar* w/Matthew McConaughey I was motivated to update and republish an article, **Between Us and Extinction**, I wrote a couple of years ago. Rick Mills

"Soil is the earth's fragile skin that anchors all life on Earth. It is comprised of countless species that create a dynamic and complex ecosystem and is among the most precious resources to humans...Half of the topsoil on the planet has been lost in the last 150 years." WWF

<http://www.24hgold.com/english/news-gold-silver-soil-isn-t-sexy.aspx?article=6688341054H11690&redirect=false&contributor=Richard+Mills>

When there is no soil left in this world

KP Prabhakaran Nair



Nurturing The key to life AM Faruqi

There will be no water, and no life. Yet, policies on soil rejuvenation are hardly in evidence

Land has become the most sought after “commodity” in India, but is anybody looking at it from the perspective of soil? If there is no soil, there is no life on planet earth. There are umpteen projects on water management. The Water Research Institute has even instituted a “water prize”, which has gone to an Indian — Rajendra Singh, better known as India’s “water man”. But, can there be water without soil?

Let me explain. When a water molecule falls on earth (soil) it has two atoms, hydrogen and oxygen (H_2O). Hydrogen is positively charged while oxygen is negatively charged. A soil clay particle is excessively negatively charged and it is to this that the hydrogen atom, which is positively charged, is attracted, which in turn, attracts a negatively charged oxygen atom. Thus a chain of water molecules are held on the clay surface. In other words, if there was no soil, all the condensed rain drops falling from the sky during monsoon would simply wash into the sea. <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/when-there-is-no-soil-left-in-this-world/article7074289.ece>



“The fact that we live at the bottom of a deep gravity well, on the surface of a gas covered planet going around a nuclear fireball 90 million miles away and think this to be normal is obviously some

indication of how skewed our perspective tends to be.”

— [Douglas Adams, *The Salmon of Doubt: Hitchhiking the Galaxy One Last Time*](#)