

The Perennial Ground Cover (PGC) system minimizes crop yield losses while safeguarding the health of our soil and the essential ecosystem services it provides

*“The nation that destroys its soil destroys itself”*

Franklin D. Roosevelt (26 February 1937)

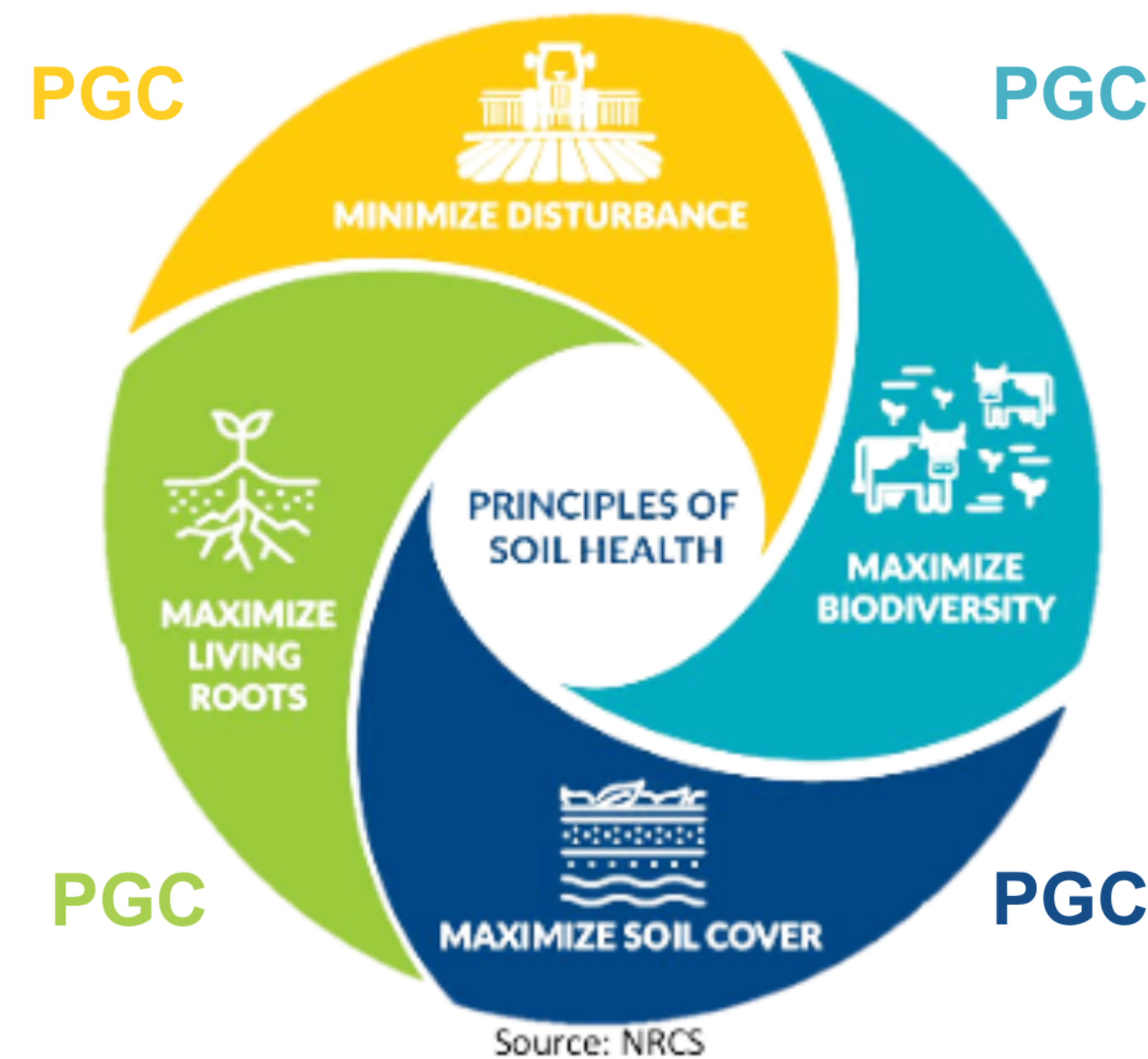


The "S" in Sustainability Should Stand for **SOIL!**

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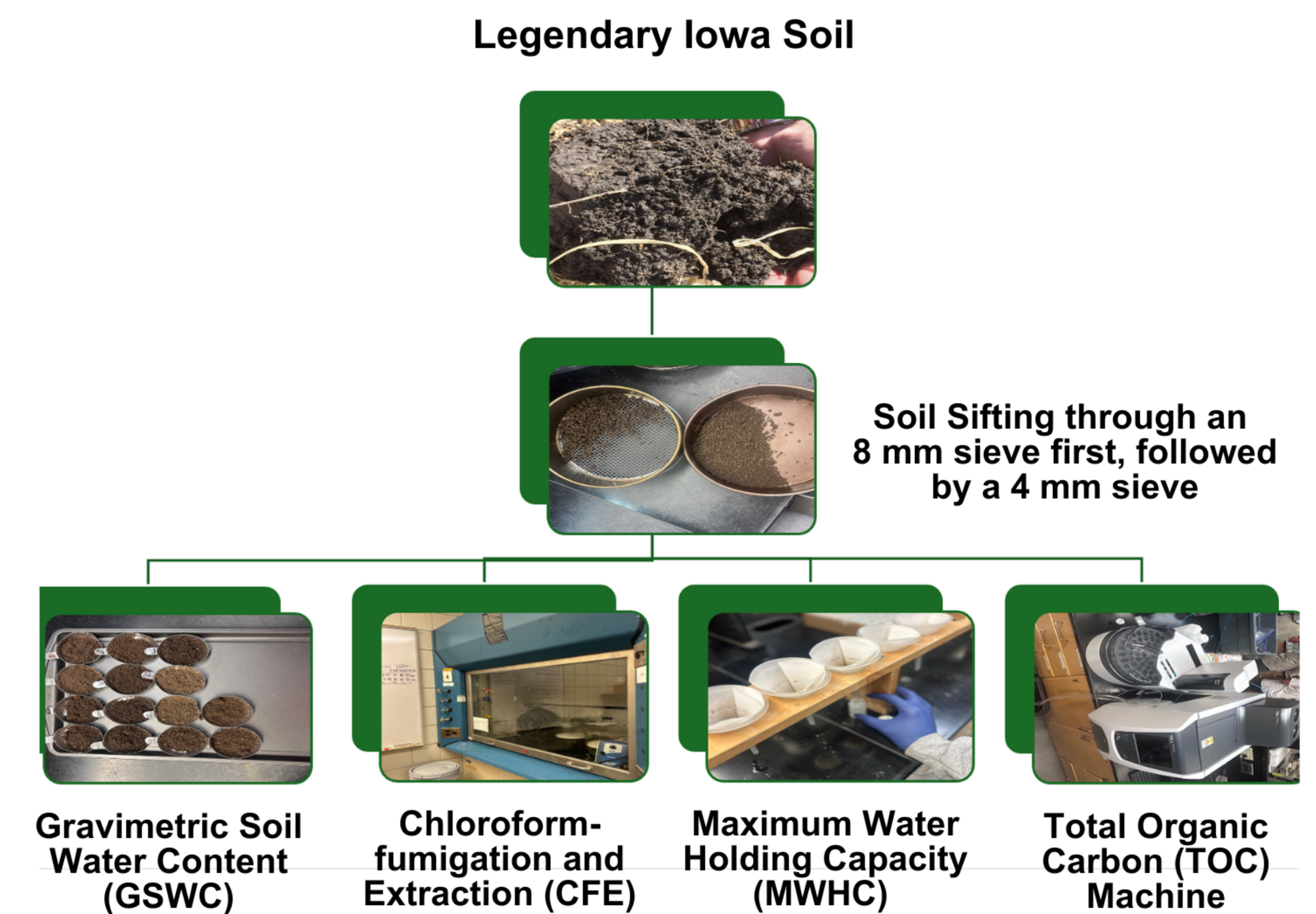
## BACKGROUND

How does the **PGC System** affect **Soil Health** and nutrient management?



## METHODS

Downstream Processes after soil sieving



## OUR GUIDING HYPOTHESIS

Prioritizing both **Agricultural Productivity** and **Soil Health** is crucial for sustainable farming and the future of our environment.



## MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

How does your experience in the **Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU)** program change your perception of soil?

- **Before (REU):** I used to think of soil as just dirty, messy, unimportant, and something I had no real connection to
- **During (REU):** Working in the lab changed my perspective on soil. Hands-on research helped me appreciate the indispensable ecosystem services that soil provides, such as water retention and purification, recycling of nutrients, and habitat for soil organisms, especially microorganisms
- **After (REU):** Now I see soil as living and essential. We need to protect it, replenish what we've taken, and value it as the foundation of a sustainable future

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