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2019 ASA-CSSA-SSSA International Annual Meeting | Nov. 10-13 | San Antonio, Texas

240-1 - Soil Carbon Dynamics in Long-Term No-till Based Soybean Experiment in Southern Brazil



② 9:35 AM - 10:05 AM

Phenry B. Gonzalez Convention Center - 305

Abstract

Soybean is the main Brazilian cash crop reaching almost 36 Mha. Many farmers are growing soybean with lack of crop rotation facing problems with soil compaction, low infiltration and poor soil biological activity all related with soil organic carbon (SOC) depletion. Long-term experiments are critical to understand SOC dynamic in different agroecosystems. An experiment under subtropical climate with annual precipitation of 1770 mm and average temperature of 19⁰ C was started in 1985 in an Oxisol evaluating a combination of tillage, cover crops and soybean based cropping systems implanted in a depleted SOC land. Tillage systems were conventional (plow + two disk) and notillage while cropping systems were: a) monoculture of soybean/wheat (lack of rotation); b) winter crop rotation black oat (cover crop) alternate with wheat and monoculture of soybean (partial rotation); c) winter and summer crop rotation black oat/soybean/wheat/soybean/black oat + common vetch/corn/radish oil/wheat/soybean (full rotation). The above-ground biomass soil input in ascending order was lack, partial and full rotation. For the same crop rotation system, in no-tillage had higher biomass input in relation to conventional tillage. Even though the crop rotation effect was higher than tillage in the quantity of soil biomass input. Eddy-covariance study reported that the carbon balance of a modern soybean cultivar was slight negative. Under conventional tillage even the most complex crop rotation failed in recovery SOC stock. While no-tillage with lack of crop rotation or with partial crop rotation had limited SOC recovery, even

after 27 years. The SOC recovery was increased when the soybean frequency decrease and cover crops and corn frequency were increased in cropping system. The SOC recovery was not restricted to shallow soil layer and was extended to up 1 m elapsed almost three decades. Anyone crop system investigated in this long-term experiment show evidence of carbon saturation when a thicker soil layer was considered.

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