

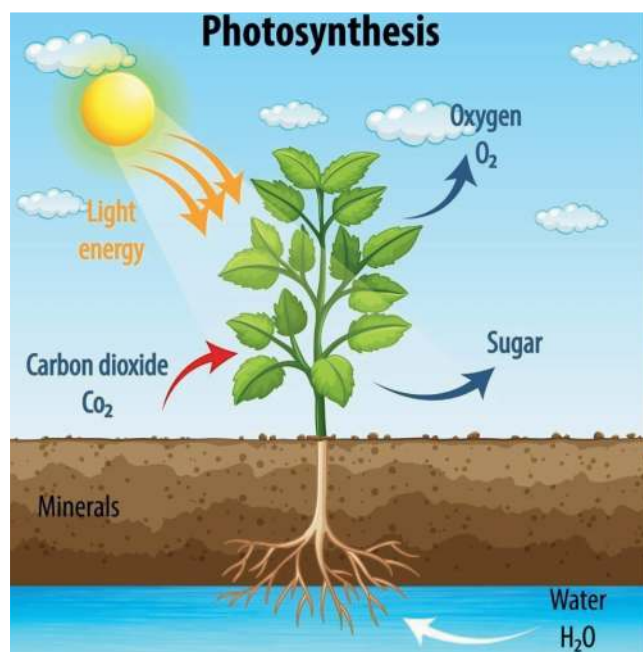
The climate debate CO2 takes away focus from the very real environmental problems

by Berith Zenia Fagergaard, naturopath, nutritionist, and herbalist

Before the industrialization, man had lived as integral part of the ecosystem for millennia.



The wisdom of mutual respect between humans and everything alive around us has been passed from one generation to the next with an understanding that in spite of the diversity of life we all contain the same kind of organic material. We had learned by observation that by rotation of crop and consideration for the rhythms in nature we could co-create and be part of the resources and abundance of earth. This results from mere thoughtfulness and by protecting the riches of the earth, which are like a Holy Grail that cannot be taken for granted. We are all part of the same community. If we understand the importance of nature's rhythms and balances, the basic environmental problems would be solved, and these are far from the climate or how CO2 affects it.



CO2 partakes of our ecosystem - no life without CO2

When something dies in nature, it contributes to new life. By decomposition, dead organic material is turned into humus, aided by worms, larvae, insects, butterflies, bees, fungi, enzymes, and bacteria, thus turning into fertile soil that gives strength to the growth and roots of plants and trees, which are also nourished by the rays of the sun via photosynthesis of water and CO2. Humans and animals breathe oxygen released in this process, and we in turn exhale CO2 that the plants absorb.

Biodiversity

In perspective, life is an interaction between the processes in nature with its multitude of animals and plants, technically known as biodiversity. The greater the biodiversity, the more life, and the healthier and sturdier is nature.

Biodiversity will always seek balance, which indicates an intelligent nature from which we can all

learn. If we step out of this cycle by attempting to patch up piecemeal solutions, we destroy nature and create artificial life forms that do not integrate into the natural cycles, and this can only wreak havoc.

Mother Earth will always answer again, to restore her balance.

Nutritious soil, called "black gold", can be compared to a healthy microflora in our intestinal system

It's an interesting fact that fungi can digest inorganic material and turn it into organic material that can be utilized by plants and trees, which in turn return nutrients to the fungi via photosynthesis. The enzymes from the roots of plants can dissolve minerals. The same happens with manure from cows. In this manner, natural growth increases.

When soil is turned into humus, it is called "the black gold," because it's very nutritious, supporting good bacteria that are the fundament of the optimal fertility, giving strong plants and crops and benefiting the food chain all the way up to animals and man.

This is analogous to our own digestive system. The food we eat must be properly decomposed before it can be absorbed as nutrients into the body. Good enzymes and healthy intestinal bacteria are needed in the digestive system, or we will not get the full benefit of the food. Not properly digested, the food may harm the body.

This wisdom was observed by wise Rudolf Steiner in nature, and he passed it on by several lectures in 1924. One recurring theme was how it was possible to improve agriculture and get healthy, nourishing crops by ensuring adequate decomposition.

Slurry, fertilizer, inorganic fertilizers, spraying and fungicides, exfoliates soil and plants

Nitrogen (N) is the most important nutrient for plant growth. Too much or too little is equally harmful. Conventional agriculture uses inorganic fertilizers, manure, pesticides, and fungicides, while organic farmers are not allowed to use artificial fertilizers but use organic fertilizers.

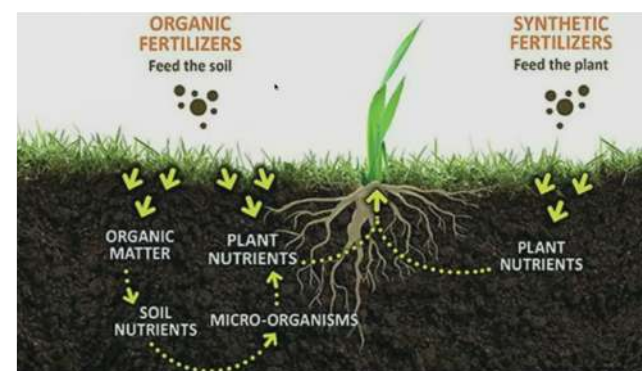


Biodynamic agriculture predominantly uses soil that has been thoroughly composted in special ways as described earlier. Unfortunately, biodynamic farmers must resort to manure from biodynamic cows along with composted soil due to the strict regulations that are politically imposed, which puts biodynamic farmers at an economic disadvantage in the industrial context of the EU.

Greater costs are incurred in biodynamic agriculture, and therefore prices are higher than in conventional agriculture - and therefore also a higher VAT to the detriment of consumers. It has been suggested that VAT should be reduced, but politically nothing has happened.

Inorganic fertilizers

Inorganic fertilizers make the plants look lush, but that's only because they absorb more water, which neither matures the plants nor nourishes the soil or plants optimally. The nitrogen in the inorganic fertilizer force-feeds the plant and stresses it with an overdose of nitrite, which is not "digested" as it should be and therefore not converted into the numerous substances that are valuable for the plant. Therefore, the plant does not develop satisfactorily despite active growth. The balance in the soil is disturbed and it is not properly restored by attempts at provisional solutions such as toxic pesticides, fungicides etc.



Slurry / Fertilizer

Manure, too, can contain excessive nitrogen, which can harm the environment. Additionally, it is well known that liquid manure that has been stored too long emits large volumes of hydrogen sulfide. This is a poison gas that is potentially lethal.

The food of pigs contains additives, e.g. antibiotics, zinc, and copper, all of which puts a further strain on the environment, a mounting problem that has not yet been solved.

Nitrogen in manure also has consequences for the marine environment. Via drains, the nitrogen is transported to streams and lakes and ends in the sea. The nitrogen is fertilizer for algae, too, and more algae are produced. When they die, they sink to the bottom where they decompose. This process requires oxygen, and this can lead to hypoxia, which eventually may kill off marine fauna.



GMO crops a catastrophic attack on nature

A major part of the American corn and soy markets is owned by big organizations like Monsanto, DuPont, Syngenta, and Dow AgroSciences.

GMO seeds were created out of a desire to make