



Building international capacity in belowground carbon accounting

Since 2013 the USDA-Forest Service, the University of Michigan, and USAID have partnered to provide an intensive 10-day workshop to build capacity in belowground carbon accounting for scientists from across Mexico, Central and South America. Partnerships with the International Soil Carbon Network, multiple program units of the USDA-Forest Service, and technical instructors from collaborating agencies and academic institutions provide a wide range of expertise. In four years, this annual event has trained 56 scientists, practitioners and students from 9 Latin American countries, fostering collaborative learning in belowground carbon accounting throughout the western hemisphere.



The workshop provides a thorough overview of all aspects of belowground carbon accounting. Topics include designs for belowground carbon inventory, monitoring and experimentation; field sample collection; sample processing and analysis; data interpretation, synthesis, scaling, mapping, and reporting. By working alongside a team of technical instructors over 10 days, participants gain knowledge and experience with the tools needed to successfully complete belowground carbon accounting in their respective countries. For example, in Peru, past workshop participants are utilizing these approaches to better measure belowground carbon in their national forest inventory, while University institutes in Mexico and Guatemala send new participants each year to learn methods and develop collaborations.



Full coverage of scientific topics: Rotating technical instructors present a hands-on, start-to-finish overview of the steps involved in belowground carbon accounting. Participants investigate a wide range of soils using multiple tools and approaches, analyze samples and data, and complete exercises in scaling and mapping.

Collaborating Institutions:

- USDA-Forest Service**
- International Programs
- Northern Research Station
- Southern Research Station
- Hiawatha National Forest
- USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service**

- University of Michigan**
- University of Delaware**
- Virginia Commonwealth University**
- SilvaCarbon**
- International Soil Carbon Network**
- Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science**

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