



## MEDIA RELEASE

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Monday October 11, 2010

### ***AgVita Analytical focus on soil function AgVita can now offer measurement of Active Carbon in soils***

Why measure Active Carbon separately from total organic carbon?

Research has shown that active carbon is a “leading indicator” of soil health responses to changes in crop and soil management, usually responding to management much sooner, often, years sooner, than total organic matter percent. Thus, monitoring the changes in active carbon can be particularly useful to farmers who are changing practices to try to build up soil organic matter (e.g., reducing tillage, using new cover crops, adding new composts or manures).

What is Active Carbon?

Active carbon is a “leading indicator” of soil health. It is a measure of the fraction of soil organic matter that is readily available as a carbon and energy source for the soil microbial community; it is the fuel for the soil food web.

Research has shown that active carbon is highly correlated with and similar to “particulate organic matter”, which is determined with a more complex and labor-intensive wet-sieving and/ or chemical extraction procedure. Active carbon is positively correlated with percent organic matter, aggregate stability, and with measures of biological activity such as soil respiration rate.

#### **What is AgVita doing with Active Carbon?**

With a growing focus on soil, health AgVita Analytical Pty Ltd is developing a range of assessments of soil function indicators. AgVita is now measuring Active Carbon using methodologies developed in the USA by Cornell University’s Soil Health Unit. AgVita will include the assessment of Active Carbon as part of a Soil Function product, FITsoil™ to be released later this year. Please contact us if you need more information on using our Active Carbon analysis now.