## Healthier Soils, Healthier Water





**On the left,** we see a struggling ecosystem: compacted and degraded soils that can't absorb rain or water applied, causing runoff and erosion. Nutrients are mobile, not held and recycled in the root zone. Thus, all that nitrogen moves down, where it gets flushed into our groundwater – further contaminating this precious resource and impacting local communities. **On the right,** we see a thriving soil ecosystem with lots of roots and organic matter in the soil, and microbes transforming organically held nitrogen into its mineralized form so plants can absorb it when they need it. Nitrate leaching to groundwater is reduced, and the soil retains more water closer to plant roots to potentially reduce irrigation demands.