FAO/Unesco, WRB	Characteristics	Parent material	Environment	USDA, Soil Taxonomy
Luvisols	soils in which clay is washed down from the surface soil to an accumulation horizon at some depth;	unconsolidated materials including glacial till, and aeolian, alluvial and colluvial deposits.	flat or gently sloping land in cool temperate regions and in warm (e.g. Mediterranean) regions with distinct dry and wet seasons.	Alfisols
Nitisols	deep, red, well-drained tropical soils with a clayey `nitic' subsurface horizon that has typical `nutty', polyhedric, blocky structure elements with shiny ped faces; from L. nitidus, shiny.	finely textured weathering products of intermediate to basic parent rock, possibly rejuvenated by recent admixtures of volcanic ash.	level to hilly land under tropical rain forest or savannah vegetation.	Alfisols, Ultisols
Regosols	very weakly developed mineral soils in unconsolidated materials that have only an ochric surface horizon and that are not very shallow (Leptosols), sandy (Arenosols) or with fluvic properties (Fluvisols).	unconsolidated, finely grained weathering material.	all climate zones without permafrost and at all elevations. Regosols are particularly common in arid areas, in the dry tropics and in mountain regions.	Entisols
Vertisols	churning heavy clay soils with a high proportion of swelling 2:1 lattice clays. These soils form deep wide cracks from the surface downward when they dry out, which happens in most years.	sediments that contain a high proportion of smectitic clay, or products of rock weathering that have the characteristics of smectitic clay.	depressions and level to undulating areas, mainly in tropical, semi-arid to (sub)humid and Mediterranean climates with an alternation of distinct wet and dry seasons. The climax vegetation is savanna, natural grassland and/or woodland.	Vertisols