

## **Soil structure (constituents)**

In our study of soil composition, we will start from general composition of soils in terms of soil profiles and gradually approach the particulars of mineral composition. We will therefore conveniently subdivide the problem, in sequential order of scale from macroscopic to microscopic, into the following categories:

1. Soil formation and macroscopic composition in terms of soil profiles
2. Phase composition in terms of solid, liquid, organic, and gas phases Present in the soil mass
3. Solids composition and classification in terms of the relative sizes of

### **1- Inorganic Components of Soil**

The inorganic components are subdivided into crystalline and non-crystalline types. Inorganic matter typically constitutes the majority of the soil's components. The inorganic portion of soil consists largely of aluminosilicates. Typically, feldspar minerals comprise 60% of an average inorganic rock.

### **1- Organic Components of Soil**

Soil organic matter consists of nonhumic and humic substances. The nonhumic substances include polysaccharides, proteins, fats and low molecular weight organic acids. Humic substances represent most of the organic matter in soil. On the basis of their different