

Harbin Declaration on the International Network of Black Soils

Harbin, China, September 12, 2018

We, the delegates from 18 black soils countries/regions members of the International Network of Black Soils (INBS) of the Global Soil Partnership along with international/national institutes and other stakeholders with an interest in advancing the science and technology of black soils management in the world have assembled in Harbin, China, from September 10th to 12th, 2018, to review the status of Black soils and the need for action for their protection and sustainable management in the framework of the International Network of Black Soils. The International Symposium on black soils and the first workshop of the International Network of Black Soils was hosted by FAO's Global Soil Partnership, and sponsored by Heilongjiang Academy of Agricultural Sciences, the Soil Science Society of China and Soil Fertilizer Society of Heilongjiang Province.

Black soils constitute unique soils that are distributed along our countries and are the most fertile soils assuring a large proportion of the food needed by a growing global population. These unique soils require actions to promote their sustainable management so to avoid their degradation affecting food security and climate change. In this context, we realize that there is knowledge and experience on how to manage these soils, thus technical cooperation among the black soils countries is imperative.

Black soils, considered the food basket for many countries and for the world, and are often recognized as inherently productive and fertile soils, are broadly defined under the International Network of Black soils as soils having the following core characteristics:

- High organic carbon content as per the following:
 - >1.2% for cold and temperate
 - >0.6% for tropical and sub tropical regions.
- Dark to black coloured surface horizons
- Thickness of dark to black soil surface horizons not less than 25 cm.

With the following complementary characteristics:









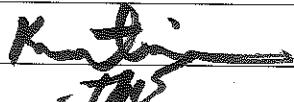

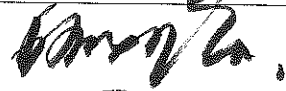







- A high base saturation >50%
- Strong aggregate stability
- High level of nutrient content

We consider the following as priorities to be addressed by this network which motto is "Protect black soils, invest in the future":

1. Complete a delineation of the areas identified as Black Soils according to the criteria adopted at National level;
2. Support implementation the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management in the areas designated at National level as black soils;
3. Perform a global assessment of black soils and publish it as a formal report of the Global Soil Partnership;
4. Establish a capacity development programme on the management of black soils;
5. Prepare a policy brief on the importance of black soils and advocate for the implementation of binding legislation for the full protection of these soils for future generations;
6. Black Soils Data streamline as part of a monitoring sub-component of the Global Soil Information System (GLOSIS).
7. Develop the "Best Available Practice" Knowledge Bank as part of INBS Information System.

The participants who attended the Harbin Workshop agree to support the vision of the International Network of Black Soils (INBS) and the execution of the work plan.

**Participants of the First Workshop of the
International Network of Black Soils
Harbin, China, September 10th -12th 2018**

Argentine	Marcos Esteban Angelini	Soils Institute, Natural Resources Research Centre, INTA	
Brazil	Ademir Fontana	Embrapa Solos.	
Bulgaria	Toma Shishkov	Institute of Soil Science, Agrotechnology and Plant Protection	
Canada	Xiaoyuan Geng	Head/Soil Scientist, Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada,	
China	Guiqing Han	Heilongjiang Academy of Agricultural Sciences	
European Union	Luca Montanarella	Joint Research Centre, European Commission.	
Kazakhstan	Konstantin Pachikin	U.Uspanov Kazakh Research Institute on Soil Science and Agrochemistry	
Indonesia	Yiyi Sulaeman	Indonesian Center for Agricultural Land Resource Research and Development, Agency for Agricultural Research and Development, Indonesian Ministry of Agriculture.	
Iraq	Kutaiba M.Hassan	Office of Planning and Follow-up	
Moldova	Tatiana Ciolacu	Institute of Pedology, Agrochemistry and Soil Protection	
Mongolia	Enkhtuya Bazarradnaa	Agroecology and business school of Mongolian Univeristy of Life sciences Darkham-Uul	
Mozambique	Jose da Graca Tomo	Mozambique Agricultural Research Institute (IIAM)	
Russian Federation	Ivan Vasenev	Russian State Agrarian University – Moscow Timiryazev Agricultural Academy	
Slovakia	Martin Saksa	National Agricultural and Food Centre, Soil Science and Conservation Research Institute	
Turkey	Hakki Emrah Erdogan	Turkish Soil Science Society	
Ukraine	Mykola Miroshnychenko	National Scientific Center, Institute for Soil Science and Agrochemistry Research named after O.N. Sokolovsky	
United States of America	Skye Angela Wills	USDA-NRCS-National Soil Survey Center	
Uruguay	Carlos Clérico	Directorate General of Natural Resources (DGRN) of the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (MGAP) for Uruguay	
FAO	Ronald VARGAS	Land and Water Division (CBL)	