

Amman Communiqué on MENA Soil Partnership

Amman, Jordan, April 5, 2012

We, the soil scientists from 10 MENA countries along with international/national institutes and others with an interest in promoting the science and technology of soil information in MENA have assembled in Amman, Jordan, from April 1st to 5th, 2012, to explore opportunities and applications of the emerging Global Soil Partnership (GSP). The meeting was hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture, and sponsored by FAO.

We recognize the benefits to be gained from further sharing our information and data on soil survey, soil mapping and capacity development. During the five days of discussions, the participants highlighted the importance of sharing soil information regionally and globally, and with succeeding generations, to achieve food security, carbon sequestration, combating land degradation, protecting the environment and to promote sustainable land management that lead to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

There are common challenges across the region and collaboration will provide opportunities to face national and regional problems. We consider the priorities of this partnership should be as follows:

- a) Promote sustainable soil management
- b) Sharing and transferring soil knowledge and new technology within and beyond the region.
- c) Providing soil information to all those with an interest in the sustainable use of soil and land resources in suitable format.
- d) Building consistent and updated MENA soil information systems and starting to contribute to the global soil information system.
- e) Training of new generations of experts in soil science and land management using state-of-the-art technologies and knowledge by local universities.
- f) Raising awareness of all stakeholders including decision makers on importance of soil information to promote sustainable land management.

To achieve these goals, the participants agreed to establish the "MENA Soil Partnership" and support the vision and mission of Global Soil Partnership (GSP).

The MENA Soil Partnership will be initially operationalized by the setting up of a provisional secretariat and a steering committee (to be defined later) to determine the rules of governance. The provisional secretariat will be located at the Ministry of Agriculture, Amman, Jordan.

**The Participants of region MENA, Workshop Global Soil
Partnership (GSP) and Ministry of agriculture,
April 1-5 Amman - Jordan**

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M. Kabb

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List of the participants of the regional MENA (April. 1-5, 2012, Amman- Jordan)

NAME	POSITION	INSTITUTION	ADDRESS	EMAIL
Hedi Hamrouni	Soil Director Departement-DGACTA	Ministry of Agriculture	31 Avenue Alain Savary- Tunis-Tunisia	hamrouni_hd@yahoo.fr
Mostafa M. kotb	Professor	National Research Centre (NRC)	El-Bohos St., Dokki, Cairo, Egypt	kotbmoustafa2003@yahoo.com
Ahmed salih mhalimeed	Professor of soil sciences	Baghdad University , Iraq	capus bof agr.college,baghdad,Iraq	profahmad1959@yahoo.com
Bahman Eskandare	Head of soil and fertility Dep.	deputy for water and soil	Karaj Km.7 Deputy for water and soil, Iran	ahmaneskanbare@yahoo.co.uk
Imad ghanma	Director of soil Dept	Ministry of Agriculture	Ramallia MoA	imad_ghanma@yahoo.com
Ali Abdulla	Head of GIS/RS	General Commision for Scientificc Research Center	Damascus, Syria	aliabdulla@hotmail.com
Nadher Ebrahim Ahmed al Absi	Land Resources department -Researcher	agriculture Research extension authrity	Dhamar_ Yemen	nadher_absi@yahoo.com
Mahmoud Afferihat	Ministry of Agriculture/Land &Irrigation Department	Ministry of Agriculture	Queen Raina Street,MoA,p.o Box, 2099	Mahmoudalferihat@yahoo.com
Riad BALAGHI	Head Dpt Environment and Natural Resources	National Institute for Agricultural Research	Avenue Ennassr BP 415 Rabat RP - Morocco	riad_balaghi@gmail.com
Roger FRANCIS	Irrigation Engineer	CNRS - RS	Antelias - Lebanon	rogerfrancis_fr@hotmail.com