



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# The Global Soil Laboratory Network

Investing in  
harmonized  
soil laboratory methods  
and reliable data  
for Sustainable Soil  
Management

GLOSOLAN is a Global Soil Laboratory Network which aims to harmonize soil analysis methods and data so that soil information is comparable and interpretable across laboratories, countries and regions.

## What is GLOSOLAN and why does it matter?

Evidence-based decisions are critical to the achievement of Sustainable Soil Management (SSM), food security and nutrition, and Agenda 2030. While the quantity and quality of soil data are fundamental, soil information must also be harmonized and globally consistent to have impact. Established in 2017, in the framework of the Global Soil Partnership's (GSP) Pillar 5, GLOSOLAN facilitates networking and capacity development through cooperation and information sharing between soil laboratories with different levels of experience.

## GLOSOLAN

- **Strengthens** the performance of soil laboratories through use of standardized methods and protocols;
- **Promotes the harmonization** of soil analysis methods;
- **Advocates for the enhancement of national capacities** through technical cooperation;
- Now includes **more than 400 labs worldwide**, of which **over 100** act as **national reference centres**;
- Comprises **Regional Soil Laboratory Networks (RESOLANs)** for **Asia (SEALNET)**, **Latin America (LATSOLAN)**, **Africa (AFRILAB)**, the **Pacific (ASPAC)** and **Europe and Eurasia (EUROSOLAN)**, with regional network for the Near East and North Africa expected to be established soon.

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## Start small, think big: Why join the network?

Joining the GLOSOLAN network will strengthen your lab by improving performance. You will participate in decision-making towards the development of global standards and best practices. You will learn from champion labs and others that are facing similar challenges. You will have access to technical advice, training programs, capacity building and educational material free of charge. Your lab will be a part of an over-arching system that is committed to SSM and can have meaningful impact at a global scale.

## A unique opportunity to invest in quality soil laboratory data for a sustainable and food secure world

Investing in more efficient labs and harmonized data has national, regional and global implications. GLOSOLAN is an efficient and effective way to:

- Provide reliable evidence to support better decision-making at both field and policy levels;
- Support countries in reporting on progress made towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- Contribute to the development of international standards and indicators;
- Contribute to the assessment, monitoring and sustainable management of soil and provide quality data to support the establishment of National Soil Information Systems that can feed into the Global Soil Information System (GLOSIS);
- Assist companies manufacturing laboratory equipment in improving their products;
- Identify research gaps and increase investments in research.

## How do I join the network?

If you are a GSP focal point, you can nominate one leading soil laboratory in your country which may act as a national reference centre. By implementing GLOSOLAN activities, these labs will train other labs in their National Soil Laboratory Networks on best laboratory practices, the preparation and execution of proficiency testing, and the correct implementation of standard operating procedures. National reference centres should have quality control (QC) measures in place, have participated in proficiency tests (PT) or have appropriate accreditation.

Spontaneous applications are also welcome!

You can register your soil lab to join the network, participate in decision-making and learn from champion labs.

## Why GSP?

The GSP is a globally recognized mechanism composed of over 320 partners from 195 countries. **Our key objectives are to promote Sustainable Soil Management and improve soil governance to guarantee healthy and productive soils, and support the provision of essential ecosystem services towards food security and improved nutrition, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and sustainable development.** Capacity development is at the heart of the GSP mandate, as countries can reach the SDGs only by strengthening their local capacities.

# GLOSOLAN

*For more information*

[www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/pillars-action/5-harmonization/glosolan](http://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/pillars-action/5-harmonization/glosolan)

**To join or support the GLOSOLAN network please contact** [GSP-Secretariat@fao.org](mailto:GSP-Secretariat@fao.org)



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