



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



TOWARDS ZERO POLLUTION

Agenda

4 June 2021



Launch of the
**Global Assessment
of Soil Pollution Report**





Towards Zero pollution: Launch of the Global Assessment of Soil Pollution report

4th June 2021 (12:30 - 14:30 CEST) | Virtual format (Zoom)

In observance of the World Environment Day celebrations
& the launch of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

Soil is involved in the regulation and provision of many key ecosystem services essential to the environment and to human health and well-being. Their **protection** is of the utmost importance to ensure the **future of agri-food systems** and **our life on earth**. The Status of the World's Soil Resources report presented in 2015 by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soil (ITPS) identified **ten major threats to the world's soils**. Soil pollution is among the main pressures on soil health worldwide and limit the capacity of soils to provide these key ecosystem services for human well-being. Soil pollution may be invisible to human eyes, but it compromises soil health, the **food we eat, the water we drink and the air we breathe**. Most contaminants originate from human activities and are released into the environment as a result of unsuitable production, consumption and disposal practices. It is time to reconnect with our soils as nature's pantry – given that it is where our food begins. **Soil pollution jeopardizes our efforts to reach sustainable development for all**. Soil pollution should no longer be a hidden reality. **Let us all be a solution to soil pollution**.

During this event, the **report on the Global Assessment of Soil Pollution will be officially launched**. This report is the result of an inclusive process that started with the Global Symposium on Soil Pollution in 2018.

Simultaneous interpretation will be available in English, French and Spanish

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| 12:30 - 12:40 | Opening by Mr QU Dongyu , Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) |
| 12:40 - 12:50 | Opening remarks by H.E. David Choquehuanca , Vice-president of the Plurinational State of Bolivia |
| 12:50-13:00 | Opening remarks by Ms Inger Andersen , Executive Secretary, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) |
| 13:00-13:05 | Video message by Ms Maria Neira , Director of the Environment, Climate Change and Health Department, World Health Organization (WHO) |
| 13:05 - 13:10 13:10 - 13:20 | Soil pollution, a hidden reality (video) Launch of the “Global Assessment of Soil Pollution” report, Ms Natalia Rodríguez Eugenio , FAO-GSP |
| 13:20 - 14:00 | <u>STATUS OF SOIL POLLUTION, A REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Asia and the Pacific: Mr Ravi Naidu ◆ Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia: Ms Valentina Pidlisniuk ◆ Europe: Mr Bernd M. Bussian ◆ Latin America and the Caribbean: Ms Rosalina Gonzalez ◆ Near East and North Africa: Mr Talal Darwish ◆ North America: Mr Geoffrey Siemering ◆ Sub-Saharan Africa: Ms Mariné Blaauw |
| 14:00 - 14:20 | <u>HOW TO BE A SOLUTION TO SOIL POLLUTION?</u> <u>EXAMPLES OF PREVENTION AND REMEDIATION OF SOIL POLLUTION:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ EU action plan towards zero pollution for air, water and soil, Mr Bavo Peeters, European Commission ◆ NICOLE's evolution as a multi-stakeholder network in tackling industrial soil contamination, Mr Johan De Fraye, Chair of NICOLE Network |
| 14:20 - 14:25 | How much you know about soil pollution? Take the Quiz! |
| 14:25 - 14:30 | Conclusions and closure of the event, Ms Maria Helena Semedo , Deputy Director-General, Climate and Natural Resources, FAO |

Moderator: **Mr Eduardo Mansur**, Director of the Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment