



Our Ref.:

Your Ref.:

12 December 2018

Ref. Presentation of the Global Soil Laboratory Network

To whom it may concern,

In November 2017, the Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN) was established under the framework of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) and its Pillar 5 on the harmonization of methods, measurements and indicators for the sustainable management and protection of soil resources. GLOSOLAN aims to strengthen the performance of laboratories towards the development of standards and to harmonize soil analysis procedures in order to make soil information across laboratories, countries and regions comparable and interpretable. By validating soil laboratory data, GLOSOLAN will ensure that soil management decisions are made using sound and reliable data. Monitoring and reporting activities on e.g. the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals will also benefit from this network.

The work of the network is determined and revised within annual meetings which take regional needs and specificities into consideration. In this manner, GLOSOLAN operates through Regional Soil Laboratory Networks (RESOLANs) that correspond to the GSP regions.

In order to agree on and implement GLOSOLAN activities, the GSP Secretariat kindly invites interested soil laboratories to join the network. If interested, please send an email to GSP-Secretariat@fao.org and to Lucrezia.caon@fao.org. GSP national focal points are kindly invited to identify a leading laboratory in their country to serve as their National Reference Laboratory. The suggested criteria for the selection of the reference soil labs mandate that they (i) contain qualified, trained, and experienced staff, (ii) contain appropriately calibrated and maintained equipment, (iii) regularly apply adequate quality assurance and quality control procedures, (iv) use appropriate (sub-)sampling practices, (v) contain sound testing and/or inspection procedures, (vi) accurately record and report obtained data, (vii) maintain an appropriate testing environment, (viii) apply standards for safety and disposal of hazardous wastes, and (ix) if possible, be accredited or certified after ISO 17025.

National Reference Laboratories are tasked to transfer the knowledge and competencies acquired in GLOSOLAN to other national laboratories by establishing National Soil Laboratory Networks.

Looking forward to your active participation in this important activity.

Yours sincerely,

Ronald Vargas

Secretary of the Global Soil Partnership
Land and Water Division