



ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ASIAN REGIONAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP



Ronald Vargas Rojas
10 February 2012





ACTIVITIES FOR THIS SESSION

- Presentation by national institutions: Cambodia, Nepal, Malaysia, Pakistan and Bhutan.
- Background about GSP activities
- Establishment of the Asian Regional Soil Partnership:
 - Institutional Overview
 - Brainstorming session about needs and priorities regarding soil activities in the region.
- Starting activities at regional level: discussions about the way forward.

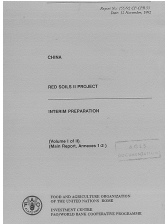
BACKGROUND ABOUT GSP

- Finalizing the Zero version of the Terms of Reference in a participatory and inclusive manner.
- Development of FAO Soil Portal:
 - Soil Legacy Data Digitalization
 - Existing Soil Maps: last entries into GeoNetwork 1200 maps globally.

BACKGROUND ABOUT GSP

- Soil information activities:
 - Soil Legacy Data Digitalization
 - Existing Soil Maps: last entries into GeoNetwork 1200 maps globally.
 - Existing Soil Project Reports funded and implemented by FAO
 - Existing soil legacy profiles for the world



BACKGROUND ABOUT GSP

- Upcoming GSP Workshop **"Towards Global Soil Information: activities within the GEO Task Global Soil Data"** 20-23 March 2012, FAO HQ Rome.



The objective of the workshop will be to review the state of the art of tools and techniques for mapping soils at global and regional scales as an input for defining future activities under the implementation of the Global Soil Partnership. Soil data/information user demands will be also reviewed.

Final products: a) draft plan of action for the soil information pillar and b) a State of the Art Report on Global and Regional Soil Information.

SOIL INSTITUTIONS IN THE REGION

- National institutions from 20 countries were contacted for this meeting. 16 are present and due to logistics issues representatives from Myanmar, Laos and India couldn't come. However, they are interested on being part of the network.
- After the national presentations, it is rewarding to see that National Soil Survey institutions are solidly present in most of the countries. Something that is very different in other regions, especially LAC.
- In general, soil information is available in all the countries and some are using modern technologies while others are in a transformation phase. It's very valuable to see the impact of their activities into the decision making process, specially in agriculture.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ASIAN SOIL PARTNERSHIP/NETWORK

- RSPs should be formed **among interested and active stakeholders**. These regional partnerships will establish an **Interactive consultative process** with national soil institutions, regional soil science societies and other relevant regional mechanisms. Preferably, they will **build on existing regional networks or collaborative processes**. Could someone provide us with details regarding the East Asian Soil Federation?
- RSPs should **facilitate links with national and local soil and land management programs and activities** with a view to strengthening work on soils and developing synergies with relevant land use and environmental initiatives and activities.
- In order to implement **regional programs, a network/partnership** of institutions should be available.
- **Strengthening of the national soil institutions** through **capacity development**, facilitation and funding mechanisms, with a key component of **South-South cooperation** is of fundamental interest of GSP.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ASIAN SOIL PARTNERSHIP/NETWORK: brainstorming

- Perception of national representatives about the initiative of establishing the Asian Regional Partnership:
 - » From an institutional point of view
 - » In relation to other existing networks/programs (for instance, in May there will be a meeting of FAO funded project on Plant Nutrition Management in Asia)
 - » Needs and priorities in the region
 - » Suggestions?
- Interested people could be part of the revision of the GSP ToRs.
- After May when countries endorse the ToRs, there will be an official Registration Form for partners to register into the GSP.

STARTING REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

- FAO together with ISCAS signed a LoA in order to implement two main activities:
 - Establish the basement of the Asian Soil Partnership/network (contacting and bringing the national institutions is the first step). Empowering and strengthening the network is the second step.
 - Start together a joint activity: with some small support prepare a regional report on the status of soil institutions and soil data/information using the valuable inputs from this meeting and further work. Harmonizing a regional soil map making use of available national soil maps (this could improve the current version of the HWSD, and then be used it as legacy data for other projects). Ganling to provide further details.
 - FAO will provide with the soil legacy data available in their databases.
 - If interested, recent soil publications could be sent to each institution.
 - Next step.....capacity development???