



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Tuesday 10 October

18.00 - 19.30

Lebanon Room

Bldg D, Flr 2 (capacity 66)

Side Event No: 11

The Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management for the achievement of a zero hunger world

Healthy soils for food security and nutrition

Soils are an essential and non-renewable natural resource hosting goods and services vital to ecosystems and human life. Ninety-five percent of our food comes from soils, which are also providing us with feed, fibre, fuel, and filter the water we daily consume. The sustainable management of soils (SSM) -an integral part of sustainable land management- is defined as the activities that maintain or enhance the supporting, provisioning, regulating and cultural services provided by soils without significantly impairing either the soil functions that enable those services or biodiversity.

Given that soil degradation can cause a significant yield penalty for staple crops (%25 yield loss) and that 33 percent of land is moderately to highly degraded due to erosion, salinization, compaction, acidification and chemical pollution of soils, SSM is considered the basis for promoting food security and improving nutrition, supporting agricultural and rural development, and addressing poverty eradication. In this context, the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management (VGSSM) were endorsed by the FAO Council in December 2016 at the purpose of providing general technical and policy recommendations on SSM for a wide range of committed stakeholders. Efforts for increasing soil health will then contribute to achieve a hunger-free world.



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Moderator: Ms. Liesl Wiese, Global Soil Partnership Secretariat

18:00 – 18:10 | Opening remarks

Mr. Eduardo Mansur, Director Land and Water Division, FAO

18:10 – 18:30 | The Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management

Ms. Lucrezia Caon, GSP Secretariat

18:30 – 19:15 | Panel Discussion: How the VGSSM could contribute to the food security and nutrition agenda?

Mr. Gunsham Seeborun, Falcon Citizen League, World Farmers Organization

Ms. Anna Benedetti, CREA, Italy

Mr. Luis Ceciliano, Permanent Representation of Costa Rica to FAO

Ms. Cristina Grandi, IFOAM

Ms. Andrea Ulrich, PhosAgro Trading SA

19:15 – 19:25 | The way forward

Mr. Ronald Vargas, GSP Secretariat

19:25 – 19:30 | Closure followed by a Refreshment

Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management are available for download at:
www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/5544358d-f11f-4e9f-90ef-a37c3bf52db7

