



The 68th UN General Assembly declared 2015 the International Year of Soils (IYS).

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has been nominated to implement the IYS 2015, within the framework of the Global Soil Partnership and in collaboration with Governments and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

“ The International Year of Soils will help us pave the road towards sustainable development for all and by all. ”

José Graziano da Silva, FAO Director-General

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla - 00153, Rome Italy  
[soils-2015@fao.org](mailto:soils-2015@fao.org)



#IYS2015

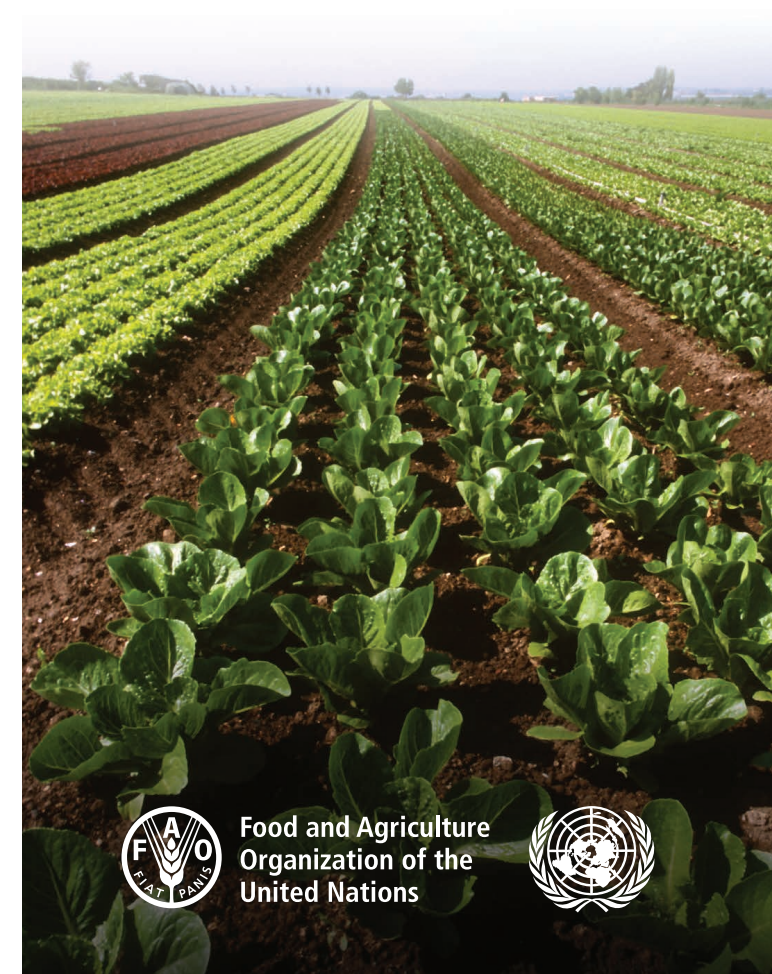
[www.fao.org/soils-2015](http://www.fao.org/soils-2015)

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2015  
International  
Year of Soils

*healthy soils for a healthy life*



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



## PROTECT OUR SOILS

Our soils are in danger because of expanding cities, deforestation, unsustainable land use and management practices, pollution, overgrazing and climate change.

The current rate of soil degradation threatens the capacity to meet the needs of future generations.



## WE DEPEND ON SOILS



Healthy soils are the basis for healthy food production



Soils are the foundation for vegetation which is cultivated or managed for feed, fibre, fuel and medicinal products



Soils support our planet's biodiversity and they host a quarter of the total



Soils help to combat and adapt to climate change by playing a key role in the carbon cycle



Soils store and filter water, improving our resilience to floods and droughts



Soil is a non-renewable resource; its preservation is essential for food security and our sustainable future

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES



Raise awareness among civil society and decision makers



Educate the public



Support effective policies and actions for the sustainable management and protection of soil resources



Promote investment in sustainable soil management activities



Strengthen initiatives in connection with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) process and Post-2015 agenda



Advocate for rapid capacity enhancement for soil information collection and monitoring at all levels

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SOILS 2015