

NENA Recommendation
Amman, 19 June 2014

We, the representatives of 14 NENA countries participating at the NENA Soil Partnership Conference held in Amman, Jordan on 17-19 June 2014, funded by FAO and jointly organized with the Ministry of Agriculture of Jordan, and in accordance to the Terms of Reference of the Global Soil Partnership, would like to:

- Inform that arable and fertile soils in the NENA region are limited in extension and thus require policies and actions to protect and manage them in a sustainable manner.
- Call the attention that soil degradation is a serious process that is affecting the soils in the region through their various forms such as soil salinity, soil erosion, soil pollution and soil sealing.
- Report that the degradation process is threatening the soil resources in the NENA region and thus is affecting food production and associated food security, sustainable development, biodiversity and ecosystem services and increasing poverty. The situation is being increased by climate change and unsustainable land management practices.
- Inform that the establishment and implementation of the NENA Soil Partnership is a unique opportunity for addressing the current challenges posed to soil resources in this region if to contribute to food security.
- Advocating for the following priorities in the region: promote the sustainable management of soils; restore degraded soils; boost soil fertility; halve soil degradation such as soil salinity and boost soil water storage; establish capacity development programmes in the various soil applications; strengthening educational programmes on soil sciences; raising awareness on the importance of soils to various stakeholders; support the establishment of a regional and national soil information systems using state of the art methods of digital soil mapping; support targeted soil research that address the challenges faced by soil users; develop and implement international, regional and national soil legislation; set up an harmonization process to harmonize methods, units and indicators of soil data and information, and encourage the establishment or reinforcement of networks soil scientists in the region.
- Recall that investment on soil resources has been very limited and therefore, the cost of no action is higher as the effects of soil degradation will hamper food security and the provision of various ecosystem services. Therefore, we invite and request all stakeholders in addition to the donors community to support these actions by contributing with resources for addressing these huge challenges.

To achieve these goals, the participants agreed to consolidate the NENA Soil Partnership by establishing a Secretariat hosted at the Ministry of Agriculture of Jordan and a Steering Committee that is composed by:


- Mr. Nabeel Al Bahrani, Oman
- Ms. Iman Sahib Salman, Iraq
- Mr. Rachid Moussadek, Morocco
- Mr. Mohammad Reda, Egypt
- Mr. Mahmoud Alferihat, Jordan, NENASP Secretariat


Also, we agreed to establish working groups for the five pillars of action:

- Pillar 1: Mr. Hedi Hamrouni, Tunisia
- Pillar 2: Mr. Ali Hameed Al Sabani, Bahrein
- Pillar 3: Mr. Mohmmad Husein, Egypt
- Pillar 4: Mr. Rachid Moussadek, Morocco
- Pillar 5: Mr. Imad Ghanma, Palestine

We agreed to start activities by developing implementation plans for the different identified priorities and pillars of action of the GSP. The successful implementation of these actions will directly contribute with the food security, climate change adaptation, sustainable development and overall well being.

We commit to make the International Year of Soils 2015 a successful foundation to pave the future for promoting the sustainable management of soil resources in the NENA region.

Mahmoud alferihat 

Mohamed Ahmed Salah 

EZZadin M.A. Algonaid 


Mohamed Hussein Elsayed Salem 

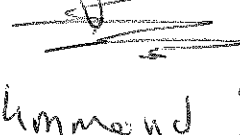
Imad Ghanma

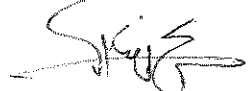
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