

**GSPPA-III/15/Report**

# **Third Meeting of the Global Soil Partnership Plenary Assembly**

**Rome, Italy, 22- 24 June 2015**



**Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations**

**REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE PLENARY ASSEMBLY  
OF THE GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP**

**Rome, 22 – 24 June 2015**

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS**  
**Rome, 2015**

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## Contents

OPENING OF THE SESSION .....	6
Item 2: Work of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel of Soils (ITPS).....	6
Item 3: Plans of Action for the GSP pillars (document GSPPA III/2015/3).....	9
Item 4: Concept note on sustainable management of soil resources (document GSPPA III/2015/4) .....	10
Item 5: Report on Regional Soil Partnerships .....	11
Item 6: Report on the financial status of GSP, including the Healthy Soils Facility .....	11
Item 7: Implementation of the International Year of Soils (document GSPPA III/2015/7) ....	12
Item 8: Implementation of the World Soil Day and its celebration in 2015 (document GSPPA III/2015/8) .....	13
Item 9: Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, and appointment of the Rapporteur for the next period .....	13
Item 10: Date and venue of the next plenary session .....	13
Item 11: Any other matters.....	13
ANNEX I.....	14
ANNEX II .....	19

## Opening of the Session

The third meeting of the Plenary Assembly (PA) of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) was held in Rome at FAO headquarters on 22-24 June 2015 (the list of participants is attached in Annex I).

The Assembly was chaired by Mr. Pavel Krasilnikov (Russian Federation) with Mr. Mubarak Abdalla (Sudan) acting as Vice-chair and Mr. Tarekegn Tsegie (Ethiopia) as Rapporteur.

Ms. Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General for Natural Resources, welcomed the participants on behalf of the FAO Director-General Jose Graziano da Silva. She highlighted in particular the hard work and commitment of the members of the Global Soil Partnership and the substantial achievements made in a short time span, culminating in the recent adoption by the 39<sup>th</sup> session of the FAO Conference of the updated World Soil Charter. She expressed her gratitude for all financial contributions made to the GSP, notably by the EU, Switzerland, Thailand, Russia, Germany, the International Fertilizer Association and the Institute for Advanced Social Studies, Germany.

The Assembly appreciated the keynote address delivered by H.E. the Vice Minister of Land of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Mr. Jhonny Cordero. The Vice Minister described the important progress made in his country in promoting sustainable soil management and raising awareness of the need to care for soils under the International Year of Soils (IYS).

Mr Eduardo Rojas, Assistant Director-General, FAO Forestry Department, presented the publication “*Understanding mountain soils*”, developed by the Mountain Partnership, the Global Soil Partnership and the University of Turin, building on contributions by several research organisations.

A short video was shown to commemorate the International Year of Soils, describing the efforts to scale up sustainable soil and catchment management by the FAO/GEF Transboundary agro-ecosystem management project for the Kagera river basin in East Africa.

The provisional agenda and timetable were adopted, as presented in document GSPPA III/2015/1.

## Item 2: Work of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel of Soils (ITPS)

### 2.1 Report by the chairperson on main activities and outcomes (document GSPPA III/2015/2 Add1)

In addition to the synthetic overview contained in the document, the Assembly welcomed the oral presentation outlining substantive achievements provided by the ITPS Chairperson, Dr. Luca Montanarella. The Assembly took note that the Panel held only one formal session during its second year of activity, in April 2015 in Berlin (partially funded by the Institute of Advanced Sustainability Studies) while continuing interactions among ITPS members took place, including the assignment of specific tasks to smaller groups.

The Assembly expressed special appreciation for the pioneering work carried out by the Panel linked to the issuance of the first edition of the flagship report “Status of the World’s Soil Resources” (SWSR), which involved voluntary contributions from more than 200 soil scientists worldwide. Some members commented on proposals from the ITPS Chairperson as well as on other aspects of the Panel functioning, including the possibility of extending the

term from 2 to 3 years, ensuring some degree of continuity in the Panel membership, improving gender balance and rotating the venue of meetings.

While recognizing the independent character of the work of the experts in the ITPS, members pointed that their work could benefit from a more regular dialogue with different sectors of academia, as well as governmental institutions and civil society. Members also noted that regular consultations between the panel experts, focal points and partners from the same region could be beneficial for all stakeholders.

The GSP Secretariat advised that the extension of members' term to three years would require a change to the rules of procedure by the Assembly and amendment of the GSP terms of reference for approval by FAO Council. On the other hand, if required, the Assembly could simply amend the rules of procedure by adding a clause for ensuring continuity in ITPS membership.

## **2.2 Interface with other pertinent bodies and initiatives** (document GSPPA III/2015/2 Add2)

The Assembly recalled that it had stressed at its previous session the importance of the ITPS actively engaging in cooperative links with other Panels or major international initiatives with interest in soils, as a key dimension of its mandate.

In this light, the Assembly welcomed the initial joint meeting between the ITPS and the UNCCD Science Policy Interface (SPI) which identified three major areas of common interest, i.e., (1) the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially target 15.3 related to Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD); (2) the need for indicators addressing soil and land issues in the context of the implementation of the 3 Rio conventions; and (3) soil organic carbon.

The representative of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) acknowledged this positive initial collaboration between the SPI and the ITPS, confirming that soils were of common interest to the 3 "Rio conventions" and the SDG agenda, while soil organic carbon was a key indicator for soil management, land and biodiversity conservation/restoration and climate dynamics.

The Assembly noted that the ITPS Chairperson was appointed as co-chair of the thematic assessment on land degradation and restoration undertaken by IPBES (Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) and that a first meeting between ITPS and IPBES, including Secretariats, was being planned.

In observing that links with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change were not yet formalized, the Assembly encouraged the ITPS to pursue contacts, in particular for discussions on soils and climate change in preparation for the COP-21 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change - UNFCCC (Paris, November 2015). Members signalled that work on soils and climate change could be promoted under other existing processes such as: the European rural network subgroup on innovation for agricultural productivity and sustainability; the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture and the Global Research Alliance on Mitigation of Greenhouse Gases (GHG).

The Assembly recognized that the build-up of cooperative links and eventual appointments of ITPS experts to contribute to assessments with long term implications militated for some continuity in ITPS membership. It requested the development to the extent possible of an operational workplan and budget covering joint work with other panels and initiatives, while

remaining reliant on voluntary contributions. The Assembly also recommended that ITPS members be more active at regional level.

### **2.3 Endorsement of the Status of the World's Soil Resources Report (SWSR) (document GSPPA III/2015/2 Add3)**

The Assembly noted that the SWSR, as the first comprehensive assessment of soil status and trends, was based on available data and information and had been structured in three parts: I - Global soil resources, II - Global soil change, and III- Regional assessments and identification of knowledge gaps requiring targeted research.

The Assembly was advised about the process of finalizing and making available electronically this major flagship report, as well as a 50-page Summary for Policy Makers. The 600-page report was prepared within a very tight timeframe by an editorial board, supported by the GSP Secretariat, with inputs from over 200 coordinating lead authors and contributing authors.

The Assembly addressed more particularly the Summary Report, provided specific comments and discussed the next steps for its finalisation. It was clarified that the whole process was of a voluntary nature to raise the profile of soils. In acknowledging the impressive work accomplished, the Assembly confirmed the pertinence of the initiative taken by the ITPS to lead a broad-based process for preparation of the first version of a state-of-art, global assessment specifically devoted to soils. The ITPS Chairperson and editorial board members stressed that accent had been placed on high quality, peer reviewed results and the identification of gaps in data, but acknowledged that it was not possible to involve experts and organizations more extensively and that consultations had been rushed because of the pressure to complete the first version during the IYS.

Bearing in mind that it was planned to update this type of assessment at periodic intervals, the Assembly recommended that clarification be made on need of endorsement, way of dissemination and use, and process for developing and peer reviewing such publications in the future, building on other relevant experiences (IPBES, marine assessment, etc).

It was noted that the frequency of such future reports would depend on the successful execution of the GSP Pillar 4 Implementation Plan, as reliable time series of soil data and information are clearly needed for updating the SWSR. The Assembly invited translation of the Summary Report into the official FAO languages and other languages, in particular Portuguese, for the benefit of lusophone countries, if resources could be found for this purpose.

The Assembly noted that the issue of transparency and country involvement in the collection of national soils data and information through national focal points was of utmost importance and should be addressed adequately. It also noted the need to mobilize funds for more thorough synthesis and reporting at national and regional levels.

In conclusion, the Assembly took note with appreciation of the SWSR as a unique store of information to serve as a basis for discussion and consultation, particularly for enhanced understanding of soil issues and scope for improvement measures. It could be used worldwide to stimulate partners to improve national monitoring on soil status and trends. It was agreed that Regional Soil Partnerships and individual countries should be empowered to conduct their own assessment and reporting in the future.

The Assembly agreed that its own endorsement of the full and summary reports was not required, and that the report would be a major technical output of the ITPS. However, the



Assembly recommended the preparation of a two-pages note on key messages of the SWSR. Partners were invited to provide comments on the report for consideration by the editorial board. The final version would be launched on the forthcoming World Soil Day, hence constituting a most fitting contribution to the celebration of the International Year of Soils, 2015.

#### **2.4 Appointment of members of the ITPS (document GSPPA III/2015/2 Add4)**

The Assembly recognized that it had not been possible to post on the GSP website well ahead of the meeting the planned document on this subject, in view of last minute discussions within the concerned regions. The Assembly was advised about the steps taken by the Secretariat to ensure due consultations with partners in order to present an agreed list, in line with the mandatory regional distribution and qualification criteria for the ITPS experts, as well as other requisites. Enquiries were made about gender balance (only four women out of 27 experts, i.e. three women less than the previous membership) and the extent of continuity (with 10 members proposed for another term on the Panel).

The Assembly endorsed the list of 27 experts (cf. Annex II) to serve on the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils for a two-year period. It asked the Secretariat to support further the work of the Panel, and facilitate the organization of meetings of the ITPS, as required.

### **Item 3: Plans of Action for the GSP pillars (document GSPPA III/2015/3)**

#### **3.1 Endorsement of the draft Plan of Action for Pillar 3**

The Assembly recalled that the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the GSP contemplated five “Pillars of Action”, while Rule VII of its Rules of Procedure (RoP) specified that corresponding Plans of Action (PoAs) should be developed following an inclusive and participatory process, and in accordance with agreed guidelines (cf. Annex 1 of the RoP). The Assembly also recalled that it was able to endorse four PoAs at its last session (July 2014), namely for Pillars 1, 2, 4 and 5, while the PoA for Pillar 3 remained to be considered.

Accordingly, the Assembly addressed the draft PoA for this Pillar, benefiting from a presentation by the Chairperson of the working group which had prepared it.

Overall, members noted that actions under Pillar 3 could help to inform target audiences about the economic benefits they can take from adopting sustainable soil management practices in their own field – and the economic costs they might face in the medium and long terms if nothing is done to change unsustainable practices.

Subject to the comments made at the present session and to be reflected by the same working group, the PA approved this last PoA which would – like for the other Pillars – be posted on the GSP website ([Plan of action for Pillar 3](#)) for wide diffusion of the agreed recommendations.

#### **3.2 Progress in the implementation of agreed Plans of action, including eventual consideration of detailed Implementation Plans**

The Assembly reiterated the importance of turning the approved PoAs into fully-fledged implementation plans as soon as possible. It called on all partners and the Secretariat to do their utmost in this regard, in accordance with the GSP Rules of Procedure. The Assembly

recalled the differences in scope among the PoAs, with those for Pillar 4 and 5 being essentially global in nature, while implementation under the other three Pillars was expected to be addressed primarily at regional and country levels.

The Assembly appreciated the efforts made by the Regional Soil Partnerships to formulate implementation plans of regional scope, based on the agreed PoAs (cf. further details under item 5 below).

The Assembly discussed progress under Pillar 4, based on the draft implementation plan as available at the present time. Many comments were made by partners, including on the need for the Implementation Plan to be fully consistent with the recommendations of the related PoA and its related timeframe, for close attention to be given to issues relating to the protection of privacy, intellectual property rights and terms of use consistency, and for the need for further consultation on the draft implementation plan before being finalized. In this regard, the Assembly noted that a workshop of the International Network of Soil Information Institutions would be held shortly in order to progress the finalization of the Implementation Plan.

Members from Lusophone countries highlighted the importance of translating the main GSP technical documents into other languages besides the six official UN languages, in order to improve knowledge about sustainable management of soils. It was recognized that these activities should only be carried out if resources are raised for this purpose.

The Assembly emphasized the imperative of pursuing vigorous resource mobilization efforts with potential resource partners, in order to support the implementation of all Plans of Action.

#### **Item 4: Concept note on sustainable management of soil resources (document GSPPA III/2015/4)**

The Assembly considered the draft concept note, as developed by the ITPS and presented by the Secretariat, in response to the request made by the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) at its 24th session (29 September-3 October 2014). It recognized that the intent was to prepare more detailed, essentially technical guidelines for the sustainable management of soil resources, designed for the use by a wide range of stakeholders in diverse contexts, thereby complementing and facilitating the implementation of the principles and guidelines for action contained in the updated World Soil Charter (WSC) just approved by the FAO Conference. The concept note therefore recommended the development of Voluntary guidelines for the sustainable management of soil resources. .

Although some concerns were expressed mainly on the calendar, the cost efficiency, and the structure suggested, members generally concurred with the importance of developing such guidelines, including the expectation that the outcome would constitute an action-oriented framework for backing up the promotion of sustainable soil management at all levels, supported by Regional Soil Partnerships. It underlined that the guidelines should not be seen as being of political nature but of technical scope, while the formulation process should be fully inclusive, allowing inputs from all GSP partners.

In conclusion, the Assembly welcomed the concept note related to the development of voluntary guidelines for the sustainable management of soil resources and supported the next steps in this regard. It tasked the Secretariat and ITPS to improve the concept note by incorporating the comments provided by partners, and to submit it for an e-mail consultation prior to its submission to the FAO Council (December 2015), as originally planned.

## **Item 5: Report on Regional Soil Partnerships**

### **5.1 Development of Regional Implementation Plans (RIPs) (document GSPPA III/2015/5)**

The Assembly reiterated the importance of an effective network of Regional Soil Partnerships (RSPs) in ensuring the full scale implementation of the GSP mandate. It appreciated the oral reports made by representatives of these RSPs on the current status in respective geographical areas, i.e., Africa; Asia; Near East and North Africa; Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean; Europe; the associated Eurasian Sub-regional Soil Partnership; South America; North America; and the Pacific.

The Assembly took note of the important role played by regional workshops being organized in the current year in order to consolidate RSPs, including establishing steering committees and working groups and initiating or pursuing the formulation of Regional Implementation Plans.

The Assembly recognized that the appointment of GSP focal points by many countries had been a significant step forward, as they were becoming key players in regional cooperation processes. It encouraged those countries which had not yet done so to give priority to nominating GSP focal points.

The Assembly was pleased to note that several RSPs had already viable RIPs, including confirmation of the main priorities identified in the region and concrete agenda for action in order to promote sustainable soil management and reverse soil degradation. The Assembly stressed that the next step was clearly to start execution of these RIPs but acknowledged that this would only be possible if sufficient resources (in-kind and financial) were made available.

In welcoming the progress made so far, the Assembly stressed again that further active dialogue among, and firm commitment from the concerned partners was required in order to consolidate (or establish formally, where still at a very initial stage) RSPs in all regions.

## **Item 6: Report on the financial status of GSP, including the Healthy Soils Facility**

### **6.1 Implication of resource limitations, including use of language in the GSP Plenary Assembly**

### **6.2 Periodicity of GSP Plenary Assemblies**

**(document GSPPA III/2015/6)**

The Secretariat recalled that the GSP Terms of Reference specified that FAO's contribution from its Regular Budget was essentially in terms of hosting the GSP Secretariat at its headquarters through limited provisions for staff expenditures. Therefore, it remained a challenge for the Secretariat to ensure the full use of FAO languages in sessions of the Plenary Assembly in line with the GSP Rules of Procedure.

Partners stressed the imperative of the PA to be able to operate in all six FAO languages, being a body of an intergovernmental nature. Moreover, this would clearly facilitate

widespread attendance and participation. Coverage with a more limited choice of languages, as was done for the first PA session and at the present one, was not considered an acceptable option.

In this light, the Assembly recognized that the references to resources in the Terms of Reference would need to be amended and invited the Secretariat to submit such changes to the appropriate organs forthwith.

As regards the possible change in periodicity for PA sessions, from annual to once in a biennium, as mentioned in the document, the Assembly considered that it was premature to do so, so soon after the inception of the GSP. This would be tantamount to undermining the momentum achieved so far in terms of concrete and valuable work for the sake of sustainable soil management.

In welcoming the efforts made so far to garner extra-budgetary resources in particular *via* the Healthy Soils Facility, the Assembly emphasized the requirement for substantial additional resources to be provided by partners for the implementation of concrete programmes and projects in support of the PoAs, especially at regional and national levels. Hence, the Assembly urged potential resource partners to make full use of the Healthy Soil Facility. It welcomed the announcements made by the EU and Russia regarding their intention to provide further contributions to the GSP.

The Assembly also reiterated the importance of in-kind contributions being provided by partners, as these were already playing a very useful role in the GSP work (for instance in the context of many ITPS activities or for training purposes).

The Assembly underlined the usefulness of formulating to the extent possible an operational workplan for the GSP, including eventual financial requirements from various sources.

### **Item 7: Implementation of the International Year of Soils (document GSPPA III/2015/7)**

In recalling that FAO was expected to play a key role in “facilitating the implementation of the IYS” in the framework of the GSP, the Assembly took note of progress so far in the celebration of the International Year of Soils. Many members highlighted a large number of specific activities performed at national level to this end. The Assembly also welcomed the recent appointment by FAO of two global Ambassadors for Soils, Prof. Claire Chenu from France and Prof. Tekalign Mamo from Ethiopia.

In addition, the Assembly commended the array of high quality media material prepared and disseminated for multiple IYS events with support from the GSP Secretariat. These included a website in all FAO languages, infographics, animations, videos, fact sheets, etc. well as associated training and advocacy activities.

Bearing in mind the unique opportunity provided by the IYS of raising awareness about soil issues and how to achieve sustainable soil management, the Assembly encouraged all GSP partners to continue to actively implement activities linked to IYS at all levels, and urged potential funding sources to provide further financial support. Partners were also reminded of the need to pursue beyond 2015 the acquired momentum in the fight against soil degradation and for sustainable soil management.

### **Item 8: Implementation of the World Soil Day and its celebration in 2015 (document GSPPA III/2015/8)**

The Assembly took note of the successful celebration of World Soil Day (WSD) in 2014. It also took stock of the plans made for WSD celebrations in various locations on (or around) 5 December 2015 and encouraged partners to plan for, and support further concrete WSD activities at both national and regional levels. In particular, the Assembly invited support by partners to the organisation of the planned high level event on 4 December 2015 at FAO headquarters in Rome, as well as satellite events in FAO regional and country offices.

The Assembly recognized that this high level event was most important as it would also formally mark the closure of the International Year of Soils, presenting the main outputs of the IYS as well as progress under the GSP in general. The representative of IAEA and the president of IUSS also advised about the joint organisation of an event on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

Having considered the justification for interlinking soils and pulses, in view of the 2016 Year of Pulses, the Assembly endorsed the proposed WSD theme for 2016: i.e. “*Soils and pulses: symbiosis for life*”.

### **Item 9: Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, and appointment of the Rapporteur for the next period**

In line with agreed arrangements, Mr Mahmoud Hasan Al-Fraihat from Jordan and Mr Victor Chude from Nigeria were subsequently nominated respectively as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, both to serve from the end of the present meeting until the next session. In addition, Mr Thomas Reinsch from United States, was subsequently nominated to act as Rapporteur for the next session in 2016.

### **Item 10: Date and venue of the next plenary session**

In addressing the proposed dates of 23 to 25 May 2016 for the next plenary session to be held at FAO headquarters in Rome, which took account of other events and provided sufficient time to report back to COAG, the Assembly endorsed the dates and venue for the next Assembly.

### **Item 11: Any other matters**

The Assembly enquired on progress regarding the proposed World Soil Prize. The Secretariat advised that the main concern was the budgetary implications. The Assembly welcomed the offer of the Russian Federation to provide support through its financial contribution to the GSP. The Assembly asked that the Secretariat prepare a concept note on the World Soil Prize, building on other experiences, such as the Stockholm Water Prize.

## ANNEX I

### List of Participants

#### FAO members

Country	Participants
Argentina	Montani Cazabat Nazareno
	Medina Carla Pascale
Australia	Worrell Matthew
	Navarrete Rosemary
	McKenzie Neil
	Grundy Mike
Austria	Feistritzer Natalie
Bangladesh	Moyeenuddin Khandker
Bolivia	Ayaviri Gomez Antolin
	Cordero Nuñez Jhonny
	Gazau Maria Eugenia
	Oller Catoira Roxana
Brazil	Da Rocha Maria Laura
	Lima Ferreira Roberta Maria
	Sa Ricarte Antonio Octavio
Burundi	Ndinduruvugo Jean-Bosco
Cabo Verde	Dos Santos Baptista Isaurinda
Canada	Robinson Eric
	Lee David
Chile	Casteneda Sepulveda
	Ruiz Cardenas German Amador
China	Ky Daguang
	Tian Jiani
	Xie Jianmin
Costa Rica	Aguilar Vega German Jose
	Ceciliano Piedra Luis Fernando
Cuba	Alvarez Rossell Silvia Maria
	Muñiz Ugarte Olegario Pablo
	Marin Llanes Luis Alberto

Cyprus	Ellinas Spyridon
	Poulides George F
Czech Republic	Vacha Radim
	Kozak Josef
Dominican Republic	Arvelo Mario
	Taveras Arbaje Rawell Salamon
	Vicioso Piumelli Julia
Egypt	Shalaby Ahmed
	Rafat Kamal Yacoub Elmot
Estonia	Tiidemann Siim
Ethiopia	Aseffa Abrena Ghebrai
	Haile Tarekegn Tsegie
European Union	Masson Josiane
	Montanarella Luca
	Olthof Willem
	Zerilli Eloise
France	Darmaun Maryline
	Sapijanskas Jurgis
	Rulliere Sandra
Georgia	Sanadze Ekaterine
Germany	Wriessnig Thomas
	Bollmann Joachim
	Thofern Heiner
	Tasdelen Alper
	Kosinowski Michael
	Horn Rainer
Ghana	Quaye Kumah
Greece	Andricopoulos Saronte
Guatemala	Wohlers de Meie Sylvia M.L.
Hungary	Kálmán Zoltán
Iran	Dehghan Shoar Majid
	Parastar Alireza
	Fereydoni Ali
	Mohajer Alireza

Iraq	Mustafa Hassan Aghadir
	Harfoush Manar
Italy	Altobelli Filiberto
	Benedetti Anna
	Di Stefano Damiano
	Mirebello Elisa
	Nicoli Silvia
	Lanzellotto Elisabetta
	Sacco Pierfrancesco
Jordan	Alferihat Mahmoud
Kenya	Sumba Muya Fabian
Lesotho	Rakootje Malikopo Patricia
Mali	Konipo Bah
Mexico	Jimenez Sauma Benito
Montenegro	Drljevic Aleksandar
	Pupovic Rahela
Nigeria	Chude Victor
Norway	Koldaas Anna Boye
Panama	Vega Gerardo
Philippines	Lazaro Lupino
Poland	Siebielec Grzegorz
Portugal	Pedigao Antonio
Russian Federation	Krasilnikov Pavel
	Antyukhin Kirill
	Konstantinopolskiy Ivan
San Marino	Rotondaro Daniela
	Suzzi Valli Alessandro
Slovakia	Okenkova Marieta
	Janova Vlasta
South Africa	Rempedi Moshibudi
	Wiese Liesl
Spain	Gutierrez Angela
Sudan	Malik Osman Malik Abla
Switzerland	Ulrich Andrea



	Havlicek Elena
	Blank Christina
Thailand	Wiangwang Narumon
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Panovka Elisaveta
Turkey	Sonmez Bulent
	Erdogen Hakki Emrah
	Dedeoglu Hilmi Ergin
United Republic of Tanzania	Mndeme Ayoub Jones
United States of America	D'Arcangelo Maria Adelaide
	Norris John
Venezuela	Alvarez Fermin Luis Alberto
	Claros Oviedo Manuel
	Urbaneja Duran Gladys Francisca
Zimbabwe	Chikwari Emmanuel
	Chivandre Placida Shuvai
	Magawenzi Godfrey

### Other partners

Name	Organization	Country
Gardi Ciro	European Food Safety Authority	Italy
Jacomini Carlo	ISPRA	Italy
Schuler Bruno	GIZ	Germany
Erik Karlton	Swedish University of Agrarian Sciences	Sweden
Schmidt Axel	Catholic Relief Services	Peru
Grandi Christina	IFOAM	Italy
Van den Bosch Hendrik	ISRIC	The Netherlands
Rice Charles	Soil Science Society of America	USA
Abdalla Mubarak Abdelrahman	University of Khartoum	Sudan
Nachtergaele Freddy		Belgium

**International Organizations**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Country</b>
Sven Walter	UNCCD	Germany
Lomena Gelis Monica	GM of UNCCD	Germany
Danano Daniel	FAOR	Egypt
Heng Lee Kheng	IAEA	Austria

## ANNEX II

### List of ITPS Members

- i. Africa
  - Mr. Nsalambi V. Nkongolo (Democratic Republic of Congo)
  - Mr. Bhanooduth Lalljee (Mauritius)
  - Mr. Martin Yemefack (Cameroon)
  - Ms. Isaurinda dos Santos Baptista Costa (Cape Verde)
  - Ms. Botle Mapeshoane (Lesotho)
- ii. Asia
  - Mr. Patiram Brajendra (India)
  - Mr. Sapon Chomchan (Thailand)
  - Mr. Kazuyuki Yagi (Japan)
  - Mr. Bahriuloom Amanullah (Pakistan)
  - Mr. Gan-Lin Zhang (China)
- iii. Europe
  - Mr. Luca Montanarella (Italy)
  - Mr. Gunay Erpul (Turkey)
  - Mr. Rainer Horn (Germany)
  - Mr. Peter de Ruitter (The Netherlands)
  - Mr. Pavel Krasilnikov (Russian Federation)
- iv. Latin America and the Caribbean
  - Mr. Juan Antonio Comerma (Venezuela)
  - Mr. Miguel Taboada (Argentina)
  - Ms. Maria de Lourdes Mendonca Santos Breffin (Brazil)
  - Mr. Fernando Garcia Préchach (Uruguay)
  - Ms. Oneyda Hernandez Lara (Cuba)
- v. Near East
  - Mr. Talal Darwish (Lebanon)
  - Mr. Ahmad S. Muhaimed (Iraq)
  - Mr. Saé̄b AbdelHaleem Khresat (Jordan)
- vi. North America
  - Mr. Dan Pennock (Canada)
  - Mr. Gary M. Pierzynsky (United States of America)
- vii. South West Pacific
  - Mr. Neil McKenzie (Australia)
  - Mr. Siosiua Halavatau (Tonga)