



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Laboratories in the Global Soil Laboratory Network

In November 2017, the Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN) was established under the framework of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) and its fifth Pillar of action on the harmonization of methods, measurements and indicators for the sustainable management and protection of soil resources. GLOSOLAN aims to strengthen the performance of laboratories towards the development of standards and to harmonize soil analysis procedures in order to make soil information across laboratories, countries and regions comparable and interpretable. By validating soil laboratory data, GLOSOLAN will ensure that soil management decisions are made using sound and reliable data. Monitoring and reporting activities will also benefit from this network, such as in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

All public and private laboratories are welcome to join GLOSOLAN and its Regional Soil Laboratory Networks (RESOLANs)., GSP focal points¹ are invited to identify a leading laboratory to serve as National Reference Laboratory to begin streamlining implementation of activities at the national level. The registration of National Reference Laboratories in GLOSOLAN is only permitted through the national focal points, which should email duly completed registration form available [here](#) to the GLOSOLAN Coordinator (lucrezia.caon@fao.org) and the GSP Secretariat (GSP-Secretariat@fao.org). All other interested laboratories can email the form to the GLOSOLAN Coordinator and the GSP Secretariat directly.

Suggested criteria for the selecting National Reference Laboratories:

- (i) contain qualified, trained, and experienced staff;
- (ii) contain appropriately calibrated and maintained equipment;
- (iii) regularly apply adequate quality assurance and quality control procedures;
- (iv) use appropriate (sub-)sampling practices;
- (v) contain sound testing and/or inspection procedures;
- (vi) accurately record and report obtained data;
- (vii) maintain an appropriate testing environment;
- (viii) apply standards for safety and disposal of hazardous wastes; and
- (ix) (if possible) be accredited or certified after ISO 17025.

¹ GSP national focal points are physical persons appointed by their government to represent their country at the GSP. The complete list of GSP focal point is available [here](#).

National Reference Laboratories are tasked to:

- Attend the meetings of GLOSOLAN and their RESOLAN² in order to contribute to regional and global decision making.

Representatives of National Reference Laboratories from eligible countries (maximum one representative per country) can count on the financial support of the GSP/FAO to attend RESOLAN meetings. However, the GSP/FAO encourages them to include their participation to these meetings in the budget plan of their laboratory/institution. This could ultimately allow laboratories to have more than one representative attending the meetings. Please note that due to available limited financial resources, the GSP/FAO cannot financially support the participation of laboratory managers from all countries in the world to the annual GLOSOLAN meetings. In this regard, only a few representatives from each region will receive the financial support of the GSP/FAO to attend the annual GLOSOLAN meetings. Beneficiaries will be selected based on their contribution to GLOSOLAN activities, gender and geographic balance;

- Attend regional and global trainings on the implementation of good laboratory practices and other GLOSOLAN/RESOLANs initiatives;
- Implement GLOSOLAN standards and decisions;
- Timely reply to GLOSOLAN emails, providing information such as the laboratory procedures they daily implement as needed;
- Promote GLOSOLAN, motivating other laboratories in their country and region to join the network;
- Lead the establishment of their National Soil Laboratory Network and the organization of national trainings and meetings at the purpose of transferring the knowledge and skills acquired in GLOSOLAN/RESOLANs to other laboratories;
- Report on their activities to their GSP national focal points and to the GLOSOLAN Coordinator as needed. Please note that National Reference Laboratories are asked to report on the activities they implement at the country level on an annual basis. In case National Reference Laboratories do not demonstrate willingness or try to down-scale the GLOSOLAN initiative, the GLOSOLAN Coordinator will invite the GSP national focal point to nominate another laboratory to serve as National Reference Laboratory. Activities by National Reference Laboratories will be evaluated against criteria such as the number of new laboratories registering in GLOSOLAN and the proven organization of national trainings, meetings or forum for discussion.

² [AFRILAB](#) for Africa, [LATSOLAN](#) for Latin America, [SEALNET](#) for Asia, [ASPAC](#) for the Pacific, [EUROSOLAN](#) for Europe and Eurasia, and [NENALAB](#) for the Near East and North Africa.

Laboratories spontaneously registering in GLOSOLAN are tasked to:

- Implement GLOSOLAN standards and decisions;
- Timely reply to GLOSOLAN emails, providing information such as the laboratory procedures they daily implement as needed;
- (If possible) Attend the meetings of GLOSOLAN and their RESOLAN³ in order to contribute to regional and global decision making.

All GLOSOLAN members are welcome to attend GLOSOLAN and RESOLANs meetings. However, the GSP/FAO cannot commit to financially support their participation due to available limited financial resources. Please note that, whenever additional budget is available, the GSP/FAO will financially support the participation of few representatives from spontaneously registered public laboratories that distinguished themselves for the great contribution they gave to the network.

- (If possible) Attend regional and global trainings on the implementation of good laboratory practices and other GLOSOLAN/RESOLANs initiatives;
- Get in touch with their National Reference Laboratory and support them on implementing the GLOSOLAN Initiative at the national level.

Please do not hesitate to contact the GLOSOLAN Coordinator (lucrezia.caon@fao.org) and the GSP Secretariat (GSP-Secretariat@fao.org) if you notice that no action on the establishment of your National Soil Laboratory Network is taken.

- Spread the voice on GLOSOLAN, motivating other laboratories in their country and region to join the network;

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