

May 2015



Global Soil Partnership Plenary Assembly



Third session

Rome, 22-24 June 2015

Implementation of the World Soil Day and its celebration in 2015

Executive Summary

- The GSP Plenary Assembly agreed to be the venue for the selection of themes of successive World Soil Day (WSD) celebrations, and more generally for keeping abreast of WSD-related developments. Accordingly, the Assembly endorsed WSD themes for 2014 and 2015: i.e. respectively “Soils, a foundation for family farming”, and “Soils, a solid ground for life”. It also endorsed the visual identity of WSD. The desirability of close coordination with the International Union of Soil Science (IUSS) was also underlined.
- The first official World Soil Day celebration occurred on the 5th of December 2014, with activities carried out in more than 80 countries. It was also the opportunity to launch the [International Year of Soils](#) with events organized by the Secretariat in Rome, New York, Bangkok and Santiago. Campaign materials suited to this type of event were developed and shared with various networks and social media. Countries were able to register national activities celebrating soils via a tracking tool developed by the Secretariat. Highly diverse groups from kindergarten and elementary school students to university graduates, museums and soil institutions - to name just a few - joined forces and organized memorable national WSD events. The [first World Soil Day photo gallery](#) was subsequently compiled.
- For WSD 2015, it is intended to organize a high level event on the 4th of December (as 5th is a Saturday) at FAO headquarters in Rome. This event will also formally mark the closure of the International Year of Soils. Hence, the opportunity will be used for presenting the main outputs of the IYS and the GSP in general (like the Status of the World’s Soil Resources report, subject to endorsement by the PA). Satellite events in all FAO regional offices will be simultaneously organized, as well as national events.
- The Plenary Assembly may also wish to endorse the following proposed theme for the WSD occurrence in 2016: “Soils and pulses: symbiosis for life”.

Suggested action by the GSP Plenary Assembly

- The Plenary Assembly may wish:
 - to take note of the successful first WSD celebration on 5th December 2014 and the programme foreseen for WSD 2015;
 - endorse the theme proposed for WSD 2016.

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