NENA lab network during 2022

Development, Assessment, Needs and the Way Forward

Chair of NENA lab network: Riham Zahalan
The third meeting of the Near East and North African Soil Laboratory Network (NENALAB) was held online on 12 and 13 October 2022. The meeting was attended by about one sixty-one laboratory staff members from seventeen NENA countries.

A fruitful discussion focused on the following topics:

- **National Soil Laboratory Networks (NASOLANs)** in NENA Countries.

6th Meeting of the **Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLA)**
Bridging the gap between soil laboratories and national governments

This point focused on how to support the soil laboratories by understanding the methods and forms of support they receive, whether governmental or private labs. The majority reported lack of support and the need to increase it, moreover the need to support the returns of lab technicians (training, financial, technical, etc.)

Harmonization of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

- NENA members are contributed in several working groups for the harmonization of new SOPs, such as soil bulk density Bd and soil Gravimmetrical Moisture and others.
- Some of the produced SOPs were translated into Arabic, yet we will try to focus more on the translation of the rest, in order to increase the positive impact on the NENA region.

Interpretation of laboratory results and provision of recommendations to farmers

- For ensuring a positive and deep impact of soil labs, result interpretation (importance and methods) were discussed with NENA members to highlight its role on helping farmers and stockholders working in agriculture and in direct contact with soil for the sustainable use.
NENALAB performance in the GLOSOLAN PT 2022

Figure 1 – Boxplots reporting the results collected from the NENALAB participants to the GLOSOLAN PT 2022 for soil organic matter by loss of ignition. Letters A-F correspond to the samples delivered to laboratories ordered from the lowest to the highest carbon content. Please note that the A-F order does not coincide with the order of samples’ labelling (GLO-1, GLO-2, etc.). The y-axis report carbon content (percentage).
1. Have you ever advertised GLOSOLAN and RESOLANs/NASOLANs at international meetings/conferences?

- Yes
- No, I had the opportunity to present about GLOSOLAN/RESOLAN/NASOLAN but I did not feel like doing it. I did not know if I was authorized to do it.
- No, I had the opportunity to present about GLOSOLAN/RESOLAN/NASOLAN but I did not feel like doing it. I was not sure about the relevance and added value of GLOSOLAN.
- No, I never had the opportunity.
Have you ever discussed GLOSOLAN and RESOLANs/NASOLANs in articles published on national and/or international journals?

- Yes
- No, but I am writing an article citing GLOSOLAN/RESOLAN/NASOLAN
- No, I did not know that I could talk about GLOSOLAN/RESOLANs/NASOLANs in scientific articles
- No, I do not publish on scientific journals
- Other
- Yes
Are technicians at your laboratory informed on GLOSOLAN activities?

Yes, laboratory technicians are informed about GLOSOLAN but we do not organize any internal, special meeting on it. Information are spread by voice or email.

Yes, we organize regular internal meetings on GLOSOLAN to inform technicians on the new publications of the network and its latest training and job opportunities.
participants elected their representatives for the period 2023-2025:

- Chair: Ms. Riham Zahalan (Syria)
- Vice-Chair for the Near East: Yara Khairallah (Lebanon)
- Vice-Chair for North Africa: Mr. Abdemjcid Zouahri (Morocco)
Thanks and looking for your support to achieve more in the future