Global Soil Partnership and its activity plan

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7th Meeting of the Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN)
Global Soil Partnership

• Established by FAO Council in 2012

• A mechanism to develop a strong partnership and enhance collaboration between all stakeholders

• With the common objective of improving soil governance and promoting sustainable soil management.

➢ 164 focal points appointed directly by FAO Members and over 500 partners worldwide
➢ 7 regional partnerships
➢ 4 sub-regional partnerships within Europe: Eurasia, Alpine, Pyrenean, Western Balkans
➢ 14 national soil partnerships (Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Italy, Mongolia, Malawi, Nicaragua, Philippines, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Thailand, and Ukraine)
1. Assess, map, and monitor soil health in a harmonized way

- International Network of Soil Information Institutions (INSII)
- GloSIS and SOILSTAT
- Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN)

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Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN)

Established in 2017 to build and strengthen the capacity of laboratories in soil analysis and to respond to the need for harmonizing soil analytical data.

- Almost 1 000 laboratories registered
- 6 Regional Soil Laboratory Networks established
- Establishment of National Soil Laboratory Networks ongoing

Main areas of work:
1. Standard Operating Procedures (5 SOPs in 2019, 10 SOPs in 2020, +13 SOPs to be harmonized in 2021)
2. Quality Assurance/Quality Control (2 regional proficiency tests in 2018, 2 global proficiency test in 2019 and 2021)
3. Capacity building: Training & Equipment (equipment to 18 labs)
4. Promotion of new technologies: soil spectroscopy
Global Soil Information System - GloSIS

- **DECENTRALISED** - Infrastructure bringing together soil information collected by (national) institutions in a decentralized way. GloSIS is to be a federation of soil information systems (System of Systems).
- **NATIONAL OWNERSHIP** - Source institutions retain their data and control access.
- **FAIR data** - Data sharing to be governed by own data policies. Make soil information findable, accessible, interoperable, reusable within country to inform local and national (policy) decisions
- **LIGHTWEIGHT & AFFORDABLE** - Implementation is lightweight, cheap to deploy, “simple”.
- **OPEN SOURCE** - Based on open-source software. No License fees, no recurring payments
- **COUNTRY DRIVEN** - Should empower countries (and other data providers) to develop their national soil information system as a center for national soil information.

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All GloSIS Data Products are; country-driven, continuous, participatory, progressive and iterative, multi-stakeholder oriented, and based on and guided by the best available science, rigorous collection and analysis of appropriate data, and consideration of experiences and good practices within, and outside, countries.
When adopting Sustainable Soil Management Practices, we provide multiple benefits including: reducing GHG emissions, maintaining and enhancing carbon sinks and building resilience.
Adoption of good practices by farmers for maintaining and enhancing SOC stocks and reducing GHG, and boosting soil health and co-benefits (ecosystem services).
3
Promote knowledge and literacy on soils

- Global Soil Doctors Programme
- EduSOILS
- Capacity building initiatives

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The Global Soil Doctors

A farmer-to-farmer training initiative to be implemented by local promoters, with the GSP support, on a volunteer basis

Champion farmers – the Soil Doctors - receive training on SSM practices and general soil knowledge and transmit this knowledge to other farmers in the community

The Soil Doctors are provided with a toolbox:
+ 5,000 experts trained on digital soil mapping and soil lab procedures
+ 1,000 farmers trained on SSM
4 Foster technical cooperation (including gender and youth)

- International Network of Black Soils (INBS)
- International Network on Salt-affected Soils (INSAS)
- International Network on Soil Biodiversity (NETSOB)
- International Network on Soil Pollution (INSOP)
- Other networks as needed
Technical Networks

• Promote the exchange of experiences, technologies and knowledge
• Develop knowledge products, technical guides, methodologies, etc.
• Address knowledge gaps and provide solutions targeted to global, regional and national problems.

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Regional Soil Partnerships: Actions

• Cooperation with the FAO regional offices
• Information about the regions, participation to the GSP activities
• Identification of the different actors at national and regional level
• Mobilization of resources to implement regionally relevant activities
• Organization of events on prioritized topics of regional interest
• Technical support (SDG reporting) and procurement facilitation

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5
Strengthen soil governance

- SoiLEX
- Rev-WSC
- VGSSM
- Fertilizer Code

SOIL GOVERNANCE

- Institutions
- Legislation
- Policies, strategies, plans, action
- Ownership: National government

- Investment
- Advocacy, awareness raising
- All stakeholders

Science

Information and monitoring system

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Soil Legislation

• To date there are **not even 30 countries** that have a specific soil law (state, local and regional laws referring to the protection and sustainable management of soils).

• **Only 17** countries have a **systematic national regulation** (harmonized national legislation tackling exclusively and comprehensively the soil and its protection).

• **not even 10 percent** of the 194 members countries of the FAO

SoiLex

SoiLEX is a global database that aims to facilitate access to information on existing legal instruments on soil protection and prevention of soil degradation. The platform was created in coordination with FAOILEX, which is to date one of the largest databases of legal frameworks and instruments related to natural resource management, food and agriculture.

7th Meeting of the Global SoiLEX
6
Promote awareness raising and advocacy on soil health

- World Soil Day
- Social Media & websites
- GSP Newsletter
- Thematic global soil symposia

*FAO, la mappatura dei nutrienti del suolo in America Centrale e nell'Africa sub-sahariana, per un uso più efficiente dei fertilizzanti*

Investing in smallholder farmers

FAO warns 90% of Earth's topsoil at risk by 2050

FAO to boost soil nutrient mapping

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Advocacy and awareness raising on the importance of soils are fundamental tools for consolidating soils in the global agenda.

The International Year of Soils and declaration of UN World Soil Day were a game changer.
1. Assess, map, and monitor soil health in a harmonized way
2. Foster technical cooperation
3. Manage sustainably and restore soils for the provision of ecosystem service
4. Promote knowledge and literacy on soils
5. Strengthen soil governance
6. Promote awareness raising and advocacy on soil health.