

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF the members of the International Network of Black Soils (INBS)

Any partner of the FAO Global Soil Partnership (GSP) * can become a member of the International Network of Black Soils (INBS). National soil institutions, academia, NGOs, civil society, farmers' associations, and other stakeholders interested in participating in joint action to achieve sustainable and productive management of black soils are welcome to join this network.

To join the network, the registration form available on the website of INBS must be filled in (<http://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/insas>).

The objectives of INBS are:

- To promote awareness among stakeholders on sustainable black soil management as a precondition for human well-being;
- To address critical black soil issues that are globally and national relevant for sustaining the provision of ecosystem services by soils;
- To support the acquisition of relevant black soil knowledge and the implementation of targeted research in accordance with national conditions and needs to address applied challenges on the ground;
- To promote links between existing multilateral initiatives and bodies to advance knowledge and scientific understanding of black soil issues, capture synergies, while taking into account the existing and ongoing work and efforts that are being undertaken at the multilateral level, and without duplicating or prejudging the work under the competent fora;
- To disseminate sustainable black soil management practices considering their potentials and limitations, while taking into account national condition and objectives;
- To promote access to black soil information and data and advocate the need for new soil surveys and data collection;
- To facilitate investment and technical cooperation (including technology transfer) in all matters related to sustainable management, protection and conservation of black soil to address fundamental issues in different regions;
- To strengthen capacity development of black soil institutions at local, national, regional, and global levels; and
- To promote the necessary public and government awareness of black soils through GSP awareness-raising activities, such as World Soil Day.

The INBS governance consists of a Chair and a Vice-Chair and a facilitator from the GSP secretariat, who coordinate the network, but decision-making is the responsibility of its member countries and partners. The member countries and partners are responsible for:

- contributing to addressing knowledge gaps on black soils at all levels.

- raising awareness on the importance of black soils to address food security, their potential as source and sink of atmospheric carbon, and the effects of black soil management on environmental and human health.
- participating in building reliable soil data and information and in decision making for the development of internationally accepted methodologies and indicators for the characterization and monitoring of black soils.
- sharing good management practices and techniques, improving and upscale the use of innovative technologies and participating in the joint design of nature-based solutions and other sustainable options for black soils.
- strengthening engagement and visibility, linking INBS to policy and policymakers, and opening opportunities for future collaborations with other members and initiatives.
- providing technical advice, training programmes, capacity building and educational materials, while contributing to the development of INBS publications according to areas of expertise.

The role of Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS) to INBS:

At least one member of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS) should be part of the INBS. The duties of the ITPS representative(s) to INBS are:

- i. To support the development and implementation of the INBS work plan;
- ii. to represent the ITPS at the annual INBS meetings;
- iii. To report to the ITPS on the INBS activity.

The documents produced by INBS that may have political implications or need a consensus between countries shall go through the procedure of approval by ITPS and presentation, discussion and endorsement by the GSP Plenary Assembly prior to publication.

The INBS governance (Chair, Vice-Chair, ITPS representatives) should ensure to the best of their ability that the INBS as a whole and its working groups have an appropriate geographical and gender balance. All INBS members receive regular updates on the work of the network.

***To become a partner of the Global Soil Partnership, please register through the form at:**
<http://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/partners/en/>