



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Experience from GLOSOLAN and articulation with INFA

Mr. Filippo Benedetti, GSP Secretariat

2nd meeting of the International Network on Fertilizer Analysis (INFA)
Virtual meeting | 29-30 June 2021 - 02:00 PM CEST





GLOSOLAN

GLOBAL SOIL LABORATORY NETWORK

Established in November 2017 to:

- Strengthen the performance of laboratories through the use of standardized methods and protocols
- Harmonize soil analysis methods so that soil information would be comparable and interpretable across laboratories, countries and regions

Soils: if you cannot measure it, you cannot manage it

<http://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/pillars-action/5-harmonization/glosolan/en/>

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Why GLOSOLAN?

Investing in more efficient labs and harmonized data has national, regional and global implications.

GLOSOLAN is an efficient and effective way to:

- Provide reliable evidence to support **better decision-making** at both field and policy levels;
- Support countries in reporting on progress made towards the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**;
- Contribute to the development of **international standards and indicators**;
- Contribute to the assessment, monitoring and sustainable management of soil and provide quality data to support the establishment of **National Soil Information Systems** that can feed into the Global Soil Information System (GLOSIS);
- **Assist companies** manufacturing laboratory equipment in improving their products;
- Identify **research gaps** and increase investments in research.

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Soils: if you cannot measure it, you cannot manage it.

GLOSOLAN value chain

Why soil analysis matters?



GLOSOLAN aims to harmonize soil analysis methods so that soil data is comparable and interpretable across soil laboratories in a country, between countries and regions, and globally.

2nd mee



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JOB NUMBER

For the harmonization of soil laboratory methods and data, and for building the capacity of laboratories in soil analysis.

Four major **areas of work**:



QA/QC

- Execution of external quality control (proficiency testing)
- Training on the execution of internal quality control

- Harmonization of Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs)
- Training on the implementation of GLOSOLAN SOPs
- Training on safety and health



SOPs



Equipment

- Training on equipment use, maintenance and purchasing
- Establishment of a donation/bartering system
- Spectroscopy



Fertilizers quality assessment

- Harmonization of fertilizers quality assessment procedures

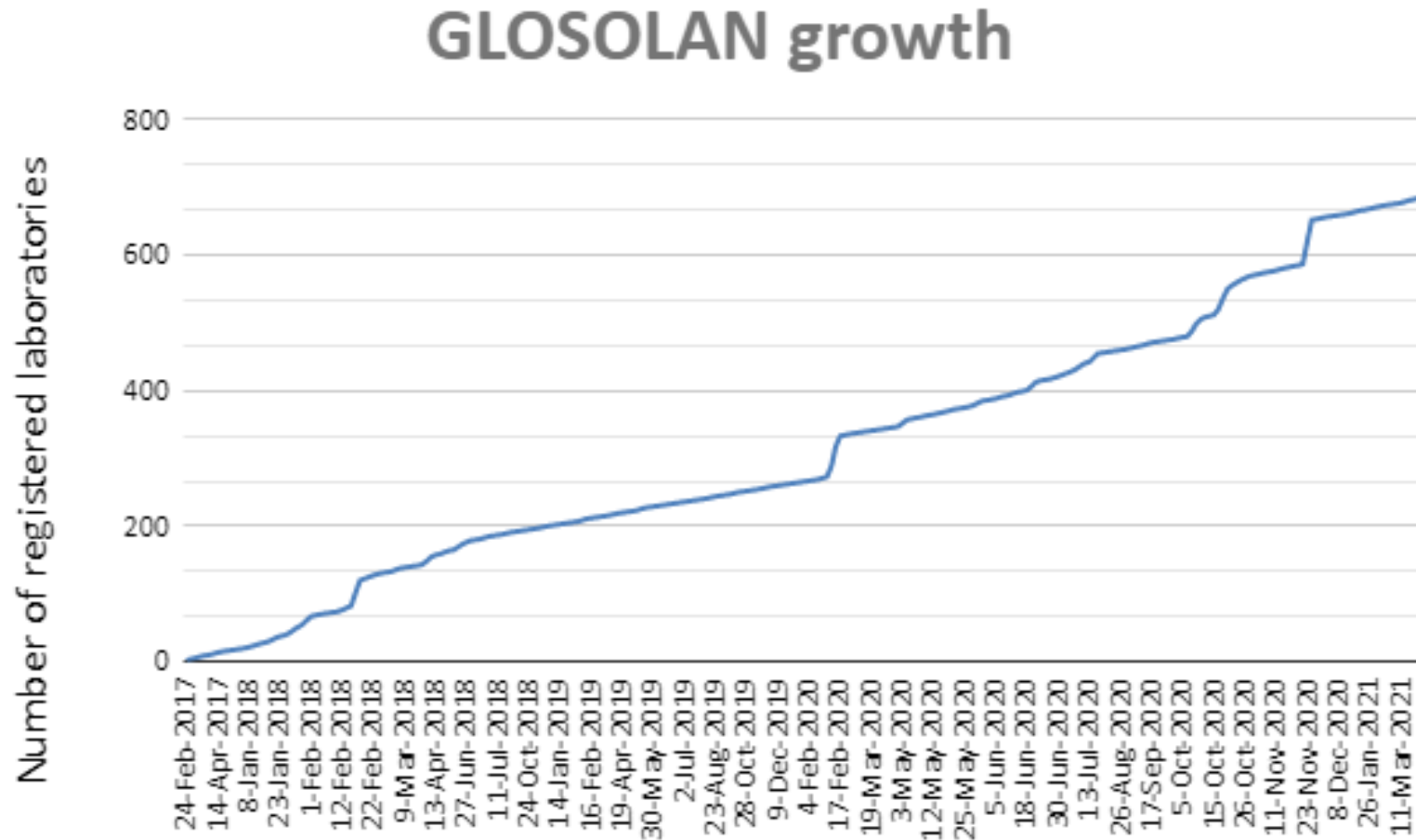
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GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP

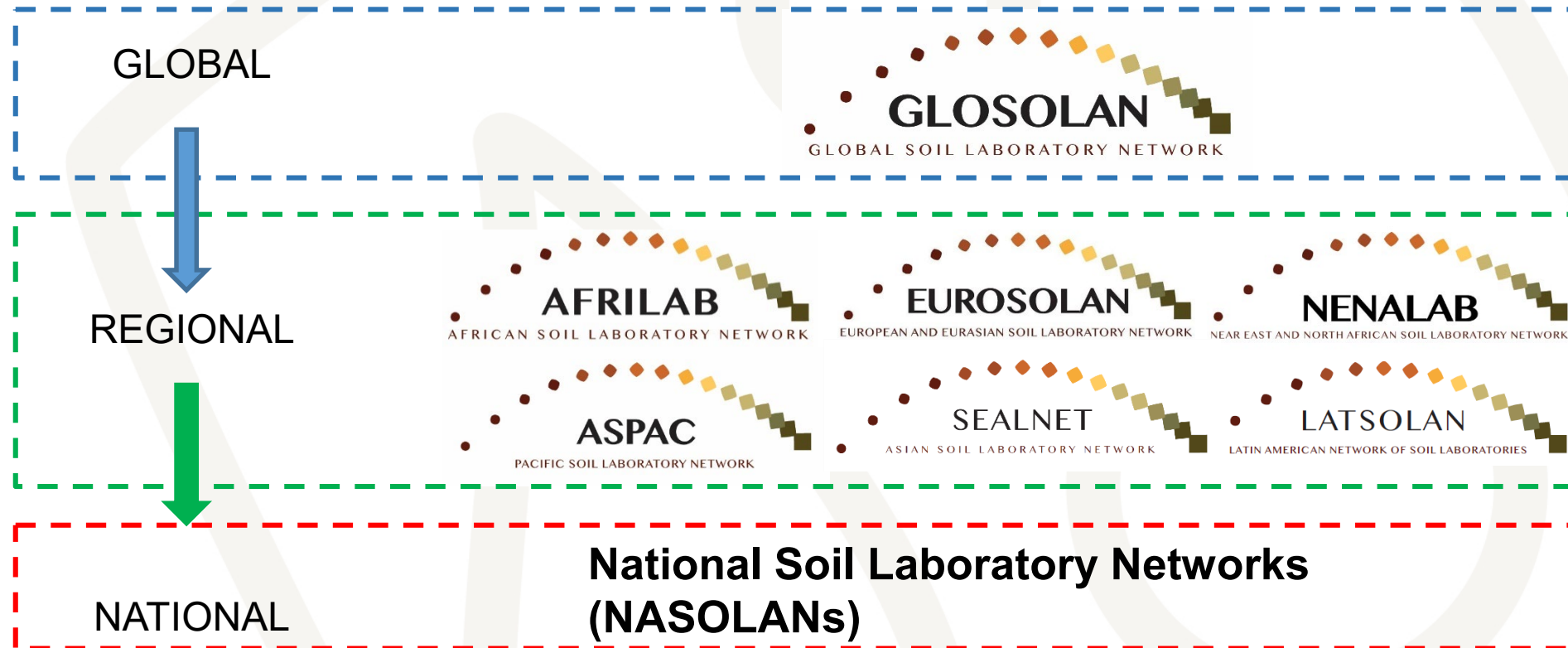
A network of almost 700 laboratories
from more than 150 countries



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How does GLOSOLAN work?



➔ *The national focal point to the Global Soil Partnership nominate a laboratory to serve as **National Reference Laboratory (NRL)**.
The NRL is tasked to establish the NASOLAN for its country.*

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Downscaling GLOSOLAN activities: the Regional Soil Laboratory Networks (RESOLANs)



Africa AFRILAB	Asia SEALNET	Europe & Eurasia EUROSOLAN	Latin America LATSOLAN	Near East & North Africa NENALAB	North America	Pacific ASPAC
133	105	132	163	67	7	77

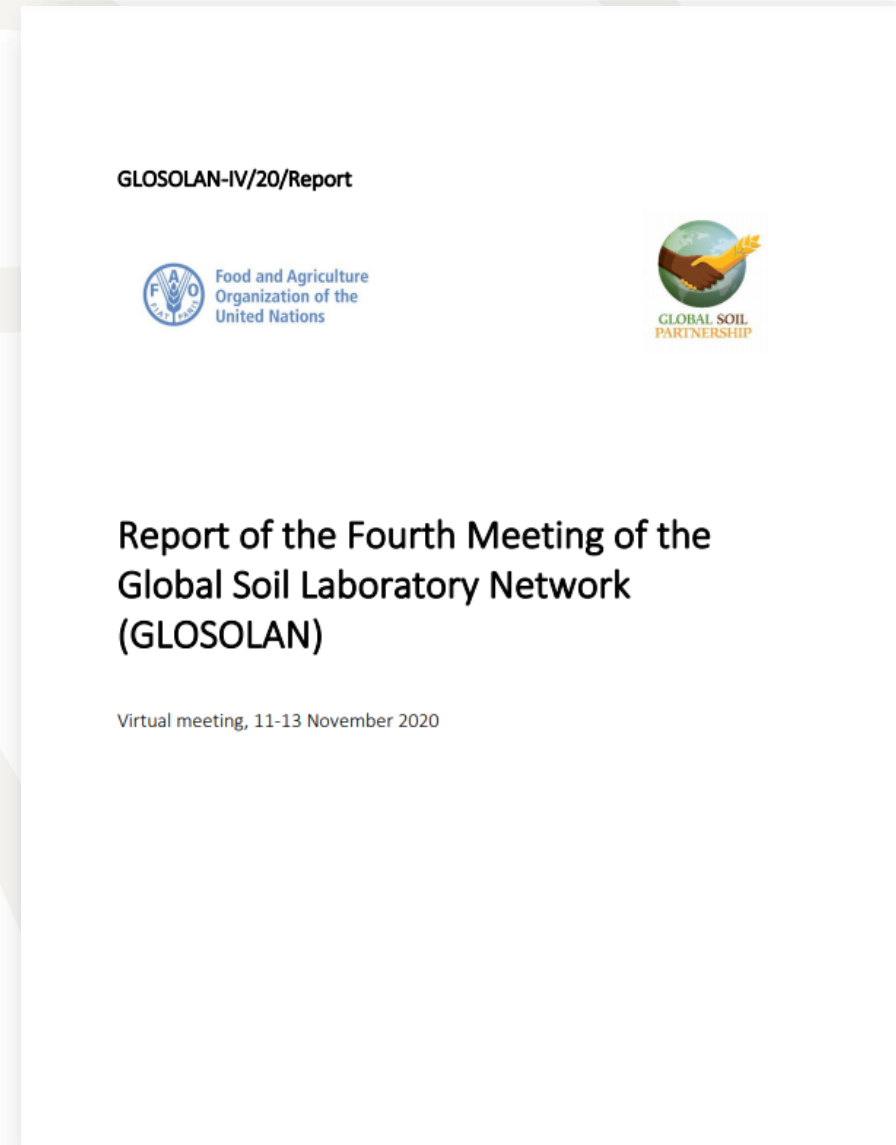
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Every year, the work plan of GLOSOLAN is decided at its **annual plenary meeting**

INFA presents its work plan

Reports available on the GLOSOLAN webpage
<http://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/glosolan/en/>



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INFA establishment within GLOSOLAN framework

December 2020

- Requests from GLOSOLAN members and partners for the harmonization of fertilizer analysis methods
- Implementation of the International Code of Conduct for the Sustainable Use and Management of Fertilizers



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A sub-network of more than 120 laboratories



Three types of registered members:

- Laboratories that have the official mandate of their government to do fertilizer analysis
- Laboratories that do fertilizer analysis on a voluntary basis
- Laboratories which do not perform fertilizer analysis yet, but are interested in the topic

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Follow GLOSOLAN principles:

- All INFA members **matter** and should be put in the conditions to play an active role in the network
- **Together** we are stronger: when possible, it is important to develop common strategies and work plans at different scales. This will make it easier to help each other
- Create a **tendency**: the main goal of INFA should be that of building the capacity of all its member laboratories



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Towards a larger network

Activities:

- Elect a governance
- Create working groups to:
 - Harmonize SOPs
 - Publish technical material
 - Organize trainings
- Establish regional and national networks on fertilizer analysis
 - develop a database reporting country- and region-regulations and quality criteria for fertilizers
- Strengthen the connection and cooperation with fertilizer industry and researchers

Approach:

- International
- Participative
- Bottom-up
- Downscaling/upscaling



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*Many thanks for your
kind attention*

For more information on
GLOSOLAN, you can contact me at
Filippo.Benedetti@fao.org

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