



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

SoilSTAT & GSP Action Framework *overview*

10th Meeting of the
International Network
of Soil Information
Institutions (INSII)

15-16-17 January 2025



Overview

- GSP Action Framework
- The ISAF Working Group
- Progress
- Overview of the Indicators
- Global Soil health Dashboard
- Reporting
- Next Steps

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The GSP Action Framework

adopted by the 10th GSP Plenary Assembly and endorsed by the 28th Session of the COAG (2022).

Implementation of the GSP Action Framework to be monitored by **SoilSTAT**, and it will be reporting on



1

GSP Key Performance Indicators

monitoring Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for soil-related activities and initiatives of the GSP

2

Soil Health Indicators

monitoring key soil health indicators at global scale

3

Soil Health Index & dashboard

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Indicator System for the GSP Action Framework (ISAF)– 2023



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Call for a Working Group to develop the Indicator System of the GSP Action Framework (ISAF)

Background

In May 2022, the 10th GSP Plenary Assembly (PA) adopted the new [GSP Action Framework 2022–2030](#) that was endorsed by the 28th Session of the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG). In this regard, “COAG encouraged FAO and all GSP members to implement the activities outlined therein, as well as tools and initiatives of the GSP including the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management, the International Code of Conduct for the Sustainable Use and Management of Fertilizers, among others, as appropriate”.

The overarching principle of the GSP Action Framework is that in a world in which soils are healthy and resilient, the provision of ecosystem functions and services by soils are sustained for all, leaving no one behind. The vision is that the GSP must work to improve and maintain the health of at least 50 percent of the world's soils by 2030. To further develop the GSP towards a flexible action-oriented approach and meet this objective, Pillars of Action have been replaced by Action Areas linked to concrete actions, initiatives, and programmes.

- Action Area 1: Manage sustainably and restore soils for the provision of ecosystem services
- Action Area 2: Strengthen soil governance
- Action Area 3: Promote knowledge and literacy on soils
- Action Area 4: Promote awareness raising and advocacy on soil health
- Action Area 5: Assess, map, and monitor soil health in a harmonized way
- Action Area 6: Foster technical cooperation (including gender and youth)

Another novelty of the GSP Action Framework is the inclusion of concrete and quantifiable targets to measure the impact of actions at the global, regional, national and local levels. In this regard, the GSP Action Framework is made up by clear actions and targets focused on addressing the different global challenges – from food insecurity, climate change, pollution, land degradation and the loss of biodiversity – through the improvement and enhancement of soil health. Key performance indicators (KPIs) are to be developed and agreed upon with GSP members and partners to allow monitoring of activities and progress towards these targets.

The Action Framework also proposes the development of a Global Soil Health Index (GSHI), as a composite index including the indicators endorsed in the Protocol for the assessment of sustainable soil management (SSM Protocol) to provide a proxy on the soil health status at global level.

- ✓ ITPS Chairperson (*Lead*) & ITPS Members
- ✓ Chairs of the Regional Soil Partnerships
- ✓ Chairs of the GSP Technical Networks
- ✓ Experts nominated by GSP National Focal Points
- ✓ Global Soil Partnership Secretariat (facilitator)



70+ Members; ISAF WG has convened over five meetings. The last meeting was held in May 2024.

Progress – The ISAF WG

1 ✓ GSP Key Performance Indicators

- **15 KPIs**
- **6 Domains** (SSM, Soil Governance, Knowledge and literacy, Awareness raising, Soil Information and Data, Technical Cooperation)

2 ✓ Soil Health Indicators

- **19 Soil Health Indicators**
- **11 Domains** (Soil Threats)

3 ✓ Global Soil Health Index & Dashboard

- No composite soil health index will be developed but degradation processes will be used as descriptors and proxies to soil health
- Similar to the European Soil Observatory (EUSO) Soil Health Dashboard, where multiple soil degradation processes are used to provide a comprehensive view of soil health

Global Soil Health Dashboard



Progress



Global Soil Partnership Action Framework 2030

SoilSTAT

Development and Integration of Key Performance Indicators for
the Global Soil Partnership,
the Soil Health Indicator System, and the
Global Soil Health Index (GSHI)

Technical Concept Note

ISAF Working Group

2024

10th Meeting of the International Network of Soil Inform

◆ Gemini



Summarise this document



This document describes the creation of a global indicator system for the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) New Action Framework, to monitor soil health and track progress towards the goals of the GSP Action Framework, which combats soil degradation and seeks to improve soil health globally.

- The **Global Soil Partnership Performance Indicator System (GPIS)** will measure the effectiveness and impact of the GSP's activities and programs.
- The **Soil Health Indicator System (SHIS)** will assess the health and quality of soils at various scales using indicators including the Global Soil Health Index (GSHI).

The document also provides:

- An overview of soil health and its importance.
- Details on the selection of soil health indicators and the calculation and spatialization of the GSHI.
- Reporting guidelines for performance indicators and a classification system for the GSHI.
- A description of the Global Soil Health Dashboard, which will provide a user-friendly interface for visualizing and exploring the GSHI and other relevant data.

✓ Sources (1)



PARTNERSHIP

SoilSTAT - GSP KPIs

Key performance Indicators for the GSP

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SSM

- **Adoption** rate of SSM Practices
- **Adoption** rate of SSM in national programmes
- **Proportion** of degraded soils under SSM measures



Governance

- Development of national and regional legal instruments focused on soil health
- Implementation of the Fertilizer Code
- Formalization of cooperation between the FAO/GSP and others



Knowledge

- Capacity development programmes/courses on SSM
- Global assessments reports on the state of world's soils and soil threats



Awareness

- Outreach of the World Soil Day
- International agreements, communiqués, strategies, or partnerships focused on soil health.



SID

- National Soil Information System Development
- Country Driven Global Datasets



Cooperation

- Representation status in the GSPs Technical Networks.
- National projects supported by the GSP on SSM



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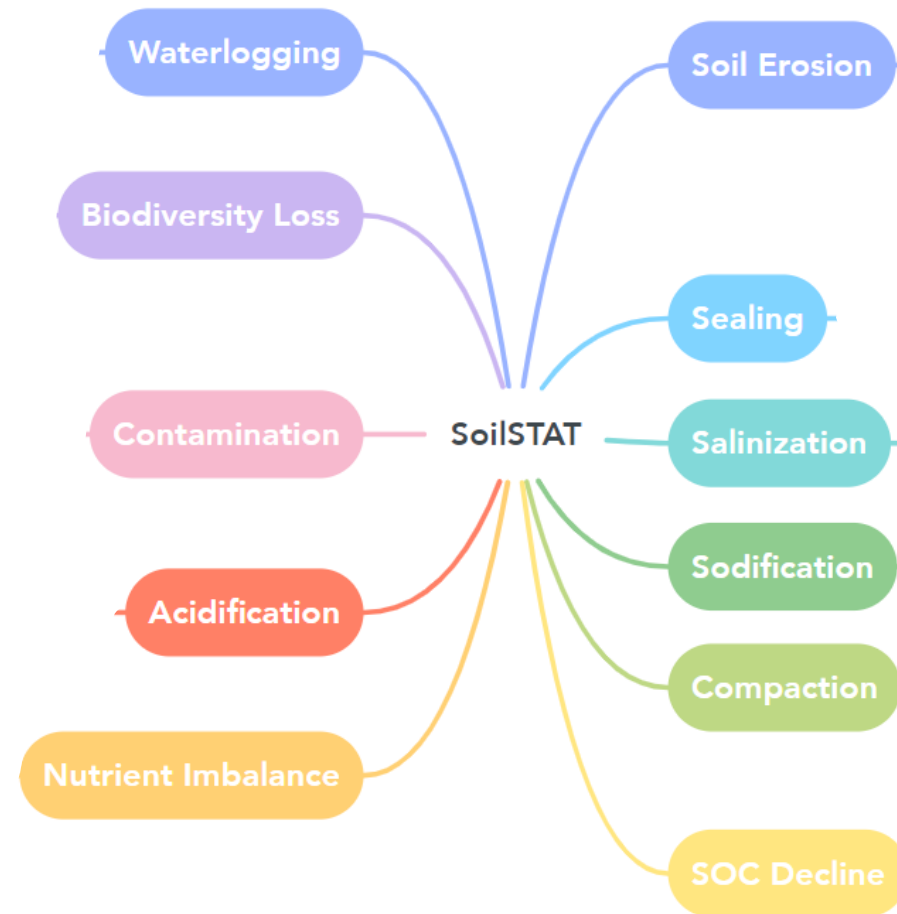
SoilSTAT - Soil Health

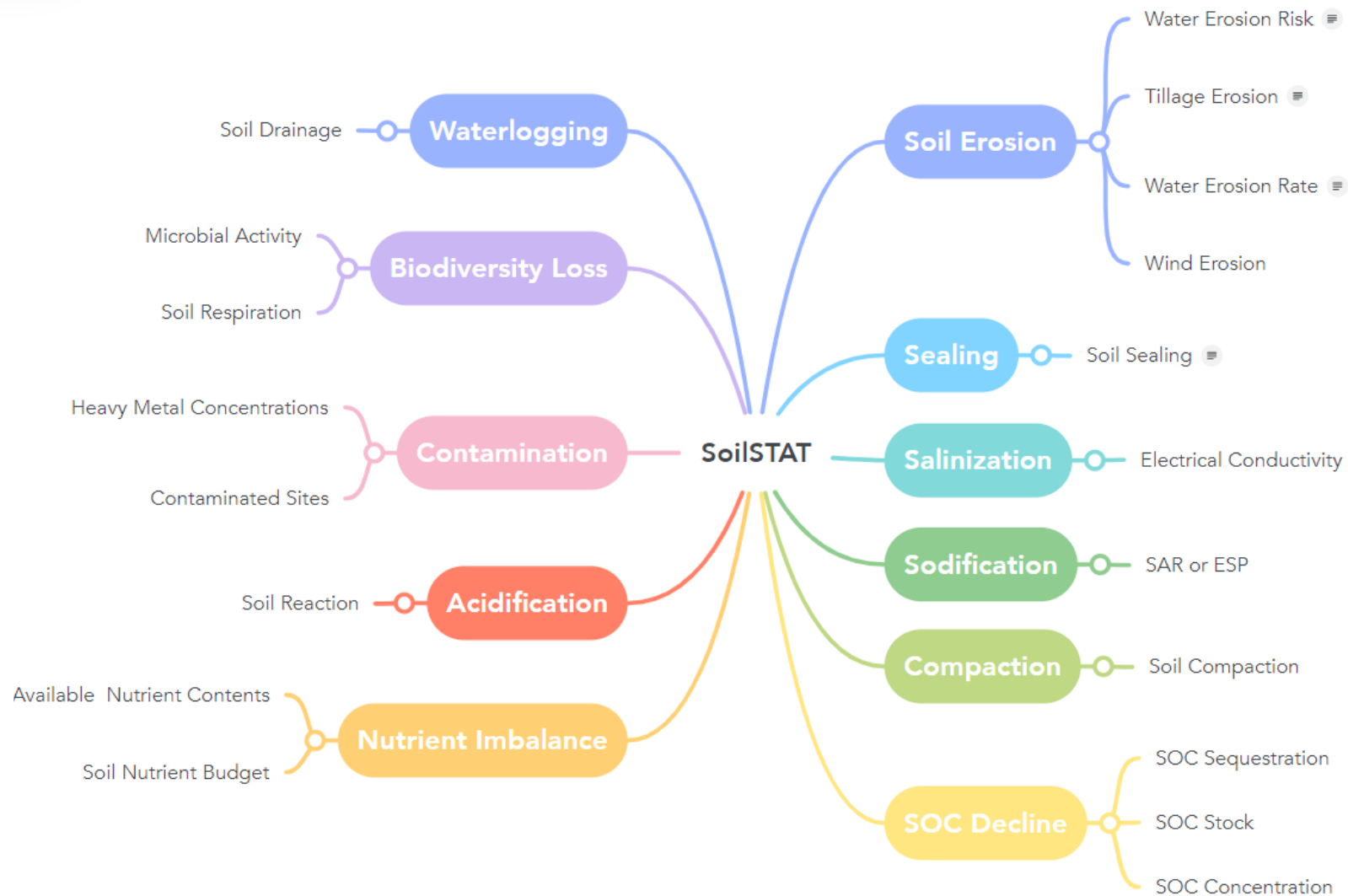
Soil Health Indicators

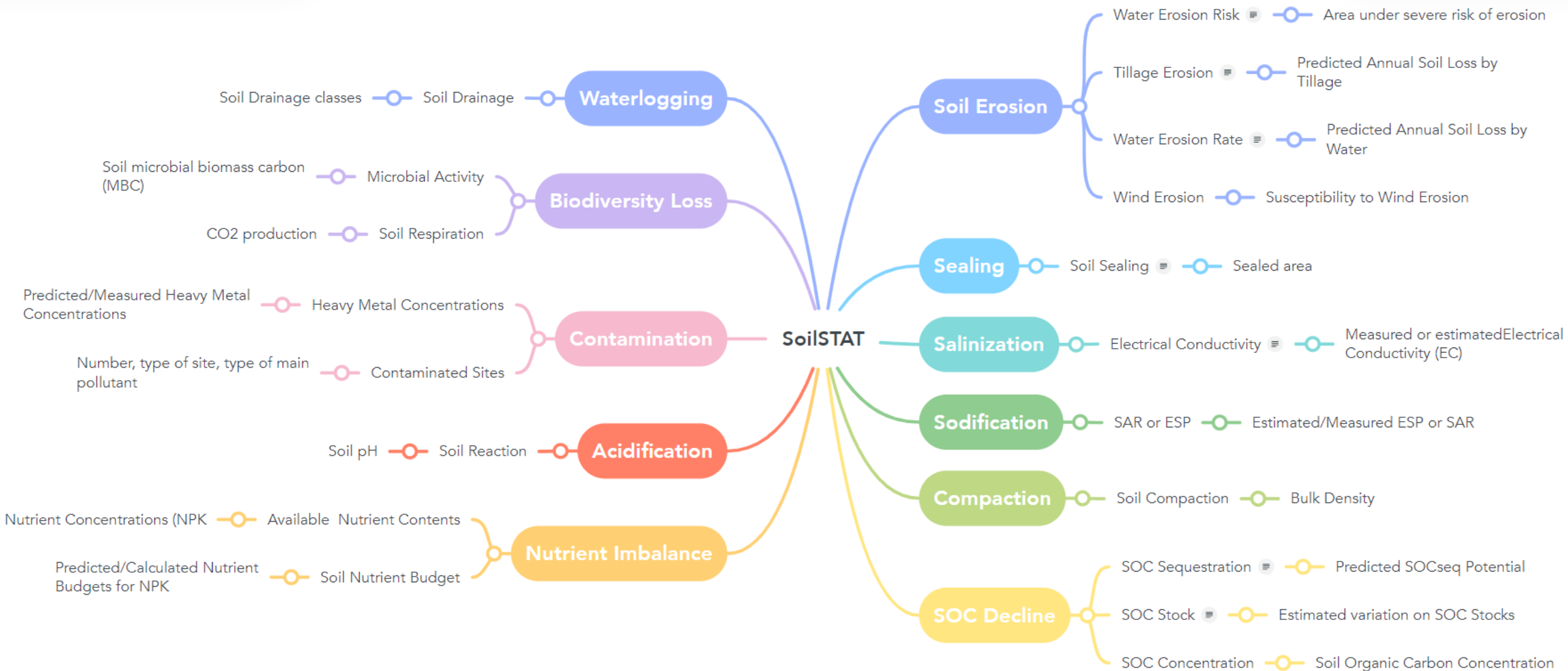
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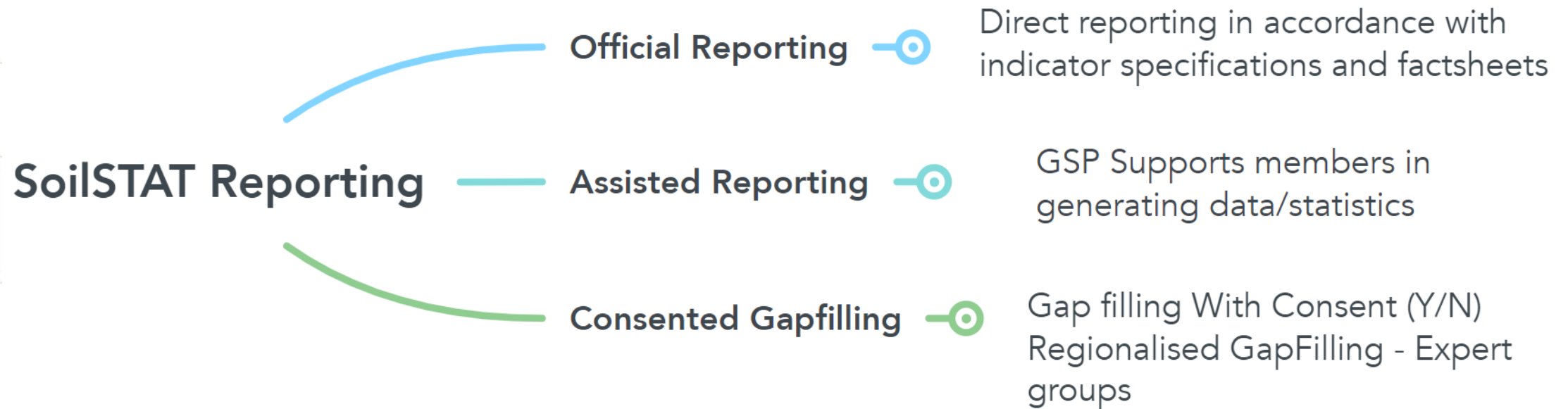
DOMAINS







REPORTING – Voluntary Process





12th GSP PA

Item 2. Status on the implementation of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) Action Framework (GSPPA: XII/2024/2)

Mr Yusuf Yigini (GSP Secretariat), presented the progress on the implementation of the GSP Action Framework, adopted by the 10th GSP Plenary Assembly and endorsed by the 28th Session of the

6

GSPPA-XII/2024/Report

Committee on Agriculture (COAG) to be monitored by SoilSTAT. He reported on the GSP Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), Soil Health Indicators and Soil Health Index and the dashboard being developed by the GSP Action Framework Indicator System (ISAF) working group. He explained that the working group has taken a pragmatic approach and decided to establish a Global Soil Health Indicator System based on degradation processes given the complexity of developing a single global soil health index that is relevant to all soil types under various land uses. This approach is similar to that adopted by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre and its European Soil Observatory (EUSO). To date, the ISAF working group has identified and agreed on 15 key performance indicators for GSP and 6 areas (sustainable soil management, soil governance, knowledge and literacy, awareness raising, soil information and data, and technical cooperation). Mr Yigini then explained the SoilSTAT reporting methodology, describing its functions and component elements. Mr Yigini invited members to formally endorse the final document that will be presented at the 13th Plenary Assembly. Presentation on item 2 is available [here](#).



The Plenary Assembly acknowledged the progress made in the definition of the indicator system of the GSP Action Framework 2022-2030 and the Global Soil Health Indicator System.

The Assembly urged the ISAF working group and the GSP Secretariat to finalize the indicator system of the GSP Action Framework 2022-2030 and the Global Soil Health Indicator System.

The Plenary Assembly requested that the proposal be first shared with the focal points for validation and presented to the 13th GSP Plenary Assembly for approval.

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Next Steps

BEFORE PA13

- ***ISAF to***
 - finalize the SoilSTAT Concept Note
 - Consult ITPS (21st Working Session) and INSII (10th Working Session)
- ***The PA will be requested to***
 - endorse the final document at its 13th Session

AFTER PA13

- ***INSII to***
 - establish a dedicated working group (SoilSTAT WG) and task with finalizing the development of technical elements, technical specifications, fact-sheets, and Implementation Framework for SoilSTAT.

Deliverables (development phase)

- SoilSTAT Implementation Plan
 - Governance
 - Timelines
 - Reporting Cycles
- Indicator Fact Sheets
 - Technical Specifications and Guidelines for individual indicators

Q/A/D

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