



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Agricultural practice and food quality Working Group scope

International Network on Soil Pollution (INSOP)

Channelling collective action towards Zero Pollution

The Network

The International Network on Soil Pollution (INSOP) has the overall aim of stopping soil pollution and achieve the global goal of zero pollution. To this end, INSOP works to improve knowledge on the full cycle of soil pollution, from assessment to remediation, as well as on the effect on environmental and human health and the provision of soil ecosystem functions and services. It also aims to strengthen technical capacities and legislative frameworks for the prevention of soil pollution, and promotes the exchange of experiences and technologies for the sustainable management and remediation of polluted soils.

The scope

The overall goal of the agricultural practice and food quality Working Group (WG) is the dissemination of knowledge of how different sources of pollution negatively effect on food quality and the environmental and human health impacts associated with food contamination coming from the soil.

Soil pollution possesses a risk to food security and its quality in two ways: reduced crop yields due to toxic levels of contaminants, and crops grown in polluted soils are unsafe for consumption by animals and humans.

Under this WG, INSOP will investigate how the quality of crops is changing in response to different pollutants. Together with the [International Network on Fertilizer Analysis](#) (INFA), the WG will work on raising awareness on the importance of environmental and health safety of mineral and organic fertilizers, and recycled nutrient sources and how their misuse, under and- overuse can affect crop quality. While the team of [Soil Doctors Programme](#) will help to carry out training awareness on the prevention and mitigation of soil pollution to farmer's community around the world.

Other tasks of interests and feasibility will be defined and agreed during the upcoming 'brainstorm' meeting which will be held in winter 2022.

Deliverables

- Sustainable food production and food security
- Safety of organic fertilizers
- Knowledge dissemination on food pollution
- Collaboration with the International Network on Fertilizer Analysis (INFA)
- Soil Doctors Programme and awareness raising on soil pollution
- Implementation of innovations



