



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Assessment 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 objective of the Assessment Working Group (WG) is to perform a global assessment of the status of soil pollution in combination with a review of the state-of-the-art scientific information. In the short-term, the group will raise awareness to stakeholders, public sector and government of the serious problem of soil pollution and its consequences for ecosystems, human health and well-being. This will be done through the training awareness on soil pollution, organization of the webinars and publication of the guidelines on soil pollution, its prevention and control.

In the medium/long term, the WG will work on compiling all existing threshold values for different contaminants. This work will also promote the inclusion of soil pollution metrics and indicators into conventional soil surveys, and the inclusion of data and information on soil pollution into national and global soil information systems.

A joint collaboration with the [Global Soil Laboratory Network](#) (GLOSOLAN) will focus on identifying the contaminants of concern for each region and on harmonizing laboratory methods (standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the measurement of soil contaminants and its reagents as well as awareness raising and training development on how correctly manage and dispose them after laboratory analyses.

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

Deliverables

- Technical Manual on assessing, mapping, monitoring and reporting of polluted soils
- SOPs for soil contaminants and reagents
- Strengthening technical and technological co-operation



