



Dear INSOP members,

This is your quarterly update from the International Network on Soil Pollution.



INSOP working group priority areas

Following the first INSOP meeting, which was held virtually on June 13-15, the Steering Committee has agreed to endorse priority activities for each working group (WG). You can find the priority activity leaflet attached to this email or on our website [here](#). We invite you to participate in the WG to help achieve the goals. Please indicate the area you are most interested in by submitting the following [form](#).

[Assessment WG technical meeting: November 15](#)

The Assessment WG meeting will take place on November 15. During this technical meeting, the members of INSOP and Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN) will come together to agree on the structure of standard operating procedures (SOPs) for measuring the residues of HHP in the soil, discuss and prioritize which HHPs to be harmonized first. At the end of the meeting, a group of volunteers willing to develop the SOP will be formed.

[Monitoring WG technical meeting: November 29](#)

The Monitoring WG meeting will take place on November 29. During this technical meeting, INSOP members will discuss and identify the necessary tools required to create national legal instruments for preventing, monitoring, and/or remediating soil pollution. At the end of the meeting, a group of experts will be formed to help INSOP analyze national soil legislation and identify minimum principles that are needed to address soil pollution with the support of the SoILEX platform.

[Remediation WG technical meeting: December 13](#)

The Remediation WG meeting will take place on December 13. During this meeting, members will be presented with a new INSOP checklist for soil remediation developed by the Steering Committee. The meeting will also cover survey questions that will be launched to identify successful case studies, as well as any barriers in using sustainable remediation technologies.

Food quality WG technical meeting: December 15

The Food Quality WG meeting will take place on December 19. During the meeting, INSOP members will be invited to participate in developing training modules related to soil pollution for the Global Soil Doctors Programme. These modules will be aimed at delivering knowledge to farmers' communities worldwide in preventing and minimizing soil pollution. The coordinator of the Global Soil Doctors Programme will explain the structure of the programme. At the end of the meeting, a group of experts will be formed who are willing to develop soil pollution modules and exercises for their implementation in the Global Soil Doctors Programme.

To register your interest, please submit the following [FORM](#).

Thank you in advance for your support.

Kind regards,

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The 6th International Conference on Soil Pollution and Remediation

<http://en.csss.org.cn/soilrem2023>

Date	Venue
6 Nov-8 Nov	Nanjing, China

Soil pollution is a widely-concerned environmental issue over the world. Much effort has been made on solutions to sustainable use and management of the polluted soil environment. The 6th International Conference on Soil Pollution and Remediation (SOILREM 2023) will provide an opportunity for industry, regulators, scientists, students, engineers, private and public sectors to present recent research findings and to exchange information on innovative developments relating to sustainable remediation of polluted soils, sediments, groundwater, and industrial sites.

Following the very successful previous conference held in Hangzhou (SOILREM 2000), Nanjing (SOILREM 2004 and 2008), Yantai (SOILREM 2012) and Hangzhou again (SOILREM 2016), SOILREM 2023 will be held from November 6-8, 2023 in Nanjing, China.

Conference topics cover important aspects of risk assessment, and fundamental research and innovative technologies for soil remediation, such as bioremediation, phytoextraction, and phytostabilisation. Target pollutants include inorganic pollutants, heavy metals, persistent organic pollutants, oils, petroleum hydrocarbons, etc.

The conference will feature a wide range of topics from mechanistic studies, technological development and validation on a site scale to full-scale green and sustainable remediation of polluted soil and underground water to improve ecosystem and human health.

Soil Monitoring and Resilience (Soil Monitoring Law) Directive proposal

https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13350-Soil-health-protecting-sustainably-managing-and-restoring-EU-soils_en

Date	Venue
3 November	Online

On 5 July 2023, the European Commission proposed a new [Soil Monitoring Law](#) to protect and restore soils and ensure that they are used sustainably. The European Commission has opened a public consultation on the Soil Monitoring Law to which everyone can submit feedback. The Public consultation is open until **3 November 2023**. Please send your feedback:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13350-Soil-health-protecting-sustainably-managing-and-restoring-EU-soils_en

Call for applicants for a Horizon Europe Framework Programme: Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors (HORIZON-CL6-2024-CIRCBIO-01)

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-cl6-2024-circbio-01-1>

Date	Venue
17 October- 22 February	Online

A research team from Ankara University, Çukurova University, and Alparslan Türkeş University, Türkiye, are currently conducting research on biodegradable materials that can replace traditional polyethylene (PE) mulch, which is extensively used in Turkish horticulture. The aim is to reduce the increasing microplastic flows to soil resources. The research group is now conducting a field experiment to compare the performance of various bio-based materials with PE mulch to determine their effectiveness in Mediterranean Türkiye and meanwhile has a **call for a project titled "Programmed biodegradation capability of bio-based materials and products, validated in specific environments" under the call "Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors (HORIZON-CL6-2024-CIRCBIO-01)" of Horizon Europe Framework Programme.**

The team is encouraging cooperation with researchers from the fields of soil science, soil chemistry, biochemistry, biodiversity, horticulture, greenhouse production, and material sciences to apply for a project and jointly collaborate towards achieving a free plastic environment. For more information, please feel free to contact

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E-learning courses on Pesticide Registration Toolkit

<https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=936>

The FAO [Plant Production and Protection Division](#) (NSP) and FAO e-learning academy, together with the European Union, the Swedish Chemicals Agency (KEMI) and the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), including WHO, UNDP, ILO, UNEP, UNITAR, OECD, UNIDO, World Bank and FAO are extremely pleased to announce the publication of the joint certified e-learning course: "Pesticide Registration Toolkit", available free of charge, as a global public good, through the FAO e-learning academy:

In this course, you will learn about:

- The use of pesticides in agriculture and public health, and the associated benefits and risks.
- The importance of pesticide registration.
- FAO's role in pesticide management.
- Contents and structure of the Pesticide Registration Toolkit.
- Pesticide registration strategies.

The course is available at: <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=936>