



Dear INSOP members,

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



INSOP webinar on pesticide pollution:

Date	Venue
26 June, 2025	Online

We are pleased to announce that the webinar, jointly organized with FAO's Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP) and Wageningen University (WUR) titled [Harmonizing action on pesticide residues in soils through tools, data and capacity building](#) will be held online on 26 June at 12:00 CEST.

The link to the registration can be found here:

https://fao.zoom.us/meeting/register/xl7c_7zhRW-AT91Ap6rbHw#/registration

The webinar will spotlight emerging data on pesticide residues in soils, including insights from Africa and lessons learned from the [EU SPRINT project](#). A key highlight of the event will be the launch of a harmonized standard operating procedure (SOP) for laboratory analysis of pesticide residues in soils developed by INSOP members.

Publication of soil letter on soil and groundwater

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/333656f2-5821-4b18-a650-cfd23b1fb968/content>

The INSOP Steering Committee, together with the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS) developed a soil letter titled [Soil pollution on the move – How leaching causes groundwater pollution](#).

The soil letter explores the link between soil and water pollution, emphasizing how contaminants can leach from soils into groundwater, threatening water resources, ecosystems, and food safety. It highlights the pathways, risks, and environmental impacts of this interconnected pollution, while

showcasing how different countries manage and monitor groundwater pollution caused by soil contaminants. The letter outlines practices and policy measures to safeguard both soil and water quality, contributing to sustainable land and water management within the One Health framework.

Publication of checklist for soil remediation

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/d137262b-2d73-4cac-9765-3de415b9d2e9>

The INSOP Steering Committee and network members from 19 countries were involved in the development and peer-review process of the checklist for the soil remediation document. The objective of this document is to guide individuals responsible for implementing soil remediation, as well as stakeholders interested in the success of remediation efforts. The document outlines the key action areas that must be addressed before remediation can begin. The target audience of this document includes environmental consultants, site managers, regulatory agencies, and project developers who are involved in or impacted by soil remediation activities. The document is now available on the Global Soil Partnership website and can be accessed [here](#).

Standard Operating Procedure for microplastic detection in soil

The INSOP, in partnership with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), is leading the development of a globally harmonized Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for detecting and quantifying microplastics (MPs) in soil. To date, 80 INSOP members have joined the Technical Working Group (TWG) which was held on June 10 to exchange expertise and agree on the structure of the SOP. The second TWG meeting is scheduled for July 17 and will take place online. During this session, experts will address procedures related to MP density separation, removal of organic matter, health and safety, and QA/QC aspects of the SOP.

If your organization is utilizing ATR-FTIR for microplastic analysis, you are welcome to join the TWG and contribute to developing the protocol for MPs detection and quantification.

Workshop on assessing and mitigating soil pollution in cocoa-growing plantations in Latin America and the Caribbean.

<https://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/resources/highlights/detail/en/c/1733638/>

On January 28, 2025, the INSOP, in collaboration with the University of the West Indies, the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries, and the Ministry of Planning and Development of Trinidad and Tobago, hosted a regional workshop for South America and the Caribbean, addressing one of the region's most pressing challenges on cadmium (Cd) pollution in cocoa-growing plantations.

The event brought together experts and stakeholders to exchange knowledge and practical solutions for sustainable soil management in cocoa systems.

Key achievements of the workshop included:

- Presentations of detailed site investigation results from Trinidad and Tobago and a watershed-level conceptual site model (CSM) from Bahia State, Brazil.
- Showcasing national projects tackling trace elements pollution in cocoa and chocolate products.
- Discussions on environmentally friendly, cost-effective technologies for reducing pollution risks in cocoa plantations.

- Raising awareness of the economic and health challenges linked to soil pollution in cocoa production.

This workshop not only advanced regional collaboration but also spotlighted innovative approaches for safeguarding soil health and protecting farmer livelihoods. The workshop report can be found on the Global Soil Partnership website [here](#).

Modules on soil and groundwater pollution

<https://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/insop/trainingonsoilpollution>

As part of the FAO programme “Restoring Livelihoods and Revitalizing Rural Communities Affected by Mines and Explosive Remnants of War,” the Global Soil Partnership is equipping academics, governments, NGO’s with the knowledge and tools needed for accurate soil pollution identification, risk mitigation, and the development of contaminant reduction strategies. These efforts aim to support a sustainable and resilient agricultural future for countries affected by mines and explosive remnants of war. In collaboration with the [Global Soil Laboratory Network \(GLOSOLAN\)](#) and the INSOP experts, the GSP has developed eighteen comprehensive theoretical modules to establish a strong foundation in soil pollution assessment protocols. All modules are now available on the Global Soil Partnership website and can be freely accessed [here](#).

Kind regards,

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Job announcement at FAO: Soil Analysis and Laboratory Specialist

https://jobs.fao.org/careersection/fao_external/jobdetail.ftl?job=2500609&tz=GMT%2B01%3A00&tzname=Europe%2FDublin

Date	Venue
26 June, 2025	Online

FAO's Land and Water Division (NSL) foresees a future whereby governments, development partners, civil society, academic institutions as well as the private sector and farmers, all work together to ensure that land, soil and water resources are wisely used, conserved and restored for sustainable and resilient agrifood systems that support food security, nutrition and human wellbeing. NSL provides policy guidance, technical and financial assistance to Member Nations in developing policies, programmes, best practices and management tools for ensuring productive and

efficient use of land, soil and water resources to meet present and future demands for agricultural products, while ensuring the long-term sustainability of these resources. It promotes equitable access to and sustainable management of these natural resources with a view to enhancing productivity, livelihoods, equity, health and ecosystem services.

The post is located in the Land and Water Division (NSL) at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy. The role focuses on supporting the implementation of the relevant activities within GLOSOLAN (Global Soil Laboratory Network) and SoilFER Projects.

Tasks and responsibilities

- Global Soil laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN) of the Global Soil partnership (GSP)
- Support the implementation of activities in the Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN) of the Global Soil Partnership
- Oversee the development of a technical guidelines for interpretation of analysed soil properties related to soil health and Sustainable Soil management (SSM)
- Oversee the organization of Eurasian Soil Laboratory Network meetings and training workshops
- Oversee the development of the GLOSOLAN Global Assessment Report 2024
- Support the implementation of relevant activities within the SoilFER Framework
- Oversee the processing of soil samples for wet chemistry analysis.
- Collaborate with project partners and laboratories to ensure accurate and timely soil analysis results.
- Develop and implement quality assurance and quality control measures for soil analysis processes, including the establishment of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
- Participate in capacity-building activities, such as workshops and trainings, to enhance national capacities in soil analysis and data management.
- Support the implementation of laboratory equipment procurement activities of the project.
- Support the establishment and improvement of national soil laboratories and laboratory information management systems (LIMS).
- Track progress and assess the quality of soil analysis and harmonization activities.
- Provide input to project monitoring and reporting frameworks to ensure the effective implementation of soil analysis and harmonization efforts.
- Contribute to regular progress reports on soil analysis and harmonization activities.
- Communicate project outcomes and lessons learned related to soil analysis and harmonization to relevant audiences.

Apply online before June 26.

Soil pollution in the Western Balkans

https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/public_path//shared_folder/doc_pub/EUR32028.pdf

The Joint Research Center (JRC) has released a report that delves into the state of soil pollution in the Western Balkans. Soil pollution in the Western Balkans is a significant challenge, hampered by inadequate legal frameworks, lack of comprehensive field data, and insufficient site investigations. This report aims to support the JRC's efforts to fill information gaps on soil pollution across the Western Balkans based on an extensive review of the current evidence base of the state of Western Balkans soils. The purpose is to identify the extent of pollution at country and regional level, but also highlighting policy areas of concern. Establishing robust monitoring networks with standardized data collection is crucial for understanding soil health

and developing effective remediation strategies. Harmonized soil monitoring and testing programs, aligned with the Green Deal and pan-EU soil initiatives, are essential for cross-border collaboration and policy implementation. This work is part of the JRC project “Environment and Climate in Enlargement” and contributes to the Western Balkans Agenda on Innovation, Research, Education, Culture, Youth, and Sports, particularly in developing a soil pollution database and supporting capacity building for the Green Agenda. This work underscores the urgent need for integrated soil protection policies to ensure healthy soils and sustainable land use in the Western Balkans.

You can access the full report [here](#).



RemTech Europe

<https://remtechexpo.com/remtech-europe/>

Date	Venue
15-19 September	Hybrid (online and Ferrara, Italy)

RemTech Europe, International Conference and Exhibition on land and water remediation markets and technologies, is scheduled for **15-19 September 2025**. The first two days of the conference 15-16 September will be fully digital, and broadcasted in streaming. The other three days 17-19 September will be hybrid so in presence but also broadcasted online.

The aim of the Conference is to share information on knowledge, innovation and case histories, to encourage the development of remediation processes and the application of new and sustainable technologies and bring together experts, problem owners and suppliers of available services and technologies. RemTech Europe also provides a platform for discussion between stakeholders. The agenda is rich and is designed to promote the sharing of knowledge and intercommunication between all relevant parties. It involves all leading European stakeholders but it is open to all other Continents. The conference is fully in English. The annual RemTech Europe conference takes a snapshot of the European market and the development trends.

One of the scope of RemTech Europe is to spread know-how and technologies worldwide and for this reason, the participation of any attendants is completely **FREE OF CHARGE**.

It is promoted by RemTech Expo, the most important Italian event on remediation technologies and European Commission’s Joint Research Centre (JRC) is part of the scientific committee.

Have a look to RemTech Europe Call for Abstract, deadline is 30th June 2025. To submit your abstract and participate to the official sessions of RemTech Expo, please download the the Call for Abstract 2025 ([LINK](#)) and the official TEMPLATE for submitting a short abstract ([LINK](#)) or an extended abstract ([LINK](#))

