



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

19th Working Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS)

13-15 November 2023
Online meeting

Outcome of the Global Symposium on Soil and Water (GSOWA23)

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL
TECHNICAL PANEL ON SOILS

Ms Janet Nabwami, GSP Secretariat



Objectives of the symposium



Review the relationship between soil and water in achieving sustainable and resilient agrifood systems.

Identify knowledge gaps and solutions for integrated management of soil and water resources in a changing environment.

Themes of the global symposium on soil and water



Theme 1 | **Soil and water management in rainfed agriculture**



Theme 3 | **Soil and water management under the One Health framework**



Theme 2 | **Soil and water management in irrigated agriculture**



Theme 4 | **Integrated soil and water management and effective governance**

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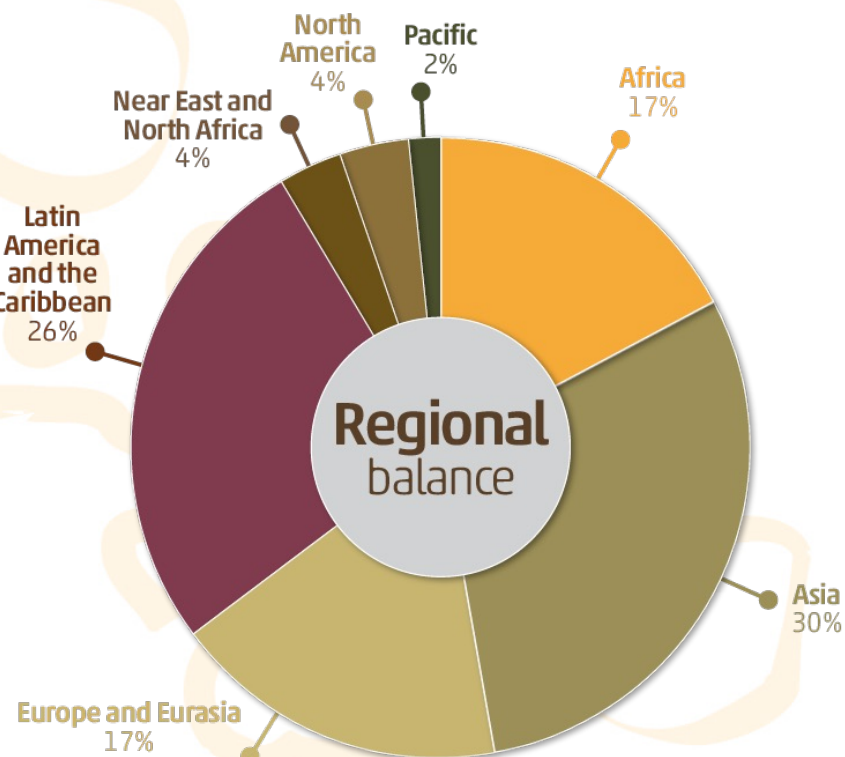
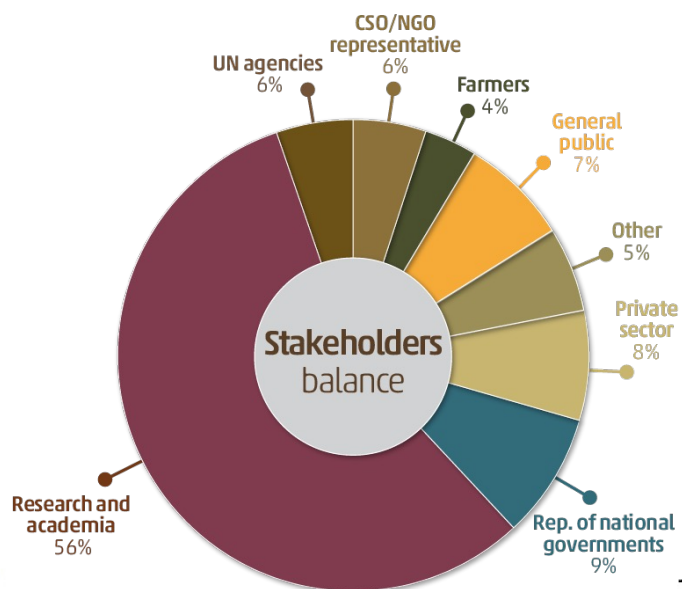
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Symposium attendance

4 210 registered participants
2 275 participants



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Opening of the symposium

5 distinguished guests



4 renowned keynote speakers


Key questions to be addressed

Theme 3 | Soil and water management under the One Health framework

- What are the links between soil and water quality in relation to soil biodiversity and agricultural practices?
- What is the role of soil in protecting groundwater and surface water quality?
- What is the status of water pollution and its effect on soil, environmental, and human health?

Theme 4 | Integrated soil and water management and effective governance

- What policies are relevant to improve soil and water management?
- How do soil and water management practices influence nutrient cycling?
- What gender-sensitive tools and methods exist in soil and water management?



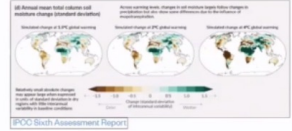
GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM on SOILS and WATER | 02-05 October, 2023 | itps

Soil moisture is an Essential Climate Variable

It influences hydrological cycle, partitioning precipitation into runoff and infiltration


It influences surface temperature

Soil moisture state is an important predictor of climate variations and its impacts (droughts, wildfires, ...)



IPCC Sixth Assessment Report

GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM on SOILS and WATER | 02-05 October, 2023 | itps



Soils: The Virtual SDG

Rabi H. Mohtar
Texas A&M University (TAMU)

Global Symposium
Soils and Water
02-05 October 2023
FAQ, Rome



Soil and water: a source of life

How to improve the water utilization efficiency of salt-affected soils?

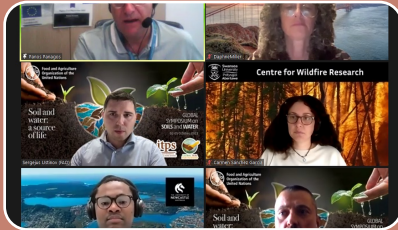
Shuwen Hu, Ph.D. Professor
China Agricultural University
shuwenhu@cau.edu.cn



Sessions of the symposium



4 dynamic and interactive panel discussions



20 technical presentations



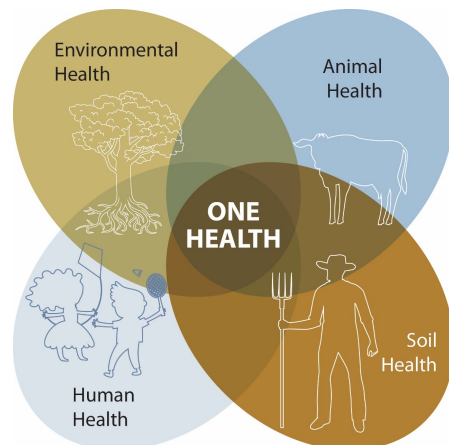
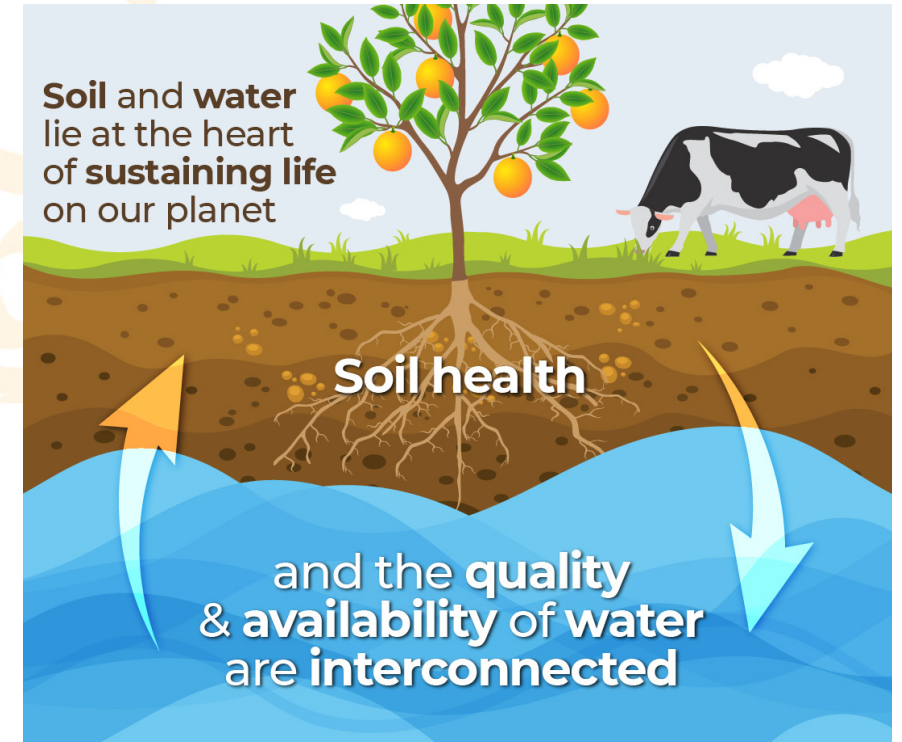
Artistic expo combining art and science



https://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/GSOWA23_presentations-recordings

Key findings and recommendations-I

1. Advocate and raise awareness on importance of soil and water, and their use efficiency
2. Adopt Integrated and sustainable soil and water management by everyone
3. Ensure good water quality by preventing pollution, erosion and salinity control
4. Plan irrigation that allows for the control of soil moisture

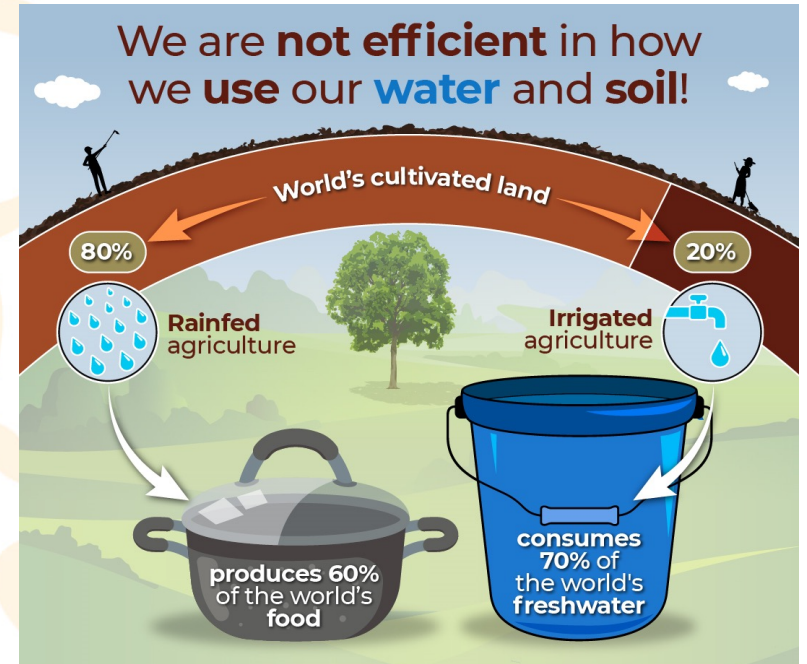


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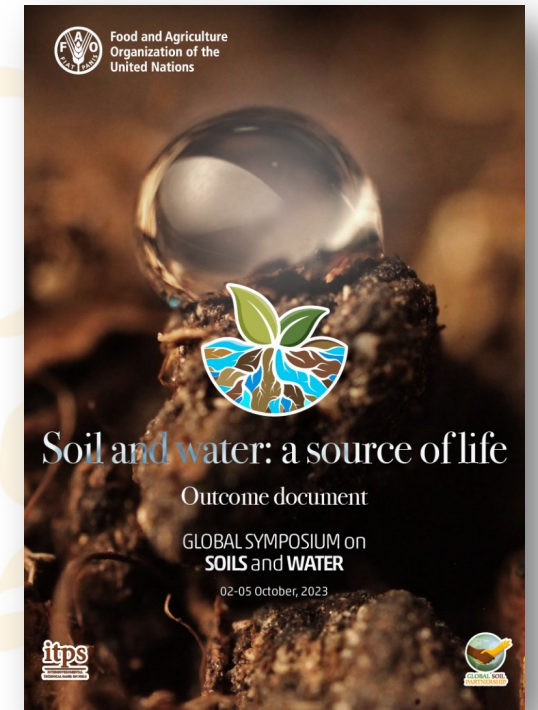
Key findings and recommendations -II

5. Use better cultivars and SSM practices to increase the productivity of green water per unit of land
6. Explore alternative water sources innovations and research to reduce over exploitation of existing resources
7. Include green water management in national water budgets
8. Improve governance with more coherent legal frameworks and institutions with transparent and inclusive decision-making



GSOWA23: GSP action agenda on integrated soil and water management

1. Training programme on soil moisture assessment and monitoring for GSP members in line with GloSIS;
2. Include soil moisture management within the Global Soil Doctors Programme;
3. Coordinate GSP technical networks actions to prevent soil degradation and water quality loss in agriculture;
4. Assist countries to develop and strengthen legal frameworks and institutions for integrated soil and water management;
5. Coordinate actions with other FAO tools, initiatives and projects to support integrated and sustainable soil and water management.



ITPS support

- Review the outcome document of the symposium.
- Develop a ITPS letter on soil moisture monitoring, including the importance of green water.
- Contribute to the development of tools and methodologies for soil moisture monitoring (collaboration with FAO-WaPOR tool, educational materials of the Global Soil Doctors programme).

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Thank you

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