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)

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.

GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM on SOILS and WATER
02-05 October, 2023
Soil and water: a source of life

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Themes of the global symposium on soil and water

Theme 1 | Soil and water management in rainfed agriculture

Theme 2 | Soil and water management in irrigated agriculture

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

Theme 4 | Integrated soil and water management and effective governance

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Symposium attendance

4,210 registered participants
2,275 participants
Opening of the symposium

5 distinguished guests

4 renowned keynote speakers

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Sessions of the symposium

- 4 dynamic and interactive panel discussions
- 20 technical presentations
- Artistic expo combining art and science


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Key findings and recommendations—1

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
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).
Thank you

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