GLOBAL SOIL MAPPING AND MONITORING AND THE GLOBAL SOIL HEALTH INDEX (GSHI)

Lunch Symposia

Tuesday 21 May 2024 | 13:00 - 14:00

PALAZZO DEI CONGRESSI - SALA ONICE

CONTEXT

Building upon the successful launch of four global soil property maps, including the Global Soil Organic Carbon Map, the Global Soil Organic Carbon Sequestration Potential Map, the Global Map of Salt-affected Soils and the Global Black Soil Distribution Map, FAO's Global Soil Partnership (GSP) has perfected its country-driven approach over the years.

This process focuses on leveraging, enhancing and promoting national expertise. Countries are supported in generating meaningful soil information, ensuring both the sovereignty of national data and the effective bridging of global data gaps. One hundred twenty-two countries form part of the GSP's International Network of Soil Information Institutions (INSII) and are involved over the entire workflow, from concept development to final endorsement of the global maps. With its global outreach, its direct work with governments and institutions, and its consideration of local expertise and needs, the GSP has proven proficient at overcoming soil data gaps and fragmentation in a uniquely participatory way.

To complement the mapping activities the GSP has been focusing its efforts on establishing monitoring and reporting mechanisms. In 2022, the GSP Action Framework was endorsed by the 10th GSP Plenary Assembly to address soil degradation and improve soil health. The GSP Action Framework delineates the partnership's goals and vision for 2022-2030. To achieve this, a comprehensive and robust indicator system is needed to monitor soil health and track progress towards the goals of the Action Framework. For this purpose, FAO's GSP is developing SoilSTAT and the Global Soil Health Index (GSHI). SoilSTAT will mirror FAOSTAT and represent the main entry point for the indicator system to monitor the GSHI.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the lunch symposia is to highlight the significant efforts of FAO's GSP in monitoring soil health as well as unlocking the potential of soil information and data. This includes showcasing the GSP's extensive work in country-driven global soil mapping and monitoring, which is crucial for understanding and managing soil resources effectively. Additionally, the event will feature FAO's GSP capacity development programme, focusing on enhancing soil information and data management capabilities. Furthermore, it will present an overview of the ongoing progress and the encountered challenges in the development of a comprehensive global soil health dashboard, a tool vital for assessing and improving soil health on a global scale.

AGENDA

- **Towards a Global Soil Health Dashboard: Lessons learned from the European Soil Observatory**
  Luca Montanarella (Chairperson, INSII) -10 minutes

- **Progress and challenges on the development of a Global Soil Health Index**
  Rosa Poch (Chairperson, ITPS) -10 minutes

- **FAO's GSP capacity development programme on soil information and data**
  Isabel Luotto (FAO's Global Soil Partnership) -10 minutes

- **FAO's GSP activities on soil data harmonization for global soil mapping and monitoring**
  Luis Rodriguez Lado (FAO's Global Soil Partnership) -10 minutes

- **Open Discussion**

The Global Soil Partnership (GSP) is a globally recognized mechanism established in 2012. Our mission is to position soils in the Global Agenda through collective action. Our key objectives are to promote Sustainable Soil Management (SSM) and improve soil governance to guarantee healthy and productive soils, and support the provision of essential ecosystem services towards food security and improved nutrition, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and sustainable development.

Land and Water division - Natural Resources and Sustainable Production
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