



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

6th African Soil Partnership plenary meeting

26-27 April 2022
VIRTUAL MEETING

**African Soil Partnership: A reflection
on its Accomplishments, Challenges
and the Way Forward**

By Prof Victor Chude, Chair AfSP



Summary of Achievements Trainings/Capacity Buildings

- Participation in the Regional virtual training organized in May 2020 for the region on the mapping of soil salinity for the upcoming Global Soil Salinity map.
 - 48 participants from 29 countries participated in the training.
- Training of national experts in **Module I and Module II: Global Soil Organic Carbon Sequestration (GSOCseq) Map**

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Summary of Achievements Meetings

- Participation in the Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and Ninth GSP Plenary Assembly meetings held from 2018 to 2021.
- Participation in the **3rd AfSP** meeting: June 2018
- Participation in the **4th AfSP** meeting: 29-30 September 2020
- Participation in the **5th AfSP** meeting: 6-7 July 2021
- Participation in the **Global Symposium on Salt-Affected Soils: 20-22 October 2021**
- Participation in the First, Second and Third **AFRILAB** Meetings.

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Summary of Achievements Events

- Various countries organized awareness raising activities as part of the celebrations for World Soil Day 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 under the various themes for each of the years. These ranged from workshops to specific events organized by FAO country offices and the national ministries of agriculture with support from national focal points on the need to protect, preserve and sustainably manage our soils.
- Participation in **Global Symposium on Soil Biodiversity (GSOBI21)** from 19-22 April
- Participation in the **Fertilizer survey: November 2021**
- Focal points from some countries contributed to the Global Assessment on Soil Biodiversity.

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Summary of Achievements

Events Cont'd

- Focal points from the region nominated national experts to take part in a consultation on the development of indicators for the assessment of sustainable soil management- an activity that resulted in the publication of the Protocol for the Assessment of Sustainable Soil Management.
- Response by some countries to the **Call for Experts on Mountain Soils** in 2021.
- The different countries of the regional partnership have been active in disseminating of some key GSP Publications such as the VGSSM, International Code of Conduct for the Sustainable Use and Management of Fertilizers, etc. Physical copies were sent to FAO country offices for dissemination as well.

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Summary of Achievements

Events Cont'd

- Nomination of New GSP Country Focal Points
 - Madame Hanitriniaina Razafindrahanta for Madagascar
 - Mr Victor H. Sumo (*OiC*) CARI for Liberia
 - Mr Sidi Ould Ely for Mauritania
 - Mr Mamadou Traore for Burkina Faso
 - Mr Edward Yeboah for Ghana
- Participation in the Open-Ended Working Group to prepare the GSP action Framework for 2022-2030.
- The AfSP has been promoting the programme “Afrisoils: Boosting soil productivity for a food and nutrition secure Africa” to potential donors. Unfortunately, no resources were mobilized as of now, and a restructuring of the initiative is to be done in order to better attract interested donors.

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Challenges

- **Financial resources**
- **Low commitment and support from different governments on the issues of soils and the GSP.**
- **Uncertainty of focal points/countries engagement on the different activities of the GSP for implementation.**
- **Infrastructure challenges especially with internet services (*which has made it difficult for some countries to participate in online meetings and trainings within this COVID era*)**
- **Some focal points lack the skills on how to engage with the FAO country offices and other organisations and institutions to collaborate for resource mobilization and implementation of activities. (capacity building needed).**

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Future Plans

- **Support implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on Sustainable Soil Management, the Fertiliser Code and Normative Tools produced by the GSP.**
- **Support implementation of the Soil Doctor programme at regional/national level.**
- **Improve the participation of focal points in GSP/AfSP activities through Working Groups for identified Areas of Work.**
- **Enhance participation of focal points in programmes and projects by connecting them to partners.**
- **Participation in other activities and trainings organised by the GSP/AfSP.**

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Thank you

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