



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



# Soils and pulses symbiosis for life

The United Nations General Assembly designated 5 December as World Soil Day (WSD) and proclaimed 2015 as the **International Year of Soils (IYS)** and 2016 as the **International Year of Pulses (IYP)**.

This year, World Soil Day 2016 fittingly merges the IYS 2015 and IYP 2016 with the theme "Soil & Pulses: a symbiosis for life". Under this theme, WSD 2016 highlights the multifaceted benefits of pulses not only for human health and nutrition, but also for their contribution to soil health and sustainable agriculture through the symbiotic relationship between soil and pulses. In celebration, a new book titled **Soils & Pulses: symbiosis for life** will be launched today. This 114-page publication illustrates the various ways in which the "strategic alliance" between soil and pulses contributes to forging more sustainable food and agriculture systems, presenting decision makers and practitioners with scientific facts and technical recommendations for managing this symbiosis. It ultimately explores how sustainable practices can be implemented in support of the effort to end hunger and malnutrition, adapt to climate change, halt soil degradation and achieve overall sustainable development.



Capitalizing on the awareness raising momentum created by the IYS 2015, the first ever **Glinka World Soil Prize** will be awarded today to the **Colombian Instituto Geografico Agustin Codazzi (IGAC)** in recognition of its leadership and activities contributing to the promotion of sustainable soil management. IGAC coordinates the Colombian Spatial Data Infrastructure, trains professionals

from across the globe in various soil modalities, and is rapidly modernizing geospatial technologies in Latin America. In only three years IGAC unveiled a study that sheds light on Colombian soils, their morphology and complex economic and social context. Overall, the Institute is compiling information that will change the way that governments and businesses work in relation to soil management in the decades ahead.

In keeping with the celebration of efforts contributing to **sustainable soil management**, we are pleased to mention the endorsement today of the **Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management** by FAO Council. These guidelines will further pave the way towards supporting governments and institutions in mainstreaming sustainable development and implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## Monday, 5 December 2016 World Soil Day 2016 and the International Year of Pulses end of year celebration

Sheikh Zayed Centre, FAO Headquarters, Rome

### 18:00 - 18:10

Opening by **Mr. José Graziano da Silva**, Director-General, FAO

### 18:10 - 18:40

Opening remarks "**Soils and pulses, a symbiosis for life**"

- **H.E. Tana Weskosith**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to Italy
- **HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn** (Videomessage)
- **H.E. Mr. Papa Seck**, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Senegal
- **H.E. Murat Salim Esenli**, Permanent Representative Designate of the Republic of Turkey, Co-chair of the International Year of Pulses Steering Committee
- **Prof. Rainer Horn**, President International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS)

### 18:40 - 18:45

Award of the first **Glinka World Soil Prize** to Instituto Geografico Agustin Codazzi by **Mr. José Graziano da Silva**, Director-General, FAO

### 18:45 - 19:00

Keynote address by **Dr. Juan Antonio Nieto Escalante**, Director Instituto Geografico Agustin Codazzi, First Laureate of the Glinka World Soil Prize

### 19:00 - 19:10

The IYP 2016 legacy – **Riccardo del Castello**, Focal Point International Year of Pulses Secretariat, Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development Division, FAO

### 19:10 - 19:25

Launch of the book "**Soils and pulses, a symbiosis for life**" by **Mr. Davide Bradanini**, Alternate Permanent Representative of Italy to FAO and **Mr. Eduardo Mansur**, Director Land and Water Division, FAO

### 19:30 - 20:30

Reception and soil and agriculture development exhibition offered by the Permanent Representation of Thailand to FAO (Atrium)

Moderator: **Kimberly Sullivan**,  
Office of Corporate Communication, FAO

