



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



5

DECEMBER

#Soils4Nutrition

**SOILS,  
WHERE FOOD  
BEGINS**

AGENDA





Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations



# World Soil Day celebration

*"Soils: Where food begins"*

**5 December 2022 (12:20 - 13:45 CET)**

**Hybrid format (Sheikh Zayed Center | FAO)**

Soils are essential for life on Earth but are threatened by multiple forms of degradation. **Nutrient imbalance** has been identified as one of the top ten threats to soil health worldwide, with negative environmental, social and economic effects. Humans, like plants and animals, need sufficient food to survive and 95% of the food we eat comes directly or indirectly from our soils. Hence food has to be safe and nutritious, so as to provide energy and basic nutrients and to prevent disease and the intake of harmful toxic substances.

The loss of soil fertility means that many cereals, vegetables and fruits are not as rich in vitamins and nutrients as they were 70 years ago. Currently, 2/3 of the world's population is at risk of **nutrient deficiency**. When crops are harvested, nutrients are removed from the soil. These nutrients can be replaced by the addition of inorganic or organic fertilizers, but an **underuse, misuse, or overuse of fertilizers** increases greenhouse gas emissions, degrades soil and water resources and induces potential harm to animals and humans.

The **World Soil Day 2022 (WSD)** and its campaign aim to raise awareness on the importance of maintaining healthy ecosystems and human well-being by addressing the key challenges related to soil fertility, soil health and nutrient imbalance. WSD is a unique platform that celebrates soils and engages citizens around the world to improve soil health.

During this celebration, the report on the **Global Status of Black Soils** and the **Soil Atlas of Asia** (a collaborative effort between FAO's GSP, the Joint Research Center and the Rural Development Administration of the Republic of Korea) will be presented. **Artistic performances and keynotes** will enliven the celebration and the winners of the **Glinka World Soil Prize and King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award** will also be announced.

**Interpretation will be available in the six official languages of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).**



12:20 – 12:25	Welcome and introduction by moderator: <b>Ms Maria Helena Semedo</b> , Deputy Director-General, FAO
12:25 – 12:35	<b>High level opening</b> <b>Dr QU Dongyu</b> , Director-General, FAO <b>H.E. Janusz Wojciechowski</b> , EU Commissioner for Agriculture
12:35 – 12:40	An artistic performance “Soils, Where food begins”
12:40 – 13:00	<b>Remarks</b> - <b>H.E. Victor Vasiliev</b> , Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to FAO - <b>H.E. Guang Defu</b> , Ambassador, Permanent Representative of China to FAO - <b>H.E. Lee Seong-ho</b> , Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to FAO
13:00 – 13:05	Delivery of the Glinka World Soil Prize 2022 by <b>Dr QU Dongyu</b> , Director-General FAO and by <b>H.E. Victor Vasiliev</b> , Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to FAO
13:05 – 13:15	Keynote presentation by the Laureate of the Glinka World Soil Prize 2022
13:15 – 13:20	Delivery of the King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award 2022, by <b>H.E. Ratchanok Sangpenchan</b> , Deputy Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Thailand to FAO
13:20 – 13:25	Announcement of the winners of the Contest for Children on Soils, <b>Ms Laura Bertha Reyes Sanchez</b> , President, International Union of Soil Sciences
13:25 – 13:35	Congratulatory remarks for the Soil Atlas of Asia, by <b>Mr Taek-Ryoun Kwon</b> , Director General, Rural Development Administration, Republic of Korea and by <b>Mr Arwyn Jones</b> , Joint Research Centre, European Commission
13:35 – 13:40	Launch of the Global Status of Black Soils report, <b>Mr Yuxin Tong</b> , FAO
13:40 – 13:45	Conclusions and closure of the event, <b>Mr Lifeng Li</b> , Director of the Land and Water Division, FAO

The **World Soil Day 2022** observance will close the celebration of the **10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Global Soil Partnership**.



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.



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