



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# Launch ceremony of the modernized **Williams Soil-Agronomic Museum**

at the Russian State Agrarian University  
Moscow Timiryazev Agricultural Academy

20 May 2021



# The role of the Global Soil Partnership in soil awareness raising

Ronald Vargas, GSP Secretary, FAO Land and Water officer

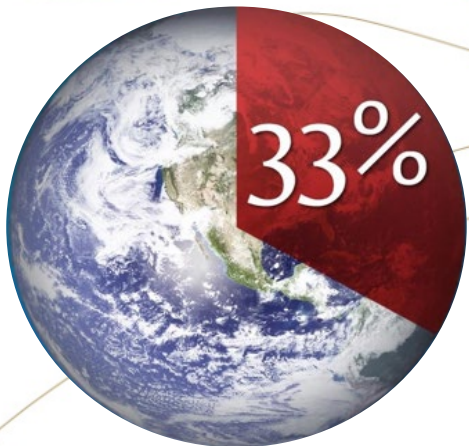
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## Before 2012...

Soil was **absent from Global Agenda**

- ✓ A **void in soil governance** at global level
- ✓ **Soil degradation**, a continuous serious threat
- ✓ **Outdated soil information** at global and regional levels
- ✓ **Poor knowledge** and **appreciation** of soil functions for life
- ✓ Soil **investment** far too **low**
- ✓ **Weakening** of national soil **institutions**
- ✓ **Gap** on targeted **soil research**



## After 2012...

Soil is **up and high** on the Global Agenda

- ✓ The **Global Soil Partnership (GSP)** is a globally recognized mechanism established in 2012:
  - To **strengthen cooperation** and interaction;
  - To **promote Sustainable Soil Management**
  - To **improve soil governance** in order to guarantee healthy and productive soils, that can support the provision of essential ecosystem services.
- ✓ The GSP is an **open, interactive, responsive** and **voluntary partnership** which includes FAO Member countries and GSP partners.



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# IYS objectives

- **OBJECTIVE 1: AWARENESS RAISING**

- Communication material and translations also in non-FAO languages
- 40 Videos, 60 Highlights and 25 Blogs
- 150 Articles in the international press
- 600 events in 70 countries

- **OBJECTIVE 2: PROMOTION OF EFFECTIVE POLICIES AND ACTIONS**

- Key publications: Status of World Soil Resources; Revised World Soil Charter
- New policy developments: Turkey, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Sudan, Colombia, Bolivia, Mexico

- **OBJECTIVE 3: CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND SYSTEM FOR SOIL INFORMATION COLLECTION AND MONITORING**

- Programmes in all regions

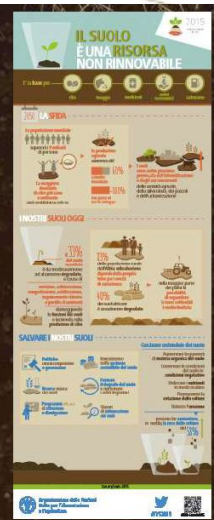
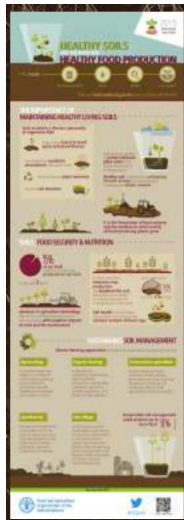
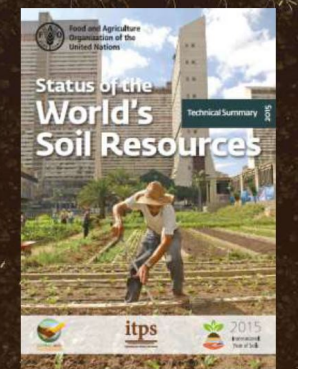
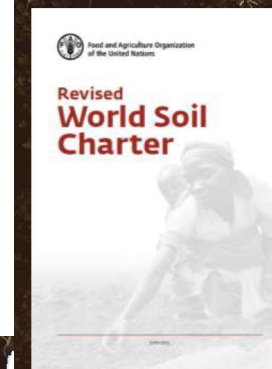
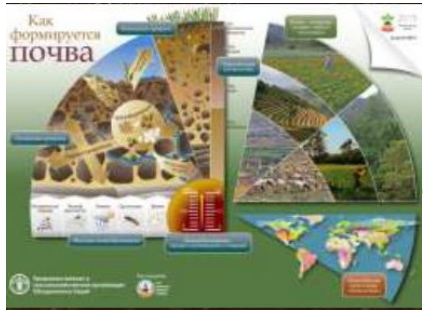
- **OBJECTIVE 4: SOIL IN THE SDGs**

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# IYS results

✓ COMMUNICATION MATERIALS, KEY PUBLICATIONS, BLOGS, MULTIMEDIA



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# WSD results over the years



**More & More chemicals every day**

Thousands of chemicals are now part of our lives, with about 1000 new chemicals being introduced each year. However, little information is available on how these chemicals interact with each other and the impacts they may have on the environment or on us in our daily lives.

**Stricter environmental regulations**

That's why the introduction of environmental standards, incentives to develop environmentally friendly chemicals and awareness raising to reduce the use of chemicals should be promoted.

BE THE SOLUTION TO SOIL POLLUTION

**Growing clean waste**

Growing cities are producing growing amounts of garbage that end up in landfills and clog the soil, up to 80% of which could have been recycled.

**Reuse, Recycle and Reduce**

To reduce the environmental impacts of waste, you will help reduce soil pollution, contribute to increased food safety and prevent climate change while saving money!

BE THE SOLUTION TO SOIL POLLUTION

**Plastics in soils where our food grows**

Plastic pollution is a problem we face, whether the food that we eat and the environment that we live in. The plastic that ends up in our soil can harm the soil and the plants that grow in it.

**Policies are needed**

To prevent the use of excessive packaging by industry, but 100% can also take other actions: carry a reusable bottle and grocery bag, and buy products with reduced or recycled packaging. Contribute to the awareness-raising campaigns for reducing the use of plastics! #NoPlasticInSoils

BE THE SOLUTION TO SOIL POLLUTION

**Soil biodiversity: a hidden world beneath our feet**

Soil biodiversity is the variety of life forms in the soil. It is essential for soil health and for the production of food and other goods. Soil biodiversity is also important for the regulation of the climate and the water cycle.

**SOIL POLLUTION: A HIDDEN REALITY**

Soil pollution is a hidden reality that affects the health of our planet. It is caused by the use of pesticides, fertilizers, and other chemicals. Soil pollution can lead to the loss of soil fertility and the contamination of water and food.

**50 YEARS OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES AND HABITS**

Human activities and habits have significantly impacted the soil. From the use of fertilizers and pesticides to the loss of natural habitats, human actions have changed the soil's ability to support life.

**5 benefits of soil biodiversity**

1. Healthy crops
2. Climate change mitigation and adaptation
3. Water retention
4. Soil fertility
5. Carbon sequestration

**SOIL IS ALIVE!**

SOIL CONTAINS THE MOST DIVERSE TERRESTRIAL COMMUNITIES ON THE PLANET!

Over 33% of the Earth's soil is lost through water, wind and tillage.

**Soil erosion is the removal of fertile topsoil.**

This occurs through water, wind and tillage.

Over 33% of the Earth's soil is lost through water, wind and tillage.

**6 actions to keep soil alive...**

**Keep soil alive, ...**

**Soil erosion is t...**

**7 things you can...**

**5 reasons why we need to cherish the ground beneath our feet...**

1. Soil is the source of food and fiber.

2. Soil stores water and nutrients.

3. Soil filters pollutants.

4. Soil supports biodiversity.

5. Soil regulates the climate.

**4 التربة ضرورية للأمن الغذائي**

1. Are the basis for healthy food production.

2. Hold a quarter of our planet's biodiversity.

3. Soils help to combat and adapt to climate change.

4. Are essential for food security.

5. Store and filter water.

**Benefits of healthy Soils**

1. Are the basis for healthy food production.

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The Global Soil Partnership

**Soils and Pulses: A Symbiosis**

Soils and pulses have a symbiotic relationship. Pulses help to improve soil health and fertility, while healthy soils support the growth of pulses.

**SOIL EROSION**

**#1 threat to our planet's soils**

Soil erosion is the loss of the top layer of soil, which is the most fertile. It is caused by water and wind, and it can lead to the loss of soil fertility and the contamination of water and food.

**Regulatory standards**

and government policies should be harmonized, discussed and applied to agrochemicals and soil amendments, in order to ensure food safety for all.

BE THE SOLUTION TO SOIL POLLUTION

**is another man's treasure!**

Think before throwing away your old devices: you can donate them or recycle them.

BE THE SOLUTION TO SOIL POLLUTION

**sustainable spaces**

for urban agriculture should be promoted by local authorities, e.g. establish plant nurseries next to roads, analyze the quality of water and soils, and develop local capacities to connect citizens with spaces and sustainable soil management practices for urban farming.

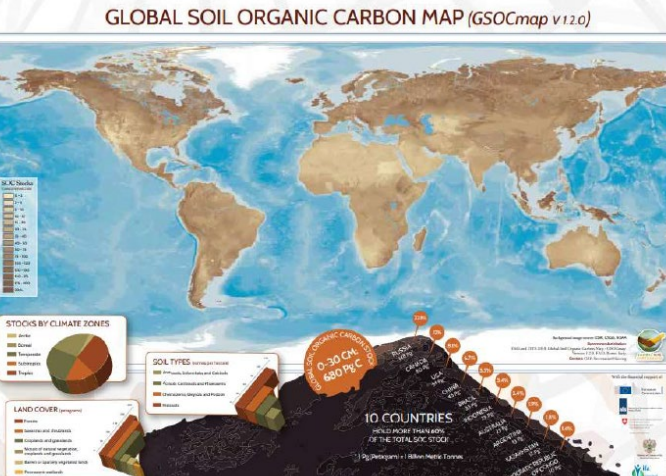
BE THE SOLUTION TO SOIL POLLUTION

**Soils!**

Soils are the foundation of life on Earth. They support the growth of plants and animals, and they regulate the climate and the water cycle.

**BE THE SOLUTION TO SOIL POLLUTION**

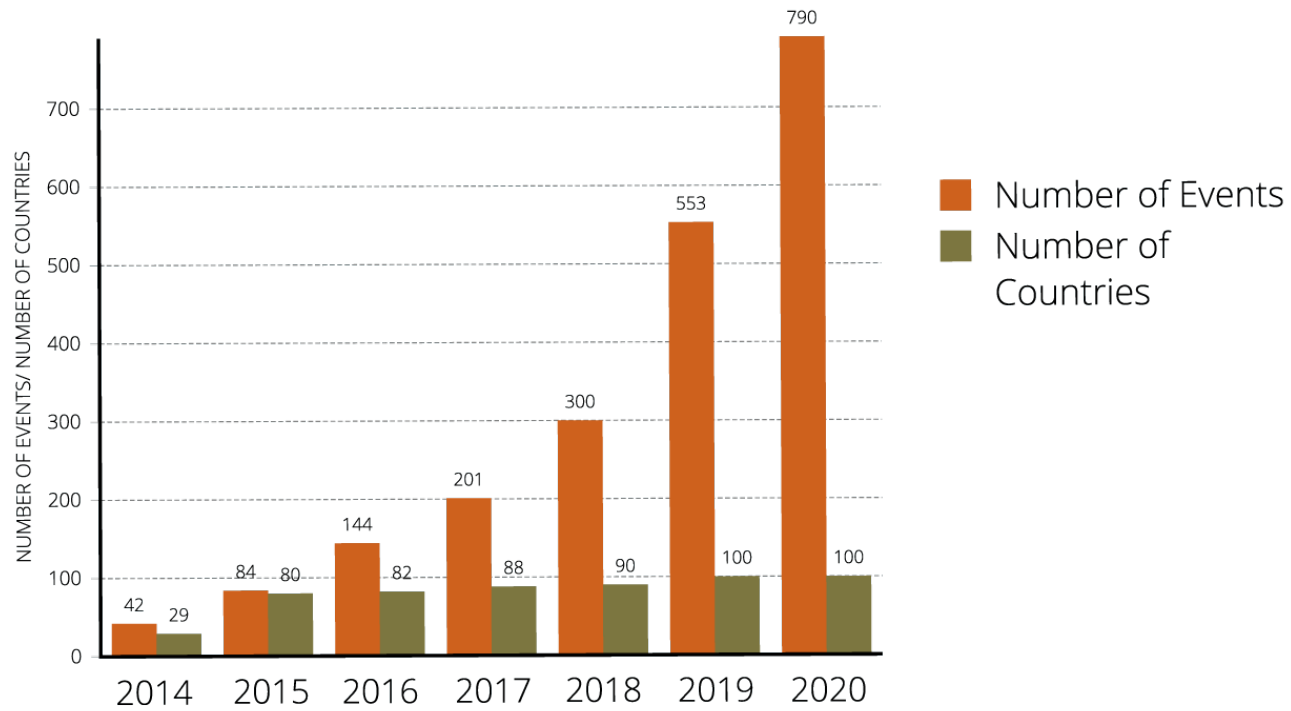
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# WSD results and activities

## Number of Events 2014 - 2020



# WSD over the years

**2021**

**Halt soil salinization,  
boost soil productivity**



**2020**

**Keep soil alive,  
protect soil biodiversity**

 **+500** articles reached **891 million** people

 Over **308 million** social media accounts reached

 **+ 16 languages** and thousands download of campaign material

 **4 millions page** views on [fao.org](https://www.fao.org)



**5 DECEMBER 2020**

**World Soil Day**

**Keep soil alive,  
protect soil biodiversity**

# WSD over the years

2019

Stop soil erosion,  
Save our future



2018

Be the Solution  
to Soil Pollution



2017

Caring for the planet  
Starts from the ground



2016

Soils and pulses,  
symbiosis for life



# Our communication strategy

- ✓ **COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN:** Key messages, Activities, Communication materials, WSD events
- ✓ **SYMPOSIA & MEETINGS ORGANIZATION:** Organize webinars, conferences, workshops and capacity development training, strive to work and engage with new partners and new countries
- ✓ **DIGITAL COMMUNICATION:** Update soil related websites and portals; Write special announcements & newsletters; Scientific communication (journals)
- ✓ **PUBLICATIONS**
- ✓ **SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS**
- ✓ **MEDIA AND PRESS**
- ✓ **PRIZES:** Glinka World Soil prize and World Soil Day awards
- ✓ **PROJECTS FOLLOW-UP**
- ✓ **KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT:** Partners, databases, mailing lists
- ✓ **MONITORING & EVALUATION:** Monitor success and analyse data and compile reports





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