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Global Soil Partnership Plenary Assembly



Eighth session

Virtual, 03-05 June 2020

GSOC-MRV: Protocol for Measurement, Reporting, Verification and Monitoring to Assess Soil Organic Carbon Sequestration and Greenhouse Emissions in Agricultural Landscapes (GSPPA: VIII/2020/7)

Executive Summary

- FAO, GSP and ITPS, IPCC, UNCCD-SPI and WMO jointly organised a successful Global Symposium on Soil Organic Carbon (GSOC17) in March 2017.
- The GSOC17 Outcome Document: “Unlocking the potential of soil organic carbon” contained a number of recommendations for the way forward. One of the recommendations is related to the establishment of a working group to develop feasible and regionally contextualized guidelines for measuring, mapping, monitoring and reporting on SOC that can be adapted locally to monitor SOC stocks and stock changes to support management decisions.
- Accordingly, this working group was established via an open call of experts, and was tasked under the guidance of the ITPS to prepare a draft MRV (measurement, reporting, verification) protocol for consideration and review by various panels and experts.
- The [GSOC-MRV](#) protocol is submitted for consideration of member countries and other partners as a fundamental tool to verify additionally of soil organic carbon sequestration in any field project or initiative such RECSOIL.

Suggested action by the GSP Plenary Assembly

The Plenary Assembly may wish to:

- Endorse the GSOC-MRV protocol and forward it for consideration of the 27th session of the FAO’s Committee on Agriculture (COAG).
- Encourage countries and partners to make full use of this GSOC-MRV as a standard protocol for soil organic carbon in agricultural landscapes.

Brief description of the process

- An [open call for experts](#) was launched in March 2018 and 124 experts from all regions in the world responded to it. The then established working group started preparing the draft table of content and authors were selected for the different sections of the protocol. A continuous iterative process for drafting was facilitated by the secretariat.
- A zero draft was prepared and submitted for consideration of the ITPS. The ITPS made substantial suggestions for improvement and a first comprehensive draft was prepared by the working group.
- This first draft was then submitted for review to the Science Policy Interface of the United Convention to Combat Desertification, the Committee of Science and Technology of the 4/1000 initiative and the CIRCASA consortium. A very extensive feedback was received with [recommendations](#) for improving the GSOC-MRV Protocol.
- A new version was then prepared by the working group incorporating the suggestions and recommendations made from all parties in the process. This final draft is submitted for consideration of the Plenary Assembly.