



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP



CONNECTING SOILS WITH PEOPLE INITIATIVES OF THE GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP



ISABELLE VERBEKE





We can not work in silos anymore...
but connect with all on the soil topic



GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP | 31 July - 5 August 2022 | Glasgow



Soil before 2012

- ❖ A void on soil governance at global level
- ❖ Soil investment far too low
- ❖ Soil degradation, a continuous serious threat
- ❖ Outdated soil information at global and regional levels
- ❖ Weakening of national soil institutions
- ❖ Soils without a voice in the global agenda

Promoting sustainable soil management for all





Established in 2012



SOIL is

- Alive!
- A hidden resource
- Not renewable in a human time scale and

And delivers a myriad of ecosystem services that enable life on Earth



It can take up to 1000 years to produce just 2-3 cm of soil

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‘Without healthy soils, life on earth would be unsustainable’

UN Secretary-General
Ban Ki-moon
World Soil Day 2014

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Adoption of 2 key resolutions

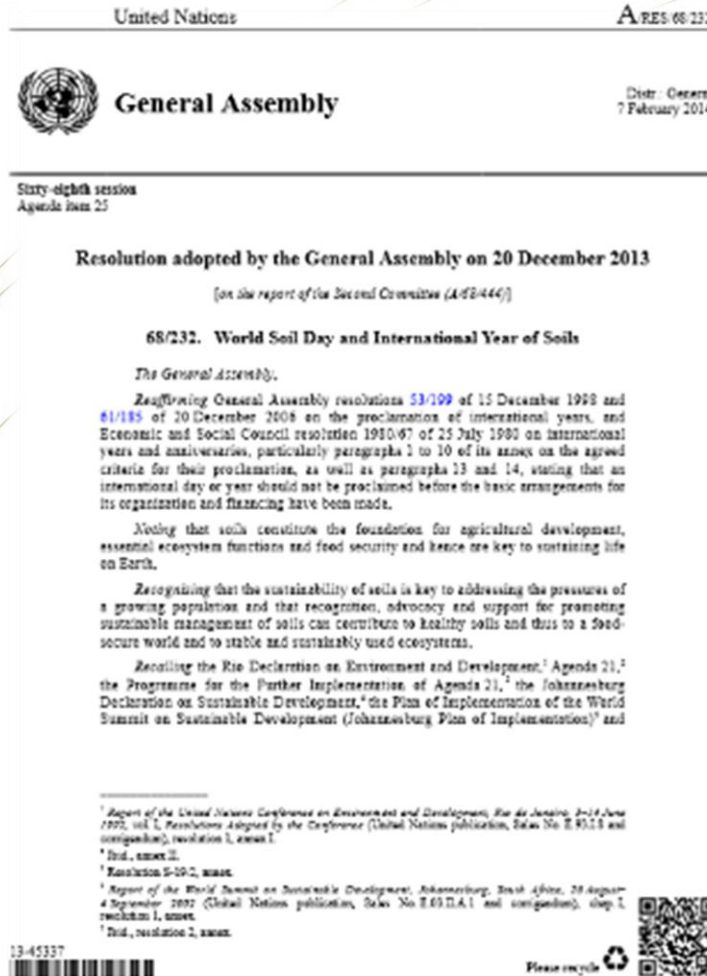


2015

International Year of Soils



World Soil Day



Declared by the 68th UN General Assembly (A/RES/68/232)

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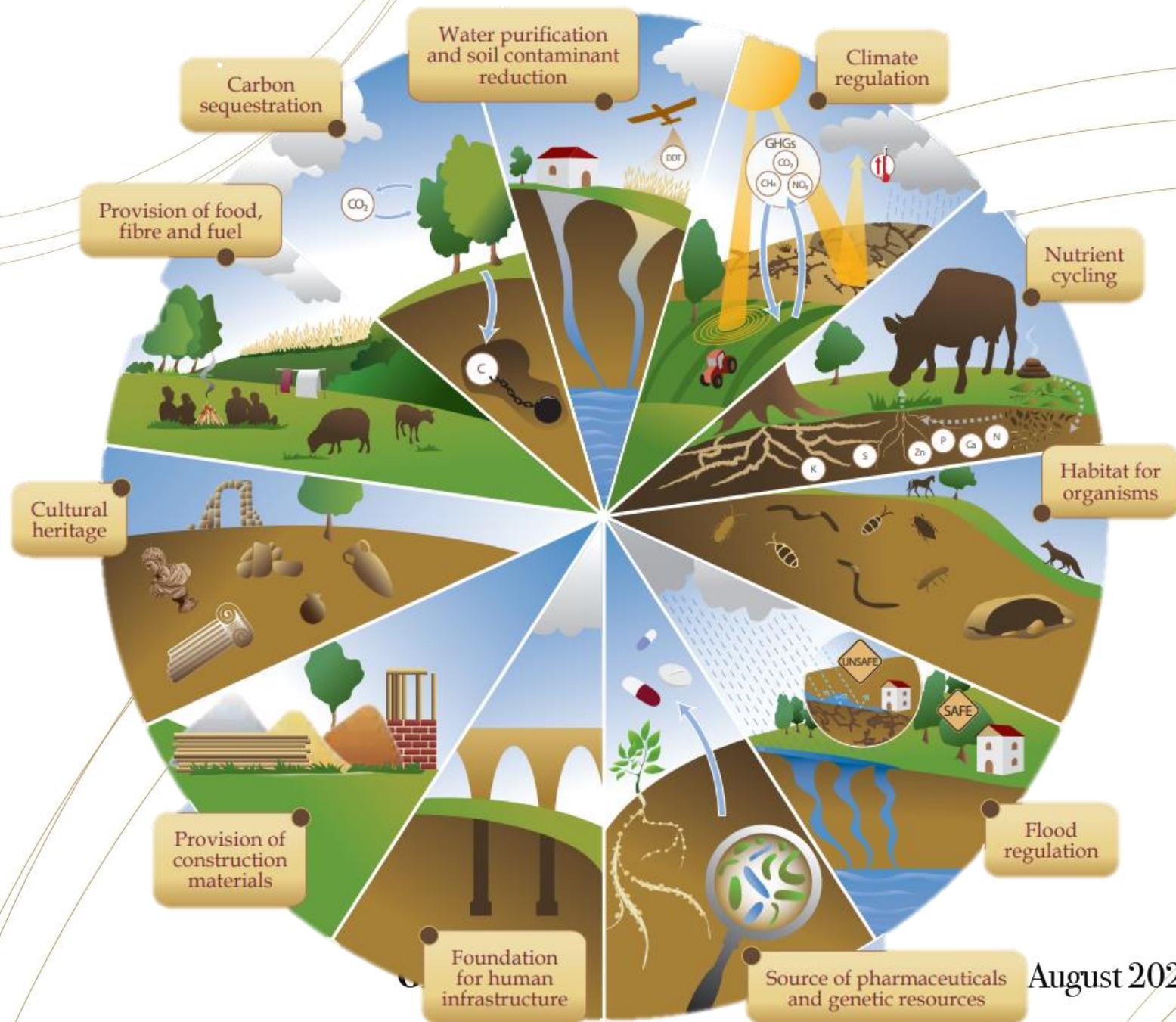
GLOBAL SOIL
PARTNERSHIP

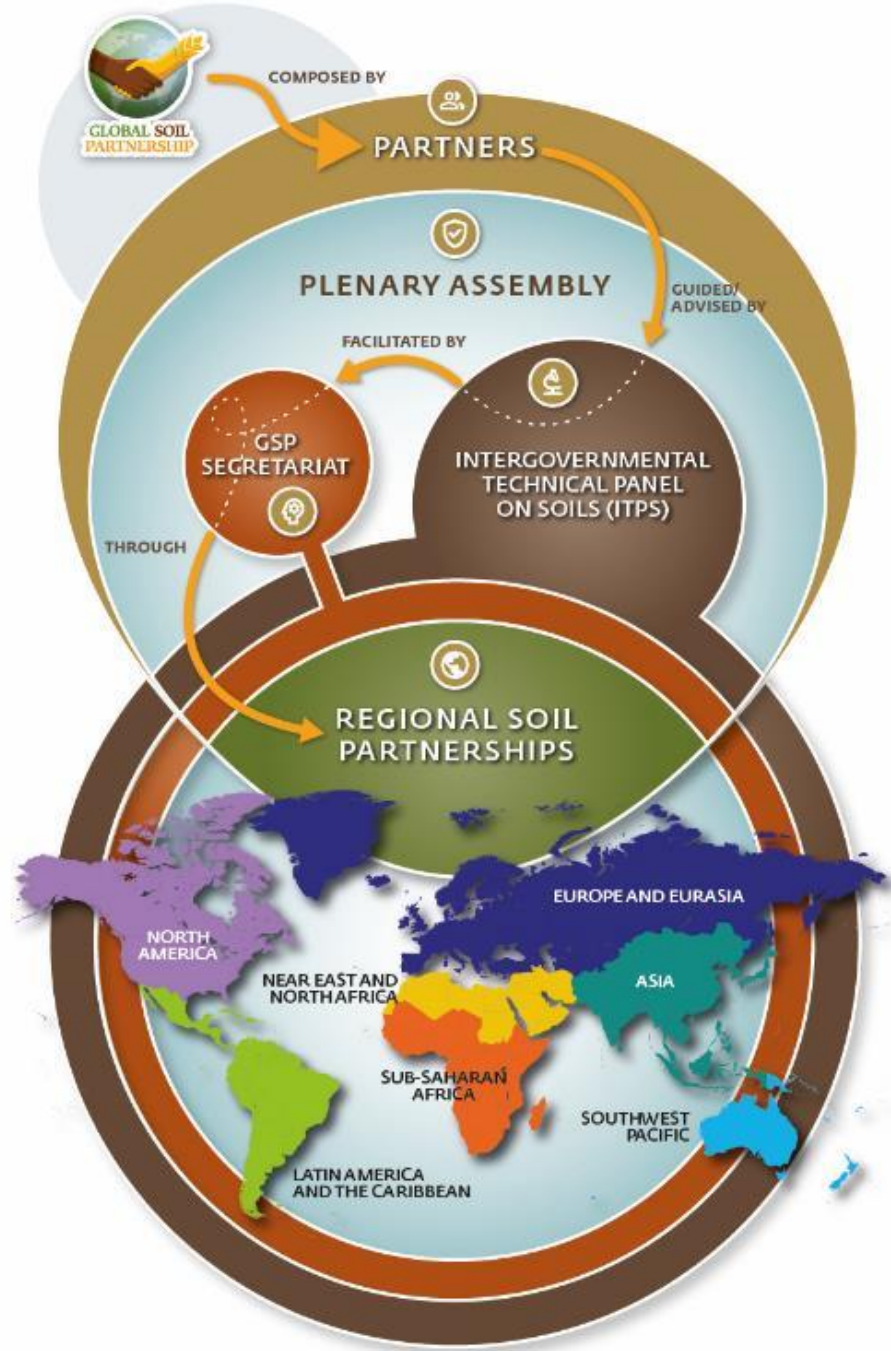


WHERE
FOOD
BEGINS



of our **food** comes
directly or indirectly
from soils





The FAO/GSP

‘an intergovernmental setting’

Promoting sustainable soil management for all



- **194 FAO MEMBER NATIONS, 2 ASSOCIATE MEMBERS** and one member organization, the **EUROPEAN UNION**
- **168 NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS** working on soil at national level appointed directly by FAO Members
- **OVER 500 GSP PARTNERS** worldwide ranging from academia NGOs, CSOs, and soil institutes to private companies, farmer associations and extension services. **Join US!**
- A wide range of experts contributing with their technical knowledge to **AD-HOC WORKING GROUPS AND TECHNICAL NETWORKS**



GLOSOLAN
Global Soil Laboratory
Network



INBS
International Network
of Black Soils



INFA
International Network
on Fertilizer Analysis



INSAS
International Network
of Salt-Affected Soils



INSII
International Network
of Soil Information
Institutions



NETSOB
International Network
on Soil Biodiversity



INSOP
International Network
On Soil Pollution



GSP and SOILS at the Plenary Assembly, COAG, FAO Council, FAO Conference and UN General Assembly



FAO Members & GSP partners
discussing and making decisions...
about soils and its global agenda



GSP AREAS OF WORK



**AWARENESS
RAISING**



SOIL BIODIVERSITY



**CAPACITY
DEVELOPMENT**



SOIL POLLUTION



SOIL GOVERNANCE



**SOIL ORGANIC
CARBON**



SOIL SALINIZATION



SOIL FERTILITY



SOIL EROSION



**SOIL DATA AND
INFORMATION**



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WSD AND IYS2015 CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH SOILS



2015
International
Year of Soils



World
Soil Day



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WSD over the years



2016
Soils and pulses,
symbiosis for life



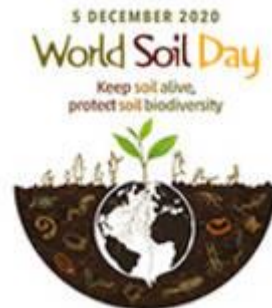
2017
Caring for the planet
starts from the ground



2018
Be the Solution
to Soil Pollution



2019
Stop soil erosion,
Save our future



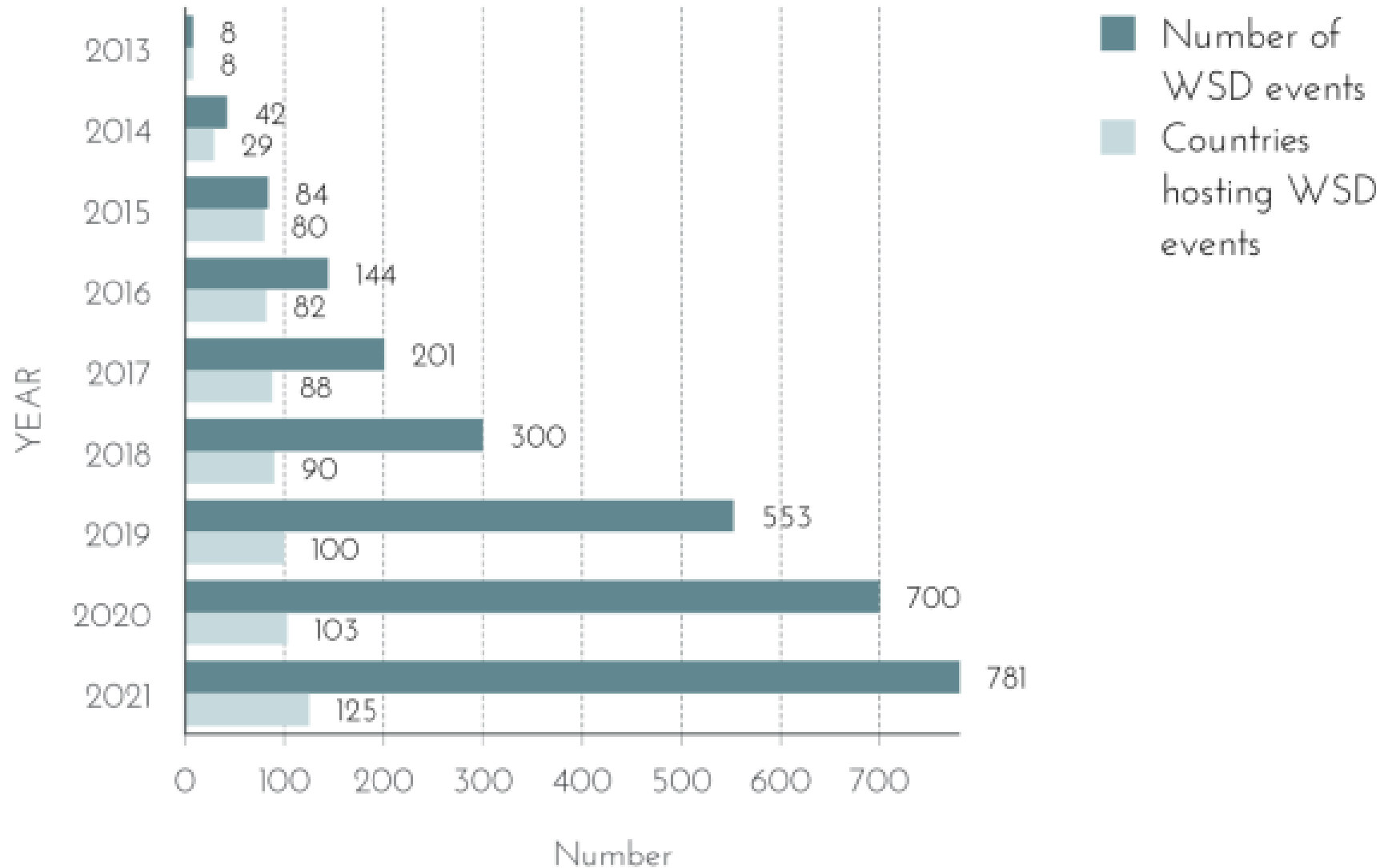
2020
Keep soil alive,
Protect soil
biodiversity



2021
Halt soil salinization
Boost soil
productivity



Number of Events: 2013-2021



World
Soil Day



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World Soil Day participation

Government representatives,
businesses, NGOs, youth
organizations, the media, schools,
colleges and universities,
environmental activists, civil society,
art curators and more



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World Soil Day – 5 December 2021

“Halt soil salinization, boost soil productivity”



1.15 billion
users hit and
630 articles



Material
translated in
+27 languages



3 million page
views on soils'
websites



#WorldSoilDay reach:
+330 million on socials



Viral videos: **1 million**
cumulative **views**





World Soil Day 2021 campaign materials

Sixty ad-hoc
communication materials
and products made
available on the WSD
website in **more than 23**
languages

Salt-affected soils
A global concern to
reducing agricultural
productivity

1.4B TON
17% TON

Detener la salinización de los suelos,
aumentar su productividad

of our food is directly
or indirectly produced
in our soils.

YER

that have the ability to
rehabilitate salt-affected soils

Seasons
of soils
important →

5 DECEMBRE 2021
**Всемирный
день ПОЧВ**
Остановим засоление - увеличим
продуктивность почв

Naturally saline and sodic soils
In arid, semi arid and coastal areas, these soils are not degraded but typical of these landscapes. The most valuable adapted ecosystems.

Are all salt-affected soils a threat?

Human induced saline and sodic soils
Unsustainable agriculture practices and climate change are the key drivers.

ديسمبر / كانون الأول 2021
اليوم العالمي للتربة
وقف تملح التربة وزيادة إنتاجها

农民阻止盐渍化的5项行动

1. 使用覆盖物以减少蒸发
2. 轮作
3. 种植耐盐作物
4. 使用覆盖作物
5. 使用有机肥料

2021年12月5日
世界土壤日
防止土壤盐渍化，
提高土壤生产力

Salty experim
with soil for **child**
and guide for te

Let's celebrate
and take a journey
discover how food
beneath our feet

saline and sodic soils

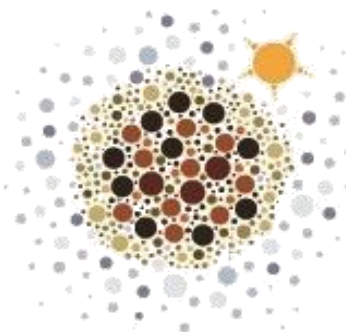
5 DECEMBRE 2021
Día Mundial del Suelo
Detener la salinización de los suelos,
aumentar su productividad

As climate change and
water scarcity increase,
**more soils become
salt-affected**
which threatens the

Dünya Toprak Günü
5 Aralık

manage salt-affected

GSP Global symposia – Science policy meeting CONNECTING POLICY MAKERS & SOIL SCIENTISTS



Global Symposium
on Soil Organic
Carbon 2017



Global
Symposium on
Soil Pollution
2018



Global Symposium
on Soil Erosion
2019



Global
Symposium on Soil
Biodiversity 2021



Global
Symposium on
Salt- Affected
Soils 2021



Global Symposium on
Soils for nutrition
2022

LAST WEEK!

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Communication toolkit

Targeted-orientated material communicating soil threats to ALL
switching from scientific stakeholders to policy makers & citizens

IN SEVERAL UN LANGUAGES ...
AND NOT only!



- Videos
- Posters
- SM cards
- Infographics
- ...and much more





Engaging ALL and recognizing efforts of champions



Glinka World Soil Prize

2016

- It honors individuals or organizations committed to solving acute national, regional or local problems of soil degradation
- It consists of a Glinka Medal and a check of USD 15 000 in memory of the prominent Russian scientist Konstantin D. Glinka



King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award

2018

- It praises the best celebration held in the framework of the previous year's World Soil Day
- Winner receives an award in the form of a medal and a prize of USD 15000



We communicate on the topic, but **how?**

Citizen engagement through public contests

CONNECTING SOILS WITH YOUTH



Book contest

**World Soil Day 2020
contest**

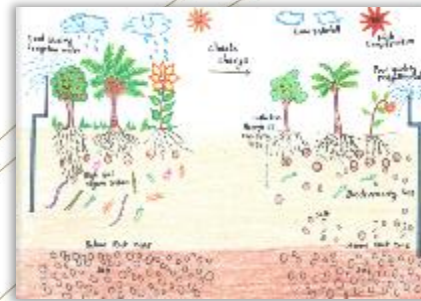
**“Children's booklet
contest on soil
biodiversity”**

**97 books from 75 countries,
GSP and IUSS contest**

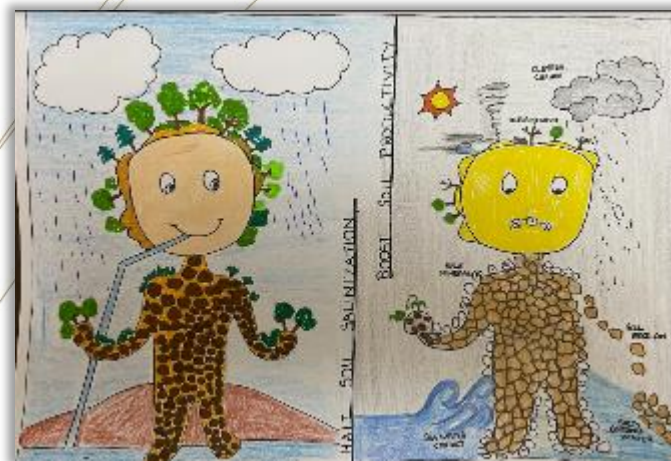




World Soil Day 2021 Kids2Kids poster contest



“Kids2kids poster drawing contest on salt-affected soils,”
for children aged between **5 and 14 years old**



SOCIAL MEDIA

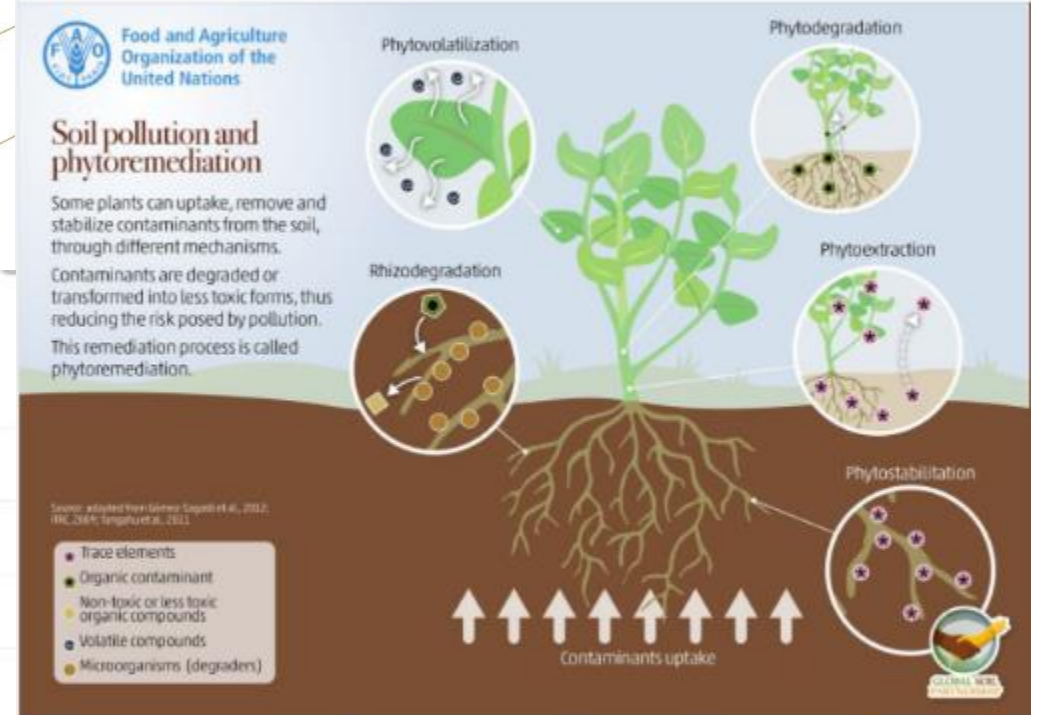
DAILY POSTS ON FACEBOOK and TWITTER

Plants have several different mechanisms to uptake and stabilize organic and inorganic contaminants, transforming them into less toxic forms, thus reducing the risks posed by pollution 🌱🌿

📖 Read more about phytoremediation in the "Global Assessment of Soil Pollution report" 🌟

🔗 Main Report: <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb4894en>

🔗 Summary: <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb4827en>



47,725
People reached

1,847
Engagements

↑ +4.5x higher
Distribution score

Boost post

435

4 comments 296 shares

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+630 articles reached 1.15 billion people during WSD21



Soil & Soil Science should be IN THE NEWS



1.5 billion people, living with soil too salty to be fertile

全球土壤生物多样性研讨会召开



Giving a voice to soil organisms – our silent allies in fight against hunger

Rencontre en visioconférence : le Colloque international sur la biodiversité des sols démarre ce 19 jusqu'au 22 avril 2021

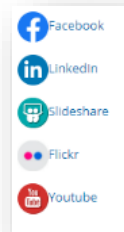
FAO-Symposium zum Erhalt der Boden-Biodiversität

Biodiversité des sols

La FAO fait l'état des lieux des connaissances



#SoilBiodiversity



The future of our soil hangs in the balance as the UN prepares for the first **Global Symposium on Soil Biodiversity**, with **scientists warning** that soil degradation is as important as the climate crisis and destruction of the natural world above ground.

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World Soil Day 2022

"Soils, where food begins"



The WSD 2022 will be an opportunity to engage even more people and countries in the celebrations, **as the theme of soil fertility linked to food security and nutrition is relevant to all countries worldwide.**

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Raising the SOIL profile

Thank you!

You can contact me @ isabelle.Verbeke@fao.org or GSP-Secretariat@fao.org