

June 2018

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Global Soil Partnership Plenary Assembly



Sixth session

Rome, June 2018

Report on the financial status of the GSP, including the Healthy Soils Facility

Executive Summary

- While further progress has been made in mobilizing resources in support of GSP goals, higher flows of funds should materialize to match the extensive requests for technical assistance by the countries and regions. These requirements are, to a large extent, identified through the Global and Regional Implementation Plans formulated under the five GSP Pillars of action. The successful completion of the Implementation Plans clearly depends on the financial resources provided to the GSP, particularly via its Healthy Soils Facility. The latter instrument has been updated to respond to the request of the Plenary Assembly, allowing for a more effective planning and reporting process. It should henceforth be referred to as the **Healthy Soils Multi-partner Platform**
- At the same time, numerous stakeholders and partners have continued to provide in kind contributions for specific activities, for instance through training facilities, technical inputs and data feeding into key reports or policy instruments developed under the aegis of the ITPS. However, more stakeholders and partners need to follow suit, in line with the expectations of full engagement stemming from the inception of the GSP.
- The present document aims at advising the Plenary Assembly about the resources mobilized so far. Against the overall planned indicative budget target given in the programme document of the Healthy Soils Facility of USD 60 million (for a duration of 5 years), only approximately 19% have been mobilized - i.e. USD 11.1 million. Moreover, the Secretariat is bound to stress that available extra-budgetary resources are at present at a critically low level. For the GSP to achieve in good measure its ambitious objectives, it is imperative that action is taken by the concerned donors to accelerate approval of the few projects in the pipeline, and that new donors are added to the very limited group which has supported the initiative until now.
- As expected, the financial report is presented on an annual basis, i.e. it refers to the past year (2017) and the likely available budget for 2018 and beyond (cf. tables below).

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Suggested action by the GSP Plenary Assembly

- The Plenary Assembly may wish to:
 - Note the efforts made to mobilize additional resources for implementing a number of actions and commend those resource partners who have contributed to the Healthy Soils Facility.
 - Renew its call to all partners, and especially resource partners, to support the implementation of the Global and Regional Implementation Plans by contributing substantial funds, including through the new Healthy Soils Multi-partner Platform, and providing in kind contributions to specific activities in substantially higher volumes.
 - Review and endorse the new Healthy Soils Multi-partner Platform, which includes the GSP work plan 2018-2019 as the tool for mobilizing resources and for reporting activities starting in 2019.

I. Introduction

1. The GSP is based on cost-sharing principles, whereby each partner may contribute with different inputs to the implementation of approved work.
2. The PA may recall that FAO's contribution from its Regular Budget, as specified in the Terms of Reference approved by the FAO Council, is limited to hosting the GSP Secretariat at FAO headquarters, and only in terms of core support staff. This clearly hampers the capacity and flexibility of the Secretariat in providing support to GSP implementation, especially in terms of technical assistance to countries. This situation is in deep contrast with the growing operational complexity and expansion of GSP-related work at all levels.
3. However, as shown in the table below, another contribution from the Regular Budget came *via* the implementation of a number of TCP projects (FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme) which are of direct relevance to the GSP.

II. Mobilization of extra-budgetary resources

4. Since the inception of the GSP and particularly after the establishment of the Healthy Soils Facility, some progress has been made in mobilizing extra-budgetary resources.
5. The first significant example was the project endorsed by the European Commission (EC) towards the end of 2013, to the tune of EUR 1 million. This project has been successfully implemented during the 2014-2015 biennium.
6. Further to that initial contribution, the EC has provided additional funding of EUR 1.5 million for the period 2016-2018. Overall, the EC has provided EUR 2.5 million to date. Discussions are ongoing with regard to possible further financial support in future years. There have been discussions mostly with two EC entities, on the one side DG Environment (for the support to the GSP Secretariat) and on the other side DEVCO (for field activities in countries and regions).
7. The Russian Federation has provided funding for the period 2015-2018 amounting to USD 1 million. This contribution has been of paramount relevance, for instance in facilitating the preparation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management, the establishment of the Glinka World Soil Prize and to execute the implementation plan of the Eurasian Soil Partnership. Discussions have continued to generate further contributions, including a project document that has been negotiated with this resource partner. Clearance by the competent national authorities is still awaited.
8. Switzerland has supported the implementation of the International Year of Soils (2015) to the tune of USD 100 000 and has made a further contribution to the GSP for 2015-2017 of USD 52 000. The overall contribution by Switzerland so far has been of USD 650 000, including USD 30 000 for organizing the Global Symposium on Soil Organic Carbon (GSOC17). The Kingdom of Thailand has also supported the International Year of Soils with USD 100 000. The Netherlands has contributed to GSP activities with an amount of USD 150 000. Iceland has also contributed USD 5 817 towards

GSOC17. The International Fertilizer Association has donated USD 40 000 in support of the GSP work plan (including the preparation of the Global Soil Organic Carbon map and the organization of the Global Symposium on Soil Pollution). Phosagro (a new donor) has financially contributed with USD 150,000 to support the organization of the Global Symposium on Soil Pollution and the campaign “Be the solution to soil pollution”.

9. A more complete account of all financial contributions, including from TCP resources, is given in the following tables. For extra-budgetary resources, distinction is made between closed and ongoing projects.

10. An immediate conclusion is that, against the planned indicative target given in the programme document of the Healthy Soils Facility of USD 60 million, only approximately 19% i.e. ~USD 11 million has been obtained so far. There is also a clear need to broaden the range of potential donors.

11. The current picture shows that the budget available for 2018 and 2019 is in line with the one in 2017 and more financial contributions are expected to materialize. Several major activities have been initiated and the path to smooth implementation has been paved. However the extra-budgetary resources available to the Secretariat (those it can manage directly) are at present at a critically low level.

12. Due attention has been paid to regular reporting (in both narrative and financial form) to the current donors, stressing the good results achieved and thus demonstrating that further support would be worthwhile. The GSP Secretariat has also sought to engage these donors in the implementation process itself, whenever feasible. Extensive negotiations have taken place in the last year with Germany for supporting a project on the nexus between soil and improved nutrition.

With the aim of enlarging the pool of donors beyond the current few, establishing close relations with potential new partners through communication and information sharing has been part of the daily work of the GSP Secretariat. Numerous meetings and teleconferences have been held and documents produced in relation to the current project portfolio have been shared. In particular, documents have been sent to other interested partners with similar priorities, as well as uploaded on the GSP website.

III - Overview of resources to support GSP work

Previous years (up to 2015): USD 2 878 274

Year 2016: USD 1 950 701

Year 2017: USD 2 759 788

Years 2018 and 2019: USD 3 523 851 (out of which only USD 837 143 are directly managed by the GSP Secretariat)

Overall: USD 11 112 614

Year 2017	
Voluntary Contributions	Expenditures in 2017
GCP/GLO/663/EC	\$757,064
GCP/GLO/650/RUS	\$176,944
GCP/GLO/671/MUL	\$316,062
GLO/017//001	\$134,720
MTF/GLO/807/MUL	\$35,832
GCP /GLO/676/EC	\$31,875
Total	\$1,452,497
TCP projects	

TCP/CMB/3602	\$150,616
TCP/SEY/3503	\$162,554
TCP/LES/3602	\$80,294
TCP/SUD/3601	\$162,228
TCP/TOG/3602	\$63,800
TCP/STP/3604	\$151,481
TCP/RLA/3613	\$74,318
Total	\$845,291
Regular Programme	
GSP Secretary	\$192,000
GSP Support staff	\$70,000
Plenary Assembly of GSP	\$200,000
Total	\$462,000
Overall Expenditures 2017	\$2,759,788

Years 2018 and 2019	
Voluntary Contributions	Budget Available
GCP/GLO/663/EC	\$464,413
GCP/GLO/650/RUS	\$5,817
GCP/GLO/671/MUL	\$263,635
GCP /GLO/676/EC	\$103,278
Total	\$837,143
TCP projects	
TCP/CMB/3602	\$88,936
TCP/LES/3602	\$389,600
TCP/SUD/3601	\$125,290
TCP/TOG/3602	\$82,510
TCP/STP/3604	\$274,065
TCP/RLA/3613	\$142,307
TCP/TUR/3603	\$163,000
TCP/AFG/3601	\$497,000
Total	\$1,762,708
Regular Programme	
GSP Secretary	\$384,000
GSP Support staff	\$140,000
Plenary Assembly of GSP	\$400,000
Total	\$924,000
Overall Budget for 2018 and 2019	\$3,523,851

It is important to note that the TCP projects are not within the budget holder responsibility of the GSP Secretariat although they benefit from technical guidance and backstopping. Hence, the GSP

Secretariat manages only the Voluntary Contributions listed in the table above, the balance of which is only USD 837 143 as of 30 April 2018.

However, there are several solid pipeline proposals awaiting approval in the following months:

- Project to be funded by the Russian Federation (USD 2 000 000)
- Project to be funded by Germany (USD 1 500 000)
- Project to be funded by the EC (USD 1 200 000).

IV Work Plan June 2018 – December 2019

13. The Assembly would recall that it requested the Secretariat to provide the priority activities and associated financial needs for the upcoming period. It stressed that a clear list of activities and associated budget was needed in order for potential donors to commit further financial support.

14. The Secretariat also committed to updating the Healthy Soils Facility document for a new cycle, building on progress made since its initial establishment.

15. The instrument has been renamed “**Healthy Soils Multi-Partner Platform (MPP)**” in order to reflect better its major aim of aligning resource partners willing to join forces in support of the GSP. The MPP will continue to constitute the major operational arm of the GSP under which resource partners should be able to support specific components and activities that correspond most closely to their own strategic and geographical preferences.

16. The MPP specifies a new set of outputs and activities which were developed with the aim to ease reporting on expenditure across projects under the GSP, as well as highlight the priority activities requiring funding. The indicative lifetime of the MPP is four years matching FAO’s biennia (2018-2019 and 2020-2021) with a resource envelope of about USD 30 million (for financial contributions), to be supplemented by eventual in-kind contributions from Partners.

17. The MPP will aim to support in particular:

- a. The promotion of sustainable soil management through more effective global and/or regional instruments;
- b. The execution of GSP Global and Regional Implementation Plans;
- c. An action-oriented programme on soil restoration/rehabilitation;
- d. The approved work plans of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils;
- e. Putting in place strengthened policy environments for investment and technical cooperation in relation to sustainable soil management;
- f. Awareness raising and capacity development at all levels, on all aspects of sustainable soil management implementation and monitoring; and
- g. The assessment and prioritization of related research and development needs.

18. In order to provide the Assembly with proposed priority activities to be implemented (subject to funding) from June 2018 to December 2019, the table below presents the range of outputs and activities, as extracted from the log-frame analysis underlying the MPP.

This listing does not purport to be exhaustive. New activities are continuously arising in line with evolving contexts

June 2018

E**Logical Framework of the Healthy Soils Multi-Partner Platform****OUTPUT 1:** Promotion and implementation of sustainable soil management through more effective global and/or regional instruments*1.1 Implementation of the revised World Soil Charter and Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management*

- Support to the organization of the Regional Soil Partnership annual meetings in Africa, Central America and Near East and North Africa
- Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management (global with prime focus on Eurasia) through regional promotion workshops and the development of a technical manual on soil organic carbon management
- Initial study in preparation of the Second Status of the World's Soil Resources (SWSR) report elaborating the economic benefits of sustainable soil management for farmers and other land users
- Implement the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management through regional dissemination events and their adaptation to regional contexts

1.2 Establish and implement objectives of the International Network of Black Soils (INBS)

- Report to assess the global status of black soils, including a regional chapter for Eurasia
- Organization of annual meetings of the International Network of Black Soils

1.3 Establish and maintain the Global Soil Information System and SoilSTAT, including harmonization of data and information

- Establish the Global Soil Information System and SoilSTAT

1.4 Organize annual Global Symposiums linking science and policy to address key soil-related topics

- Organization of the Global Symposium on Soil Pollution in April 2018
- Organization of the Global Symposium on nutrition sensitive soil management in 2019
- Organization of the Global Symposium on soil biodiversity in 2020

1.5 Implement activities under the International Network of Soil Information Institutions (INSII)

- Organization of the first, second, third and fourth workshops of the International Network of Soil Information Institutions (INSII)
- Support the activities of the INSII in relation to the Implementation of Pillar 4 with special focus on establishing the Global Soil Information System and associated products

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Logical Framework of the Healthy Soils Multi-Partner Platform
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of a Global Soil Organic Carbon map and associated cookbook (versions 1 and 2).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of capacity development programme on digital soil mapping
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization of annual meetings of the International Network of Soil Information Institutions (INSII).
<i>1.6 Establish and implement objectives of the Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN) and Regional Soil Laboratory Networks (RESOLAN)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization of annual meetings of the Global Soil Laboratories Network
<i>1.7 Support implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and other targets¹</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input to the SDG indicator 15.3.1 on carbon below ground by developing a Global Soil Organic Carbon Map and monitoring system
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input to the SDG indicator 2.4. on soil erosion
<i>1.8 Establish and implement the Global Soil Doctors programme</i>
<i>1.9 Develop, support and/or implement any additional relevant global and/or regional instruments that may arise</i>
OUTPUT 2: Execution of GSP Global and Regional Implementation Plans
<i>2.1 Strengthen capacities of the GSP Global and Regional Soil Partnership Secretariats</i>
<i>2.2 Ensure effective GSP Global and Regional Soil Partnership Plenary Assemblies</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to the development of soil governance and soil legal frameworks in regions/countries where this has been identified as a priority
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the participation of the chairs of the Regional Soil Partnerships and of the focal points from developing countries to the GSP Plenary Assembly in order to report progress of their activities in their regions and at national level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization of annual GSP Plenary Assemblies supporting the participation of least developing countries participants (at least one session per year)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the organization of Regional Soil Partnerships plenary meetings (at least one per year)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to the organization of the GSP Plenary Assembly 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to the development of the European Soil Partnership Implementation Plan and organization of its annual meetings in 2017 and 2018

¹ GCP/GLO/853/RUS: Output 1; GCP/GLO/663/EC: Output 2; GCP/GLO/671/MUL: Outputs 3, 5

Logical Framework of the Healthy Soils Multi-Partner Platform
2.3 Finalize and implement activities under the GSP and RSP Implementation Plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization of regional dialogues/conferences to plan the execution of the implementation plans and monitor progress; in parallel with thematic regional workshops/conferences on soil governance, sustainable soil management with a focus on soils’ contribution to food security, ecosystem services and climate change adaptation and mitigation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the World Soil Charter principles via the production of information material and advocacy events, and three case studies in Africa, Asia and Latin America
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment and implementation of the soil doctors programme in Africa, Asia, Eurasia, Near East and Latin America (link reporting to Activity 1.8)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the planning and organization of the “High level Ministerial Conference Abuja II: from fertilizers to sustainable soil management” in 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the activities of the Eurasian Soil Partnership (EaSP) Secretariat, hosted by the Eurasian Center for Food Security of Lomonosov Moscow State University, to maintain the EaSP website, produce and disseminate information and materials, organize workshops and participation of Secretariat members in events related to the GSP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity development based on assessed needs on soil database use, soil monitoring and digital soil mapping
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an Armenian Soil Information System (ArSIS) using legacy data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity development based on assessed needs for the harmonization of soil data collection and analysis, as well as organization of the Eurasian soil laboratory network
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-organize and update the Williams Soil-Agronomic museum’s database according to global standards of soil classification and data management, including digitizing the collections and contribute this data and information to the GSP Global Soil Information System (GLOSIS)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to catalytic projects aimed at mitigation of, or adaptation to soil salinity through the application of sustainable soil management practices
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and Support soil salinity research projects on selected topics to close identified gaps in knowledge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to the establishment of a Consultation Service on Soil Management for Central Asia
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarize and publish the outcomes of research and implementation projects on sustainable soil management application in saline lands
OUTPUT 3: An action-oriented programme on soil restoration/rehabilitation

Logical Framework of the Healthy Soils Multi-Partner Platform
<i>3.1 Develop and make available information on best practices for sustainable soil management and soil restoration/rehabilitation under different land use systems</i>
<i>3.2 Identify regions where sustainable soil management practices are successfully implemented for out- and upscaling</i>
<i>3.3 Develop and implement projects for sustainable soil management practices and soil restoration/rehabilitation activities</i>
Implement three (3) sustainable soil management projects in the Near East and North African region to improve the management of irrigated soils, including improving soil and water productivity, preventing soil salinization, improving drainage systems, managing soil fertility and the use of fertilizers, and using drought tolerant crops.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upscale and implement proven sustainable soil management practices (for example the Quezungual system) in seven (7) project sites in Africa <p>a. Evaluate sustainable soil management implementation in the region to determine success factors. Subsequently implement similar sustainable soil management practices in priority areas for food production in the region where conditions are most suitable for the identified success factors to be applicable.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement three (3) soil erosion control projects to restore or increase productivity in soils affected by erosion. This will entail one project in each of the following regions: Africa, South America, Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean, Asia and Near East and North Africa.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement five (5) soil management projects focusing on increasing soil organic matter. This would include especially the increased use of crop rotation incorporating legumes, improved residue management, and the expansion of agroforestry systems across the concerned region: Africa, South America, Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean, Asia and Near East and North Africa.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement five (5) sustainable soil management projects focusing on balanced soil fertility management and nutrition-sensitive agriculture to simultaneously increase food production and the nutritional value of food products. This will include one project in each of the following regions: Africa, South America, Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean, Asia and Near East and North Africa.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement five (5) remediation projects to reduce soil pollution, including the use of phytoremediation. This will include one project in each of the following regions: Africa, South America, Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean, Asia and Near East and North Africa
OUTPUT 4: Full implementation of the approved work plans of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils
<i>4.1 Organize ITPS working sessions to address requests from the GSP Plenary Assembly and COAG</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization of two working sessions of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils in 2018 and 2019 • Organization of ITPS working sessions to address the request from the Plenary Assembly (at least 1 working session per year)
<i>4.2 Develop technical manuals to support the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on Sustainable Soil Management</i>

Logical Framework of the Healthy Soils Multi-Partner Platform
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of technical manuals as support to the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management
<i>4.3 Preparation of assessment reports and studies as requested by the Plenary Assembly</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of various assessment reports, including: economic assessment of soil degradation and benefits of sustainable soil management; assessment at the global level of the potential of soil protection to increase resilience in the context of climate change
<i>4.4 Implement recommendations from Global Symposiums</i>
<i>4.5 Preparation of the Status of the World's Soil Resources Report 2025</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparatory work for the development of a new version of the Status of the World Soil Resources Report • Second version of the Status of the World's Soil Resources Report (2025)
<i>4.6 Maintain collaboration and implement activities with other pertinent international panels, bodies and initiatives</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation at and contribution to meetings of other Panels such as SPI, IPCC and IPBES, and technical support and advice provided by the GSP as to the implementation of the soil-related aspects of the Post 2015 framework at international level; joint meetings of the other Panels and ITPS will be organized, too • Implementation of the joint work plans with the SPI-UNCCD, IBPES and IPCC, including participation in their annual working sessions or associated events
<i>4.7 Implement any additional activities as mandated by the GSP Plenary Assembly</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of those activities as requested by the GSP Plenary Assembly and GSP Secretariat for the period 2016-2018 (including the follow up to the World Soil Charter, assistance and monitoring of the implementation of regional implementation plans, etc.)
OUTPUT 5: Putting in place strengthened policy environments for investment and technical cooperation in relation to sustainable soil management
<i>5.1 Develop and present policy briefs and fact sheets from relevant GSP Activities</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of policy briefs and fact sheets • Presentation of results at global and regional soil partnerships meetings • Development and dissemination of technical guidelines for SSM for nutrition-sensitive agriculture and micronutrient management
<i>5.2 Prepare desk-based review of existing soil-policies and schemes to highlight gaps in soil protection and propose actions to national focal points</i>

Logical Framework of the Healthy Soils Multi-Partner Platform
<i>5.3 Develop an online database (questionnaire format) to compile country-specific soil programmes and policies (embedded into the GSP website)</i>
<i>5.4 Support the development of soil governance and soil legal frameworks in regions/countries where this has been identified as a priority</i>
OUTPUT 6: Awareness raising and capacity development at all levels, on all aspects of sustainable soil management implementation and monitoring
<i>6.1 Develop and implement a capacity development programme on all GSP topics</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the awareness raising component of the GSP Pillar 2 plan of Action at global (focus on the SDGs and the Post 2015 agreements, the IYS2015 outcomes and the new World Soil Charter) and at regional levels (main regional soil priorities and the main societal challenges i.e. food security, soil contamination, etc)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize regional summer/winter schools for the development of capacities on soil resources addressing regional priorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of existing national or regional projects supporting soil-human nutrition linkages to inform other projects with the potential to tackle micronutrient deficiencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical assistance / training to implementation teams
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of demonstrations sites to disseminate SSM practices for nutrition-sensitive agriculture
<i>6.2 Establish a GSP Education Platform for online capacity development and training</i>
<i>6.3 Prepare awareness raising material and implement annual World Soil Day celebrations</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of awareness raising material for wide distribution at regional and national levels
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the organization of satellite regional events to celebrate World Soil Day in 2018 and beyond
<i>6.4 Award the annual Glinka World Soil Prize on World Soil Day</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Award of the Glinka World Soil Prize (GWSP) on World Soil Day in 2019 and 2020
OUTPUT 7: Assessment and prioritization of research and development needs related to sustainable soil management
<i>7.1 Stock-taking of existing research and development activities and case studies</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stock-taking of existing information and case studies on linkages between soils and human nutrition, focusing on the nutrient content of food crops. • Organization of national workshops to identify good practices. • Organization of a global technical consultation workshop.

Logical Framework of the Healthy Soils Multi-Partner Platform

- Compilation and dissemination of global and national workshop findings.
- Continuing dialogue and regular interaction with stakeholders
- Organization of a global workshop to share new information and experiences and compile recommendations for research, policy and capacity development to promote nutrition-sensitive soil management
- Organization of national workshops to share project findings, new information and experiences and update recommendations.

7.2 Develop active collaboration with research bodies and institutions to support targeted soil research for development

7.3 Dissemination of research outputs at all levels and regions