



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP 10th Plenary Assembly



23-25
May 2022

VIRTUAL
MEETING

Updates and Challenges of GSP NENA

Rachid Moussadek, PhD





Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

NENA Soil Partnership | *Established in April 2012*

Member countries

Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, and Palestine.

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March 22-23 2022 | 7th NENA meeting

- To update the national focal points on Global Soil Partnership's activities of regional interest
- To inform each other on national activities on soil
- To brainstorm on upcoming regional activities and project proposal ideas
- **To update participants to the TCP project for the region**

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Shabbir Shahid | FAO/GSP_Filippo Benede... | Talal Darwish | Sudan-LWRC_Abelma... | Bayan Athamneh | IRAQ - Dr. Iman Sahib... | FAO-Lucrezia Caon | Ronald Varg... | Husam Alhuthud- FA... | Tunisia /Leila Ben Dhi... | Sudan-LWRC-Nuha A... | Alaa Khallouf_Syria | Mohamed... | Zouahri Morocco | Palestine - MoA -Imad... | AbdelHamied Hamid

7th NENA Soil Partnership Meeting
22-23 March 2022

GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP

May 2022



Main activities implemented since the last PA

Implementation of the regional TCP Project (TCP/RAB/3802) to:

- Have a better understanding of the status of soil resources in the NENA region
- Explore the potential of and scale up sustainable soil management
- Contribute to the execution of the NENA Soil Partnership's implementation plan
- Address national/regional needs and priorities

The project focuses on soil laboratories and digital soil mapping.

NTE: December 2022

Main activities implemented since the last PA

- Writing of policy briefs
- Translation of soil material in a local languages
- Social Media for GSP NENA to regularly meet about GSP programs
- Celebration of Soil Days in NENA



The multi-faced role of soil in the Near East and North Africa

Key messages

- In the most arid region of the world, the Near East and North Africa (NENA) region, water scarcity issues are foreseen to increase in the coming decades;
- Green water comes from precipitation and is stored in the topsoil and root zone;
- Green water flows are dominant in the hydrological cycle of arid and semi-arid regions where they can lead to major changes in downstream water flows;
- Green water is fundamental for rainfed agricultural systems and for the recharge of aquifers, but if soils are degraded water is lost by runoff instead of being stored. This increases the risk for erosion and flooding;
- Sustainable soil management practices improve green water infiltration and retention and increase water use efficiency and productivity;
- In drylands or savannah regions, the increase of green water use from 10 -30 percent to 50 percent lead to significant increases in yields;
- Green water should be included in the national water budget;
- Awareness should be raised on the link between soil and water as their management cannot be addressed separately.





Main activities implemented since the last PA

- Promotion of SoILex (see map)
- Promotion of the Global Soil Doctors Programme: implementation under discussion in Morocco



Database about soil legal instruments available



Main activities implemented since the last PA

- Discussions on the creation of a R&D Database continued
- NENA experts joined and contributed to the work of several networks like INSII, GLOSOLAN, NETSOB, NETSOB, INBS, etc.
- Near East countries are contributing to the writing of the Soil Atlas of Asia (to be launch in summer this year)
- NENA countries contributed to the production of global maps

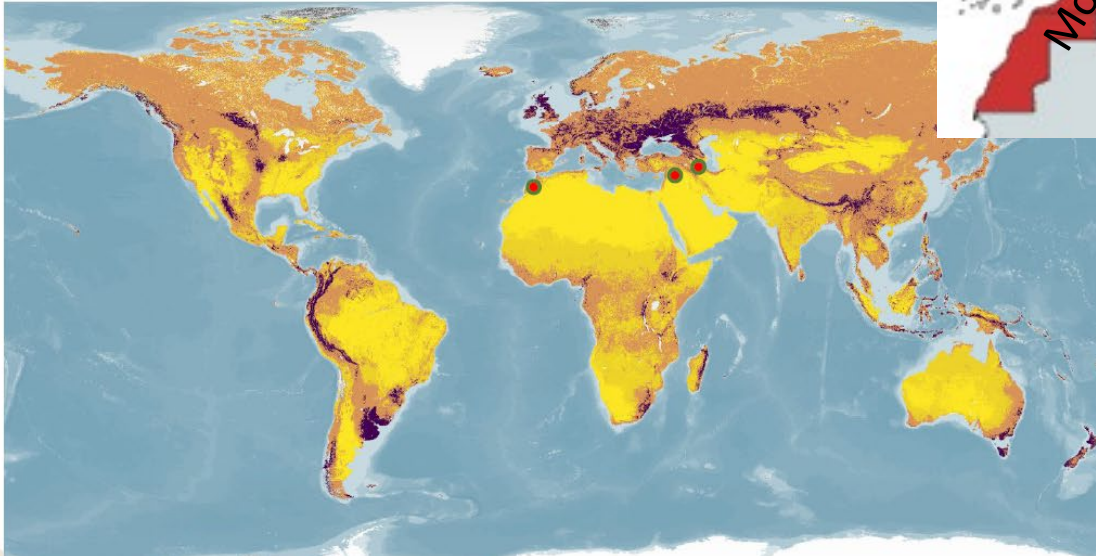
Global Black Soil Distribution Map (GBSmap)

- Milestones

- Technical manual and an international training were delivered
- Global report on the status of Black Soils of the world is being produced and will be delivered by May 23th.

Members of INBS

31 Countries and 1 Union



Morocco

Iraq

Syria

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Global Soil Organic Carbon Sequestration Potential Map - GSOSeq v1.1 - Submissions

- **4 NENA countries have submitted** a national GSOSeq product (Oman; Palestine; Sudan; United Arab Emirates)
- **6 NENA TCP project countries are currently generating** a GSOSeq product (Iran; Lebanon; Morocco; Syria; Tunisia; Yemen)



■ NENA TCP Project (in progress) ■ Not Submitted ■ Submitted

- Capacity Development

- A regional training was held in person in 2019 attended by 25 participants from 14 countries (28 November - 3 December 2019)
- A regional training under the NENA TCP project of country experts was held in 2022 and attended by 27 experts from 8 countries (7-11 February 2022)

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PILLAR 4

- GSOCmap
- GSSmap
- GSOCseq
- GBSmap
- GSERmap
- ...



- GloSIS Nodes
- GloSIS Discovery Hub
- GloSIS Data Exchange



- Trainings
- Product Guidelines
- Technical Manuals



- **Regional TCP Project**

Countries that still have to nominate their experts in INSII :

- Egypt
- Kuwait
- Libya
- Qatar
- Saudi Arabia
- United Arab Emirates

NENASIS (70% of countries nominate experts in INSII)

E-learning training





Main activities implemented since the last PA

Countries in NENALAB

Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen

Chair: Mr. Abdelmjid Zouahri
(Morocco)

Vice-Chair for the Near East: Ms.
Riham Zahalan (Syria)

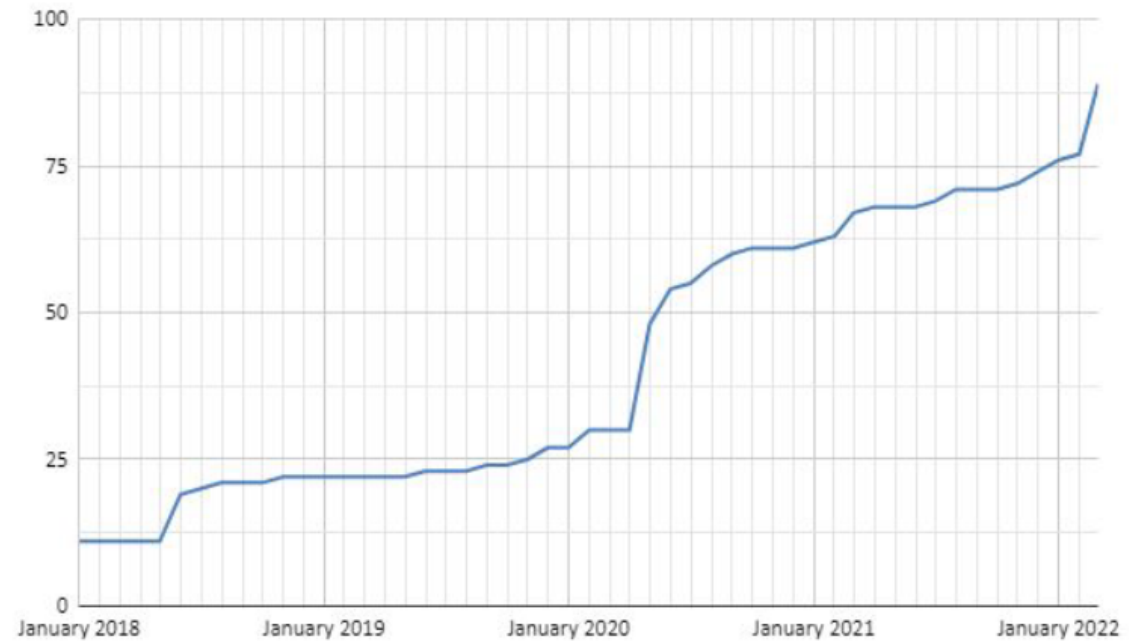
Vice-Chair for North

Africa: Ms. Hana Nabil (Morocco)

Steering Committee (recently established)

Yara Khairallah (Lebanon)

Fassil Kebede (Morocco)



NENALAB Network Growth
89 soil laboratories





Challenges

- Strengthen the capacity of expertise of NENA soil scientists and students (training process) to participate actively in different GSP soil networks and ITPS.
- Realize a lobbying towards technical/political institutions in NENA for a better consideration of soil aspects by decision makers;
- Ensure a widespread diffusion, accurate information of the best soil management (soil health, CA, SSM) in NENA region.
- Raise funding to implement the NENA GSP POW.
- Supporting the new GSP framework (2022-2030)



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