



First official World Soil Day celebration and Launch of International Year of Soils 2015

“Soils, a foundation for family farming”

Friday, 5 December 2014 (12:45-14:40 hours)

Sheikh Zayed Centre, FAO Headquarters, Rome

The General Assembly of the United Nations in December 2013 designated 5 December as World Soil Day (WSD) and declared 2015 as the International Year of Soils (IYS). Both WSD and the IYS are essential platforms to raise awareness at the international, regional and national levels about the fundamental role of soils for human life. This event, at FAO headquarters, is intended to celebrate the first official World Soil Day and Launch of International Year of Soils 2015, with similar events organized in New York, Bangkok and Santiago.

Provisional Agenda

Moderator: Ms Marcela Villarreal, Director OPC, FAO

- 12:45 – 12:55 Opening by Mr Jose Graziano da Silva, FAO Director-General.
- 12:55 – 13:10 Keynote address “Healthy soils for a healthy life” by:
 - H.E. Joseph Sam Sesay, Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security, Sierra Leone
 - H.E. Jhonny Cordero, Vice-Minister of Land, Plurinational State of Bolivia.
- 13:10 – 13:20 Delivery of soil monoliths to FAO by:
 - H.E. Surapit Kirtiputra, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to Italy
 - Mr Peter Bartha, Ministry of Agriculture, Hungary
- 13:20 - 13:25 Video-message by Mr Karmenu Vella, EU Commissioner of Environment, Maritime affairs and Fisheries
- 13:25 – 13:35 Presentation on Soils and its role on Food Security and Nutrition within FAO Strategic Framework, by Ms Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director General DDG-N, FAO
- 13:35 – 13:40 Video message by Ms Monique Barbut. UNCCD Executive Secretary
- 13:40 – 14:00 Remarks by:
 - Mr Volkert Engelsman, International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)
 - Mr Rainer Horn, President International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS)
 - Ms Morgane Danielou, International Fertilizer Industry Association (IFA)
- 14:00 – 14:40 Closure of the event followed by refreshments offered by Hungary and the Kingdom of Thailand (in front of the Iran Room)