



# World Soil Day 2018 celebration

## “Be the solution to soil pollution”

**5 December 2018 | 13:00-14:30**  
**Sheikh Zayed Centre, FAO Headquarters, Rome**

The United Nations General Assembly at its 68th session in December 2013, designated 5 December as World Soil Day (WSD). Soil, like air and water, is fundamental for life on earth. Although there is an intrinsic association of food production with soils, they also provide us with clean water, fuel, building materials, fiber, habitat, medicines and nutrients. Taking note of the importance of soils for food security and nutrition, food safety, sustainable development and human health, the theme for the World Soil Day celebration 2018 is “**Be the solution to soil pollution**”. Soil pollution affects the food we eat, the water we drink, the air we breathe, our health and the health of all the organisms in the planet. Human activities are the major source of soil pollution. We continue to use more and we are exposed to thousands of chemicals in our everyday lives, and tons of urban, industrial and agricultural waste end up in our soils. Further damage to this precious resource would hamper efforts to provide enough and healthy food. All stakeholders need to take action in order to become a solution to soil pollution. During this celebration, a report on the “**Economic assessment of soil erosion and soil nutrient loss in Malawi**” will be released showing how soil degradation negatively influences the economy of a country. The **Glinka World Soil Prize** will be awarded to recognize the efforts for promoting sustainable soil management as per the Revised World Soil Charter Principles.

- 13:00 - 13:10 **Opening by Ms Maria Helena Semedo**, Deputy Director General Coordinator Natural Resources, FAO
- 13:10 - 13:20 **Opening remarks by H.E. Pyotr Viktorovich Ilyichev**, Director of the Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Russian Federation
- 13:20 - 13:25 **Award of the Glinka World Soil Prize** to “Prof. Rattan Lal, President of the IUSS” by Ms. Maria Helena Semedo and H.E. Pyotr Viktorovich Ilyichev
- 13:25 - 13:40 **Keynote address by Prof. Rattan Lal**, President of IUSS (the Laureate of the Glinka World Soil Prize 2018)
- 13:40 - 13:50 “Be the solution to soil pollution”, **Ms Natalia Rodriguez**, FAO
- 13:50 - 14:00 A student call to be the solution to soil pollution by Thai students (**Ms. Chalita Amornchaipiriykul** and **Ms. Monsicha Prompunjai**, Assumption University Thailand)
- 14:00 - 14:15 Launch of the “Economic assessment of soil erosion and soil nutrient loss in Malawi”, **Ms Zineb Bazza**, FAO
- 14:15 - 14:25 Launch of the World Soil Day Award 2018
- 14:25 - 14:30 Closure of the event

**Moderator : Eduardo Mansur, Director of the Land and Water Division, FAO**

*Refreshments will be served from 12:30 to 13:00*

# BE THE SOLUTION TO SOIL POLLUTION

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