The 68th UN General Assembly declared 2015 the International Year of Soils (IYS).

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has been nominated to implement the IYS 2015, within the framework of the Global Soil Partnership and in collaboration with Governments and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

The International Year of Soils will help us pave the road towards sustainable development for all and by all.

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WE DEPEND ON SOILS

Healthy soils are the basis for healthy food production
Soils are the foundation for vegetation which is cultivated or managed for feed, fibre, fuel and medicinal products

Soils support our planet’s biodiversity and they host a quarter of the total
Soils help to combat and adapt to climate change by playing a key role in the carbon cycle

Soils store and filter water, improving our resilience to floods and droughts
Soil is a non-renewable resource; its preservation is essential for food security and our sustainable future

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Raise awareness among civil society and decision makers
Educate the public

Support effective policies and actions for the sustainable management and protection of soil resources
Promote investment in sustainable soil management activities

Strengthen initiatives in connection with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) process and Post-2015 agenda
Advocate for rapid capacity enhancement for soil information collection and monitoring at all levels

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SOILS 2015

PROTECT OUR SOILS

Our soils are in danger because of expanding cities, deforestation, unsustainable land use and management practices, pollution, overgrazing and climate change.

The current rate of soil degradation threatens the capacity to meet the needs of future generations.

The promotion of sustainable soil and land management is central to ensuring a productive food system, improved rural livelihoods and a healthy environment.