



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



## Poster drawing contest by kids for kids on salt-affected soils

Did you know that soils can be salty? Have you ever seen white crusts on soil? Salts are present naturally in soils and water, and they move freely through the soil. Naturally saline soils may support rich ecosystems, but natural processes such as droughts and human activities, especially irrigation, can increase how many salts are in soils, a process that is called salinization. Soil salinization breaks down our soils and reduces their ability to help our food grow. Share your knowledge about soil salinization with other kids and let them know the amazing ecosystem richness of saline soils and the threat that soil salinization poses to our soils and our lives!

In the framework of the **World Soil Day 2021 (WSD2021)**, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) and the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) are calling on children and teens, **from ages 5 to 14**, living in areas with saline soils or affected by soil salinization and sodification (the increase of sodium in soils), to use their imagination and create a poster that illustrates natural saline ecosystems or how soil salinization affects their daily lives. The contest is an opportunity to share realities of the impacts of salinization and sodification on the lives of thousands of people worldwide in terms of food security, nutritional content of food, agricultural productivity and forced migration. The contest also aims to share the richness and ecological value of natural saline soils and their use. The contest will also help raise awareness for other kids/adolescents/youth who live in other parts of the world and might not know about the impact of soil salinization and the existence of natural saline soils.

### ABOUT THE CONTEST

The objectives of the contest are:

- Create colorful artworks that tell a story, while giving visibility to the on-site and off-site impacts of salinization and sodification.

- Raise awareness about the urgent need to fight secondary salinization and sodification processes.
- Raise awareness of the ecological value of natural saline soils and how they can be managed sustainably.
- Promote educational activities, engagement and participation of children and schools in soil science.
- Develop empathy/understanding between children of the world.
- Reflect on the different types of challenges posed by salt-affected soils regarding food security, human health and the environment.

## PARTICIPANTS

All young people who care about nature and soil and want to take part in this challenge are invited to participate, with special regard to those that face the impacts of salt-affected soils where they live or that want to promote the values of natural saline ecosystems. **Schools around the world can also compete.** The competition is divided into the following categories:

Category A | age range between 5-10 years old

Category B | age range between 10-14 years old

## SUBJECT

Participants should develop a drawing in a poster format illustrating the cause, impacts, and/or solutions of soil salinization or natural ecosystems hosted by saline soils and their use. The aim is to raise awareness of this soil threat and the need to conserve natural saline soils, under the WSD 2021 motto "**Halt soil salinization, boost soil productivity**".

All participants are encouraged to learn more about [World Soil Day](#) and to consult the [GSP publications](#) regarding salt-affected soils.

## REQUIREMENTS

- Each participant and/or group of participants can only submit **one entry**.
- The drawings must be an **original work** of the participant/s.

- Poster entries may be drawn, painted (you can use our [soil painting tutorial](#)) or sketched using pens, pencils, crayons or charcoal, or using oil, acrylic or watercolour paint, as well as mixed media. Digitally created artwork is also allowed.
- Drawing may or may not include text. If text is used, no more than 25 words or 100 characters can be accepted.
- Parents and/or teachers can help the youngest participants in understanding the dynamics of salt-affected soils. **We encourage them to organize dedicated lessons to help children engage in the contest.**
- Working on an **A4/A3 or A2 sheet** is recommended, to make it easier for the scan and upload of the poster design. If the drawing is larger, a digital photo of the work may have to be taken in order to successfully digitalize and upload the photo file.

## SUBMISSIONS

- Submissions should be sent by 15 November 2021 through any free file transfer service/platform (i.e. Google drive, SharePoint, WeTransfer, Dropbox) to [iuss@umweltbundesamt.at](mailto:iuss@umweltbundesamt.at) and [World-Soil-Day@fao.org](mailto:World-Soil-Day@fao.org) and include the **mandatory Registration form – accessible on Google forms.**
- Only digital files will be accepted – **please do not send any physical posters.**

## EVALUATION AND AWARDS

- The finalists will be chosen based on creativity, originality, quality of the informational content, and artistic/visual impact of the poster.
- The top 10 drawings in each category (20 drawings in total) will be selected for the shortlist by the screening committee and notified in November 2021. Shortlisted candidates will receive a certificate for this achievement.
- After an online voting phase on Facebook the 2 winning drawing designs will be selected and announced on the World Soil Day website on the 5th December 2021, World Soil Day.
- Winners will be promoted on FAO social media and by FAO offices around the world. Winners will also receive a Certificate of Recognition and a surprise gift bag.
- When winning posters are published, only the first initial, full family name (or school/institute) and country of origin will be published. No other personal information about the contestants will be published or shared.

## TIMELINE

- Submission opens: **21 September 2021**
- Submission closes: **15 November 2021**
- Shortlisting of the 20 drawings: **25 November 2021**
- **Online voting phase on Facebook: 26 November – 4 December 2021**
- Announcement of the 2 winners: **5 December 2021**

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Copyright of materials submitted remains with the respective participants, and copyright owners will be credited accordingly.
- Minors must have the permission of their parents or legal guardians to participate in the contest.
- By submitting your entry, you consent to the drawing being uploaded on digital platforms, and distributed via social media channels.
- The GSP does not accept responsibility for, or endorse the views of the contestants.

*Rome, Italy, September 2021 and Austria, Vienna, September 2021*

