



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

7th Asian Soil Partnership MEETING

9-10 March 2022

Item 4: GSP Pillars updates and way forward

Munir Zia (ASP Pillar-II Chair)



Pillar 2

Encourage investment, technical cooperation, policy, education, awareness and extension in soil



Policy Brief for Asia “The multi-faced role of soil in Asia”

1. **WHAT** is covered?
2. **WHY?**
3. **HOW**
4. **WHERE ARE WE UPTO?**
5. **WHAT NEXT?**



WHAT?

Policy Brief for Asia “The multi-faced role of soil in Asia”

This document supports the aim of Asian Soil Partnership member countries ($n=24$) to protect soils and demonstrates the value of coordinated and targeted action and regional policy to

- safeguard the conservation of soils within the region,
- achieve the targeted SDGs



WHY?

Policy Brief for Asia “The multi-faced role of soil in Asia”

- Availability of natural resources, and unique combination of the monsoon climate has made Asia the rice basket of the world.
- Mining of soil nutrients is declining crop yields, and eroded soils are contributing to the destruction in natural habitat and exacerbating the loss of biodiversity.
- Rapid changes in socio-economic and natural drivers including urbanization are impacting agro-environments in the region.
- Climate change is further exacerbating risk to the resilience of the production systems.

HOW?

Policy Brief for Asia “The multi-faced role of soil in Asia”

Nov-Dec, 2019

Draft outlines

Aug, 2000

Draft layout developed and shared (Munir and Waqar)

Consultative process

Input Needed - Development of Short Policy Brief on “The multi-faced Role of Soil in Asia”



Dr. Munir Hussain Zia /DM-E (R&D) /HO /FFC <munirzia@ffc.com.pk>

Dec 27, 2019, 6:51 PM

to mtrahman63@gmail.com, kddorji@moaf.gov.bt, rarua03@yahoo.com, gdzlc326@163.com, adgswm@gmail.com, ddnursyamsi@yahoo.com,

Dear Sir/Mad 'm,

Happy new year in advance!

With the consent of GSP Rome, we have planned to develop a short policy brief on “The multi-faced Role of Soil in Asia” as per example of the one developed for the Near East and North Africa, available at <http://www.fao.org/3/ca3803en/CA3803EN.pdf> (pdf copy attached).

You are requested to go through the draft outline (see attached MS Word Doc) and suggest edits and willingness to contribute against relevant sections. Your input especially in shape of country specific data against each section (track changes mode preferred) will be highly appreciated.

Any further thoughts on the above are also welcome.

Hoping to hear from you, soon

Regards,

Draft Layout

1. As per example of NENA region <http://www.fao.org/3/ca3803en/CA3803EN.pdf>, below is a draft of contents for development of similar policy brief for Asia.

Policy Brief Title: The multi-faced role of soil in Asia

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Summary by MZ, WA, and LC

1. Introduction by MZ, WA, and LC
2. Healthy soils for food security and nutrition by MZ, WA, LC, and others interested

Fig. Prevalence of undernourishment and GDP per capita (in Int USD) in Asian countries (Source FAO database/publications)

Table. Regional overview of food insecurity and undernourishment in Asia (Source FAO database/publications)

3. Soil health and water scarcity (Source IWMI and FAO database/publications) by MZ, WA, LC, and others interested
4. Healthy soils for climate change mitigation and adaptation by ALL interested

Table. SSM for enhanced soil carbon uptake and storage

5. Sustainable soil management to prevent regional conflicts by ALL interested

Table. Soil threats in the Asia region (Input by national focal points to the Asian Soil Partnership)

Recommendations and the way forward by MZ, WA, and LC

Glossary and References

MZ: Munir Zia
WA: Waqar Ahmad
LC: Lucrezia, Caon

7th Asian Soil Partnership Meeting | 9-10 March 2022

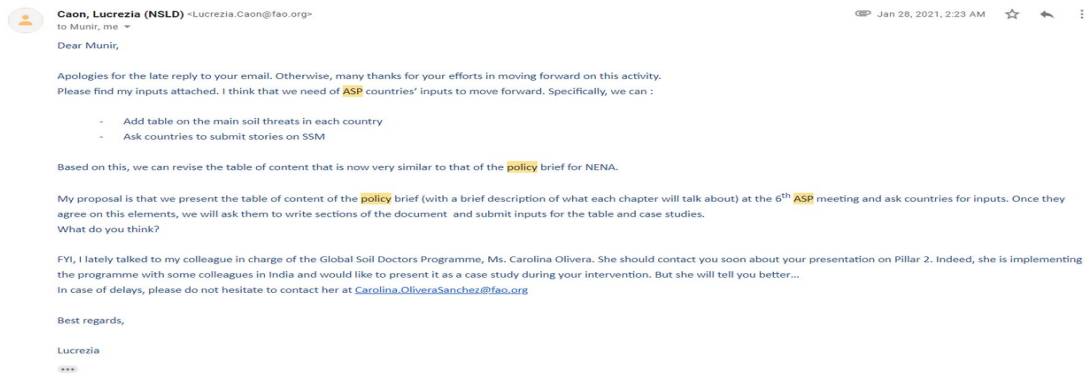


HOW?

Nov-Dec, 2019

↓
Draft layout developed and shared
on August 2020

↓
Since then continuous
improvement in consultation with
GSP Secretariat, and all
contributors – Asian Countries



Draft Layout

Policy Brief Title: The multi-faced role of soil in Asia

List of contributing authors: xxxxxxxxxxxx

Acknowledgements

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KEY MESSAGES?

- Out of the 4.1 billion individuals living in Asia (24 ASP member countries), 52% live in rural areas. This necessitates **self-sufficiency in agriculture**.
- Asia supports about 55% of the world population on 23% of the world's agricultural land. This is the reason; **Asian agriculture is far more intensive**.
- Several **factors are responsible for the soil degradation** in Asia, for example, water erosion (59 %), wind erosion (30 %), chemical degradation (10 %) and physical degradation (2 %). Other factors include deforestation.
- **Dry land agriculture** is another challenge since productivity of crops is compromised – such lands are particularly susceptible to land degradation.
- In many Asian countries, floods could improve soil fertility. This opportunity could be harvested through **diversion of floodwater towards desert areas**.
- Supplementary irrigation - issues related to **judicious use of water through rainwater harvesting**, in situ/ex situ storage of run-off water/micro irrigation

KEY MESSAGES?

- 0 **GLOBAL WARMING** - affecting Himalayan glaciers and Asian monsoon. Accelerated ice melting may lead to an increased risk of floods and hazards related to glaciers
- 0 **BIOSALINE AGRICULTURE** - success story that has been introduced in several Asian countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, and elsewhere.
- 0 While the **Growing Use Of Groundwater** has improved the livelihoods of millions of rural people, it has also caused depletion of aquifers, pollution of groundwater and the intrusion of seawater in coastal aquifers upon which coastal cities (and future generations) depend.
- 0 Increase in crop yield retains soil organic carbon (SOC) in croplands of East and Southeast Asia. **SOC is decreasing in South Asia is because crop residues** are widely used as fuel and fodder rather than their return to the soil.

WHERE ARE WE UPTO?

- 0 The DRAFT document is with GSP Secretariat for Review and further edits
- 0 Meeting was held on 8th Mar, 2022

GSP Feedback

Policy Brief must be more concise. This is a very detailed and comprehensive document.



WHERE ARE WE UPTO?

DRAFT WRITE-UP

- **Contributors for Draft Write-up:**
Pakistan, India, and Afghanistan
- **Response Awaited as per Commitment:**
Mongolia, Cambodia, and India

CASE STUDIES

- **Contributors:**
Pakistan, India, Thailand, Mongolia, and Cambodia

WHAT NEXT?

Presenting this document

Webinar on soil governance: “Soil governance related to food security and land degradation neutrality”

Way Forward

1. Since we have already identified major soil constraints – Constraints Matrix Policy Document, have some Case Studies too; developing a National Policy Document for each of the ASP Member Country is proposed.
2. Active coordination with the Country Focal Persons for developing country-specific policy document
3. Proactive role from all contributors is requested



**Thanks for
your
attention**



2022

