



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

8th Asian Soil Partnership MEETING

2 May 2023

Regional priorities and needs

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Ms Gina Nilo, ASP Chair*



27 April, Hanoi, Viet Nam

**Side event on the establishment of the
Soil Health Action Framework of the Asian Soil Partnership (SHARP)**

Hybrid event

80 participants from Cambodia, Indonesia, India, Laos, Malaysia,
Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam



Why?

- There is a large amount of initiatives, projects, tools, networks, partnerships, etc. on sustainable soil management, soil health and soil assessment and monitoring

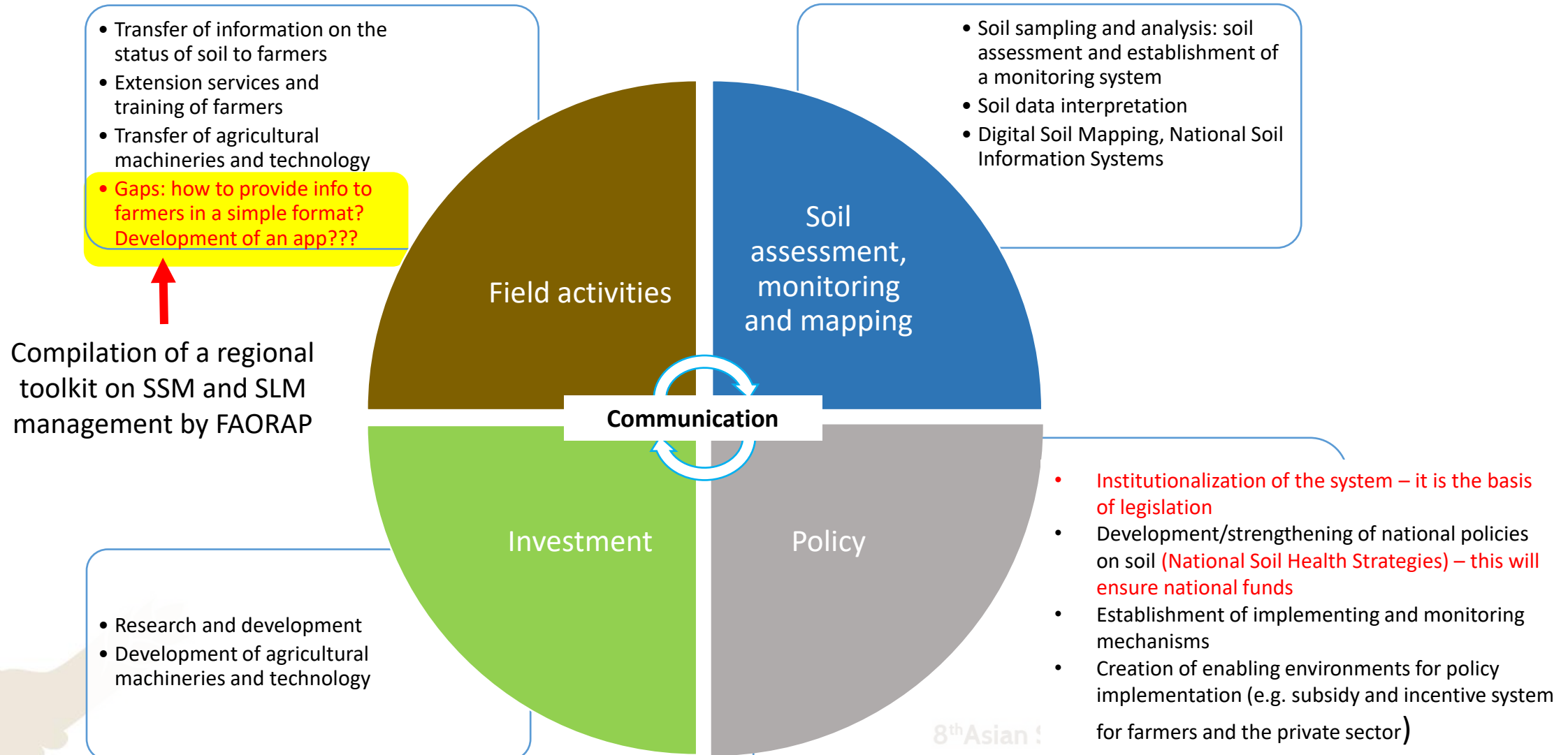
PROBLEM:

- No effective exchange of information and data – *are information and data presented and shared in a way understandable to different stakeholder groups?*
- Awareness and communication - *do we know about all initiatives, projects, tools, etc. under implementation or developed in a country or region? Are stakeholders talking to each other?*
- National activities and products need to be considered in global initiatives (e.g. those of the Global Soil Partnership, FAO) and global initiatives need to be adapted to national contexts
- We need to have a comprehensive approach to soil health. Soil assessment and monitoring need to be connected to policy, the private sector (investments, research and development) and then land users. How can data, indicators and indexes on soil health be used and translated into actions for preserving and/or improving soil health?

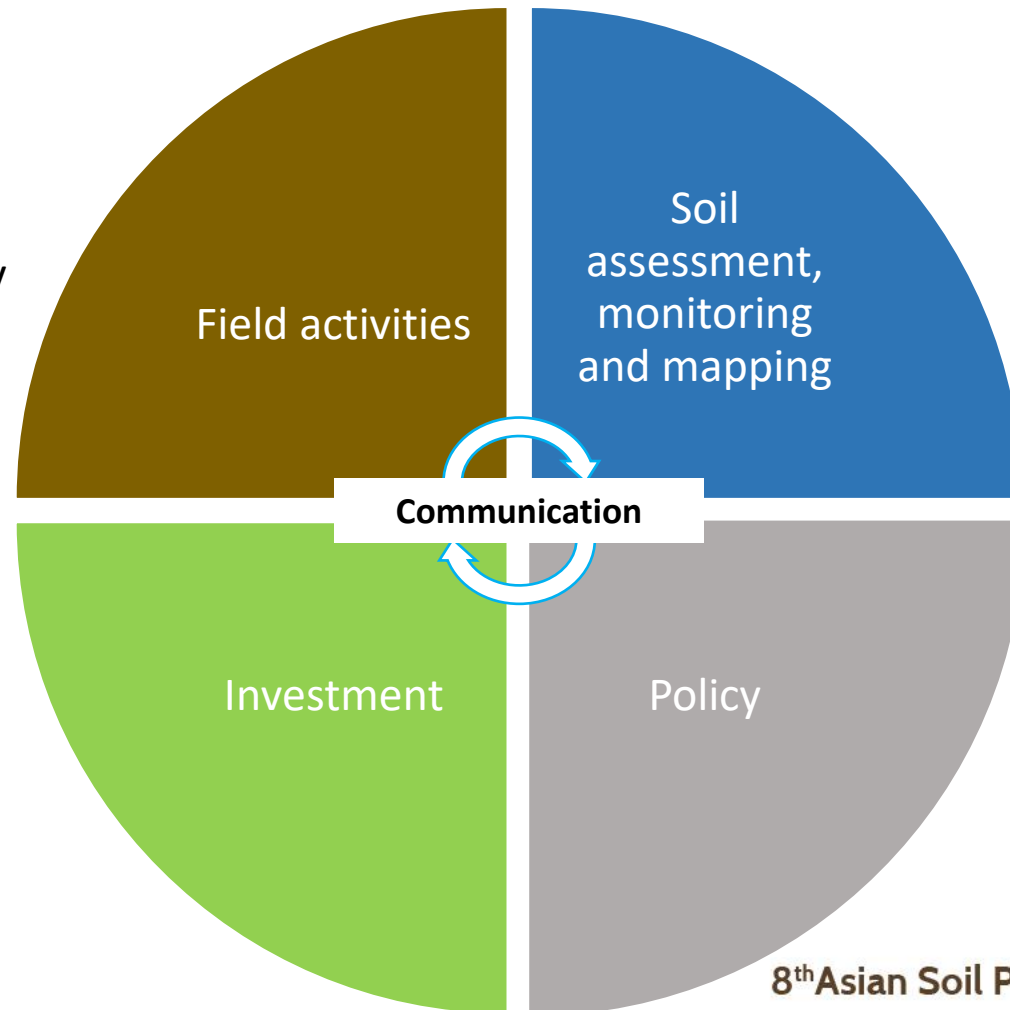
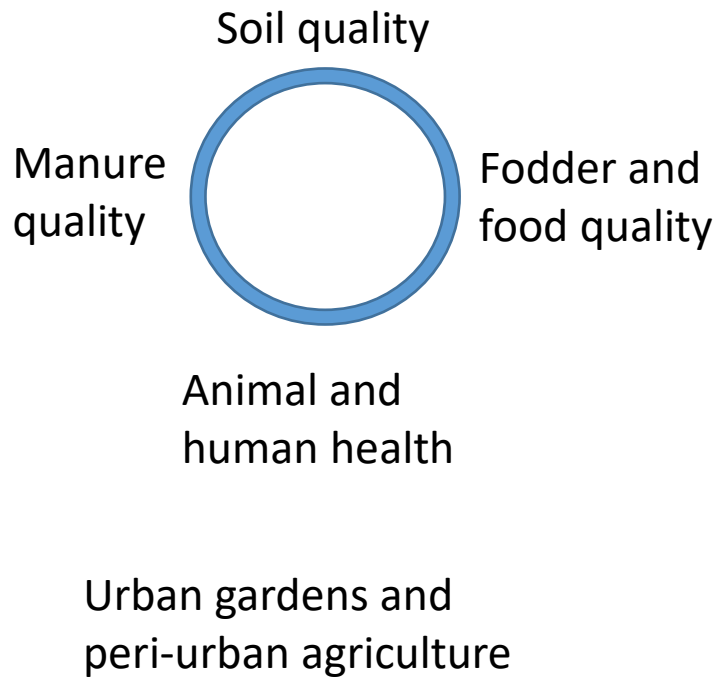
General concept

- We would like to develop something simple to serve as baseline for countries to develop or improve their action framework on soil health.
- We would like to support countries in developing or improving and thereafter implement their action framework. Following the example of the Philippines, we would like to put an emphasis on the need to include soil health in national policy strategies to guarantee political and financial support to initiatives on soil.
- A flexible system that keeps into consideration countries' differences and priorities, international and national available tools, and ongoing initiatives and projects
- Inclusive: it looks at all stakeholders on soil (from farmers to policy makers, to the private sector)
- Comprehensive: it brings together international organizations, private and governmental efforts on soil
- **It can help addressing transboundary issues related to soil management e.g. air and water pollution, water scarcity and drought (ref. irrigation and soil water storage capacity)**

Components



Connection to One Health



- Biodiversity and pharmaceutical
- Air and water quality (transboundary environmental issues)

The system at work

Soil assessment, monitoring and mapping

- Soil sampling and analysis: soil assessment and establishment of a monitoring system
- Soil data interpretation
- Digital Soil Mapping, National Soil Information Systems

International organizations

NETSOB
 GLOSOB
 INFA
 INBS
 INSAS
 GLOSOLAN
 GLOSI
 INSII
 SOILSTAT/FAOSTAT
ISAF (indicators and index)
 Land Degradation Assessment (LADA)
 Agro-ecological Zoning (AEZ)
 Land Resources Planning Toolbox (LRPT)

UNEP country monitoring report on land degradation
 UNCCD: land degradation neutrality
 IPCC report on GHGs emissions from agriculture

Government

National Soil Health Monitoring System

Soil quality certifications

How does it work? Gaps and needs? How does it link to the work of international organizations, projects, private sector initiatives, etc.?

Projects, private sector initiatives, NGOs, Universities, etc.

OHSEA project
 SOILBON

Regional actors

ASEAN Center on Biodiversity (they might start looking at soil)

Asian Biodiversity Center (they are starting to work on soil)



The system at work

Policy

- Development/strengthening of national policies on soil
- Establishment of implementing and monitoring mechanisms
- Creation of enabling environments for policy implementation (e.g. subsidy and incentive system for farmers and the private sector)

International organizations	Government	Projects, private sector initiatives, NGOs, Universities, etc.
<p>VGSSM VGGT SSM Protocol Fertilizers Code SoiLEX</p> <p>Stockholm Convention Basel Convention Rotterdam Convention</p>	<p>Policies, laws, regulations</p> <p>Implementation and monitoring mechanisms</p> <p>How does it work? Gaps and needs? How does it link to the work of international organizations, projects, private sector initiatives, etc.?</p>	<p>Regional actors</p>
<p>Multi-lateral environmental agreements CGIAR</p> <p>GFFA 2021 Communiqué https://www.gffa-berlin.de/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/GFFA_2021_AMC_Final-Communique_en.pdf</p> <p>GFFA 2023 Communiqué https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/EN/_International-Affairs/gffa-2023-communicue-en.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=6</p>		<p>ASEAN: joint communiqué of the 55th AMM https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Joint_Communique-of-the-55th-AMM-FINAL.pdf (transboundary haze pollution)</p> <p>ASEAN Regional Guidelines for Sustainable Agriculture in ASEAN</p>



The system at work



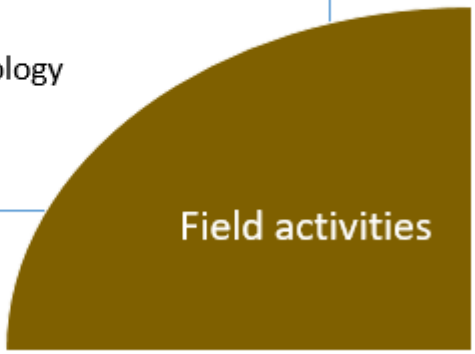
International organizations	Government	Projects, private sector initiatives, NGOs, Universities, etc.
Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health (CA4SH) https://www.coalitionforsoilhealth.org/	National Research Centers	OHSEA SOILBON
4pour1000 GEF GCF	<p style="color: red;">How does it work? Gaps and needs? How does it link to the work of international organizations, projects, private sector initiatives, etc.?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Regional actors</p>
		CESRA ACIAR CGIAR ASIAHUB



The system at work

International organizations	Government	Projects, private sector initiatives, NGOs, Universities, etc.
<p>WOCAT Farmers Field Schools Soil Doctors</p>	<p>TV channels for farmers Social media for farmers Soil health cards</p> <p>ICRISAT (works only in India in Asia)</p>	<p>Regional actors</p>
	<p>How does it work? Gaps and needs? How does it link to the work of international organizations, projects, private sector initiatives, etc.?</p>	<p>ASEAN (to be developed) MAFF Japan AFACI/RDA JICA CJ Korea KOICA CATAS https://www.catas.cn/en/ CAAS ICRAF</p>

- Transfer of information on the status of soil to farmers
- Extension services and training of farmers
- Transfer of agricultural machineries and technology



The system at work



We need of **facilitators and communication experts** to get stakeholders operating under the different components to understand each other.

We should break technical language barriers to allow for an effective flow of information.

If the framework is included in national policy strategy, this work can be done by professionals hired by the government.

Core tasks:

- Collect information from stakeholders in the different components
- “Translate” information into a language understandable by a specific stakeholder group

Implementation strategy

1. Improvement of the baseline version of SHARP developed on 27 April – **involvement of the ASP**
2. Development of **national action frameworks in pilot countries**: Philippines, Thailand, India, Malaysia, Laos, Viet Nam. This will :
 - National inventory consistent to the GSP Action Framework 2022-2030 (ASP Secretariat to prepare a template)
 - Organization of national multi-stakeholders meetings.
 - **Testing the draft “national” action frameworks in study areas before presenting them to the central government for uptake. When possible, connect some study areas to those established under One Health projects on human and animal health – This can contribute to short term impacts of soil health on human and animal health.**
3. Improvement of the **regional action framework** building on the national action frameworks developed in pilot countries (**FINAL VERSION**). This will serve as a real baseline and example for countries to follow and it will allow to compare and monitor national and regional progresses on soil health.
4. **Institutionalization** of the national action frameworks (embracement of the framework by the government)
5. Inclusion of the national action frameworks into national **legislation** – development/reinforcement of **National Soil Strategies**
6. **Mobilization of government national funds** – national governments should start investing in the implementation of their National Soil Strategies
7. **Implementation of national action frameworks**
8. **Regional monitoring and reporting**

- POLLS -

Do you support the idea?

Is it feasible in your country?

How to improve it?





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Thanks for your attention

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