



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

3rd Meeting of the
**Regional Soil Laboratory
Network for Africa**
(AFRILAB)

18 October 2021

Item 2

AFRILAB updates

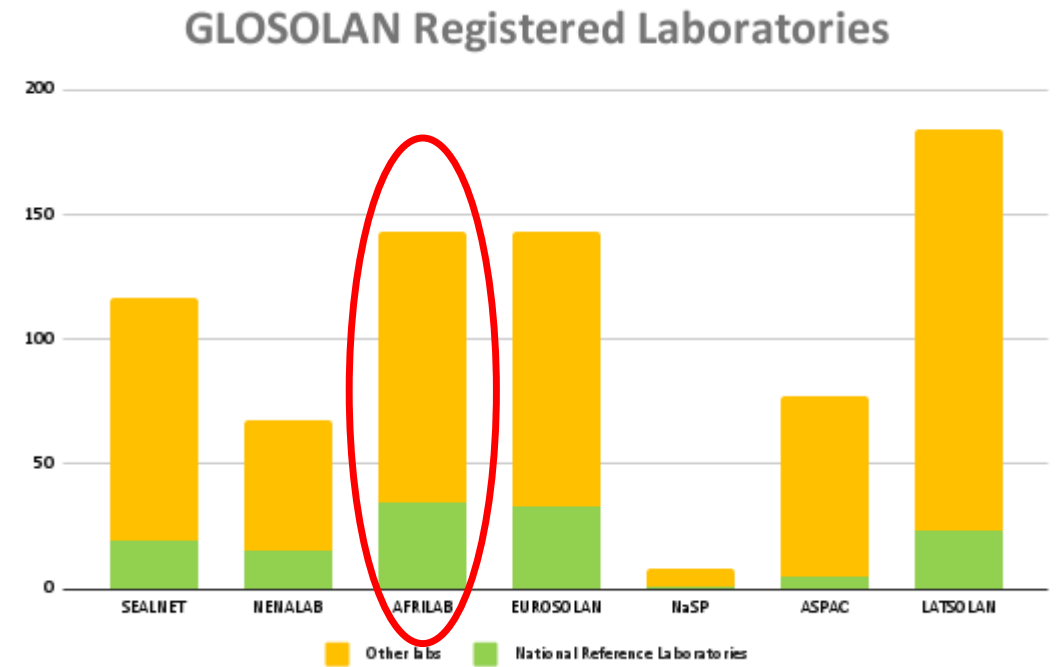
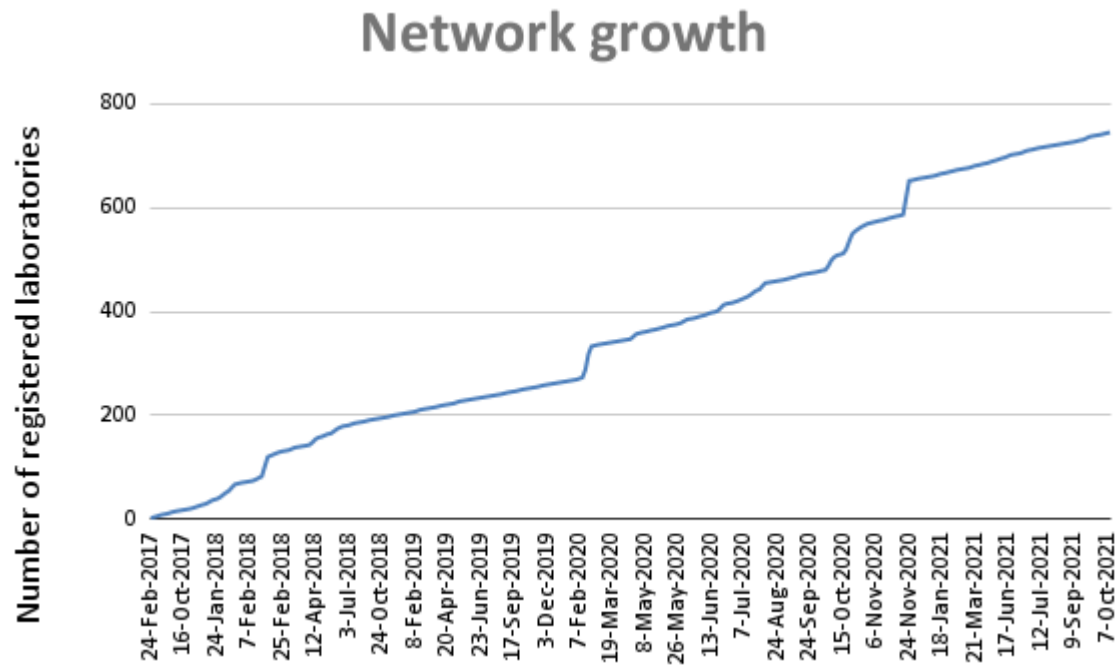
Mr. Filippo Benedetti, GSP Secretariat



AFRILAB
AFRICAN SOIL LABORATORY NETWORK



Global trend



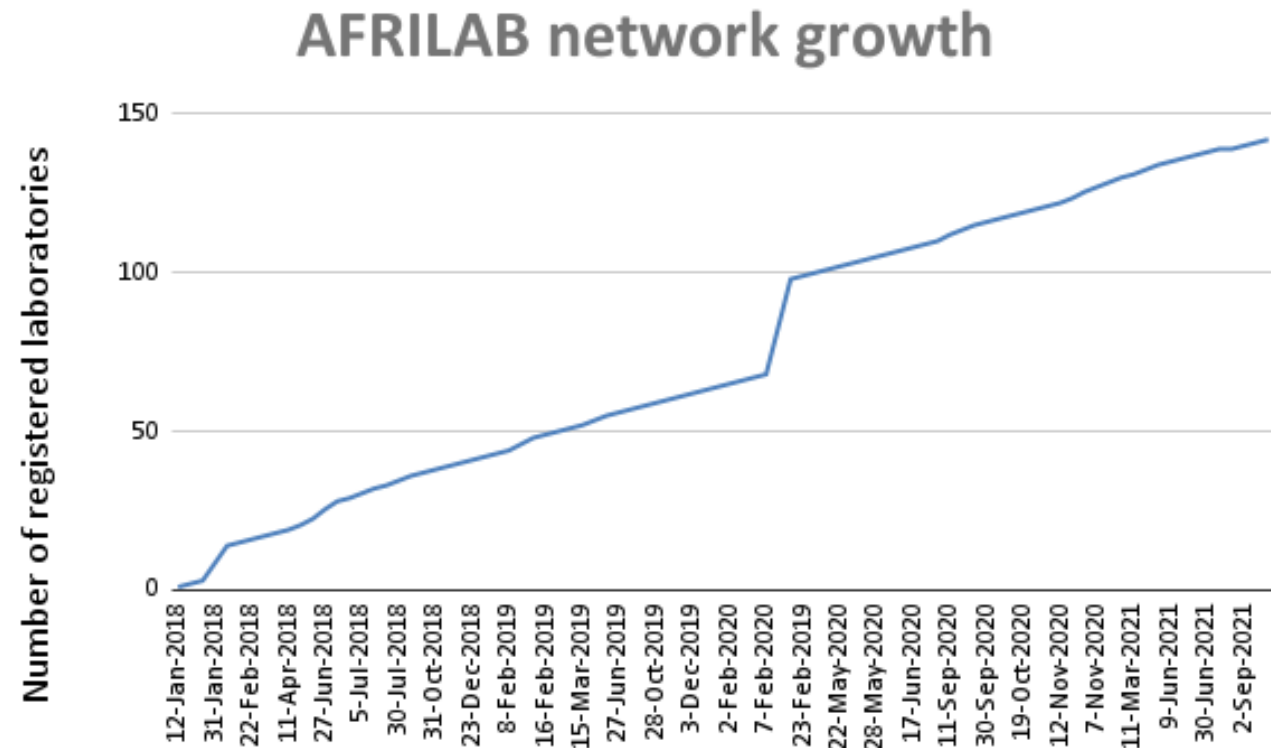
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Regional trend



Since last AFRILAB meeting:
+ 27 registered labs



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- **Missing countries (no laboratory registered):**

- Angola
- Burundi
- Central African Republic
- Comoros
- Republic of Congo
- Equatorial Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Mauritius
- Seychelles

- **Countries with no National Reference Laboratory nominated:**

- Mali
- Somalia
- Uganda

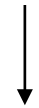
Scaling down: National networks



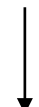
Why NASOLANs are needed?

- Improve the efficacy and outcomes of GLOSOLAN activities
- Develop ad-hoc programs to better face global and local challenges
- Reach a larger number of laboratories

Global



Regional

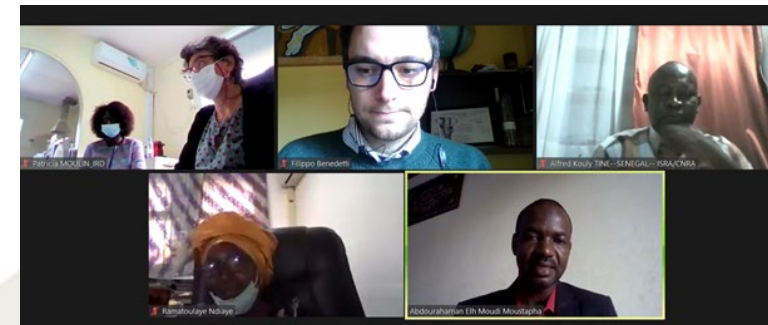


National

NASOLAN tasks

- Enlarge the network by **motivating** other soil laboratories operating in the country to register in GLOSOLAN and, consequently, in NASOLANs
- **Facilitate** the implementation of GLOSOLAN activities
- **Advertise** GLOSOLAN activities and events (e.g. online or in person training and meetings like those of the Regional Soil Laboratory Network), motivating national laboratories to take part in it
- **Organize** national trainings and **meetings** in order to:
 - Transfer the knowledge and skills acquired in GLOSOLAN/RESOLANs to other laboratories
 - Discuss common challenges and need
 - Explore financial resources mobilization opportunities
- Organize national inter-laboratory comparison exercises (**PT**)
- Keep the **communication** active with the Chair and Vice-Chair of their RESOLAN, the GSP national focal point and the GLOSOLAN coordinator
- Keep the **NASOLAN webpage updated** in order to facilitate:
 - i. The financial resource mobilization activities
 - ii. The involvement of laboratories in projects
 - iii. The monitoring of national activities.

We are here to support you!

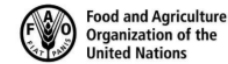


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National Reference Laboratories: *key role*

- Take the **leadership** of the network (organize PTs, annual meetings, trainings, etc.)
- **Scale down:** Involve laboratories operating in the country in all GLOSOLAN and RESOLAN activities
- **Scale up:** Report challenges and needs of the national network to the RESOLAN Chair and Vice-Chairs and GLOSOLAN coordinators.
- See the [Terms of Reference of Laboratories in GLOSOLAN](#) (also available on GLOSOLAN website)



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TERMS OF REFERENCE

Laboratories in the Global Soil Laboratory Network

In November 2017, the Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN) was established under the framework of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) and its fifth Pillar of action on the harmonization of methods, measurements and indicators for the sustainable management and protection of soil resources. GLOSOLAN aims to strengthen the performance of laboratories towards the development of standards and to harmonize soil analysis procedures in order to make soil information across laboratories, countries and regions comparable and interpretable. By validating soil laboratory data, GLOSOLAN will ensure that soil management decisions are made using sound and reliable data. Monitoring and reporting activities will also benefit from this network, such as in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

All public and private laboratories are welcome to join GLOSOLAN and its Regional Soil Laboratory Networks (RESOLANs). GSP focal points¹ are invited to identify a leading laboratory to serve as National Reference Laboratory to begin streamlining implementation of activities at the national level. The registration of National Reference Laboratories in GLOSOLAN is only permitted through the national focal points, which should email duly completed registration form available [here](#) to the GLOSOLAN Coordinator (lucrezia.caon@fao.org) and the GSP Secretariat (GSP-Secretariat@fao.org). All other interested laboratories can email the form to the GLOSOLAN Coordinator and the GSP Secretariat directly.

Suggested criteria for the selecting National Reference Laboratories:

- (i) contain qualified, trained, and experienced staff;
- (ii) contain appropriately calibrated and maintained equipment;
- (iii) regularly apply adequate quality assurance and quality control procedures;
- (iv) use appropriate (sub-)sampling practices;
- (v) contain sound testing and/or inspection procedures;
- (vi) accurately record and report obtained data;
- (vii) maintain an appropriate testing environment;
- (viii) apply standards for safety and disposal of hazardous wastes; and
- (ix) (if possible) be accredited or certified after ISO 17025.

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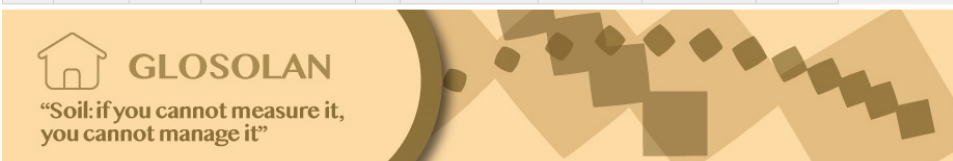
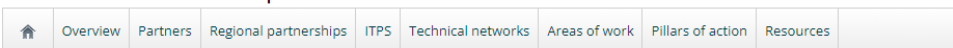
NASOLAN webpage

<https://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/glosolan/national-soil-laboratory-networks/en/>



中文 English Русский Español

Global Soil Partnership



GLOSOLAN homepage
Soil Analysis
Capacity development
Fertilizers analysis – International Network on Fertilizer Analysis
Equipment
Regional Soil Laboratory Networks
National Soil Laboratory Networks
SIMPLE - Soil Import Legislation

National Soil Laboratory Networks

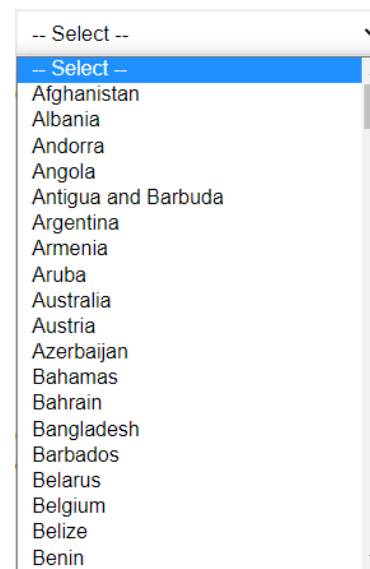
The success and impact of the Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN) strongly relies on the work and commitment of its member laboratories and on their ability to up and downscale GLOSOLAN activities and harmonized protocols. Regional Soil Laboratory Networks (RESOLANS) facilitate downscaling at the regional level. However, only the establishment of National Soil Laboratory Networks (NASOLANS) able to break down language and cultural barriers can make a difference at the country level.

Each NASOLAN represents the lowest network level of GLOSOLAN. They allow all soil laboratories in a country to interact with each other, overcome common challenges and help each other to build their capacity in soil analysis. Their tasks are described in **NASOLAN's Terms of Reference** (AR|EN|ES|FR|RU).

It is the responsibility of each National Reference Laboratory (see **Terms of Reference** (AR|EN|ES|FR|RU)) to lead the establishment of their NASOLAN and to coordinate the implementation of GLOSOLAN activities at the country level. To assist the National Reference Laboratories in this task, GLOSOLAN has prepared **Guidelines on how to establish a National Soil Laboratory Network** including case studies, and has created a NASOLAN webpage for each country.

Each webpage contains the following information:

- Status of the establishment of the network. Established/under establishment/not established
- Name of the network and number of members in the network
- Brief history of the network with a focus on the steps taken by the laboratories to establish it, the obstacles faced and potential supporters.
- Information on the activities implemented and meetings organized by the network. In this section, meetings material and outcome documents of the activities implemented by the NASOLAN will be published.



Key documents



NASOLAN Terms of Reference
AR | CH | EN | FR | RU | ES



Guidelines on how to establish a National Soil Laboratory Network
AR | CH | EN | FR | RU | ES

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National networks in the African region

- **Not established yet** (different reasons/conditions) – We can help you
 - Low number of laboratories operating in the country
 - Communication problems
 - Lack of knowledge
 - Need of financial resources
- **Under establishment** (Botswana, Malawi, Niger, Senegal, Tanzania, etc.) – Any updates?
- **Established** (Ghana, Mozambique, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, etc.) - Any updates?



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Thanks for your attention

