



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the  
**Regional Soil Laboratory  
Network for Africa**  
(AFRILAB)

15 November 2023

**World Soil Day  
event and  
laboratory training  
in Djibouti**

*Dr. Sougueh Cheik  
Vice-chair AFRILAB*

**AFRILAB**  
AFRICAN SOIL LABORATORY NETWORK



As part of the celebration of World Soil Day and under the aegis of the Minister of Higher Education and Research of Djibouti and FAO, the Institute of Life Sciences of the Centre d'Étude et de Recherche de Djibouti (CERD) organized in partnership with the Directorate of Agriculture of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Institute of Research for Development (IRD), the Global Soil Partnership (GSP), the Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN) and the African Soil Laboratory Network (AFRILAB), a series of events from 11th to 14th December 2022 on the year's topic "Soils, where Food Begins".

The different sessions were led by CERD researchers, agronomists from the Department of Agriculture, regional FAO experts (Ricarda Mondry and Solomon Gelacha) and international scientists with the notable participation in Djibouti of Mr. Filippo Benedetti from the Global Soil Partnership (FAO), Ms. Hanane Aroui from IRD, Mr. Elh Moudi Abdourahaman, vice-chair of the GLOSOLAN network and Ms. Lesego Mooketsi-Selepe, chair of the AFRILAB network.

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**On 11<sup>th</sup> December:** A field school day on agro-ecological practices was organized for leading farmers from the five regions of the country (Arta, Dikhil, Ali-Sabieh, Tadjourah and Obock). This activity was held in the locality of Harrou in the region of Dikhil (in the south of the country). This participatory approach training consists in strengthening the capacities of rural communities in order to increase their agricultural production and their livelihoods adapted to the local context, notably through the FAO Soil Doctors programme.



**On 12<sup>th</sup> December:** This day was devoted to training in good laboratory practice (health and safety and quality approach). This training was given to research assistants and senior lab technicians (biochemistry, process engineering, environmental engineering, biological engineering, chemistry, physics, soil science, agronomy) in order for them to fully understand the safety rules relating to the handling of products, hygiene and safety in the laboratory. At the end of this day, a certificate of participation in the training was issued by the leaders of the GLOSOLAN network and AFRILAB to the participants.



In addition, on 13 December 2022, an educational session on the edaphic environment was held exclusively for students from the University of Djibouti, including the measurement of bulk density and water infiltration using the BEERKAN method to evaluate the agronomic capacity of a soil.



Finally, the celebration of World Soil Day was concluded on Wednesday 14 December 2022 with successive official talks by the Acting FAO Representative Dr Ricarda Mondry, the Secretary General of the Ministry of Agriculture Mr Ibrahim Elmi and finally the Minister of Higher Education and Research, H.E. Dr Nabil Mohamed Ahmed, under whose aegis the ceremony was held.



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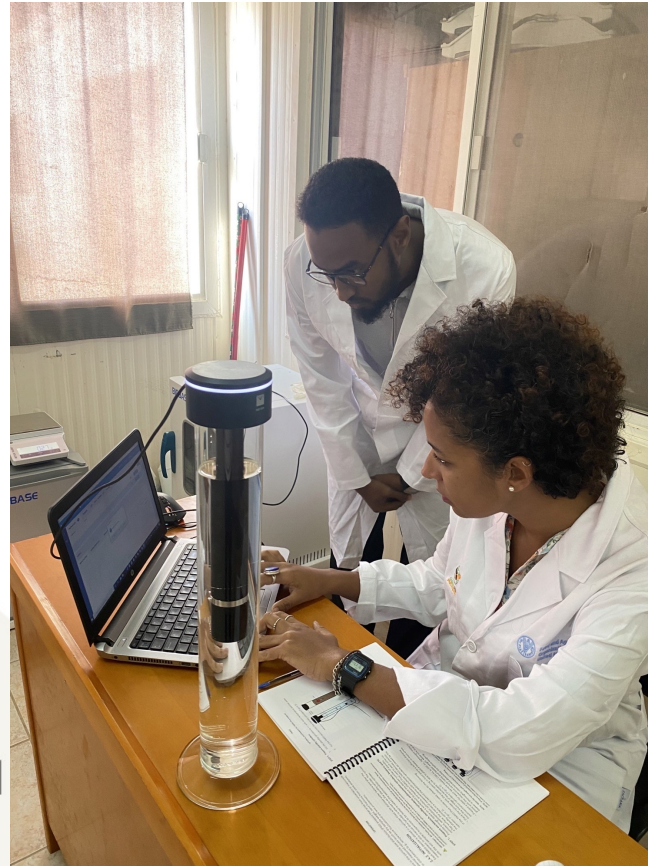
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17/12/2022

## Technical support for CERD's Agronomy Laboratory

The Institute of Life Sciences at CERD has procured new equipment for the physico-chemical analysis of soils. Technical support for the installation of this new equipment was provided by Ms Hanane Aroui, in the presence of Sougueh Cheik (head of the laboratory) and Khadar Hassan Ali (CERD laboratory technician).



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I take this opportunity to thank you for taking the initiative on organizing such an event and for leading its implementation! I would also like to thank Lesego, Moustapha, Hanane, Christian and all colleagues at FAO, IRD, CERD and other offices for their priceless contribution and support! I really hope that this is was the first of many successful initiatives we will launch in Africa. Definitely, it is the prove of the great results that we can achieve by joining efforts!

Not last, I would like to thank Filippo that never stopped working on this collaboration, the organization of the event and its sponsorship.







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**Thank you**

