

5th Meeting of the
**Global Soil Laboratory
Network**
(GLOSOLAN)

23-25 November 2021



Harmonization of GLOSOLAN's Standard Operating Procedures

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GLOSOLAN

GLOBAL SOIL LABORATORY NETWORK

Issues encountered in harmonizing the GLOSOLAN SOPs 2020-2021

- Some methods are used by very few laboratories that completed the harmonization matrixes.
 - Can we still talk about globally harmonized SOPs in this case?
 - Shall we review our way to harmonize this type of SOPs?
- The working group for some SOPs (e.g. SOPs on biological parameters) count on the support of very few “experts”. This slow down the whole harmonization process.
 - How to overcome this issue? It is not a problem of willingness to help but a problem of availability of experts.

- Some methods are used by very few laboratories that completed the harmonization matrixes.

RESOLAN	Opinion
SEALNET	We should work only on common methods in the region. Countries should be supported in terms of equipment for conducting the analysis. Focus on conversion factors as we did with Walkley and Black, and Tyurin methods
AFRILAB	Keep the matrixes to retrieve as much info as possible
EUROSOLAN	Run a survey to enquire on the most used methods. Therefore, focus on the most used methods
LATSOLAN	No time for discussion
NENALAB	No time for discussion

How shall we proceed?

Matrix and harmonization process:

1. Run a survey in multiple languages to enquire on the use of given methods:
 - a. **for methods that are widely used**, we will continue working with the standard GLOSOLAN harmonization procedure
 - b. **for methods that are not widely used:**
 - i. ask specific regions (the ones that use the methods the most) to take leadership in harmonizing them. The matrix (in multiple languages) can be sent to all GLOSOLAN members.

Notes:

- RESOLAN Chairs, vice-Chairs and Steering Committees should take a leading role in collecting information from the regions
- Decision on the SOPs to harmonize should keep Pillar 4 needs into consideration. **For Global SOP, first need to concern the priority of SOPs that support global projects for example GLOSI, C stock, INFA network, Black soil, soil pollution etc. for regional SOPs, the same concern of global projects and then plus the regional need soil parameters**
- The fact that some methods are used by few laboratories does not mean that they are not important. They may represent peculiar characteristics of soils in a certain region. Or a more developed research on the topic. That may not apply in other regions.
- There can be more than one method used for the same soil property, depending on the region or soil types, kind of alternative method applicable for certain soil characteristics. **We may need to look at the regional context of soil condition as the method for alkaline calcareous soil may be different that for acid soil as far as extracts are concern.**
- sometimes conversion factor for certain property can't give accurate result. **Correlation of the GLOSOLAN SOPs with regional methods and national methods**
- We should evaluate why there are no replies to the matrix and maybe treat them as methods without enough experts.

- The working group for some SOPs (e.g. SOPs on biological parameters) count on the support of very few “experts”. This slow down the whole harmonization process.

RESOLAN	Opinion
SEALNET	Spread the voice on GLOSOLAN and ask laboratories that do e.g. physical and biological analysis to register to the network. Commissioning a group of experts to do the work. Can a TCP project pay for this? Make specific requests to experts to do the work - volunteer work
AFRILAB	Ask top experts on the topic to lead the work and produce the SOPs. Invite laboratories that perform these analysis to join the network. Nation Reference Labs to take action on this.
EUROSOLAN	Ask a top expert to take care of the whole harmonization process for some SOPs . Thus, abolish the working groups for some SOPs. Keep the Review Panel.
LATSOLAN	No time for discussion
NENALAB	No time for discussion. No comment received against the idea to rely on a pool of experts to write those SOPs that require very specific knowledge (or are not wide

How shall we proceed?

Working group members:

- Spread the voice on GLOSOLAN and involve more types of laboratories (biological, physical, pollutants, etc.)
- No working groups. Keep the Review Panel
- Commit the preparation of the matrix and the writing of the SOP to real experts on the topic. Possibility to involve experts from other networks (ref. INSAS, NETSOB, INBS, etc.)

The Technical Committee has to make a decision on what we define as “little used methods”. We can run a survey enquiring on how many labs use RESOLANs’ proposed methods. Then the TC has to say what methods will go to the working groups and which other will go to experts on the topic.

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Food and Agriculture
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A decorative graphic consisting of a series of colored squares and dots arranged in a curved path, transitioning from orange to yellow to light green to grey.

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**Thanks for your
attention**

