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Inclusion of range values and reference values in the GLOSOLAN SOPs

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Range and reference values

The Global Soil Partnership asked GLOSOLAN to work on range and reference values to facilitate the provision of recommendations to farmers and other stakeholders

Range value

indicate the range of validity of the method

For example:
Method X is reliable for SOC content from xx to xx.

Should this information be included in the GLOSOLAN SOPs?

Reference value

provide an indication on the status of soil

For example, for P available in soil by the P-Bray I method:
0-10 mg kg-1 indicates soils poor in phosphorus
10-20 mg kg-1 indicates soils with a low-medium content of phosphorus
20-30 mg kg-1 indicates soils with medium-sufficient content of phosphorus
>30 mg kg-1 indicates soils with sufficient content of phosphorus

Range values - Should GLOSOLAN work on that?

- **AFRILAB**: Yes but a working group should be established to do the literature review on this
- **SEALNET**: Yes
- **EUROSOLAN**: Useful but how to define these values? It's **dependent** on equipment and other factors. It should be up to lab itself, and should be up to validation or verification in lab. For some parameters we cannot have range values - not applicable. What if we narrow it down to the soil type? Maybe it is easier.
- **LATSOLAN**: It may seem easy but it is not, it depends on the method and the equipment. We should evaluate the different SOPs in laboratories with different capacities. More discussion is needed.
- **NENALAB**: Yes but it would not be easy, there are many things to consider. We cannot do it for all parameters and methods (e.g. P) - we have to proceed case by case. If we set ranges for a method, then we have to recommend methods for the ranges that are left out. Ranges also depend on the soil type. Provide a range is not sufficient for farmers to make SSM decisions (what about climate?).

Reference values

- **AFRILAB**: Yes but these values are specific per each method
- **SEALNET**: Yes
- **EUROSOLAN**: This is very variant. No. This is experimental work, it cannot be defined in the laboratory
- **LATSOLAN**: Rather challenging to include them (many variables). GLOSOLAN should coordinate with other Technical Networks, estimation services, etc. Should we care on what is happening outside the walls of the lab?
- **NENALAB**: YES but these would be soil type specific. What about talking of INDICATIVE REFERENCE VALUES instead? Shall these be related to pollution values (for example: some elements like Cu and Zn become as pollutants after a fixed limit)?

GLOSOLAN position?

- **Range values**

May be added, but should consider the equipment used, environmental conditions, etc.
This will be method-specific and GLOSOLAN will take care of that.

- **Reference values**

Should be done in collaboration with other GSP technical networks and Pillars.

GSP Secretariat will start a stock taking exercise on the already-produced literature.

Working groups will be then established to work on reference values. GLOSOLAN experts will join the WG.
GLOSOLAN cannot take care of this alone.

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Thanks for your attention

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