



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

5th Meeting of the Latin American Soil Laboratory Network (LATSOLAN)

26-27 October 2022



Governance on the import of soil samples and guidelines on the management of soil samples in laboratories - **SIMPLE**

SIMPLE is a database created to **promote** and **facilitate** the execution of international inter-laboratory comparisons while **simplifying** the shipment of soil samples between countries for research purposes

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Regulatory overview on soil sample import

Imports within the CELAC area

- Soil samples can be easily exchanged between countries members of the Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños, providing the following documents:
- **Phitosanitary Certificate**
- **International Agreement**
- **Safe Conduct** (a document issued by the institution sending the samples, indicating the receivers/carrier involved in the shipping)

Imports from outside the CELAC area

- Soil samples coming from countries other than CELAC should be shipped together with:
- **Certificate of sterilization**
- **Certificate issued by the shipping institution stating the purpose of the use of that soil** (research/interlaboratory tests).

- Regarding waste management regulations: almost all countries have them, but the actual implementation is lacking

What are the possible scenarios?

The **lack** of such **implementation** causes numerous negative consequences, ranging from the **uncertainty** with which practitioners behave to the safety of laboratory technicians, and even, paradoxically, to a negative impact on the soil itself in the case of a lack of regulations on waste management in laboratories dealing with these types of sampling.

- Actually, in some cases, this lack of public bodies is compensated for by private bodies or universities. For example, in cases where the States do not provide any guidance on the disposal and handling of soil samples, in these circumstances it is often the laboratories that provide their workers with the necessary guidelines.
- However, this phenomenon leads to inconsistency within even a single State.

- Responding to this vacuum is one of the major responsibilities in the hands of individual State governments.
- The contradiction inherent in promulgating environmental protection regulations that are not supported in practice by guidelines in the management and especially the disposal of soil samples is evident.

SoiLEX

- SoiLEX is a **global database** that aims to **facilitate access to information** on existing legal instruments on soil protection and prevention of soil degradation and in this way **raise awareness** on a such pivotal topic. The platform was created in coordination with FAOLEX, which is to date one of the largest databases of legal frameworks and instruments related to natural resource management, food, and agriculture.

The legal and policy **instruments can be searched by country profiles or by soil-related keywords**. The information provided by the database allows users to have the complete document as well as a detailed summary of its content, focusing mainly on the purpose and specific objectives of the instrument.

Research by country profile

FAO SOILS PORTAL

Home Data Hub Assessment Biodiversity Management Degradation/Restoration **SoiLEX** Publications

Soil keywords
Country/Territory Profiles
Soil Acts

SoiLEX - Soil related legal instruments and soil governance

All the legal instruments present on the platform have been obtained on the basis of FAOLEX and the EU Soil Wiki and validated by national experts to be relevant and up-to-date.

Each instrument can be searched by country profile or by soil-related keywords and includes a ranking system based on the relevance of the document to the selected keywords, the scope of the legislation, its nature and year. The ranking system facilitates the search and enables users to easily understand which documents are the most important for each search they make.

The information provided by the database allows users to have the complete document as well as a detailed summary of its content, focusing mainly on the purpose and specific objectives of the instrument.

Country: Thailand

Keywords: saline

Submit

Thailand - Country Profiles

Soil conservation

- Enhancement and Conservation of National Environmental Quality Act, 1992 Date of text: 29-05-1992 (National)
- Land Development Act, B.E. 2526. Date of text: 01-10-1983 (National)

Soil quality

- Enhancement and Conservation of National Environmental Quality Act, 1992 Date of text: 29-05-1992 (National)

Soil erosion

- Land Development Act, B.E. 2526. Date of text: 01-10-1983 (National)

Nutrient imbalance

- Land Development Act, B.E. 2526. Date of text: 01-10-1983 (National)

Soil pollution

- Hazardous Substance Act, 1992 Date of text: 01-01-1992 (National)

Research by soil-related keywords

Soil keywords

- Soil conservation
- Soil restoration
- Soil quality
- Soil monitoring
- Soil erosion
- Soil organic carbon loss
- Nutrient imbalance
- Salinisation/sodification
- Soil sealing
- Soil biodiversity loss
- Soil pollution
- Soil acidification
- Soil compaction
- Waterlogging

Country/Territory Profiles

Soil Acts

On SoiLEX there is also a section for topic-based search method

Country/Territory
- select -

Submit

More search options

- Conservation
- Restoration and remediation
- Quality
- Monitoring
- Erosion
- Organic carbon loss
- Nutrient imbalance
- Salinization and sodification
- Sealing
- Biodiversity loss
- Pollution
- Acidification
- Compaction
- Waterlogging

SoiLEX map

- In addition, there is a map on the website **showing those states that have regulations exclusively dedicated to soil protection**, the so-called “*soil acts*”, to date there are, unfortunately, only 19 (just **under 10 percent of the 194 members countries of the FAO**).
- and of these **only 16** have a systematic **national regulation**.



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Thank you for your
attention!

