



Dear INSOP members,

I hope you have had a good start to the year. I am pleased to share with you the first INSOP quarterly email updates for this 2023!

We are encouraging all our members to share **ANY** upcoming events related to soil pollution for which you think all of us would benefit! Please send it first to the INSOP coordinators for review. Once approved, it will be shared in our INSOP updates. Relevant publications, news calls, and collaborations on soil pollution are also welcomed!

UPDATES

INSOP-INFA joint meeting on fertilizer quality assessment

This month, INSOP is inviting you to participate at the joint [INSOP-INFA meeting](#). The overall goal of the session is to exchange knowledge on how mineral fertilizers such as phosphates can lead to soil pollution in agricultural soils. The guest speakers from the [International Network on Fertilizer Analysis](#) (INFA) will present the most recent research and evidence on how the misuse and overuse of phosphate fertilizers can damage food crops and cause soil pollution.

In this joint collaboration, both networks will focus on towards awareness raising on soil pollution by fertilizers, methodologies improvement, optimization and harmonization of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for mineral and organic fertilizers. Under the long-term goals, the networks will work on capacity development, promotion of a better monitoring of environmental pollution, improvement of fertilizers regulatory frameworks and policies to support soil pollution quality assessment and the implementation of innovations and new sources of nutrients through a better-quality control.

In this regard, you are cordially invited to join the meeting which will be held on **Tuesday, 28 February from 11:00-13:00 CET**. The link to the registration can be found here:

https://fao.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJvcuqhrj0tH9UH_TlrhxzQQQyRKQySRZ7s

NSP/NSL joint webinar on soil pollution by pesticides

Considerable societal concern exists about the use of pesticides. Their excessive and improper use damages soil biodiversity and soil health, as well as food safety and human health. In collaboration with the [Plant Production and Protection Division](#) (NSP), the Global Soil Partnership Secretariat, hosted by the [Land and Water Division](#) (NSL), would like to organize a webinar on soil pollution by pesticides in order to raise awareness on how obsolete and other categories of pesticides can cause soil pollution and affect environmental and human health, what tools can be used to carry out environmental risk assessment and how pesticides can be monitored in the soil.

The webinar is going to take place in April and its agenda, speakers and exact date and time will be sent in a separate email soon.

Soil spectroscopy and soil pollution

Together with the [GLOSOLAN-Spec](#) (GLOSOLAN Spectroscopy), INSOP would like to organize a webinar on the use of spectroscopy for assessing soil contaminants. The purpose of the webinar is to present the ongoing research on spectroscopy tools and how they help to identify and monitor contaminated sites. If your institute is working with spectroscopy and soil pollution and you wish to share your research, please get in touch with us on the potential topic of discussion.

The webinar is going to take place in April and its agenda, speakers and exact date and time will be sent in a separate email soon.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Kind regards,

Sergejus Ustinov and Natalia Rodríguez Eugenio

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EVENTS

IFA SMART & GREEN

<https://web.cvent.com/event/cdf0a320-a5c1-4822-8225-0ea07c10ce74/summary>

Date	Venue
6 Feb- 8 Feb	Online

The challenge of how to feed the world sustainably is concentrating minds in the fertilizer industry as never before. The combined effects of climate change, conflicts, Covid and fast sustainability transformation are driving new partnerships and innovation in the fertilizer and AgTech industries. A key objective is accelerating nutrient use efficiency and effectiveness improvement, which requires faster adoption of innovative approaches and technologies such as digital tools and chemical and biological solutions.

The fertilizer industry is a natural partner for AgTech startups, and vice versa. This has led IFA to create a platform for fertilizer industry leaders, startups, investors, scientists and other stakeholders to speed up progress — IFA **SMART & GREEN**.

The 2nd edition of the IFA SMART & GREEN Virtual Conference will be held on February 6-8, 2023. The Opening Session will discuss investments in innovation and startups and the market for special products. Subsequent sessions will showcase cutting-edge plant nutrition innovations across the plant nutrient value chain - from low-carbon, decentralized fertilizer production to novel fertilizer products, manipulation of the microbiome, digital crop nutrition solutions and nutrient recovery and recycling. IFA invites startups to participate and present their innovative approaches. Roundtable discussions during the event will focus on concrete action.

14th International HCH & Pesticides Forum

<https://www.hchforum.com>

Date	Venue
21-24 Feb	Zaragoza, Spain

Advances for the solution of the problem caused by POPs pesticides and HHPs and other POPs will only succeed if it is approached from a joint perspective in which technical, political, economic, and social entities collaborate and establish cooperation for mutual benefit.

The aim of the forum is to provide support to achieve political commitments which go to the European regional sphere, facilitating knowledge transfer, resource optimization and utilization of available technologies, all with the aim of achieving specific goals.

From the 21st to the 23rd of February 2023, Zaragoza with its beautiful *Caja Rural de Aragon Building*, will be the meeting place for hundreds of researchers, experts, environmentalists and representatives from countries affected by mismanagement of POPs pesticides and other POPs, among others groups, who will give evidence of progress in research to reduce and eliminate pollution, caused by the lindane production and the related HCH wastes being dumped everywhere and more precisely in the Bailin bedrock near the Pyrenees.

CRC Care from Risk to Remediation 5-day Masterclass course

<https://crccare.com/2023-masterclass-from-risk-to-remediation/>

Date	Venue
1-5 May	Newcastle, Australia

This masterclass is interactive, practical and hands-on to create new skills and capabilities for the Australian contamination industry.

Gain new and practical skills to apply to the management and remediation of contaminated sites worldwide

Get abreast of the latest thinking and new knowledge globally in science, law, policies and case studies

Accelerate your capabilities and competence to deliver more value to employers, policymakers and customers. This masterclass has been developed especially for individuals who manage, regulate, investigate, remediate, or are impacted by contaminated sites. Regardless of their current level of expertise, **this course will provide participants with enhanced skills, knowledge, networks and confidence to manage even the most challenging sites** and help them become leaders in the global remediation industry. More details and the course outline can be found [here](#).

38th International Conference on Geochemistry and Health, SEGH

<http://www.segh2023.org>

Date	Venue
2-6 July	Athens, Greece

The Society for Environmental Geochemistry and Health and the Department of Geology and Geoenvironment of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens invite you in Europe and the 38th International Conference on Environmental Geochemistry and Health.

This key SEGH annual event will provide the opportunity for experienced and more junior researchers and students to promote their own work and interact in person with peers and knowledgeable colleagues.

The SEGH 2023 themes will focus on:

- Emerging contaminants and human health in land, water and air
- Innovative data collection methods for studying environmental change
- Environmental geochemistry in the energy transition era
- Global databases for geochemistry and beyond

United Nations survey on hazards with global escalation potential

<https://council.science/publications/hazard-information-profiles/>

Date	Venue
1-17 Feb	Online

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the International Science Council (ISC) and the Simon Institute for Long-term Governance (SI), are launching a survey to gather a range

of perspectives on hazards with the potential to escalate to global catastrophic or even existential risks. The project aims to support a better understanding of global catastrophic risks (GCRs) and existential risks (x-risks), and promote the collaboration between the risk community and the GCRs and x-risks community and improve how such risks may be identified, assessed and managed.

The survey will feed into the development of briefing note on 'Hazards with catastrophic and existential escalation potential' and builds on [UNDRR and ISC's joint work around hazard definitions and standards](#).

The survey is developed with the support of the Center for the Study of Existential Risk and will take approximately 20 minutes. You are invited to respond to the survey in your individual expert capacity and the results will be analysed and published as an anonymised synthesis.

You can **access the survey** [here](#). The deadline for filling out the survey is **17 February 2023**.

On behalf of all the partners, we would like to thank you in advance for your interest and your time.