



## World Soil Day in the Russian Federation 3 December 2021 (10:00-13:00 Moscow time, hybrid format)

Soils are necessary to support life on earth, but the increasing anthropogenic impact disrupts their vital functions. We must maintain soil health to ensure a healthy environment and the sustainability of food systems.

**The World Soil Day (WSD)** is held annually on 5 December to focus attention on the importance of healthy soil and advocating for the sustainable management of soil resources in line with the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management. The theme of the World Soil Day – 2021 is *"Halt soil salinization, boost soil productivity."*

Natural saline and sodic soils serve as a foundation for valuable ecosystems and include a number of plants adapted to extreme environmental conditions. However, secondary salinity and sodicity can develop or increase rapidly in response to unsustainable human activities, posing a threat to agricultural production, food security, the provision of essential ecosystem services as well as the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Salinization and sodification of soils are among the most serious global threats to arid and semi-arid regions but also to croplands in coastal regions and for wastewater irrigation irrespective of climatic conditions.

**FAO Liaison Office with the Russian Federation, Lomonosov Moscow State University, the World Bank, and the Russian State Agrarian University – Moscow Timiryazev Agricultural Academy**, jointly with other organizations, have been holding conferences on food security and soil science since 2016 on the occasion of the World Soil Day. These events have been aimed at the exchange of experience and knowledge and the strengthening of cooperation among scientists, government officials, agribusiness companies and non-profit organizations to promote soil research and solve practical issues. Details on previous events are available [here](#).

This year we are pleased to invite you to participate in **the Sixth Scientific and Practical Conference on Food Security and Soil Science, dedicated to the World Soil Day**, which will be held both physically and online.

Working languages: English and Russian. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

**Zoom link:** [https://fao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ncfahoWXTxOGcW37wPgwsW](https://fao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ncfahoWXTxOGcW37wPgwsW)

**YouTube broadcast:** <https://www.youtube.com/user/soilmsu>



## PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

Moderators:

*Oleg Kobiakov, Director, FAO Liaison Office with the Russian Federation*

*Pavel Krasilnikov, Professor, Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Dean, Faculty of Soil Science, Lomonosov Moscow State University*

**Representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the World Bank, the European Soil Partnership, UNEP**

*Welcome remarks*

**Salt-affected Soils: discover a missed reality**

*Video*

**Ismahane Elouafi, Chief Scientist, FAO Headquarters**

*TBC*

**Ronald Vargas, Secretary, Global Soil Partnership, FAO Headquarters**

*GSP Activities on Sustainable Management of Salt-Affected Soils*

**Representatives of Russian companies (Phosagro, Acron)**

*Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management: The Role of the Private Sector in Achieving the SDGs*

**Edoardo Antonio Costantino Costantini, Secretary, European Society for Soil Conservation; President, International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS)**

*Innovations and research needs in addressing soil salinization*

**Tibor Toth, Chair, IUSS Commission 3.6. Salt-affected Soils**

*Old issues and new challenges in soil salinity research*

**Jorge Batlle-Sales, Chair, FAO International Network on Salt-affected Soils**

*The International Network of Salt-Affected Soils (INSAS)*

**Nikolay Khitrov, Head, Department of Genesis and Reclamation of Saline and Sodic Soils, V.V. Dokuchaev Soil Science Institute**

*The Map of Salt-affected Soils and Prospects for Sustainable Management of Saline and Sodic Soils in Russia*

**Evgeny Shein, Professor, Department of Physics and Soil Reclamation of the Faculty of Soil Science, Lomonosov Moscow State University**

*Modeling the Water-salt Transport in Saline Soils*

**Ivan Vasenev, Professor, Head of the Department of Ecology, RSAU – MTAA**

*Analysis and normative forecasting of the agroecological state of saline and alkaline soils in smart systems of agromonitoring and intelligent DSS*

**Kristina Toderich, International Platform for Dryland Research and Education, Tottori University, Japan/Uzbekistan**

TBC

**Zhanyl Bozayeva, FAO/GEF Project National Coordinator in Kazakhstan**

*Mapping Saline Soils and Halophyte Agriculture in Kazakhstan*

**Discussion and closing statements**