



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

8 - 10
September
2021

VIRTUAL
MEETING

Brief Overview of the African Soil Partnership: Accomplishments, Challenges and the Way Forward

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GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP 9th Plenary Assembly





Achievements: June 2020 to August 2021

- **Collaborated with the GSP Secretariat to get national experts to produce and submit maps after the online training for national experts in soil salinity mapping organised from 11-22 May 2020.**
- **Some AfSP members participated in the Eighth GSP Plenary Assembly meeting held from 3-5 June 2020.**
- **Fourth Meeting of the African Soil partnership came off on 29 September 2020 via Zoom even though received low participation.**



Achievements: June 2020 to August 2021 Cont'd

- **Some countries (Nigeria, South Africa, Senegal, Guinea, Gabon and Niger) in the region held events to celebrate WSD. The events to celebrate the day was centred on the theme for the year while continuing to raise awareness on the need for healthy soils for healthy living and sustainable food production.**
- **Participation of some countries in Module I of the training of national experts in the preparation of the Global Soil Organic Carbon Sequestration (GSOCseq) map from 14-18 December 2020.**
- **Participation of some African countries in Module I repeat (international training) held for all countries who could not participate in the December training from 15-19 February 2021.**
- **Some countries continuous engagement with the GSP Secretariat on Module II of the GSOCSeq trainings ongoing between February and March 2021 based on extra assistance needed to produce the maps.**

Achievements: June 2020 to August 2021 Cont'd

- **Successful organisation of the 5th Plenary Meeting of the AfSP from 6-7 July 2021**
 - **Outcome**
 - **Need for focal points to be more proactive in pushing the soil agenda on the continent far especially at national level.**
 - **Regular reporting needed for knowledge and experience sharing.**
 - **Collaboration among partners is key to avoid duplication of efforts and wastage of resources if really we want to push farther the soil agenda in Africa.**
 - **AfriSOIL was developed by national focal points and experts based on challenges identified per country and could serve as a starting point for addressing the diverse soil issues while taking on board other dimensions to touch new areas.**
 - **Focal points can do better if they collaborate with institutions and organisations in-country to mobilise technical and financial resources to implement soil-related activities.**
 - **The Global Soil Partnership (GSP) Secretariat and the FAO Regional office in Africa are available to assist countries and partner institutions to raise awareness on soils and implement activities but must be country-driven.**

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- **Report available online: <http://www.fao.org/3/cb6311en/cb6311en.pdf>**



Challenges

- **Financial resources**
- **Low commitment and support from different governments on the issues of soils and the GSP.**
- **Uncertainty of focal points/countries engagement on the different activities of the GSP for implementation.**
- **Infrastructure challenges especially with internet services (*which has made it difficult for some countries to participate in online meetings and trainings within this COVID era*)**
- **Some focal points lack the skills on how to engage with the FAO country offices and other organisations and institutions to collaborate for resource mobilization and implementation of activities. (capacity building needed).**



Future Plans

- **Support implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on Sustainable Soil Management and Fertiliser Use Management Code at regional/national level.**
- **Support implementation of the Soil Doctor programme at regional/national level.**
- **Improve the participation of focal points in GSP/AfSP activities through Working Groups for identified Areas of Work.**
- **Enhance participation of focal points in programmes and projects by connecting them to partners.**
- **Participation in other activities and trainings organised by the GSP/AfSP.**





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Thank you

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