



Global Soil Partnership Plenary Assembly



Sixth session
Rome, 11-13 June 2018
Report on the Glinka World Soil Prize

The Glinka World Soil Prize was established for the triennium 2016 – 2019 as per the features and award process outlined in the concept note approved during the fourth PA session of 23-25 May 2016. It may be recalled that this Prize, named after the prominent Russian scientist Konstantin D. Glinka, received initial financial support from the Russian Federation. It consists of a Glinka Medal and a sum of USD 15,000. It honors individuals and organizations whose leadership and activities have contributed to the promotion and implementation of sustainable soil management in different regions of the globe.

Capitalizing on the awareness raising momentum generated by the International Year of Soil 2015, and the successful first award of the Prize in 2016, the 2nd Glinka World Soil Prize was particularly faithful to one of the major objectives of encouraging all stakeholders and soil practitioners to carry out field-oriented work, with direct contributions to the preservation of the environment, increase in global food security and poverty alleviation.

Following a call for nominations issued in July 2017 with a deadline of submission by partners of 30 September 2017, the sixteen nominations received were reviewed to assess compliance with established criteria. Accordingly, eleven nominations were judged to be in full accordance with the requirements. The Glinka World Soil Prize Selection Committee, which is composed of the Chair of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel of Soils, the Chair of the GSP Plenary Assembly, and the Chairs of the nine Regional and Sub-regional Soil Partnerships, was tasked to perform its mandated assessment of the candidates assisted by a ranking tool developed by the Secretariat. The winner of the Prize was then designated and invited to attend the awarding ceremony during the World Soil Day celebration at FAO HQ.

The 2017 Laureate is the NGO: [“Asociación Argentina de Productores en Siembra Directa” \(Aapresid\)](#) “sustentabilidad sin frontera” from Argentina, for its effective dissemination of sustainable soil management practices in the region. FAO Deputy Director General, Maria Helena Semedo handed the Prize to Mr. Pedro Vigneau, President of Aapresid ([video](#)). Due recognition was given for the efforts of this NGO to promote sustainable soil management (SSM) practices on the ground by combating soil erosion, as a direct contribution to food security in Latin America and beyond.

In 2018 the Glinka World Soil Prize, through a dedicated FAO webpage, extensive media coverage, and use of social media, will be an important element of the World Soil Day campaign. A call for nominations will be issued at the end of June and it is hoped that national focal points and partners will further disseminate it.

The GSP Secretariat is preparing a communication plan in order to raise the awareness by all stakeholders of the existence of this Glinka Prize.

Suggested action by the GSP Plenary Assembly

- The Plenary Assembly may wish to:
 - take note of the successful organization of the Glinka World Soil Prize in 2017 and the programme foreseen for the 2018 award ceremony;
 - review and comment on the Glinka World Soil Prize 2018 action plan that will be presented to the Plenary Assembly;
 - invite partners to disseminate the call for nominations so that the process is more fully inclusive and ensures submissions from the different regions of the world;
 - invite resource partners to financially contribute to the implementation of this initiative beyond 2018 (as it is currently sponsored by the Russian Federation for a limited period).