



World Soil Day 2017 celebration

“Caring for the planet starts from the ground”

Tuesday, 5 December 2017 (12:30-13:45)

Sheikh Zayed Centre, FAO Headquarters, Rome

The United Nations General Assembly at its 68th session in December 2013, designated 5 December as World Soil Day (WSD). Soil, like air and water, is fundamental for life on earth. Although there is an intrinsic association of food production with soils, they also provide us with clean water, fuel, building materials, fiber, habitat, medicines and nutrients. Taking note of the importance of soils for food security and nutrition, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and sustainable development, the theme for the World Soil Day celebration 2017 is ***“Caring for the planet starts from the ground”***. Soils constitute the hidden foundation of the landscapes and our societies. Caring for the planet and its environment means caring for its foundation, soils. During the event, the first-ever **Global Soil Organic Carbon Map** will be launched as a product generated by member countries. A new report on the **“Assessment at global level of the impact of plant protection products on soil functions and soil ecosystems”**, produced by the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils will be launched. The **Glinka World Soil Prize** will be awarded to recognize the efforts for promoting sustainable soil management as per the Revised World Soil Charter Principles. Soil is a very resilient resource, however if not managed sustainably it can be degraded and lose its potential for providing products and the ecosystem services to people.

Agenda

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| 12:30 - 12:40 | Opening by Mr. Jose Graziano da Silva, Director-General, FAO |
| 12:40 - 12:50 | Keynote address by H.E. Sergei Levin, Vice-minister for Agriculture of the Russian Federation |
| 12:50 - 12:55 | Opening address by H.E. María Cristina Boldorini, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Argentina to FAO |
| 12:55 – 13:00 | Opening remarks by Mr. Giovanni De Santi, Director Sustainable Resources, Joint Research Centre (tbc) |
| 13:00 - 13:05 | Award of the Glinka World Soil Prize to “Asociación Argentina de Productores en Siembra Directa (AAPRESID)” by Mr. Jose Graziano da Silva, Director-General, FAO |
| 13:05 - 13:15 | Keynote address by Mr. Pedro Vigneau, President of AAPRESID (the Laureate of the Glinka World Soil Prize) |
| 13:15 - 13:30 | Launch of the first-ever Global Soil Organic Carbon Map , Mr. Luca Montanarella, Chair of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils |
| 13:30 - 13:40 | Launch of the ITPS report “Assessment at global level of the impact of plant protection products on soil functions and soil ecosystems”, Ms. Lucrezia Caon, GSP Secretariat |
| 13:40 - 13:45 | Closure of the event. Refreshments will be served |
| Moderator: | Kimberly Sullivan, Office of Corporate Communication, FAO (tbd) |