



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Children's booklet contest on salt-affected soils

In the framework of the **World Soil Day 2021 (WSD21)**, the FAO's Global Soil Partnership (GSP) and the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) are launching a children's **booklet contest on salt-affected soils**. By involving soil scientists, research institutions, colleges and universities, designers, artists, and creative people from all countries, the contest aims to educate and raise awareness on soils among the future citizens of the world. The purpose of the booklet contest is to engage and encourage children's interest in soils and to give them the opportunity to understand the impacts of soil salinization and sodification, and to learn how to successfully fight these soil threats.

CONTEST

The objectives of the contest are:

- Promote scientific knowledge by giving visibility to the on-site and off-site impacts of salinization and sodification.
- Raise awareness for the urgency of fighting salinization and sodification processes.
- Stimulate educational activities, engagement and participation of children and schools in soil science.

PARTICIPANTS

FAO's GSP and IUSS invite all those interested in the topic of salt-affected soils, from any professional background, to submit their freestyle booklet proposal based on the WSD 2021 motto: "**Halt soil salinization, boost soil productivity**".

Each author and/or group of authors can only submit **one entry**. The booklet must be the **original work** of the participant/s and unpublished. All participants are encouraged to learn more about [World Soil Day](#) and to consult the [GSP publications](#) regarding salt-affected soils.

SUBJECT

Participants should develop short scientific texts, facts (with scientific references) and images/designed illustrations/hand drawings to illustrate scientific knowledge on salt-affected soils for a young audience. The aim is to educate and raise awareness among children about the risks associated with this soil threat, under the WSD 2021 motto "**Halt soil salinization, boost soil productivity**".

The ideas and proposals should illustrate the impacts of salinization and sodification on soils, and describe its consequences on the livelihood and welfare of the affected populations and ecosystems. The authors should show how these processes can impact food production, but also try to include possible solutions to this soil threat and information on sustainable management of affected soils.

REQUIREMENTS

- The booklet is intended for children between **6 and 11 years** old.
- The works will only be accepted in **English**, in free genre literature (i.e. scientific literature for children, storyboards, comic strips, poetry, activity booklets, pop-up booklets, foldables). The author should address the topic in an interdisciplinary way that include scientific implications as well as cultural, economic and societal.
- All booklets must include the motto "**Halt soil salinization, boost soil productivity**".
- To guarantee anonymity and therefore fairness during the evaluation process, **interested parties should not put their name or that of their institution on the booklet**. A registration number will be assigned to the authors upon reception.
- Booklets must be submitted in **PDF format** with images in high resolution (**min 600 dpi**).
- The booklet should have between **12 and 16 pages** in length, including: (1) Cover indicating the title; (2) Introduction and Content (freestyle); (3) Back cover.
- Given the fact that the booklet is intended for children, it is advisable to **use visuals** and **not to exceed 2 000 – 2500 words** in text length for the entire booklet.
- It is suggested to work on A paper format (suggested **A4 – vertical position**)

SUBMISSIONS

- Submissions should be sent by **7 November** through any free file transfer service/platform (i.e. Google drive, SharePoint, WeTransfer, Dropbox) to iuss@umweltbundesamt.at and World-Soil-Day@fao.org.
- In the submission email, author(s) must fill out and submit the **mandatory Registration form**.

JURY

The IUSS and FAO's GSP Selection Committee will evaluate all booklet submissions, and the final decision will be announced by the IUSS President and the FAO's GSP Secretary on the IUSS and FAO websites. The finalists will be chosen based on creativity and originality, quality of the informational content, technical and scientific proficiency, and artistic/visual impact of the booklet.

AWARDS

The winner will receive a cash prize of **1 000 USD**, second and third prize will receive a cash prize of **500 USD** and **250 USD**, respectively, from IUSS and FAO's GSP. Shortlisted participants will receive publications on soils, a certificate of participation, a mention on the websites (iuss.org and fao.org), and soil gadgets. The best scientific booklets will be showcased on IUSS and FAO's GSP digital and social media platforms. **The winners will be announced on World Soil Day, 5th December 2021.**

TIMELINE

- Submission opens: **21 September 2021**
- Submission closes: **7 November 2021**
- Announcement of the winners during the World Soil Day celebration: **5 December 2021**

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Copyright of materials submitted remains with the respective participants, and copyright owners will be credited accordingly.
- Minors must have the permission of their parents or legal guardians to participate in the contest.
- By submitting your entry, you consent to the drawing being uploaded on digital platforms, and distributed via social media channels.
- The GSP does not accept responsibility for, or endorse the views of the contestants.

Rome, Italy, September 2021 and Austria, Vienna, September 2021

