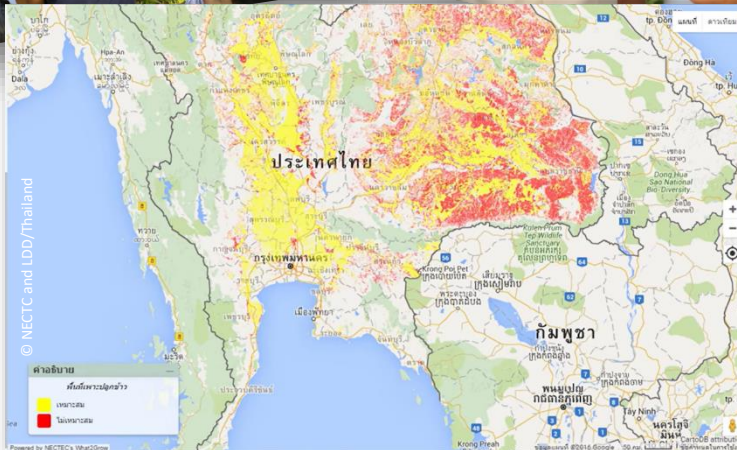




Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Asian knowledge hub on sustainable soil and land management

Learn, share, inspire



Webinar on “Soil governance in Asia: the role of policy in sustainable soil management”

Date: 21 August 2024

Time: from 1:00 to 3:00PM GMT+7 (Bangkok time)

Platform: Zoom©

Language: English

Introduction

In 2023, the FAO’s regional office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP) developed a knowledge hub to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experiences on sustainable soil and land management in the Asian region. Thus, (i) to enhance the capacity of individuals and organizations in implementing sustainable soil and land management practices, (ii) to facilitate the identification of knowledge and technology gaps that can boost research and development activities, (iii) to encourage the adoption of proven methods while inspiring innovation in sustainable soil and land management, and (iv) to support projects’ formulation and implementation activities. In this regard, the hub is an integral component of the FAO's strategy to advance sustainable soil and land management in Asia.

The hub reports and describes countries’ original engagements to assess, monitor, preserve, restore or enhance soil health over time as well as United Nations contributions to the topic in terms of equipment, online applications, certification systems, training systems, awareness raising systems and others. Please note that the hub does not report about projects and research studies. By aligning with the principles of collaboration and shared learning, the hub has the potential to drive positive change in agricultural and environmental practices.

The information in the hub were collected using a participatory approach involving the public sector, non-profit sector, academic and research institutions and intergovernmental organizations, and they are meant to support the work of a large range of stakeholders including farmers, local communities, extension agents, policy makers, project managers, researchers and academia, and even the private sector. Being an open-access, live tool, stakeholders have the ongoing chance to submit contributions to FAORAP for review and potential incorporation into the hub.

The hub has information organized into five categories depending on their core scope:

SCOPE 1: Soil assessment, monitoring and mapping, including soil sampling, soil analysis, data analysis and interpretation, and digital soil mapping;

SCOPE 2: Policy, including charters, guidelines and recommendations developed to support countries on policy development. Instruments to support countries on achieving and reporting on international targets are also reported under this scope;

SCOPE 3: Investment, intended as actions and tools that trigger investments at the national, regional and global levels;

SCOPE 4: Field activities, including capacity building activities for the transfer on knowledge, data, information and technology to farmers and other land users; and

SCOPE 5: Communication, including awareness raising, technical and scientific cooperation, and networking activities.

The webinar on “Soil governance in Asia: the role of policy in sustainable soil management” is organized under scope 2. This webinar is one among a series of online events orchestrated to facilitate the use of the knowledge hub within the region.

Note: The online platform hosting the hub is currently under development. However, the specifics regarding the subjects to be covered during the webinar are contained within this document.

Webinar's objectives

1. To raise awareness on global and regional principles and recommendations on sustainable soil management;
2. To assess soil governance in the Asian region; and
3. To discuss strategies for developing and/or strengthening soil governance at the national and regional levels.

Who can participate?

Participation to the webinar is open to all stakeholders interested on the topic. This webinar is of special relevance to government offices, decision makers and project managers.

How to participate?

To register for the upcoming webinar on **“Soil governance in Asia: the role of policy in sustainable soil management”**, please follow the registration process outlined below:

1. Click on the provided link to access the registration form:
https://fao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_u9XQzIGMSGK6KSErQ5RGEQ
2. Fill out the registration form with accurate and complete information. Make sure to provide your name, email address, organization (if applicable), and any other required details.
3. Once your registration is confirmed, you will receive a confirmation email containing the webinar details, including the Zoom link, date, time, and instructions on how to join the webinar.

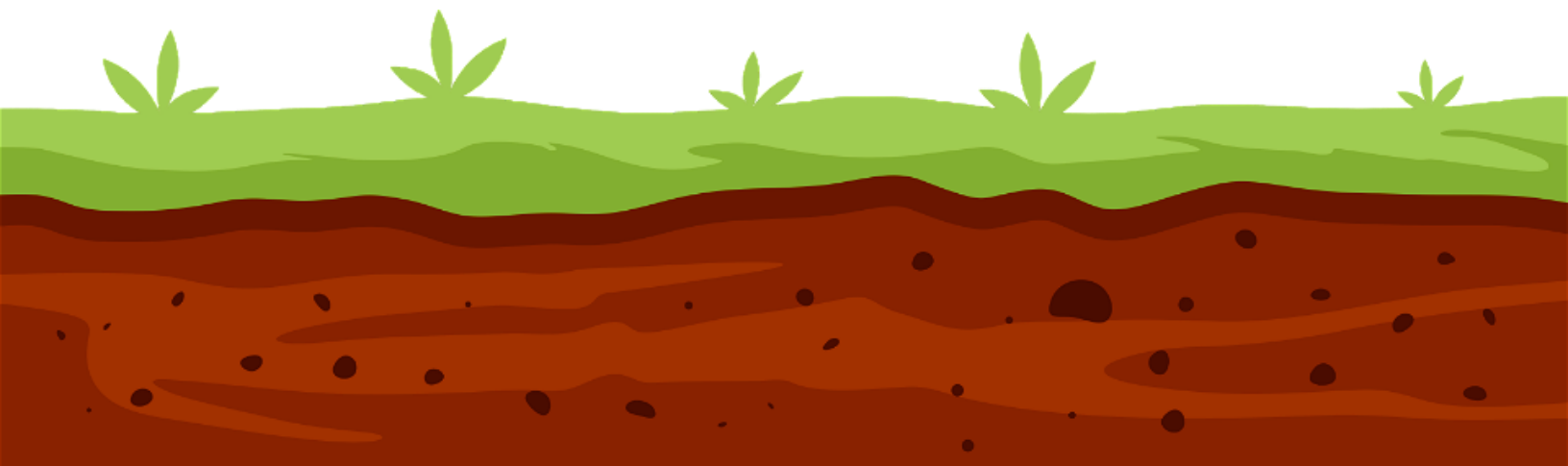
Please ensure that the email address you provide during registration is correct and regularly checked to receive important updates and notifications.

We look forward to your participation in the webinar and your contribution to the discussion on promoting soil health and sustainable management practices.

Should you have any questions or require further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Lucrezia Caon, Land Management Officer, FAORAP at lucrezia.caon@fao.org

Programme

1:00 – 1:05	Welcome remarks <i>Ms Lucrezia Caon, Land Management Officer, FAORAP</i>
1:05 -1:15	Opening polls
1:15 – 1:30	The National Soil Health Program and the Implementation of PD 1435 <i>Gina P. Nilo, Director, Bureau of Soil and Water Management</i>
1:30 – 1:45	Soil governance in Thailand: an overview <i>Aunnop Puttaso, Researcher in soil survey, Land Use Planning Group, Land Development Department - Khonkaen province, Thailand</i>
1:45 – 1:55	Interactive session with polls
1:55 – 2:10	Global Soil Partnership’s tools for improved soil governance and country support <i>Giacomo Roccheggiani, Soil governance expert, Global Soil Partnership, FAO</i>
2:10 – 2:25	The impact of land-use policy on biodiversity on world’s grassland: A global empirical analysis <i>Kirara Homma, PhD student, land Economics group, University of Bonn</i>
2:25 -2:35	Open discussion on improving soil governance in Asia
2:35 – 3:00	International Soil and Water Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Brainstorming on the aspects to discuss at the thematic session on the creation of socio-economic and political environments to the practice of sustainable soil management
3:00	Closing remarks



Insights about the webinar's subjects

Please be aware that the copyright holder should be duly credited for the information presented in this section of the document.

➤ **Revised World Soil Charter**

Country of origin: United Nations

Year of development: 2015

Copyright: FAO

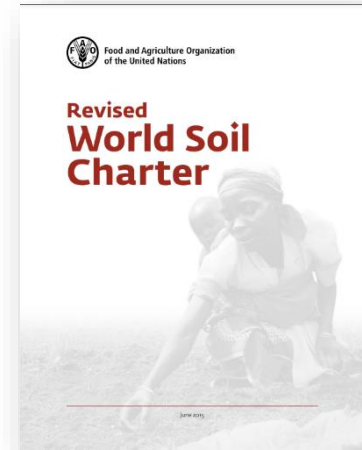
Scope: to promote and institutionalize sustainable soil management at all levels.

Users: policy makers

Beneficiaries: policy makers and all stakeholders working on soil resources

Brief description: The Charter contains a number of key principles and general guidelines for the benefit of major stakeholder groups so as to chart the required policy measures and action programmes to guarantee sustainable management of soils in all regions and countries.

Limitations: the Charter has inspiring principles and guidelines for action that have to be supplemented with more technically oriented ones to be used at field level in different contexts.



Notes on its development: The first World Soil Charter (WSC) was conceived and formulated, negotiated and adopted by the FAO member countries in the 1981 FAO Conference. It was a major normative instrument agreed by member states, and that the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) was duty-bound to promote its principles. The reformulation process involved extensive consultations and culminated in the unanimous endorsement of the revised World Soil Charter by the FAO Conference at its 39th session in June 2015. It was most fitting that this landmark decision took place during the International Year of Soils.

Supportive material: the Charter is available in several languages at <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/es/c/e60df30b-0269-4247-a15f-db564161fee0/>

Contacts: please contact the GSP Secretariat at GSP-Secretariat@fao.org

➤ Voluntary Guidelines on Sustainable Soil Management

Country of origin: United Nations

Year of development: 2017

Copyright: FAO

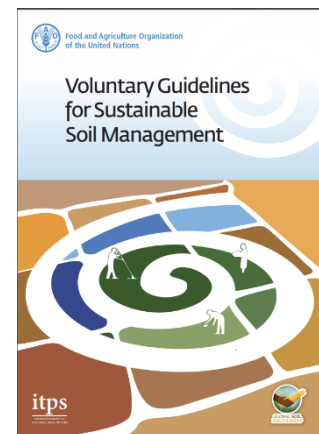
Scope: to present generally accepted, practically proven and scientifically based principles to promote SSM and to provide guidance to all stakeholders on how to translate these principles into practice, be it for farming, pastoralism, forestry or more general natural resources management.

Users: By providing an easily accessible and readily understandable reference to a wide range of stakeholders, the potential target audience of the VGSSM includes: government officials, policy makers, farmers, pastoralists, forest and land managers, extension services and agricultural advisors, development partners, civil society, private sector and, academia, etc.

Beneficiaries: land users, including farmers and the civil society.

Brief description: These guidelines provide technical and policy recommendations on how sustainable soil management can be achieved. They elaborate the principles outlined in the revised World Soil Charter (see Sheet S2.2), taking into account the evidence provided in the Status of the World's Soil Resources report 2015.

Limitations: The VGSSM are of voluntary nature and are not legally binding. The VGSSM focus mostly on agriculture which is broadly defined as the production of food, fibre, feed, timber and fuel, although many of the principles described have a significant influence on ecosystem services provided by managed and unmanaged soil systems. The guidelines are not expected to provide detailed recommendations, but are designed to inform strategic and context-specific decision-making at all relevant levels.



Notes on its development: These Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management (VGSSM) were developed through an inclusive process within the framework of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP). They were adopted by the 4th GSP Plenary Assembly (Rome, 25 May 2016), approved by the 25th session of the FAO Committee on Agriculture (Rome, 28 September 2016) and finally endorsed by the 155th session of the FAO Council (Rome, 5 December 2016).

Supportive material: the guidelines are available in multiple languages at <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/5544358d-f11f-4e9f-90ef-a37c3bf52db7/>. The Status of the World's Soil Resources report 2015 is available at <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/c6814873-efc3-41db-b7d3-2081a10ede50/>

Contacts: please contact the GSP Secretariat at GSP-Secretariat@fao.org

➤ SoiLEX

Country of origin: United Nations

Year of development:

Copyright: Global Soil Partnership, FAO

Scope: to facilitate access to information on existing legal instruments on soil protection and prevention of soil degradation

Users: decision makers, policy makers

Beneficiaries: decision makers, policy makers

Brief description: The legal and policy instruments can be searched by country profiles or by soil-related keywords. The information provided by the database allows users to have the complete document as well as a detailed summary of its content, focusing mainly on the purpose and specific objectives of the instrument.

Country/Territory
- select -
Submit

More search options

Conservation
Restoration and remediation
Quality
Monitoring
Erosion
Organic carbon loss
Nutrient imbalance
Salinization and sodification
Sealing
Biodiversity loss
Pollution
Acidification
Compaction
Waterlogging

SoiLEX navigation page

All the legal instruments present on the platform have been obtained on the basis of FAOLEX and the EU Sol Wiki and validated by national experts to be relevant and up-to-date. Each instrument can be searched by country profile or by soil-related keywords and includes a ranking system based on the relevance of the document to the selected keyword, the scope of the legislation, its nature and year. The ranking system facilitates the search and enables users to easily understand which documents are the most important for each search they make. The information provided by the database allows users to have the complete document as well as a detailed summary of its content, focusing mainly on the purpose and specific objectives of the instrument.

Limitations: legal instruments are reported in their original language (no official translation available).

Notes on its development: The platform was created in coordination with FAOLEX, which is to date one of the largest databases of legal frameworks and instruments related to natural resource management, food and agriculture.

Supportive material: please visit <https://www.fao.org/soils-portal/soilex/en/>

Contacts: please contact the GSP Secretariat at GSP-Secretariat@fao.org