



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

COUNTERING THE GLOBAL THREAT TO FOOD SECURITY THROUGH THE PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE SOIL MANAGEMENT

Soils are central to the creation of a host of goods and services integral to ecosystems and human well-being. Soils are critical for achieving food security and nutrition, as 95 percent of our food is produced in soils. Soils also contribute to adaptation to climate change and building resilience of smallholders. With the new Sustainable Development Goals, countries are committing to ending hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture by 2030.

The Global Soil Partnership constitutes an agenda for action to promote sustainable soil management. Its Regional Soil Partnerships (composed of national focal points) have developed regional implementation plans based on national priorities to support sustainable soil management and enhance the provision of key ecosystem services. This project built on a successful cooperation with Switzerland, who supported the International Year of Soils as part of the Healthy Soils Facility, and focused on supporting the implementation of a number of activities for strengthening soil governance at different levels.



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WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The Global Soil Partnership was established in December 2012 as a mechanism to develop a strong interactive partnership, enhanced collaboration and synergy of efforts between all stakeholders. From land users through to policy-makers, one of the key objectives of the Global Soil Partnership was to improve the governance and promote sustainable management of soils.

The major achievements from the project include (i) the establishment of the International Network of Soil Information Institutions and the development and publication of the Global Soil Organic Carbon Map, (ii) implementation of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils work plan (including the Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Soil Resources), (iii) strengthening of the capacities of the Global Soil Partnership, (iv) celebrations of World Soil Day in 2015, 2016 and 2017 and (v) development of Regional Implementation Plans for six of the eight regions.

IMPACT

The strengthening of national and regional capacities in soil monitoring and digital soil mapping was achieved through capacity development workshops and a number of awareness-raising activities.

The strengthening of the International Network of Soil Information Institutions and the successful implementation of training sessions are key elements in securing sufficient follow-up to the envisaged soil mapping and monitoring activities, as well as further multiplication of the lessons learned.

KEY FACTS

Contribution

USD 867 792

Duration

December 2015 – December 2019

Resource Partners

Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture
FOAG; The International Fertilizer
Association (IFA); Government of
Netherlands: Ministry of Agriculture,
Nature and Food Quality -
Department of European,
International and Agro-economic
Policy (EIA); PhosAgro

Partners

Global Soil Partnership

Beneficiaries

Policy-makers, national soil experts,
national extension services and
farmers, researchers and academia,
the global community involved
in climate change and sustainable
development and civil society

ACTIVITIES

- A series of global, regional and national training sessions organized with different partners in order to train countries in the latest tools and methodologies for digital soil organic carbon mapping, reaching more than 150 experts from 110 countries.
- A three-week training organized for selected participants from 17 countries and regional trainings organized for Africa, Asia, Eurasia, Mesoamerica, South America and the Near East.
- Financial support provided to the Gambia, Paraguay and Ukraine to conduct soil legacy data rescue.
- Three workshops of the International Network of Soil Information Institutions organized at FAO headquarters.
- Eight working sessions of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils held at FAO headquarters.
- Successful side event to the “High-Level Ministerial Conference Abuja II: From fertilizers to sustainable soil management” organized as part of the FAO Conference for Africa in 2016.
- Support for the organization of the Global Soil Partnership Plenary Assembly 2016.
- Seminars held and communication material produced to mark World Soil Day celebrations.



Project Code

FAO: GCP/GLO/671/MUL

Project Title

Support to the implementation of GSP Plans of Action

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