

## **Bishkek COMMUNIQUÉ**

**February 29- March 2, 2016 Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic**

We, the Eurasian Soil Partnership focal points and representatives of 13 countries from Eurasia (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Ukraine and Uzbekistan), as well as representatives of ICARDA, ICBA, CIMMYT, GIZ and the Kyrgyz Soil Science Community participated in the Eurasian Soil Partnership workshop, held in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic from 29 February till 2 March 2016. The workshop was convened under the International Forum on Eurasian Food Security and Nutrition and Eurasian Soil Partnership jointly organized by ECFS, FAO, the World Bank and GFAR. As active partners of the Eurasian Soil Partnership, we would like to summarize our work via this communiqué to be shared with stakeholders of EASP and GSP partners.

*Recognizing* that Sustainable Soil Management constitute a feasible vehicle for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, especially related to food security and nutrition, climate change adaptation and mitigation, achieving land degradation neutrality targets and the provision of overall ecosystem services.

*Highlighting* that soil degradation (in its various forms, especially soil salinity, soil erosion, loss of soil organic carbon) in the region is a serious issue that prevents the full delivery of ecosystem services of soils affecting food production, rural development, climate change adaptation and mitigation and overall development.

*We commit* to the full execution of the Eurasian Soil Partnership Implementation Plan with a horizon of five years in partnership with different partners and stakeholders, and developing synergies with similar initiatives such as the CACILM2.

We, the participants of this third workshop of the Eurasian Soil Partnership, hereby:

- Fully commit to implement the activities of the workplan 2016-2017 that is presented in Annex I;
- Present the identified barriers and shortcomings that prevent the full implementation of sustainable soil management in the region (a summary in Annex 2 and to be fully available as a separate publication) and commit to overcome those that are already addressed in the Regional Implementation Plan. However, we request our decision makers to address those of more institutional nature;
- Agree with the need to strengthen the Eurasian Soil Partnership, but we considered that the establishment of a Eurasian Soil Commission is a premature proposal that carries implications to which our decision makers are not committed to. Therefore, we require our decision makers and other international organizations and resource partners to support the full implementation of the activities of this already established partnership;