



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**



TERMS OF REFERENCE

National Soil Laboratory Networks

In November 2017, the Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN) was established under the framework of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) and its fifth Pillar of action regarding the harmonization of methods, measurements and indicators for the sustainable management and protection of soil resources. GLOSOLAN aims to strengthen the performance of laboratories towards the development of standards and to harmonize soil analysis procedures in order to make soil information across laboratories, countries and regions comparable and interpretable. By validating soil laboratory data, GLOSOLAN will ensure that soil management decisions are made using sound and reliable data. Monitoring and reporting activities will also benefit from this network, such as for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The success of GLOSOLAN strongly relies on the work and commitment of its member laboratories and on their ability to uptake and downscale GLOSOLAN activities and harmonized protocols. Regional Soil Laboratory Networks (RESOLANs) facilitate downscaling at the regional level. However, only the establishment of National Soil Laboratory Networks (NASOLANs), able to break down language and cultural barriers, can make a difference at the country level. As mentioned in the Terms of Reference of GLOSOLAN member laboratories ([here](#)), it is the responsibility of each National Reference Laboratory to lead the establishment of its National Soil Laboratory Network and to coordinate the implementation of GLOSOLAN activities at the country level.

Each NASOLAN represents the lowest network level of GLOSOLAN. They allow all soil laboratories in a country to interact with each other, overcome common challenges and help each other to build their capacity in soil analysis.

National Soil Laboratory Networks are tasked to:

- Enlarge the network by motivating other soil laboratories operating in the country to register in GLOSOLAN and, consequently, in NASOLANs.
- Facilitate the implementation of GLOSOLAN activities.

For example by harmonizing the procedures used by the different laboratories in order to submit a single, nationally harmonized procedure to GLOSOLAN, which will be used to prepare the GLOSOLAN SOPs.

- Advertise GLOSOLAN activities and events (e.g. online or in-person training and meetings such as those of the Regional Soil Laboratory Network), motivating national laboratories to take part in them.
- Organize national training and meetings to (1) transfer the knowledge and skills acquired in GLOSOLAN/RESOLANs to other laboratories, (2) discuss common challenges and needs, and (3) explore financial resources mobilization opportunities.

Please note that GLOSOLAN will make an effort to support the NASOLANs financially. However, it is the responsibility of each network to seek the necessary resources to self-finance its activities. GLOSOLAN can support the NASOLANs by formulating project proposals as needed.

- Organize national inter-laboratory comparison exercises.
- Maintain active communication with the Chair and Vice-Chair of their RESOLAN, the GSP national focal point¹ and the GLOSOLAN coordinator. This will ensure that national needs and challenges are brought to the attention of GLOSOLAN and that solutions are sought.
- Maintain the webpage of their National Soil Laboratory Network updated in order to facilitate (1) financial resource mobilization activities, (2) laboratory involvement in projects, and (3) monitoring of national activities.

¹ GSP national focal points are physical persons appointed by their government to represent their country at the GSP. The complete list of GSP focal point is available [here](#).