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Global Soil Partnership Plenary Assembly

Twelfth session

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Report on Regional Soil Partnerships (GSPPA: XII/2024/8)

Executive summary

- An effective network of Regional Soil Partnerships (RSPs) is key to the achievement of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP)'s mandate and objectives, as specified in its terms of reference (ToRs). To date, RSPs have been established in all FAO regions, as well as in several subregions.
- The seven RSPs have implemented various activities and initiatives in line with the GSP Action Framework 2022-2030 and each region's priorities, obtaining significant results. A summary of the key activities and achievements per region are provided in this document.
- The Secretariat has continued to make use of all available funds and opportunities to support the viability of the RSPs where possible, particularly concerning the implementation of regional activities. It is noteworthy to mention the efforts made by the chairs of the RSPs to strengthen communication and cooperation among all members in each region.

Suggested actions by the GSP Plenary Assembly

The Plenary Assembly may wish to:

- welcome the progress made by the RSPs in the implementation of activities in line with the GSP Action Framework 2022-2030;
- call on all GSP partners, both FAO Members and non-state stakeholders, to be fully involved in RSP activities and establish strong supportive networks of experts in each region;
- reiterate the need to lend strong support to the RSPs through resource mobilization and facilitation of prominent regional activities, including those of the technical networks and soil information systems; and
- encourage resource partners to continue supporting the activities and functioning of the RSPs.

8.1 African Soil Partnership

1. The eighth plenary meeting of the African Soil Partnership (AfSP) has been postponed to the second semester of 2024 due to the proximity of other important events in the region.
2. A [regional in-person training for soil laboratories](#) was organized by the African Soil Laboratory Network (AFRILAB). The event was held in Dakar (Senegal) on 23-27 October 2023 and focused on quality control in soil analysis. Over 70 soil laboratory technicians from 40 sub-Saharan countries participated to the training, which was conducted in both English and French.
3. A regional inter-laboratory proficiency test (PT) was implemented in the first quarter of 2024, with the participation of 56 soil laboratories from 31 African countries. The exercise targeted the following key soil parameters: organic carbon, available phosphorous and total nitrogen. The results of the PT were analysed and will be published in June 2024.
4. A series of policy briefs is under development in English, French and Portuguese, covering different topics relevant to the continent's soils, including soil governance, the role of farmers in sustainable soil management, and addressing gender issues. Similarly, a new series of online webinars is under organization to build capacities in the region on different topics.
5. The African Union Commission (AUC) organized the [Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit \(AFSH\)](#) from 7 to 9 May 2024. It was attended by African Heads of States among other dignitaries and experts. As part of the Summit, three major documents were developed: the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan: 2024-2034, the Soil Initiative for Africa (SIA) and the Nairobi Declaration on Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit. FAO has been involved in the early consultative phases and the AfSP was invited to contribute to ensure that the continent's agronomic and economic development plans consider the restoration of Africa's soil health and fertility as a key cornerstone. In addition, the AfSP Chair participated in the side event "*Sustainable Soil Fertility Management: A Paradigm Shift via a Diverse Solutions Portfolio*" organized by FAO.
6. The SoilFER project, launched in Zambia in 2023, is now expanding its reach to include Ghana and Kenya. The project focuses on addressing the fertilizer crisis by enhancing soil fertility and resilience through sustainable management practices. The initiative uses advanced tools to map soil nutrients and properties comprehensively. This data forms the basis for decision-support systems. Additionally, the project supports smallholder farmers in beneficiary countries with tools and applications to improve productivity, prevent degradation, and optimize fertilizer use for resilient, fertile soils.
7. The Global Soil Doctors Programme is currently being implemented in three countries in the region: Burkina Faso, the Gambia and Togo. Around 20 promoters were registered, and discussions are ongoing on the potential implementation of the programme in these countries. Moreover, about 12 collaborators from the region were registered as well.
8. Two South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund Projects on "*Capacity building on Sustainable Soil Management for Africa in Uganda and Rwanda*" were successfully implemented between 2021 and 2023. The projects helped improve the soil testing capacity of soil laboratories in both countries and promote soil fertility management.
9. Over 60 World Soil Day (WSD) celebrations were organized in the region in 2023 as featured on the WSD events map.

8.2 Asian Soil Partnership

10. The [9th plenary meeting of the Asian Soil Partnership](#) (ASP) was held on 23 and 24 April 2024. At the meeting, an agreement was reached on writing and publishing policy briefs on soil governance with a focus on national legal frameworks and their gaps, weaknesses, and strengths, and make recommendations for improvement.
11. The FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAORAP) involved the national focal points from Bangladesh, Cambodia, and Thailand in a number of small projects aiming to assess the impacts of different sustainable soil management (SSM) practices in different agroecological zones with a focus on cash crops. These projects will help set up the *Asian Watch on the Impacts of SSM* that aims to assist decision-makers in identifying the most cost-effective and impactful SSM practices, considering the specific characteristics of different agroecological zones.
12. Under the coordination of FAORAP, the ASP contributed to the development of the [Asian Knowledge Hub on Sustainable Soil and Land Management](#) designed to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experiences on sustainable soil and land management in the Asian region. The Hub reports and describes countries' 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, trainings, awareness raising campaigns and others. The use of the Hub has been promoted through the organization of a series of webinars starting in September 2023.
13. The [Centre of Excellence for Soil Research in Asia](#) (CESRA), in collaboration with Thailand, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCo), is executing the project titled "[Improving Local Communities' Livelihoods and Engagement in Sustainable Forest and Land Management in Thailand through Forest Landscape Restoration](#)" (2023-2024). The project focuses on implementing measures to meet the targets of National Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and addresses concerns about greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from the agricultural and forestry sectors in Pa Leaw Luang sub-district, Nan Province, Thailand. In November 2023, CESRA developed a new e-learning course on the topic "[Thriving Soil, Thriving Thai Nation: Combating Soil Threats with Regenerative Practices](#)".
14. Cambodia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam have initiated a partnership with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, United States of America, to assess cropping systems where potassium (K) is currently constraining crop yields, particularly in paddy fields. This collaborative project aims to enhance crop production through improved nutrient management and fertilizer recommendations. The findings will guide policies and investments related to fertilizers.
15. The Land Development Department (LDD), Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand, will act as implementing and backstopping support partner for the Global Soil Doctors Programme in South-East Asia. LDD will specifically cover the implementation of the programme in Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam. In 2024, partners from other countries will be identified to facilitate the programme's implementation in the Asian region.
16. In January 2024, FAO's Director-General, Dr QU Dongyu, [visited Thailand](#) to strengthen the cooperation between Thailand and FAO that has continued throughout the past 72 years. During his visit, Dr QU proposed to organize an International Soil, Land, and Water Forum to

serve as a global platform to raise awareness for sustainable soil and water management. Thailand has agreed to host the first International Forum and the official tenth celebration of the World Soil Day in 2024.

8.3 European Soil Partnership

17. The 11th Plenary Meeting of the European Soil Partnership (ESP) is to be held online on 28 and 29 May 2024. At this meeting, the 12th GSP Plenary Assembly documents are to be discussed and the work agenda of the ESP for the period 2024–2025 to be discussed and defined. A separate meeting will be held in September/October 2024 to address the role of ESP in the context of European Union (EU) and national activities, research programmes, and regulations. The meeting highlighted synergies to global activities such as UN conventions and the GSP Action Framework 2022–2030. As an example, the impact of research for soil monitoring under the EU Soil Mission was emphasized. Information about the monitoring/restoration of agricultural soils in Ukraine was shared, and progress in EUROSOLAN and participation of ESP members in GSP networks was acknowledged.
18. The ESP Chair, the European members of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS), and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC-EC) are leading the preparation of the European chapter of the second edition of the Status of the World's Soil Resources report, to be published in 2025. The subregional [Eurasian Soil Partnership](#) (EASP) has identified 25 contributing authors from 9 countries to complete the European chapter of the Status of the World's Soil Resources report 2025 and to ensure that the specificities of the sub-region are properly addressed in the chapter.
19. Members of the ESP have contributed to the public consultations for the development of the Directive on soil monitoring and resilience (Soil Monitoring Law), which is now under consideration by the European Parliament and the European Council.
20. Experts from the subregional [Alpine Soil Partnership](#) (AlpSP) are leading the preparation of a FAO manual for the sustainable management of mountain soils together with the Global Mountain Partnership, to be published in 2024.
21. During the second half of 2023, significant efforts were carried out to build the capacity of specialists from Central Asia and Southern Caucasus in creating national soil information systems and databases and managing large amounts of soil data. Flyers and outreach materials of the GSP have been translated into Russian and published on the [EASP website](#), as well as the main news, events and publications of EASP. The textbook “*Guidelines on sustainable land management practices in Central Asia in the context of climate change*” was jointly developed and published by the Faculty of Soil Science of the Eurasian Center for Food Security (ECFS) and the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA). The book is available in Russian on the [ECFS website](#). An [EASP Telegram channel](#) to disseminate news and activities of the EASP has been created in January 2024 and is currently operational.
22. The subregional [Pyrenean Soil Partnership](#) (ASPIr, by its acronym in Spanish) has been awarded an Interreg grant to implement the project *SOLPYR - Soils from the Pyrenees. Knowledge for a better protection*. The project proposal was jointly developed by the Association Française de l'Étude des Sols (AFAS) and the Sociedad Española de la Ciencia del Suelo (SECS). The ASPIr participated and presented its activities at the [XXXIII Spanish National Soil Meeting](#) organized by the SECS and held in Pamplona, Navarra, from 12 to 15 September 2023.

23. The subregional [Western Balkans Soil Partnership](#) (WBSP) held the Seventh Interim Meeting of the Regional Expert Advisory Working Group on the WBSP from 13 to 15 March 2024, in Skopje, North Macedonia. The meeting reviewed the progress on the activities carried out by the WBSP since its establishment in 2022. It was agreed to develop a regional soil map based on the FAO/UNESCO World Soil Map. The next meeting will take place from 19 to 21 June 2024 in Dures, Albania. The regional initiative is supported by various projects, targeted to improve the availability of soil information for practitioners and policymakers.

8.4 Latin America and the Caribbean Soil Partnership

24. At the [10th Regional Assembly of the Latin American and the Caribbean Soil Partnership](#) (ASLAC, by its acronym in Spanish), several members highlighted that they have established national programmes focused on soil conservation or restoration or are allocating significant resources to soil mapping and soil management initiatives. These efforts are often supported by FAO and GSP projects and tools.
25. The English-speaking Caribbean subregion is implementing the SOILCARE project, which has made significant progress in the creation of the Caribbean Soil Information System (CARSIS), the Caribbean Soil Laboratory Network (CARSOLAN) and the implementation of the Global Soil Doctors Programme (See GSPPA document: XII/2024/6).
26. Another important soil project in the region is the SoilFER project, which is being carried out in Guatemala and Honduras and is supported by ASLAC experts. Latest progress in the implementation of the project is reported in the document GSPPA: XII/2024/6.
27. The [11th ASLAC Regional Assembly](#) was held in virtual format on 7 and 8 May 2024. As a result of this meeting, the progress in the implementation of the ASLAC 2023-2024 work plan was reviewed, the steering committee renewed, and the ASLAC 2024-2025 work plan endorsed.
28. As a result of good collaboration between ASLAC, the national GSP focal points and the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (FAO-RLC), soil featured prominently in the discussions at the [38th FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean](#), where soil emerged as a key priority to address challenges related to food production, climate change and environmental protection.
29. ASLAC collaborates with the Platform of Climate Action in Agriculture of Latin America and the Caribbean (PLACA), supported by FAO-RLC. Several workshops and webinars are being developed for the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment, and other national institutions, on the main GSP tools contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation (RECSOIL, Soil Doctors, soil laboratories). A [regional workshop on Soil Governance](#) was organized in virtual format on 16 April 2024.
30. The FAO-RLC hosts the [Soil Community of Practice](#) (CoP) which has more than 710 members from over 35 countries. The CoP facilitates technical exchange on SSM in the region, and supports the organization of webinars, surveys, and contests in line with GSP activities. The last event organized was a [technical debate](#) on the impact of fires on the ground in October 2023.
31. ASLAC members are strongly involved in GSP activities and networks, such as the nutrient budget maps or the new edition of the Status of the World's Soil Resources report. Around 185 World Soil Day events were reported in 2023 across the region, and a [High level World Soil Day event](#) was organized by ASLAC in collaboration with RLC.

32. The Global Soil Doctors Programme has been [widely implemented in the LAC region](#) thanks to the efforts of national promoting institutions. It is currently being implemented in seven LAC countries and is in its initial phase in another six countries. Chile and Mexico are now in the second and third phase of implementation respectively and are beginning to see the impact of the Programme in the widespread adoption of sustainable soil management by participating farmers, with almost 1 000 Soil Doctors training farmers in their community.
33. The Latin American Soil Laboratory Network, [LATSOLAN](#), organized a regional in-person training from 8 to 11 April 2024, in collaboration with FAO-LAC and the University of Concepción of Chile, in Chillán, Chile.

8.5 Near East and North Africa Soil Partnership

34. Members of the Near East and North Africa (NENA) Soil Partnership participated virtually in the Ninth meeting of the International Network of Soil Information Institutions (INSII) which was held from 7 to 9 November 2023.
35. In collaboration with the African Union Commission and led by experts from the German Environment Agency and Stellenbosch University, experts from the NENA Soil Partnership are contributing to the development of a model law on sustainable soil management for Africa, using the information available in the GSP's SoiLEX platform as a basis.
36. With the support of GSP Secretariat, the [4th meeting of the NENA Soil Laboratory Network \(NENALAB\)](#) was conducted online on 22 January 2024.
37. The Chair and members of the NENA Soil Partnership are actively helping raise funding through contacting regional and international donors. As example, an EU PRIMA project on [Soil health monitoring and information systems for sustainable soil management in the Mediterranean region \(Soil4Med\)](#) was launched in which some NENA countries are involved (Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia). The project aims to advance the development of national soil information systems and promoting SSM in the region.
38. A national TCP has been launched in January 2024 in cooperation with ICARDA and the Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA Morocco) to support a national dialogue on sustainable soil management and capacity building in Morocco. It is expected to be an example to be replicated in the region.
39. The focal points of the NENA Soil Partnership reviewed the regional action plan on sustainable soil management which was developed as part of the regional TCP project (TCP/RAB/3802) on [Capacity development for sustainable management of soil resources in the NENA region to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals](#) which was conducted by 11 countries and ended in April 2023.
40. The Chair of the NENA Soil Partnership was nominated by the Regional Group to act as Chair of the Eleventh Plenary Assembly of the Global Soil Partnership which was held in FAO headquarters from 12 to 14 July 2023.

8.6 North America Soil Partnership

41. The North American Soil Partnership (NASP) is actively contributing to the second edition of the Status of the World's Soils Resources report through the establishment of a regional assessment panel, identifying lead authors for the assessment of various soil threats and by hosting a related symposium at the 2023 Soil Science Society of America /American Society

of Agronomy (SSSA/ASA) annual meeting. The detailed process and progress made over the past year is included in [NASP's annual report](#).

42. In efforts to sustainably manage and restore soils for ecosystem services provision, the United States of America and Canada employ various strategies and collaborations. In the United States of America, the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and its entities - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) - alongside the National Science Foundation and Universities, support initiatives aligned with the GSP. The [Long-Term Agroecosystem Research \(LTAR\) Network](#) assesses both short- and long-term soil health changes, focusing on GHG emissions, soil biodiversity, and soil health quantification.
43. Similarly, [Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's \(AAFC\) Living Labs](#) and the USDA/LTAR network aim to enhance living lab networks through initiatives like *Living Soils for the Americas*. These living labs, which now span all Canadian provinces, facilitate collaboration between farmers and scientists to co-develop and implement SSM directly on farms.
44. Highlighting international collaboration, AAFC and France's National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment (INRAE) co-hosted the inaugural [International Forum on Agroecosystem Living Labs](#) in Montreal, Canada, in October 2023, showcasing a global commitment to sustainable soil management.
45. Canada's focus on soil health governance is intensifying, as seen in the 2021 [Guelph Statement: A Vision to 2028](#), which outlines priorities like climate change adaptation, GHG emissions reduction, and the protection and regeneration of natural resources. In line with these priorities, a Sustainable Agriculture Strategy is being developed, advocating for a National Soil Health Strategy (NSHS) to unify provincial efforts towards sustainability and food security. Concurrently, the Senate of Canada's ongoing Report on the Status of Soil Health, informed by expert testimonies, underscores the growing national commitment to soil governance.
46. Promoting soil knowledge and literacy is a key priority in Canada, as outlined in [AAFC's Strategic Plan for Science](#). This plan adopts a mission-driven approach, targeting clear goals for a sustainable agriculture sector by 2050. It emphasizes four main areas: climate change mitigation and adaptation, enhancing agro-ecosystem resilience, promoting a circular economy, and boosting the digital economy, all of which contribute to innovative solutions for soil health improvement and other environmental challenges.
47. World Soil Day 2023 was celebrated and promoted on a variety of platforms (Twitter, Facebook, press releases, newsletters) by AAFC, the Canadian Society of Soil Science, the Soil Conservation Council of Canada, Canadian Universities, and others. Likewise, the Soil Health Institute (SHI) announced the release of a free phone application, [Slakes](#), to empower and engage citizens around the world to measure aggregate stability: one of the most common indicators of soil health.
48. Canada is investing in soil data renewal and mapping of soil carbon sequestration potential using recently developed predictive mapping and ecosystem modelling to improve the resolution and accuracy of predicted soil data.
49. The United States of America led new initiatives with bilateral and multilateral partners to improve soil maps and their use, technical capacity, and access to high quality inputs and extension to increase productivity growth and combat the current fertilizer crisis, notably through the FAO SoilFER, Space-to-place and AID-I projects.

50. Canada, as a founding member of the Efficient Fertilizer Consortium (EFC), leads in promoting efficient fertilizers to reduce environmental impacts and enhance crop production, collaborating internationally with countries and organizations.
51. The United States of America has structured outreach programs for youth and minorities to engage in conservation and sustainable agriculture. The [Future Farmers of America](#) (FFA) is a premier youth organization that prepares its members for careers and leadership in the science, business, and technology in agriculture. Government, alongside other organizations and institutions, caters for increased participation of youth, women, and all minority segments of the nation.

8.7 Pacific Soil Partnership

52. At the [Eighth Regional Meeting of Pacific Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services](#) (PHOAFS) held during the Pacific Week of Agriculture from 6 to 10 March 2023, the Pacific Community (SPC) was [mandated to serve as the Secretariat for the Pacific Soil Partnership](#) (PSP) and to coordinate the resourcing and implementation of its activities across the Pacific region. An outcome from this meeting is the newly advertised regional soil coordinator role which will be housed within the SPC Land Resources Division (LRD).
53. The PSP has adopted a set of strategic priorities aligned to the GSP Action Framework 2022-2030 to promote SSM for soil protection, conservation, and sustainable productivity. These are soil fertility and nutrient management, erosion and acidification, soil testing capacity and extension, soil monitoring, data and information, and capacity building and networking. A [detailed report on PSP's activities and progress over the past year](#) is available online.
54. In New Zealand, erosion management continues to be a high priority, particularly in response to the impacts of cyclone Gabrielle in February 2023. Research is underway to understand the susceptibility to erosion of different watersheds and how to manage erosion more effectively.
55. The Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry continues to implement the [National Soil Strategy](#) (released in May 2021) and has released the [National Soil Action Plan 2023 to 2028](#), which is the first action plan to improve soil health and management. Governance structures include the National Soil Strategy Implementation Steering Committee (NSSISC) and the National Committee on Soil and Terrain (NCST).
56. With the support from FAORAP, most Pacific islands have adopted the Voluntary Guidelines on Sustainable Soil Management and are integrating them in National Soil Strategies. Tonga is finalising its own.
57. The [Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture](#) (KJWA) continued to be a driving force in the region to improve the resilience of agricultural systems and mitigate climate change. As part of its implementation, the Australian Government has allocated significant funding to promote SSM at national and regional level, supporting the Regional Soils Coordinators and a National Soils Community of Practice.
58. The government of Australia also developed the [Carbon Farming Outreach Program](#) (2023-2026), which provides training and advice to farmers and land managers to participate in carbon markets and integrate low emissions technologies and practices, including improving soil condition, in their operations. The [National Soil Monitoring Program](#) will support the delivery of the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program and help address Priority 1 of the National Soil Action Plan.

59. Research commissioned by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), partnerships like the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation's (CSIRO) [Pacific Food Partnership](#), the [Atoll Food Futures project](#) operating in Fiji, Kiribati, and Tuvalu, or the [Market Development Facility](#) support farmers in the region to adopt climate-smart practices to increase their resilience against climate change.
60. In November 2023, the FAO Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific (FAOSAP) and the SPC LRD Soil Programme conducted a Climate Smart Agriculture workshop in Tonga with a focus on SSM. Fiji and other countries in the region are also developing a multilevel educational programme to advocate knowledge and literacy on soils.
61. The [Pacific Soils Portal](#), part of the CSIRO and Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research (MWLR) Soil Management project funded by the ACIAR, provides easy access to legacy soils data and knowledge for Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga, and Tuvalu since October 2020. This information has been useful in the response of Tonga to the Hunga Tonga Hunga Ha'apai volcanic eruption and its associated tsunami. Discussions have also been held with the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade regarding the expansion of geographic coverage to include the Cook Islands and Niue.
62. The [Australian National Soil Information System](#) (ANSIS) provides access to nationally consistent soil data and information to support the sustainable management of soil. The [Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network](#) (TERN) via its [Landscape Monitoring Platform](#) produces data and mapping products of Australia, and provides easy access to nationally consistent and comprehensive soil and landscape attribute data.
63. The public website for the New Zealand's soil information system, [S-map Online](#), now covers 37.1 percent of New Zealand, including 67.7 percent of "multiple use land". It directly 'feeds' soil data and information into different farmer decision-support tools. Soil data ownership, soil data privacy, and Māori data sovereignty continue to be of national interest and the resulting policies may limit soil data availability. In December 2023, the [Antarctic Soil Explorer](#) website was launched, documenting New Zealand's long-standing Antarctic soil research activities dating back to the 1950's.
64. The CSIRO-led ACIAR Pacific Soils Project is implementing the GSP's Global Soil Doctor Programme's training in Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga, and Tuvalu. In Tonga, over 200 participants have already been trained on SSM.
65. The Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources of Australia and the CSIRO are undertaking the re-sampling of a national wide set of soil carbon sites to assess change since the original sampling in 2011, and to provide baseline and research data for the calibration and implementation of new soil carbon measurement and sequestration projects.
66. ACIAR through their Pacific Agriculture Scholarships, Support and Climate Resilience (ACIAR PASS-CR) has awarded two PhD scholarships to students from the University of the South Pacific (USP) to consolidate available soil data and use them to simulate taro growth, nutrients cycle in different seasons and climate change scenarios.
67. In the past year, the Australian Government has put in place a new [Registered Soil Practitioner](#) accreditation and associated training package for people who work with and are interested in soil.
68. MWLR is part of the international ring test of soil spectroscopy ([Soil Spectroscopy 4 Global Good](#)), using both Near-infrared (NIR) and mid-infrared (MIR) spectroscopy, led by the

Woodwell Climate Research Centre. This initiative is aligned with the GSP's activities and the GLOSOLAN spectroscopy working group.