

AfSP/18/Report



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



Third Meeting of the African Soil Partnership

FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, 13 June 2018

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Report of the third Meeting of the African Soil Partnership

Provided by the GSP Secretariat

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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List of acronyms and abbreviations

AfSP	African Soil Partnership
DSM	Digital Soil Mapping
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FP	Focal Point
GLOSOLAN	Global Soil Laboratory Network
GSP	Global Soil Partnership
INSII	International Network of Soil Information Institutions
NRSL	National Reference Soil Laboratories
SOC	Soil Organic Carbon
SSM	Sustainable Soil Management
WSD	World Soil Day

Preamble

This document summarizes the proceedings of the third African Soil Partnership (AfSP) meeting held on 13 June 2018 at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) headquarters, Rome, Italy.

The objectives of the meeting were to (i) collect national feedback on soil-related activities implemented for the period 2015 – 2017; (ii) discuss the activities and targets included in the Afrisoils programme; (iii) review the AfSP Chair and Pillar Working Groups; and (iv) discuss the way forward.

The agenda of the meeting comprised the following topics:

1. Welcome and opening remarks;
2. Introduction to the Global Soil Partnership (GSP);
3. National feedback by country focal points on the status of soil-related activities implemented for the period 2015 – 2017, and identification of needs and priorities for the period 2018 – 2019;
4. Summary of gaps and priorities based on the national feedback to develop the workplan for 2018 – 2019;
5. Introduction to the proposed Afrisoils program activities, and discussion of the Afrisoils activities and targets;
6. Identification of priority activities for implementation during the period 2018 – 2019 that do not require significant financial support and development of an implementation strategy;
7. Review of the AfSP Chair and Pillar Working Groups to further develop priorities and activities in the AfSP Implementation Plan;
8. The suggested way forward for the AfSP.

Summary

The large potential and diversity of Africa's soils was recognized and their fundamental value for food security and overall sustainable development was highlighted. Current degradation processes are threatening the soil resource on the continent that in turn adversely affects economic development, particularly agricultural production and associated food and nutrition security, provision of ecosystem services and increased poverty. This is exacerbated by climate change and unsustainable soil management practices that are affecting the most vulnerable people in this region. Out of the need for stronger partnership in Africa to provide a voice for soils in terms of its multiple roles and to move toward achieving major outcomes in terms of sustainable soil management and food security on the continent, the AfSP was established in 2015.

The current AfSP caters for the Sub-Saharan Africa including 45 African countries. About 30 countries have been consistent and active in support of various activities since its establishment. The regional partnership emerged from the consolidation of two earlier sub-regional partnerships in May 2015 at Elmina, Ghana. These were the Western and Central African Soil Partnership (WCASP) launched in February 2013 in Accra, Ghana, and the Eastern and Southern African Soil Partnership (ESASP) launched in March 2013 in Nairobi, Kenya. The consolidation brought together interested and active stakeholders within Sub-Saharan Africa. The partnership has its Secretariat at the FAO Regional Office for Africa, in Accra, Ghana.

The aim of the AfSP was to establish an interactive consultative process with national soils entities (soil survey institutions, soil management institutions, scientific soil societies, and soil scientists working on land resources, climate change and biodiversity institutions/programmes, etc.), as well as with regional Soil Science Societies and other relevant regional mechanisms under the various related conventions to discuss and promote issues related to sustainable management and use of soil and natural resources on the continent.

The aim of the third meeting of the AfSP was to collect national feedback on soil-related activities implemented for the period 2015 – 2017, and to identify gaps and priorities based on the delivered feedback in order to develop the regional workplan for 2018 – 2019. The meeting included a side event presenting a dedicated soil programme launched under the GSP for Africa called *Afrisoils: Boosting soil productivity for a food and nutrition secure Africa*. The programme aims to support the implementation of sustainable soil management (SSM) in the region. During the side event and the AfSP meeting, feedback was obtained from different stakeholders on how Afrisoils could be implemented.

The draft Afrisoils programme will be finalized following inputs from the AfSP members and submitted for internal review in the FAO system. Once completed, the Afrisoils programme will be presented to donors, including the private sector, who will be invited to invest in the programme.

1 Opening of the meeting

Welcome remarks

The third AfSP meeting was held on 13 June 2018 at the FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy. The meeting was organized and financially supported by the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) Secretariat of FAO.

Mr. Eduardo Mansur, Director of the Land and Water Division (CBL) of FAO, welcomed the more than 50 participants of the meeting, which mostly consisted of national focal points (FPs) from 32 AfSP countries and observers that attended the GSP Plenary Assembly. Mr. Mansur highlighted the importance of soil resources in Africa to ensure food security and emphasized the urgent need to mobilize financial resources to implement activities towards sustainable soil management (SSM) in the region. In this regard, he underlined the significance of future South-South cooperation with China and other developing countries.

Opening remarks

Mr. Victor O. Chude, Chair of the AfSP, welcomed all participants and coordinators and delivered an opening address, introducing the AfSP, the purpose of its consolidation in 2015 and the key objectives of this regional partnership referring to the GSP Pillars of Action. He shared the achievements of the AfSP since 2015 and highlighted the participation of AfSP members in various GSP activities and working groups (e.g. INSII, GLOSOLAN)¹, international conferences and GSP events, such as the e.g. World Soil Day (WSD).

Mr. Chude also stressed particular challenges that member countries of the AfSP are facing such as (i) inadequate capacity, knowledge and experience to plan and implement SSM and optimally manage, mitigate and monitor the productive and degradation status of the soils especially under intensive cultivation; (ii) the general lack of policies regulating soil use and where regional and national SSM policies exist, financing is often not a priority and/or implementation can be ineffective due to a lack of political will or a lack of implementation capacity; (iii) limited access of farmers to new sustainable soil management technologies; (iv) predominance of customary land tenure; and (v) stagnating agricultural productivity, low fertilizer use and high population growth.

Mr. Chude gave suggestions on the way forward for the AfSP. He encouraged participants to use the AfSP meeting among country focal points to deliberate on issues of concern to the regional partnership and take the opportunity to make it vibrant and more involved in national, regional and global initiatives and programmes.

In terms of recommendations, Mr. Chude said that a first priority should be the execution of the regional Implementation Plan. Therefore, actions towards healthy/fertile soils should be rapidly implemented to successfully combat the challenge of food security, sustainable intensification of food production and poverty reduction in Africa. This is to ensure that Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) achieves Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture), SDG 13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts) and SDG 15 (Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss). Chude called on the country focal points to take ownership and start with national level resource mobilization for SSM activities. He also put emphasize on the fact that the execution of

¹ INSII = International Network of Soil Information Institutions, GLOSOLAN = Global Soil Laboratory Network

the AfSP Implementation Plan should be funded by GSP partners so as to reverse soil degradation in Africa and promote SSM and enhance food and nutrition security in the region.

Mr. Chude closed his opening remarks by acknowledging FAO DG, the Director, CBL, the ADG/RR for the African Region, Mr. Bukar Tijani, the Secretary to the GSP Secretariat, Mr. Ronald Vargas, Mr. Sebastian Brahene and FAO RAF Officers at the AfSP Secretariat, Ms. Liesl Wiese, focal points and members of the ITPS.

2 Introduction to the GSP and meeting objectives

Mr. Ronald Vargas, Secretary of the GSP of FAO, welcomed all participants and introduced the GSP. Mr. Vargas explained the purpose and opportunity of jointly organizing the GSP Plenary Assembly and AfSP meeting at FAO headquarters to give member countries of the AfSP the chance to participate in the decision-making process of the global soil agenda.

Furthermore, Mr. Vargas introduced the Afrisoils programme to be launched during a side event of the meeting to mobilize financial resources to implement SSM activities in Africa. He informed participants about the programme planning (10 years in two phases) and estimated budget of 50 million USD.

Concerning the low participation of the AfSP in the activities of the Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN), Mr. Vargas reminded the focal points to send nominations of their respective National Reference Soil Laboratory (NRSL) to the GSP Secretariat.

Meeting objectives

Mr. Vargas summarized the main objectives of the third AfSP meeting as follows:

1. Collection of national feedback by country FPs on the status of soil-related activities implemented for the period 2015 – 2017, and identification of needs and priorities for the period 2018 – 2019;
2. Development of the workplan for 2018 – 2019 with concrete activities at regional and national level;
3. Introduction to the proposed Afrisoils programme activities, and discussion and finalization of Afrisoils activities and targets;
4. Identification of priority activities for implementation during the period 2018 – 2019 that do not require significant financial support and development of an implementation strategy;
5. Revision of the AfSP Chair and Pillar Working Groups to further develop priorities and activities in the AfSP Implementation Plan;
6. Agreement on a way forward for the AfSP.

The meeting followed the agenda without any adoptions as presented in Annex I – Agenda.

3 Tour de Table and national reports

Meeting participants were invited to introduce themselves during a Tour de Table (see Annex II – Participant List). During the Tour the Table, national FPs presented the national feedback on soil-related activities implemented for the period 2015 – 2017 (see Table 1).

Table 1: Summarized national reports from FPs on implemented activities and needs/priorities

Country / Focal Point	Implemented activities	Needs / Priorities
Benin <i>Attanda Mouinou Iguè</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduction of soil fertility study; IASS² supported training and provided assistance to farmers • WSD celebrations and awareness raising campaign • Successful implementation of the <i>ProSOIL</i> project (financially supported by GIZ³) • Participation in the 7th International Conference of the African Soil Society in Ouagadougou 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major problems; 60% acid soils, 90% soils with low fertility • No SOC map available yet • Lack of soil data base (only old legacy maps available) • Sensitization on soil degradation • Capacity building and training in universities (on the level of farmers advisors)
Botswana <i>Chebukani Mpapho Fanani</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance of SOC mapping (DSM) training in 2017 • National assessment on soil characteristics; investigation and evaluation of soil suitability for irrigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land degradation (soil erosion, nutrient depletion) • Need for updated soil testing laboratory equipment and facilities • Conventional farmers use private laboratories; lack of public laboratories for smallholder farmers soil testing/research • Problem: application of fertilizers without soil testing/recommendations • Need for an updated soil data base; current data base provided by FAO is outdated (1980s) • Need to strengthening soil testing laboratories staff (junior staff training, experience sharing and capacity building) • Priorities: small scale DSM; awareness raising on fertilizer use • Incorporate conservation farming in agriculture • Lack of climate and flooding hazards maps

² IASS = Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies

³ GIZ = Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit

Country / Focal Point	Implemented activities	Needs / Priorities
Burkina Faso <i>Zacharie Segda</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building • Participation in DSM training • SOC sampling; SOC mapping • Celebration of World Soil Day (WSD) 2017 with events, exhibits, visits in soil laboratories, educational activities on SSM • Participation in inter-laboratory trials for harmonization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of financial resources • SSM: Planning not harmonized; need for better planning and better visibility of results • Lack of consultation (lots of data to measure the positive impacts of SSM is available but not used to scale up the initiatives) • Lack of funding; low level of investment; sustainable funding needed
Cabo Verde <i>Jacques Tavares</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil degradation neutrality project with several partners (e.g. UNCCD) to determine 3 indicators for soil neutrality • Mapping of SOC content of ten islands with significant quantitative and qualitative data (1km x 1km grid) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of additional information on soils • Access to soil data and sampling locations are challenging • Lack of training and capacities: human capacity need to be strengthened • Need for a soil data base (e.g. for monitoring purposes)
Cameroon <i>Flore Arlende Ngomeni EP</i> <i>Nguegoue</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in 2nd AfSP meeting in Ghana; presentation of national GSP Pillar activities • Participation in the 7th International Conference of the African Soil Society in Ouagadougou • SOC study; contributions to GSOCmap • ISO credited laboratory as NSRL for GLOSOLAN nominated • Contribution to the Global Symposium on Soil Pollution (GSOP18) • Contribution to Afrisoils programme proposal • Maize, bean, peanut fertilization recommendations • Soil database for norther part of the country; assessment and mapping of agricultural soils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of financial resources to realize soil research projects • Lack of financial resources for WSD celebrations for awareness raising (not organized yet) • Need for capacity building, training and education • Cooperation amongst ministries needed

Country / Focal Point	Implemented activities	Needs / Priorities
Central African Republic <i>Jean-Arsène Yamale</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil science service collected samples to determine the current state of the soil; development of a plan for soil improvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of scientists human capital/soil scientists (only two soil scientists and no available technicians) • No functioning soil testing laboratory; samples are send to Cameroon which is costive; facility of other subjects (forestry, etc.) could host function of soil analytical laboratory; request to renovate national soil testing laboratory • Need for support in capacity development for continuing soil testing and soil research
Djibouti <i>Hami Said</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping of SOC • Development of data base with information about the soil conditions in palm/date orchards (major crops) • Shore and inland salinity assessment project supported by government • Policy for soil regeneration/rehabilitation/restoration • Management of wastewater use; wastewater treatment facility supported by EU to monitor the impact of wastewater application for irrigation and for sustainable use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of financial resources for soil data collection • Lack of financial resources for project implementation on soil salinity (major problem due to poor water quality of irrigation water) • Soil map requires an update • Need of technical support in soil testing laboratories; international standards are desired
Ethiopia <i>Fanosie Mekonen</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil fertility map available for deficient nutrients • Participatory watershed management • Establishment of fertilizer quality management/integrated fertilizer management; fertilizer standards and protocols; soil information database establishment; blending of fertilizers with micronutrients 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problems: Deforestation, acidification, salinization, etc. • Main constraint identified as low soil fertility • Need for soil plant agro-ecology based fertilizer recommendations and soil fertility management • Need for data sharing policy • Request for soil laboratory capacity building (equipment, training of staff, etc.) • Lack of technology for Vertisol management

Country / Focal Point	Implemented activities	Needs / Priorities
Equatorial Guinea <i>Lorenzo Oyono Obama</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support of small and medium scale farmers in SSM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for capacity building particularly in DSM and geo-statistics Lack of information on soil organic carbon (SOC); no SOC data available for mapping; SOC identified as a priority area Lack of soil testing laboratories
Eritrea <i>Kiflemarian Abraha</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CA studied in Brazil and adopted (supported by FAO); CA introduced to farmers; up-scaling of CA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soil classification maps required Need for capacity building in DSM Soil salinization problems Problem of alkaline soils
Gabon <i>Ngadi Litadi</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancements in soil mapping (digitization, remote sensing, database creation) Land use planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to modernize the 50 years old soil laboratory; need for equipment and improved capacity After completing digitization and mapping, updating of data required (soil sampling, analysis)
Gambia <i>Abdou Rahman Jobe</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in SOC mapping training in Kenya 2017 Plant soil conservation training (train soil conservation communities and improve soil and water management capacity) for Pillar 2 Field visits to study CA supported by national projects Completion of national SOC map in 2018 for Pillar 5 Promote soil conservation (erosion, acidity, saline soils, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not sufficient data for SOC map; field data obtained with support of FAO (map now under preparation) Lack of soil information data Soil and water management capacity weak
Ghana <i>Joseph Opoku Fening</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of national soil fertility map Sustainable soil fertility management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to update GIS lab for mapping Need to upscale soil fertility management Problem: soil pollution from illegal mining Lack of training and equipment

Country / Focal Point	Implemented activities	Needs / Priorities
Guinea <i>Aissatou Taran Diallo</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since 2015: agri-caravan to schools to educate smallholder farmers on soil fertility, etc.; information material distribution • Soil sampling to realize agricultural map, fertility map (all samples not analysed due to lack of financial resources) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition of financial resources to ensure sustainability of projects • Completion of the project to develop a national SOC and various soil fertility maps • Development of capacity for laboratory staff, soil surveyors, managers dealing with agronomy, soil conservation and sustainability, as well as SENASOL and other managers for various Ministry of Agriculture directorates, etc. • Renovation of the national soil laboratory and its equipment (at least 1 Atomic Absorption Spectrometer (AAS); 1 Kjeldahl analyser and a high temperature furnace 600 to 800°C, 1 flame photometer and consumables (chemical reagents) • Technical support to update the SENASOL database • Restoration of degraded soils (in quarries and others) • Construction of erosion control measures (i.e. stone bunds, agroforestry, etc.) • Recruitment of 26 trainee managers at SENASOL • Verification of the quality and rational use of fertilizers and pesticides by smallholders • Awareness raising amongst rural and mining companies to practice SSM • Awareness of mitigation and adaptation to climate change at all levels
Guinea Bissau <i>Marcelino Vaz</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recovery of low land areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority on soil analyses; need for technical support for soil laboratory to update the available soil data to improve productivity and mechanization agriculture

Country / Focal Point	Implemented activities	Needs / Priorities
<p>Kenya <i>Anne Muriuki</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts put in enhancing CA; provision of financial resources to make CA sustainable were provided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of laboratory staff training; need for capacity building/workshops/training • Lack of new equipment for analytical work; lack of necessary chemical reagents • Need for updated manuals • Lack of funds to support/facilitate soil sampling in the field e.g. trucks (estimated funding need of 260 k US) • Need for erosion control measures • Need for national soil map update • Monitoring of soil resources required • Soil doctors programme is considered useful • Massive need of soil testing laboratories; need to employ rapid methods for soil testing • Lack of adequate fertilizer recommendations on a field basis; priority on upgrade of soil testing facilities to fulfil the need for soil testing for fertilizer recommendations • Lack of scientists human capital/soil scientists
<p>Kingdom of Eswatini <i>Patrick Dlamini</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government input subsidy (free lime was given to farmers to improve soils) • Fees for ploughing • Effect of minimum/low tillage assessment • SOC mapping; contribution to GSOCmap in 2017 • Global Environment Facility project (small holder market led project); spatially distributed soil samples (determination of bulk density and SOC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenge in sampling the required 376 sites to produce SOC map (lack of human and financial resources) • Public soil laboratory not well equipped; lack of sufficient materials such as reagents for soil nutrient analyses

Country / Focal Point	Implemented activities	Needs / Priorities
Malawi <i>Thomas Chigowo</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of SSM • National soil partnership launched • Celebration of WSD 2016 and 2017 • SOC mapping • Conduction of a soil loss assessment to estimate soil erosion rates • Produced a CA user guide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for capacity building in all areas (especially laboratory level for soil analysis) • Lack of laboratory equipment • Lack of financial resources
Mauritania <i>Memma Beibatta</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in further meeting is welcome and wanted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of dedicated organizational structure for SSM • Update of the land atlas needed since it does not cover soils • Lack of knowledge of the effects of fertilizers; no information in terms of soil nutrition and fertility data; lack of adequate fertilizer recommendations due to limited data availability and access • No soil testing laboratories available (only one but inadequate resources, staff, equipment, etc.)
Mauritius <i>Bhanooduth Lalljee</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSA priority • SIDS priorities: erosion, degradation, loss of OM, erosion and deposition
Niger <i>Saidou Addam Kiari</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of priorities and limitations to FAO/GSP Secretariat • Celebration of WSD; awareness raising activities • SOC mapping • Participation in soil conference in Burkina Faso; participation in soil fertility conference in Sudan • Promotion of mechanization of farming; promotion of SSM • Capacity building programme is available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of funding; only limited funds are provided by the government • Lack of training of farmers to increase conservation of water and soil fertility; farmers tend to mine soils • Soil testing laboratory is outdated; especially equipment is needed • Financial constraints due to conflict and duplication

Country / Focal Point	Implemented activities	Needs / Priorities
<p>Nigeria <i>Victor Chude</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GGW⁴ programme addressing desertification • Soill erosion control (World Bank project NEWMAP⁵: Nigeria, Tanzania, Ghana) • AFSIS⁶ • Development of soil fertility maps for soil and crop fertilizer recommendations • Fertilizer quality control law • Participation in DSM training 2017 • Organized workshops for policy making • Celebration of WSD; International Year of Soils, International Year of Pulses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for capacity building and training on DSM • Priority: successful project implementation (GGW, NEWMAP) • Request support from FAO to participate in WCSS
<p>Rwanda <i>Pascal Rushemuka</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of soil and water conservation though terracing, contour lining; fostering erosion control measures • Soil fertility management in different agro-ecological zones • Organic matter (OM) management with manure • Fertilizer management; provision of fertilizer recommendation for farmers; provision of laboratory analysis for fertilizer recommendation based on soil maps • Land husbandry; elaboration of a regional centre for land husbandry (project will be supported by World Bank) • Liming for acidic soils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erosion control as one of the priorities • Soil acidification • Need for capacity building e.g. in DSM

⁴ GGW = Great Green Wall

⁵ NEWMAP = Nigeria Erosion and Watershed Management Project

⁶ AFSIS = African Soil Information Service

Country / Focal Point	Implemented activities	Needs / Priorities
Senegal <i>Mamadou Amadou Sow</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in training/capacity building activities for DSM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem of land degradation, salinity, acidification, nutrient depletion, soil erosion • Lack of awareness for soils/soil sciences (general public/civil services) • Need of awareness raising • Lack of scientists human capital/soil scientists
South Africa <i>Ramakgwale Klaas Mampholo</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy on Conservation Agriculture (CA) for Pillar 2 • Sustainable resource management; agro-ecology at local scale • Addressing the preservation of agriculture land policy (implementation at operational level on a local scale); guide developments and review; update of user guidelines at farm level • Project implementation (LandCare programme to support smallholder farmers and the general public); investment plans with multilateral institutions • Soil information management system and dissemination of information for Pillar 4 • Update of the SOC to contribute to the updated GSOCmap (extent of the coverage and depth of the updated map) for Pillar 5 • Participation in soil conferences; 2nd African Conservation Agriculture Conference hosted in 2018 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for human resource capacity development
Tanzania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National SOC mapping training in Nairobi/Netherlands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for human resource capacity development

Country / Focal Point	Implemented activities	Needs / Priorities
<i>Geophrey Kajiru</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil fertility appraisal in different agro-ecological zones • Strengthening laboratory staff capacity for fertilizer quality control/fertilizer analyses (supported by AGRA) • Provision of fertilizer recommendations for lowland rice cultivation (supported by AGRA) • Rice productivity improvement through water and soil management • Testing of new fertilizer types (OCP fertilizers with S and Zn + NPK) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for capacity building in soil testing laboratories particularly
Togo <i>Afawoubo Koffi Gbelekor</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P company (OCP) in Morocco supported FAO project for capacity development; soil fertility sampling • Production of thematic maps for pH, SOM, N, P, K covering 130000 ha • Awareness raising on soil fertility issues • DSM activities for savannah region • Implementation of the action plan to restore soil fertility; soil conservation practices; reduced input consumptions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of human resources; most soil scientists retiring
Zambia <i>Stalin Sichinga</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated soil data base 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ready to digitize soil maps; require GSP support for DSM • Need for capacity building and training (DSM)
Zimbabwe <i>Emmanuel Chikwari</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experiments/tests of multi-based tillage systems on SOC dynamics, soil water dynamics, soil compaction, water infiltration rate, soil aggregation rate on different soil types at plot level • Production of a national SOC map based on soil survey results/soil data (100 samples); contribution to GSOC map 2017 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenges in soil productivity • Need for capacity building in general • Need for enhancement of soil testing laboratories (especially in equipment) • Improve accuracy of SOC map to through increased through higher number of samples; need for accuracy control of spatial models

Country / Focal Point	Implemented activities	Needs / Priorities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attempted for water scarcity supported by IAEA/FAO soil, water and nutrient section with small scale drip irrigation kit for food insecure areas; improvement of income security• Evaluation of farmer management/best practices for soil erosion control with a pilot project using radio isotope-based methodologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Need for a soil erosion map for policy level advice and intervention; engage stakeholders to prevent soil degradation, particularly soil erosion• Assistance needed from the international community on mitigation of soil erosion

4 Summary of gaps

This agenda item was not addressed due to time constraints.

5 Overview of the Afrisoils programme activities

Liesl Wiese, Chair of GSP Pillars 1 and 3 and Consultant to the GSP Secretariat of FAO, introduced the Afrisoils programme document. The Afrisoils programme has been developed to increase food production in the African region by implementing SSM and on-the-ground activities (training, training-of-trainers, policy and legal environment, etc.). The project was planned for a funding period of ten years in two phases. The presented draft document included the priorities and gaps submitted by the countries, based on which a set of draft activities was developed to facilitate the implementation of the programme and measure the outputs.

The participants agreed on discussing parts of the draft document/proposal for the Afrisoils programme during the meeting. Ms. Wiese suggested to rework the draft document based on the inputs received from national FPs. The next version of the document will be sent to the participants electronically for review. In the meantime, FPs were requested to submit the templates with country priorities by 22 June if not already sent.

Ms. Wiese summarized the priorities of action as suggested in the document: soil conservation measures, climate smart agriculture, soil fertility, deforestation/reforestation, mechanization, soil fertility management, training of the youth, etc.

During discussion, the following points were highlighted for consideration and inclusion in the Afrisoils document:

- Soil salinity is the huge problem and should be added to the list of priorities.
- Focal points stressed the challenge to achieve greater political attention on soils and requested support from FAO through the Afrisoils programme to increase national advocacy.
- Coordination is needed with the permanent representations of the African countries on soil issues to raise awareness on soils and getting support in national level prioritization.
- FAO Representatives in countries should be kept informed and should have copies of the AfSP implementation plan.
- Soil-water management/irrigation should be included (small scale, dykes, small-scale solar powered irrigation, etc.).
- There is a generally lack of coordination of actions at national level, including between ministries which needs to be addressed.

6 Priority activities

Priority activities for 2018 – 2019 are as follows:

- All outstanding country projects and priorities to be submitted to the GSP Secretariat by 22 June.
- The Afrisoils project document will be completed by the end of August 2018, including the priority activities, following which it will be submitted internally to FAO before inviting donors to invest in the programme. Once the next draft is circulated for review, FPs are urged to provide their inputs timeously for consideration.

- All FPs were encouraged to arrange the submission of nominations for the Glinka World Soil Prize 2018
- All countries were urged to arrange World Soil Day activities under the theme “Be the solution to soil pollution” on the 5 December 2018.
- African Soil Laboratory Network – FPs were urged to nominate national soil reference laboratories to participate in the Global Soil Laboratory Network, from which the African Soil Laboratory Network could be established.
- Further training in preparation of national soil organic carbon maps can be arranged, so FPs can request such support from the GSP Secretariat.
- Global Soil organic carbon map – the next step is to conduct a soil organic carbon sequestration potential assessment.
- The development of a Global Soil Salinity map will be the next initiative, so countries are urged to gather national information on soil salinity.

A general comment was made that in future, clearer meeting procedures and documents be provided ahead of time to allow for sufficient preparation by focal points.

7 Revision of the AfSP Chair and Pillar Working Groups

Pillar Working Groups

The function of the Working Groups is to continue the development of activities given in the AfSP Implementation Plan under the guidance of the respective Working Group Chairs.

The Chairs of the Pillar Working Group Chairs and members for the next two-year term were revised as follows:

Pillar 1: Fanosie Mekonen (Ethiopia) *Chair*

Thomas Chigowo (Malawi), Pascal Rushemuka (Rwanda), Geophrey Kajiru (Tanzania), Jacques Tavares (Cabo Verde), Flore Arlende Ngomeni EP Nguégoue (Cameroon), Ngadi Litadi (Gabon), Mamadou Amadou Sow (Senegal), Saidou Addam Kiari (Niger), Afawoubo Koffi Gbelekor (Togo), Abdou Rahman Jobe (Gambia), Aissatou Taran Diallo (Guinea), Emmanuel Chikwari (Zimbabwe), Ramakgwale Klaas Mampholo (South Africa), Hami Said (Djibouti)

Pillar 2: Ramakgwale Klaas Mampholo (South Africa) *Chair*

Patrick B Dlamini (Kingdom of Eswatini), Jacques Tavares (Cabo Verde)

Pillar 3: Martin Yemefack (Cameroon) *Chair*

Hami Said (Djibouti), Jean-Arsène Yamale (Central African Republic), Kiflemarian Abraha (Eritrea), Geophrey Kajiru (Tanzania), Attanda Mouinou Igue (Benin), Isaurinda Baptista (Cabo Verde), Ngadi Litadi (Gabon), Thomas Chigowo (Malawi), Anne Muriuki (Kenya)

Pillar 4: Christian Omuto (Kenya) *Chair*

Mamadou Amadou Sow (Senegal), Ngadi Litadi (Gabon), Jacques Tavares (Cabo Verde), Attanda Mouinou Igue (Benin), Ramakgwale Klaas Mampholo (South Africa), Pascal Rushemuka (Rwanda), Anne Muriuki (Kenya), Vinod B. Lalljee (Mauritius),

Patrick B Dlamini (Kingdom of Eswatini), Aissatou Taran Diallo (Guinea), Lorenzo Oyono Obama (Equatorial Guinea), Memma Beibatta (Mauritania)

Pillar 5: Vinod B. Lalljee (Mauritius) *Chair*

Flore Arlende Ngomeni EP Nguegoue (Cameroon), Ramakgwale Klaas Mampholo (South Africa), Afawoubo Koffi Gbelekor (Togo), Anne Muriuki (Kenya), Pascal Rushemuka (Rwanda), Marcelino Vaz (Guinea Bissau), Fanosie Mekonen (Ethiopia)

Steering Committee

The election of the AfSP Chair for the next two-year mandate: Victor Chude (Nigeria)

The meeting decided not to elect an AfSP Steering Committee and suffice with the Pillar Chairs, the AfSP Chair and the support from the AfSP Secretariat based at FAO RAF in Accra, Ghana. The election of Mr. Chude as AfSP Chair was by common consent of the AfSP members. AfSP members requested to take a vote on the maximal number of terms that can be served by one Chair. The vote based on the present quorum concluded that the Chair position could continue indefinitely pending his or her election by a future quorum.

8 Conclusions and way forward

Mr. Victor O. Chude, Chair of the AfSP, summarized the AfSP meeting session and concluded the third meeting of the AfSP with the following future steps:

- National FPs were urged to disseminate the meeting report to their relevant ministries to raise awareness on soil issues and enhance communication with policy makers;
- Ensure that WSD is celebrated in every AfSP country by including the civil sector, banks, etc.;
- Improve communication amongst national FPs in the AfSP (collection of telephone numbers of the meeting participants) to share experiences and coordinate activities;
- Prioritize actions in the African region and target common problems that are existent (e.g. capacity building, soil testing laboratories, lack of funding, etc.);
- National FPs to facilitate an inventory of soil testing laboratories in the respective countries;
- FAO Regional Office for Africa in Accra to ensure that soil issues are captured in the agenda of future African Regional Conferences (ARC), starting with the upcoming 31st ARC meeting scheduled to be held in Zimbabwe in 2020.

No notification was given on the venue and date of the next AfSP meeting.

Annex I – Agenda

Meeting



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



Third African Soil Partnership Meeting

13 June 2018, Rome, Italy
German Room, (C229)

Draft Agenda

TIME	TOPIC	MODERATOR/SPEAKER
08:30 - 08:50	Welcome and opening	Mr Eduardo Mansur, Director of Land and Water Division, FAO Mr Victor Chude, Chair of the AfSP
08:50 - 09:10	Introduction to the GSP and the meeting	Mr. Ronald Vargas, GSP Secretary
09:10 – 10:30	Tour de Table – National feedback on soil-related activities implemented for the period 2015-2017 (4 minutes per country) (Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo DR, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya)	Ms. Liesl Wiese, GSP Secretariat
10:30 - 10:50	Group photo and Coffee Break	
10:50 - 12:00	Tour de Table – National feedback on soil-related activities implemented for the period 2015-2017 (4 minutes per country) (Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe)	Ms. Liesl Wiese, GSP Secretariat
12:00 - 13:00	Summary of gaps based on national feedback Towards the workplan 2018-2019	Mr. Victor Chude, AfSP Chair
13:00 - 14:30	Afrisoils Side Event (Light lunch included) All AfSP Focal Points to attend	
14:30 - 14:45	Overview of the Afrisoils program activities	Ms. Liesl Wiese, GSP Secretariat

14:45-15:15	Discussion and finalization of Afrisoils activities and targets	All
15:15-15:50	Identification of priority activities to be implemented during 2018/2019 that do not require significant financial support and development of an implementation strategy	Mr. Valere Nzeyimana, AfSP Secretariat, FAO RAF
15:50 - 16:10	Coffee break	
16:10 - 16:40	Revision of the AfSP Chair and Pillar Working Groups.	Mr. Ronald Vargas, GSP Secretary
16:40 – 16:50	Summary of the workshop and the way forward	Elected Chair
16:50 - 17:00	Closing remarks	Mr. Ronald Vargas, GSP Secretary

Side event

Agenda	
13:00 - 13:10	Opening remarks by: Mr. Rene Castro, Assistant Director-General Coordinator Natural Resources, FAO and H.E. Ambassador Florêncio Mariano da Conceição e Almeida, Permanent Representative of Angola to FAO
13:10 - 13:25	The state of soils in Africa and priorities for sustainable soil management, Mr Victor Chude, Chair African Soil Partnership
13:25 - 13:40	Overview of the AfriSoils program, Ms. Liesl Wiese, GSP Secretariat
13:40 - 14:20	Panel Discussion: perspectives to be considered in the AfriSoils program to ensure success H.E. Joséphine Ouedraogo, Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso to FAO Mr. Emmanuel Chikwari, Acting Head of Chemistry and Soil Research Institute, Zimbabwe Mr. Attanda Mouinou Igué, National Institute of Agricultural Research, Benin
14:20 - 14:30	Closure and the way forward
Moderator	Mr Eduardo Mansur, Director Land and Water Division, FAO
	Light lunch will be served at 12:30.

Annex II – Participant List

Attendees of the AfSP meeting

First name	Country FPs	
	Last name	Country
Attanda Mouinou	Igue	Benin
Chebukani Mpapho	Fanani	Botswana
Zacharie	Segda	Burkina Faso
Jacques	Tavares	Cabo Verde
Flore Arlende	Ngomeni EP Nguegoue	Cameroon
Jean-Arsène	Yamale	Central African Republic
Hami	Said	Djibouti
Lorenzo	Oyono Obama	Equatorial Guinea
Kiflemarian	Abraha	Eritrea
Fanosie	Mekonen	Ethiopia
Nagdi	Litadi	Gabon
Abdou Rahman	Jobe	Gambia
Joseph Opoku	Fening	Ghana
Aissatou Taran	Diallo	Guinea
Marcelino	Vaz	Guinea Bissau
Anne	Muriuki	Kenya
Thomas	Chigowo	Malawi
Memma	Beibatte	Mauritania
Bhanooduth	Lalljee	Mauritius
Saidou	Addam Kiari	Niger
Victor	Chude	Nigeria
Pascal	Rushemuka	Rwanda
Mamadou Amadou	Sow	Senegal
Ramakgwale Klaas	Mampholo	South Africa
Patrick B	Dlamini	Swaziland
Geophrey	Kajiru	Tanzania
Afawoubo Koffi	Gbelekor	Togo
Stalin	Sichinga	Zambia
Emmanuel	Chikwari	Zimbabwe
Non-FPs		
Jin	Ke	China, Chinese Academy of Agri. Sciences
Mitiku	Tesso	Ethiopia, Representation FAO
Tarekegn	Tsegie	Ethiopia, Representation FAO
Christian	Hartmann	France, GLOSOLAN Working Group ember
Valere	Nzyemane	FAO, AfSP Secretariat
Liesl	Wiese	FAO, GSP Secretariat
Stephanie	Reiter	FAO, GSP Secretariat
Yuji	Nino	FAO, GSP Secretariat
Yusuf	Yigini	FAO, GSP Secretariat
Yuxin	Tong	FAO, GSP Secretariat
Isabelle	Verbeke	FAO, GSP Secretariat
Carmelo	Dazzi	Italy, European Soil Partnership Vice-Chair
Maria	Jose	Spain, Spanish Soil Science Society
Matshwene	Moshia	South Africa, ITPS member
Nopmanee	Suvannang	Thailand, GLOSOLAN Working Group Chair