

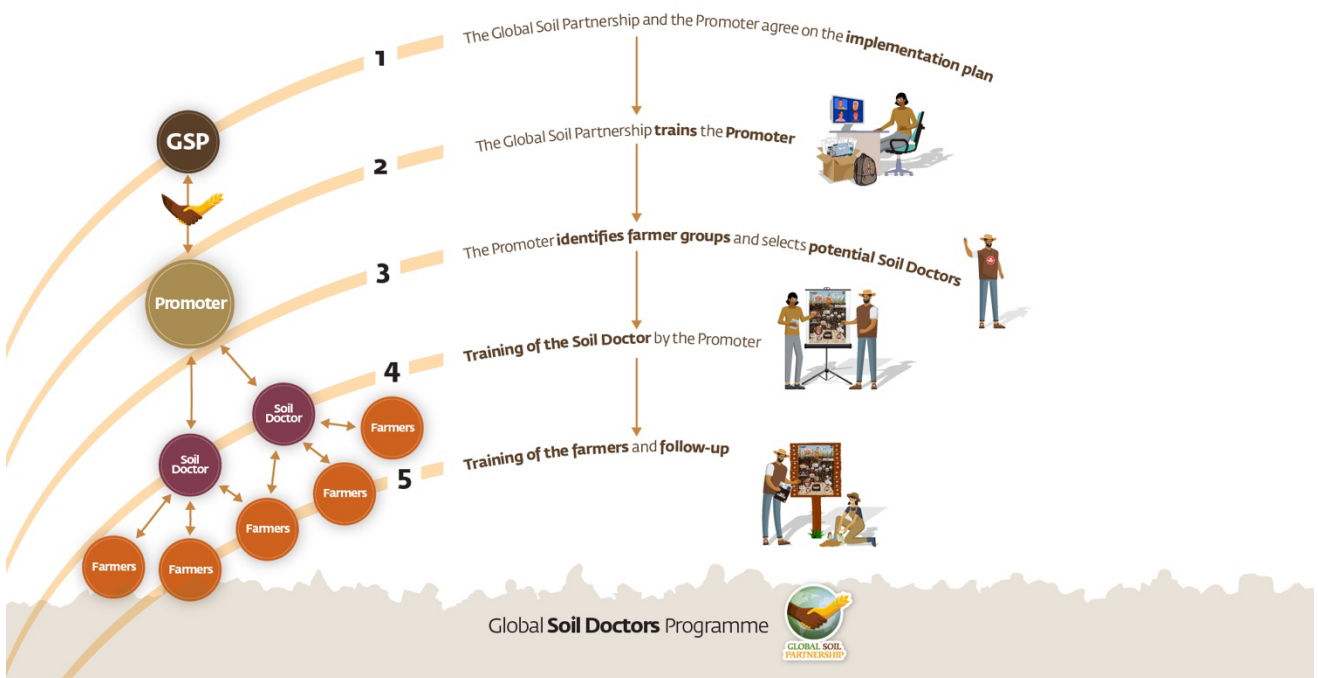


## GLOBAL SOIL DOCTORS PROGRAMME PROMOTERS' TERMS OF REFERENCE (ToRs)



The Global Soil Doctor Programme (GSDP) is a farmer-to-farmer training initiative that was developed by the Global Soil Partnership (GSP). The Programme aims to provide farmers with educational materials to learn about Sustainable Soil Management (SSM). The “champion” farmers – recognized as “Soil Doctors” are selected to support and educate other farmers from their local community. This scheme creates a self-sufficient exchange process that promotes the practice of SSM.

The success of the Programme depends to a large extent on the existence of a promoter, a national institution or organization that facilitates the Programme and interacts with the GSP and all stakeholders. The promoter provides technical and financial support and ensures the sustainability of the Programme at the national or local level. The promoters are national figures from government agencies, extension services, academia, and non-governmental agencies (NGOs) that know and understand the local production and socio-economic conditions, challenges, and potential.



The criteria for selecting promoters, as well as the promoters' role and benefits are listed below. For a more comprehensive overview of the Programme and its implementation, please refer to the [Soil Doctor website](#).

The promoter should meet the following criteria:

- 1) Belong to a governmental agency, extension service, soil science society, local/regional association, NGO, the private sector or any other recognized institution actively working on SSM in the country or be a soil academic;
- 2) Demonstrate interest in SSM topics (see the [Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil management](#)), and possess a solid general knowledge of agriculture, land management or natural resources management;
- 3) Be able and interested in sustaining the Programme over a long-term period;
- 4) Have existing links and connections with the farming community (the promoter must be trusted by farmers) and have access to farmers' network of contacts;
- 5) Have access to financial resources to sponsor the trainers and/or the costs of running the Programme;
- 6) Ideally, the promoter at national level should have the possibility to coordinate and collaborate with other promoters at the local level.

Roles of the promoter:

- 1) Facilitate the participation of trainers in the GSP training sessions;
- 2) Identify farmer groups who will participate in the Programme and disseminate information to encourage them to take part;
- 3) Select the trainers to be trained by the GSP according to the criteria listed in Annex 1;
- 4) Identify and select the potential Soil Doctors, according to the criteria listed in Annex 2;
- 5) Train the Soil Doctors on the use of the educational materials developed by the GSP;
- 6) Provide Soil Doctors with the educational material needed for the implementation of the Programme;
- 7) Support the Soil Doctors training of other farmers;
- 8) Be available to support the GSP with the translation of the educational materials into local languages;
- 9) Integrate the GSP educational materials with related resources and initiatives already present at the country level;

- 10) Enable the exchange of information between the GSP Secretariat and the Soil Doctors (ensure a regular flow of feedback);
- 11) Share feedback from the implementation (e.g. field experiences and local knowledge) with the GSP and provide suggestions on how to improve the Programme.

#### Benefits for the promoter

- 1) The promoter will receive high quality and up-to-date training materials for the trainers and for the Soil Doctors (posters, soil kits, visual identity elements) according to their availability in the GSP or FAO national offices;
- 2) The promoter will strengthen interactions with farmers and rural communities, which will facilitate the monitoring of activities and enhance the sharing of local knowledge and experience;
- 3) The promoter will strengthen its linkages and working relationships with FAO offices and the GSP;
- 4) The promoter will have the opportunity to exchange and collaborate with other GSP partners within and outside the country, scaling up cross-regional technical and scientific collaboration;
- 5) The promoter will gain visibility and recognition through the GSP web resources such as maps, implemented educational materials, sharing of local initiatives, videos and photographs.

#### How to become a promoter

To support the Programme and become a promoter, fill-in the registration form available [here](#) or contact the GSDP at [soil-doctor@fao.org](mailto:soil-doctor@fao.org)

#### Reference documents:

[Soil doctors' posters](#)

[Voluntary guidelines for sustainable soil management](#)

## ANNEX 1 - Criteria for the selection of the Promoter's trainers

- a) Have a formal education such as a certificate, diploma or university degree in soil science, agriculture, agronomy, or related fields with a good understanding of sustainable soil management principles;
- b) Be employed by, or available to support the promoter in the long term to train and support Soil Doctors in the country or on a selected sub-national level;
- c) Be able to speak the relevant local language(s) in the given country or in the specific sub-national regions in order to train and communicate with local farmers;
- d) For the training-of-trainers provided by the GSP Secretariat, at least one Soil Doctor trainer per country (preferably two) should be fluent in one of the six UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish);
- e) Possess, or be able to build strong relations with the farming community and Soil Doctors (the trainers should be trusted by farmers);
- f) Have the ability to train the Soil Doctors using the available training materials;
- g) Provide support to Soil Doctors in building the capacities of farmers in their communities;
- h) Be able to contribute to the selection and adaptation of Soil Doctor training materials (posters, soil testing methods, soil testing kits, etc.) and adapt them for use in a local context (language, relevance information, etc.);
- i) Be available and willing to undergo training; and
- j) Be willing to undergo the required evaluation to become a certified Soil Doctor trainer.

## ANNEX 2 - Criteria for the selection (by the promoter) of Soil Doctors

- a) Represent a range of geographical areas, ensuring gender and ethnic diversity;
- b) Be willing to coordinate or host demonstration plots;
- c) Show availability and willingness to undergo specific training to become a certified Soil Doctor;
- d) Be able and eager to share knowledge with fellow farmers by conducting training sessions offered to farmers at community level and even in other communities;
- e) Lead by example innovative thinking and experimentation from their own farming practices;
- f) Be able and willing to assist farmers in conducting basic assessments of their soils using the methods they received training for; and
- g) Be willing to share their local knowledge and experience with the promoters who will then share them with the GSP to improve the GSDP.