



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



Agenda

Soil and water:  
a source of life

GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM on  
**SOILS** and **WATER**

02-05 October, 2023



# AGENDA

2 October 2023 / DAY 1 (Red Room)

[Hybrid](#) session in 6 FAO languages

REGISTRATION & WELCOME COFFEE (8:30 - 10:00)

10:00 - 11:00

## High-level Opening

Moderator: Ms Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General, FAO

- ◆ Opening remarks by FAO Director-General, Dr QU Dongyu
- ◆ H.E. Ms Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, Commissioner of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment (ARBE), African Union Commission (video message)
- ◆ Prof Laura Bertha Reyes Sánchez, Past President of the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS), Mexico

11:00 - 12:00

## Keynote presentations

Moderator: Mr Lifeng Li, Director, Land and Water Division, FAO

- Introduction to the Global Symposium on Soils and Water 2023  
Prof Rosa Poch, Chair of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS), Spain
- Soil: the virtual Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)  
Prof Rabi Mohtar, Texas Agriculture and Life Sciences University, United States of America
- Breaking barriers on soil moisture assessment, FAO's WaPOR tool  
Ms Livia Peiser, Land and Water Division, FAO
- How to improve the water utilization efficiency of salt-affected soils  
Prof Shuwen Hu, China Agricultural University, China

LUNCH BREAK (12:00 - 14:00)

The times indicated are local times for Rome, Italy.  
Rome time is in the Central European Summer Time Zone (CEST).

## THEMATIC DISCUSSION PANELS

- **THEME 1. Soil and water management in rainfed agriculture**

**Moderator:** Carolina Olivera, Land and Water Division, FAO

**Setting the scene:** Rafla Sahli E. Attia, Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries, Tunisia

**Panellist 1:** Rafla Sahli E. Attia, Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries, Tunisia

**Panellist 2:** Dickson Ng'uni, Zambia Agricultural Research Institute (ZARI), Ministry of Agriculture, Zambia

**Panellist 3:** Hafiz Muminjanov, Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO

- **THEME 2. Soil and water management in irrigated agriculture**

**Moderator:** Janet Nabwami, Land and Water Division, FAO

**Setting the scene:** Marco Arcieri, Vice-President Honoraire, International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage, Italy

**Panellist 1:** Marco Arcieri, Vice-President Honoraire, International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage, Italy

**Panellist 2:** Mabvuso C. Sinda, Head, Soil Science Department, School of Agricultural Sciences, University of Zambia, Zambia

**Panellist 3:** Emilio Fuentes, Universidad Nacional Agrícola (UNAG), Honduras

- **THEME 3. Soil and water management under One Health framework**

**Moderator:** Yuxin Tong, Land and Water Division, FAO

**Setting the scene:** Fairouz Larfaoui, One Health and Disease Control group, FAO

**Panellist 1:** Alexei Dominguez, Ministry of Agriculture, Guatemala

**Panellist 2:** Kabiti Rodgers, ZARI, Ministry of Agriculture, Zambia

**Panellist 3:** Fairouz Larfaoui, One Health and Disease Control group, FAO

- **THEME 4. Integrated soil and water management and effective governance**

**Moderator:** Yusuf Yigini, Land and Water Division, FAO

**Setting the scene:** Vera Boerger, Land and Water Division, FAO

**Panellist 1:** Rafael Lopez, Ministry of Agriculture, Guatemala

**Panellist 2:** Vera Boerger, Land and Water Division, FAO

**Panellist 3:** Teemu Viinikainen, Legal office, FAO

14:00 - 17:00

EXHIBIT OPENING AND COCKTAIL - FAO ATRIUM (17:00 - 20:00)

12:00 - 13:30

## Technical session | THEME 1 — Soil and water management in rainfed agriculture

**Moderator: Filippo Benedetti**, Land and Water Division, FAO

- *Integrated management of soil and water resources using biochar technology: The Nigeria experience.*  
**James Jayeoba**, Nasarawa State University, Nigeria
- *The directional amelioration of structure optimization, carbon sequestration and stabilization, function activation in the plow layer of saline-alkali land.*  
**Yuyi Li**, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, China
- *Soil and water conservation in oil palm plantations.*  
**Christopher Teh Boon Sung**, Associate Professor, Department of Land Management, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Putra, Malaysia
- *Water Smart Agriculture – a decade successfully restoring soils and revitalizing rainfed agriculture of smallholder farmers in the Central American dry corridor under a changing climate.*  
**Axel Schmidt**, Catholic Relief Services, Peru
- *Water and Water Quality: Collaborative Innovation 4 Food Production*  
**Katrien Van Hooydonk**, Vision on technology for a better world (VITO), Belgium

**Q&A : 20 min**

13:30 - 15:00

## Technical sessions | THEME 2 — Soil and water management in irrigated agriculture

**Moderator: Maria Konyushkova**, Land and Water Division, FAO

- *Management of irrigation and drainage systems.*  
**Mabvuso C. Sinda**, Head, Soil Science Department, School of Agricultural Sciences, University of Zambia, Zambia
- *Soil physical quality indicators for water management in areas cultivated with hass avocado.*  
**Diana Lucía Correa Moreno**, Colombian Corporation for Agricultural Research (AGROSAVIA), Colombia
- *Abu Dhabi's Integrated Approach to Soil Salinity Management and Water Conservation.*  
**Bayan Mahmoud Athamneh**, Soil Quality Section Manager, Environmental Agency, United Arab Emirates
- *Improvement of water use efficiency in an irrigated peach orchard under Mediterranean climate.*  
**Rossana Monica Ferrara**, Council for Agricultural Research (CREA), Italy
- *Connecting the Drops: Near East and North Africa (NENA) Regional Evapotranspiration Network.*  
**Vinay Nangia**, International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), Morocco

**Q&A: 20 mins**

12:00 - 13:30

Technical sessions | **THEME 3 — Soil and water management under One Health framework****Moderator: Sergejus Ustinov**, Land and Water Division, FAO

- *How to better integrate soils and water for modelling nutrient losses and diffuse pollution.*  
**Panos Panagos**, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
- *Wildfire impacts on soils and water quality.*  
**Carmen, Sánchez García**, Research Officer, Centre for Wildfire Research, Swansea University, United Kingdom
- *Linking emerging chemicals in soil to water contamination: The specific case of the 'forever chemicals' - PFAS.*  
**Anthony Umeh**, Lecturer, Global Centre for Environmental Remediation (GCER), University of Newcastle, Australia
- *Improving soil fertility and water use efficiency in various environments: PhosAgro best management practices.*  
**Vladimir Nosov**, Head of competence center, PhosAgro, Russian Federation
- *One Health in Action, project in Richmond California.*  
**Daphne Miller**, Project Scientist, University of California, United States of America

**Q&A: 20 mins**

13:30 - 15:00

Technical sessions | **THEME 4 — Integrated soil and water management and effective governance****Moderator: Giacomo Rocchegiani**, Land and Water Division, FAO

- *The European Soil Monitoring Law.*  
**Christian Probst**, Directorate-General Environment, European Commission
- *Soil protection governance.*  
**Irene Heuser**, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- *Sustainable soil and water management: Empowering forest productivity and community water access.*  
**Guillermo Olmedo**, Centro de Investigaciones Forestales Bioforest S.A., Chile
- *Integrated management of soil and water resources to support economic and environmental policies.*  
**Domenico Ventrella**, Council for Agricultural Research (CREA), Italy
- *After the Soil Conservation Act: Evidence on soil water response to experimental burning in Kruger National Park.*  
**Tercia Strydom**, South African National Parks, South Africa

**Q&A: 20 mins**

From 9:00 to 17:00, the Rome Water Dialogue will take place in the form of hybrid sessions at the FAO Plenary Hall in 6 FAO languages.

[AGENDA](#)

9:00 - 12:30

Rome Water Dialogue

## LUNCH BREAK

### JOINT PLENARY SESSION

#### Rome Water Dialogue 2023 & Global Symposium on Soils and Water

**Moderator:** Mr Lifeng Li, Director, Land and Water Division, FAO

#### The Rome Water Dialogue 2023: Reporting back

Session 1. Data, information, innovation, and technology

Session 2. Water scarcity, drought, flood, and climate change

Session 3. National Water Roadmaps and strategies

Session 4. Water tenure and governance

Session 5. Water infrastructure and financing

Session 6. One Water, One Health, One Planet

Session 7. Ecosystem-based solutions in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and aquaculture

Session 8. Water stewardship of the private sector

14:00 - 16:40

#### Q&A

#### The Global Symposium on Soils and Water: Reporting back

Theme 1. Soil and water management in rainfed agriculture

Theme 2. Soil and water management in irrigated agriculture

Theme 3. Soil and water management under One Health framework

Theme 4. Integrated soil and water management and effective governance

Symposium outcomes and way forward

#### Q&A

### JOINT CLOSURE

#### Rome Water Dialogue 2023 & Global Symposium on Soils and Water

#### High-Level Closing:

16:40 - 17:00

Remarks by **H.E. Ms Alexandra Valkenburg**, Ambassador of the European Union to the Holy See, Order of Malta, UN Agencies in Rome and to the Republic of San Marino

Remarks by **H.E. Ms Lefianna Hartati Ferdinandus**, Deputy Permanent Representative of Indonesia to FAO

Remarks by **Ms Maria Helena Semedo**, FAO Deputy Director-General



The Global Soil Partnership (GSP) is a globally recognized mechanism established in 2012. Our mission is to position soils in the Global Agenda through collective action. Our key objectives are to promote Sustainable Soil Management (SSM) and improve soil governance to guarantee healthy and productive soils, and support the provision of essential ecosystem services towards food security and improved nutrition, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and sustainable development.



The ITPS is composed of 27 top soil experts representing all the regions of the world. The main function of the ITPS is to provide scientific and technical advice and guidance on global soil issues to the Global Soil Partnership primarily and to specific requests submitted by global or regional institutions. The ITPS advocates for addressing sustainable soil management in the different sustainable development agendas.

Land and Water division - Natural Resources and Sustainable Production  
GSP-secretariat@fao.org  
www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership

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