



International Union of Soil Sciences



Joint FAO/IAEA Programme
Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture

Celebration of the 2015 International Year of Soils

Achievements and Future Challenges

7 December 2015

IAEA, Vienna International Centre, Austria
Room C1, C Building, 2nd Floor



2015
International
Year of Soils

Organized in cooperation with the Food
and Agriculture Organization of the
United Nations and the International
Atomic Energy Agency

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IAEA

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Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture

Vienna Soil Declaration

“Soil matters for humans and ecosystems”

Proclaimed at the Celebration of the International Year of Soils 2015

Achievements and Future Challenges

December 7, 2015

Vienna, Austria

The World's highly diverse and dynamic soils provide numerous functions and services required by humans and are essential to most aspects of our lives. As the umbrella organisation of more than 60,000 soil scientists the International Union of Soil Science (IUSS) and the participants at the International Year of Soil (IYS) Celebration event “Achievements and Future Challenges”, held on December 7, 2015 in Vienna, organised by the IUSS, in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), hereby declare:

Soil is a finite resource and is essentially non-renewable over a human generational time scale,

Soil is the basis for most of the food produced globally,

Soil is necessary for the production of biomass such as wood, fibre and energy crops,

Soil filters water, critical for supplying drinking water,

Soil stores water for the use by plants and acts as a buffer to prevent rapid run off,

Soil stores and releases plant nutrients and is able to transform many compounds including pollutants,

Soil captures carbon and can help mitigate climate change,

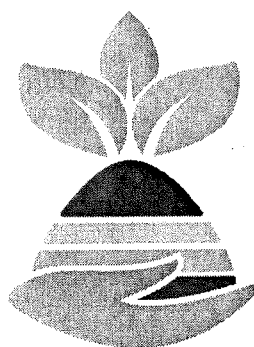
Soil is a major reservoir of biodiversity, antibiotics for human health and a gene reserve,

Soil has been used productively and often impacted adversely by humans for millennia,

Soil is the environmental keystone, and the basis for microbial, plant and animal life.

The importance of soil must be further emphasized. Thus, at the end of the IYS, we recommend the following for the future:

1. Relationships between human activities and soils and their effects on other components of the environment should be a major focus of soil science in collaboration with allied sciences, but also with social, legal and economic disciplines.
2. Soil security should be a key topic tied to food and water security and the achievement of the UN sustainable development goals.
3. As a major carbon pool of the globe, soil should be considered a key component to help mitigate climate change.
4. Whenever possible, the urbanisation and sealing of soils should be limited to avoid losses of vast areas of the best agricultural soils.
5. Soil awareness should be enhanced throughout the community emphasizing soil protection and sustainable soil management globally at all levels.



2015

International
Year of Soils

Dne 7. 12. 2015 se uskutečnilo za účasti vedení IUSS, předsedů jednotlivých národních společností a hostů hlavní zasedání k ukončení Mezinárodního roku půdy a zároveň k Mezinárodnímu dni půd. Na tomto zasedání byla přijata i deklarace, jejíž text je na předcházející stránce.



Místo jednání – Vienna International Centre.



President IUSS Prof. J. Horn zahajuje jednání.



Thajský král Pchúmpichon Adunjádet - Ráma IX. přebírá od prof. S. Nortliffa cenu.



V průběhu jednání, zprava prof. J. Horn, prof. B. Šarapatka, prof. R. Lal, zástupce OSN, vlevo prof. W. Blum