

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2020

Webinar on recarbonization of global soils – RECSOIL

Wednesday, 17 June 2020, 15.00-16.30 hours (CET)

Background

17 June is the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought. Restoring degraded soils is an important way to increase soil productivity and contribute to food security. Increased soil organic carbon (SOC) has been identified as one of the most cost-effective options for climate change adaptation and mitigation, as well as combating desertification, land degradation and food insecurity by the IPCC's special report on climate change and land. Maintaining existing SOC stocks and enhancing SOC sequestration through sustainable soil management (SSM) practices constitute a feasible solution to offset a portion of global emissions while providing multiple benefits for the environment, people and the economy. While there is substantial scientific evidence that soils could play an important role in the current global challenges, there are still some uncertainty and risks for moving into action and scale up. FAO and its Global Soil Partnership (GSP) have established "RECSOIL: Recarbonization of global soils" as an initiative to move the SOC agenda into action using the best tools and technologies available while being aware of the associated uncertainties. This webinar will discuss the feasibility of moving the SOC sequestration into action and the role that RECSOIL could play in this regard.

Agenda

15:00-15:15 | HIGH LEVEL OPENING SESSION:

OPENING REMARKS:

Mr QU Dongyu, FAO Director-General;

Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

H.E. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, Minister for Environment and Energy of Costa Rica

15:15–15:25 | Status and challenges of global soil organic carbon sequestration – Prof Rattan Lal, Distinguished University Professor of Soil Science and Director of the Carbon Management and Sequestration Center, The Ohio State University Ohio, United States of America

15:25–15:35 | Is soil organic carbon sequestration really feasible? How to scale it up?, Prof. Pete Smith, Professor of Soils and Global Change , Aberdeen University and Science Director of Scotland's ClimateXChange, United Kingdom

15:35–15:45 | Soil organic carbon sequestration: experience from the ground, Ms Maria Beatriz Giraudo, Farmer from Argentina

15:45–15:55 | Unlocking the potential of soil organic carbon: RECSOIL, a response for action, Mr Ronald Vargas, Land and Water Officer, FAO

15:55–16:25 | PANEL SESSION – Moving the SOC agenda into action:

- Ms Arianna Giuliadori, Secretary General, World Farmers Association (tbc)
- Mr Martien van Nieuwkoop , Global Director Agriculture and Food Practice, World Bank (tbc)
- Ms Valeria Forlin, Directorate Climate, European Commission
- H.E. Aslak Brun, Ambassador Permanent Representative of Norway to FAO (tbc)
- Ms Elizabeth Willmot, Carbon Programme Manager, Microsoft (tbc)

16:25–16:30 | CONCLUSION, Ms Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director, FAO

Moderator: Mr Eduardo Mansur, Director Land and Water Division, FAO