From 16 – 18 May, 2011 scientists from Bulgaria and 22 other countries gathered in the “Nikola Poushkarov” Institute of Soil Science, Sofia to commemorate the achievements of 100 years soil science in Bulgaria and its future development.

During the different sessions, intensive discussion took place confirming the devastating dimensions of the irregular and ineffective use of the major ecological resource, i.e. soil, the progressive degradation processes under the action of the anthropogenic factor and climate change, and the importance of the soil fertility for solving the food problem in the world.

It has been also confirmed that soil is a unique component of ecosystems, which can be hardly restored.

The participants in the Conference took the following decisions about the priorities in the development of Soil Science in Bulgaria.

1. Increase of knowledge on soil processes determining the formation of specific soil types and depicting the functioning of soil as a complex multi-component system and its relation with other components of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.
2. Further development of soil classification and elaboration and reglamentation of national taxonomic systems based on the concepts of the WRB and other taxonomic systems with global applicability.
3. Development of Geographic Information Systems and databases for the assessment of results from the existing large scale soil and agro-chemical surveys, the definition of mapping units and inventory of land resources.
4. Improvement of the methodology of soil quality assessment for agricultural uses.
5. Development of sustainable agricultural systems and practices and their use.
6. Development of methods and technologies for improvement and restoration of contaminated, disturbed and devastated lands.
7. Development of new technologies for sustainable use of soil resources, including soil tillage systems, fertilizer application, irrigation and other practices.
8. In view of future impacts of climate change soil science must develop new techniques in soil management, mitigating the expected adverse effects on food and biomass production in general.
10. Increasing public knowledge and awareness about the protection of soils as a unique natural and national resource. In order to achieve this, basic improvement of education of students and soil professionals in leading EU centres and institutions will be needed.

The Resolution was accepted at the final session of the International Conference “100 Years Soil Science in Bulgaria”, Nikola Poushkarov Institute of Soil Science.