



REPORT OF THE EURASIAN SUBREGIONAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP 2016-2017

**HUKMATULLO AHMADOV – CHAIR
GULCHEKHRA KHASANKHANOVA – VICE-CHAIR
PAVEL KRASILNIKOV – EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

BISHKEK COMMUNIQUE 2016

Bishkek COMMUNIQUE

February 28- March 2, 2016 Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

We, the Eurasian Soil Partnership focal points and representatives of 13 countries from Eurasia (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Ukraine and Uzbekistan), as well as representatives of ICARDA, ICBA, CIMMYT, GIZ and the Kyrgyz Soil Science Community participated in the Eurasian Soil Partnership workshop, held in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic from 28 February till 2 March 2016. The workshop was convened under the International Forum on Eurasian Food Security and Nutrition and Eurasian Soil Partnership jointly organized by ECFS, FAO, the World Bank and GFAR. As active partners of the Eurasian Soil Partnership, we would like to summarize our work via this communiqué to be shared with stakeholders of EASP and USP partners.

Recognizing that Sustainable Soil Management constitute a feasible vehicle for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, especially related to food security and nutrition, climate change adaptation and mitigation, achieving land degradation neutrality targets and the provision of overall ecosystem services.

Highlighting that soil degradation (in its various forms, especially soil salinity, soil erosion, loss of soil organic carbon) in the region is a serious issue that prevents the full delivery of ecosystem services of soils affecting food production, rural development, climate change adaptation and mitigation and overall development.

We commit to the full execution of the Eurasian Soil Partnership Implementation Plan with a horizon of five years in partnership with different partners and stakeholders, and developing synergies with similar initiatives such as the CACILM2.

We, the participants of this third workshop of the Eurasian Soil Partnership, hereby:

- Fully commit to implement the activities of the workplan 2016-2017 that is presented in Annex 1;
- Present the identified barriers and shortcomings that prevent the full implementation of sustainable soil management in the region (a summary in Annex 2 and to be fully available as a separate publication) and commit to overcome those that are already addressed in the Regional Implementation Plan. However, we request our decision makers to address those of more institutional nature;
- Agree with the need to strengthen the Eurasian Soil Partnership, but we considered that the establishment of a Eurasian Soil Commission is a premature proposal that carries implications to which our decision makers are not committed to. Therefore, we require our decision makers and other international organizations and resource partners to support the full implementation of the activities of this already established partnership;

- Finally, we hereby commit to organize and participate in the next EASP Plenary Meeting in 2017 on dates to be decided on progress demands.

Bishkek Communiqué (Bishkek, 28.02 - 2.03.2016)

Country	Function	Signature
Armenia	Focal point	<i>[Signature]</i> Sahakyan S.H.
Azerbaijan	Focal point	<i>[Signature]</i> Sadayev S.A.
Belarus	Focal point	<i>[Signature]</i> Klyagin
Georgia	Focal point	<i>[Signature]</i> Ekaterina Samadova
Kazakhstan	Focal point	<i>[Signature]</i> Barysbayeva T.
Kyrgyzstan	Focal point	<i>[Signature]</i> [Signature]
Moldova	Focal point	<i>[Signature]</i> [Signature]
Russian Federation	Substitute focal point	<i>[Signature]</i> M. Antonov V.
Tajikistan	Focal point	<i>[Signature]</i> [Signature]
Turkmenistan	Focal point	<i>[Signature]</i> [Signature]
Turkey	Focal point	<i>[Signature]</i> [Signature]
Ukraine	Focal point	<i>[Signature]</i> [Signature]
Uzbekistan	Substitute Focal Point	<i>[Signature]</i> Jaxon Khayriddinov

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

- ✗ In Pillar 1 we planned the following activities:
 - + Report on the barriers for the implementation of SLM in the subregion

Report on the barriers published as a brochure

- + The system of successful project demonstration developed for training local stakeholders including farmers on the restoration of degraded ecosystems and SSM practices in irrigated and rainfed areas

The system of demonstration is partly implemented mainly due to the efforts of ICARDA

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

- ✗ In Pillar 2 we planned the following activities:
 - + Establishment of a periodic publications “Transactions of Eurasian Soil Partnership”

Establishment of periodic publications seemed difficult. We decided to publish separate volumes. The first volume was published in 2016 (Food security and land resources of Central Asia and Southern Caucasus). Actually we are preparing a volume on the implementation of **Voluntary guidelines for sustainable soil management**



PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

- ✖ In Pillar 2 we planned the following activities:
 - + Raising awareness of land users, investors and developers on the activities of the Eurasian Soil Partnership through celebration of the World Soil Day (WSD)
 - + WSD was celebrated in 2016 in Moscow and in 2017 in Moscow and St Petersburg



CELEBRATION OF WSD

Students' initiatives:

- ✗ Open popular science lectures
- ✗ Photo exhibition «Nature & Soil underfoot»
- ✗ Flash-mob World Soil Day
- ✗ Quest for schoolchildren «Save our Soils»
- ✗ SOIL SLAM – scientific battle
- ✗ Competitions

5 ДЕКАБРЯ

World Soil Day

НА ФАКУЛЬТЕТЕ
ПОЧВОВЕДЕНИЯ

Викторины, игры,
конкурсы, фотовыставка
– в перерывах между
парами перед М2!

10:00 Открытые научно-популярные лекции для всех желающих и пленарное заседание 15:30 М2

15:30 Флеш-моб 16:00 World Soil Day '17 Аллея славы МГУ

17:00 Квест для школьников «Save Our Soils» 18:00 Ф-т почво-ведения

18:00 SOIL SLAM – научный баттл 19:30 Холл под М2

vk.com/worldsoilday



PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

- ✖ In Pillar 2 there were also complimentary activities:

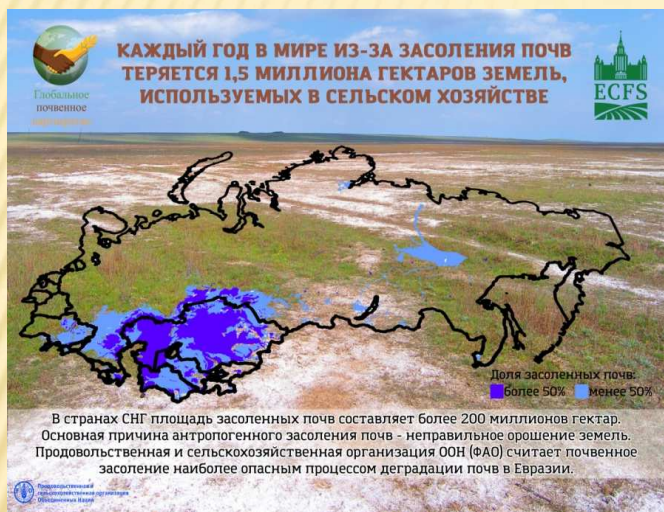
We opened an extensive catalog of Internet resources on the Eurasian Soil Portal

<http://eurasian-soil-portal.info>

We also prepared promotion materials for dissemination knowledge about soils and WSD

PROMOTION MATERIALS

Posters



Flyers



Coloured cartoons



PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

- ✕ In Pillar 3 we planned the following activities:
 - + Soil salinity studies in selected topics to close identified gaps in knowledge promoted and supported
 - + A call for small project on soil salinity was announced, five projects were selected in different countries of the subregion

SMALL RESEARCH GRANTS ON SOIL SALINITY

Project 01

Solonetz and solonetzized soils of Republic of Moldova: remediation methods

- ✗ *Institution:* Institute of Pedology, Agrochemistry and Soil Protection "Nicolae Dimo"
- ✗ *Coordinator:* L. Boaghe

SMALL RESEARCH GRANTS ON SOIL SALINITY

Project 02

The revelation of the negative influence of processes of salinization and alkalization on the fertility of soils of Ararat plain and the applying actions for improvement of their ameliorative condition

- ✗ *Institution:* Research Center of Soils Science, Armenian National Agrarian University /RC SAA ANAU/
- ✗ *Coordinator:* S. Sahakyan

SMALL RESEARCH GRANTS ON SOIL SALINITY

Project 03

Evaluation of salt-accumulating capacity of halophytes in order to develop an alternative method of controlling soil salinity

- ✗ *Institution:* Research Institute of Karakul Sheep Breeding and Desert Ecology, Uzbekistan
- ✗ *Coordinator:* N.A. Bobokulov

SMALL RESEARCH GRANTS ON SOIL SALINITY

Project 04

Analysis of spatial and temporal changes in agronomically valuable properties of soils in the conditions of technogenic salinization of the soil cover on the territory adjacent to the Soligorsk mining region using GIS technologies

- ✗ *Institution:* National Institute for Soil Science and Agrochemistry of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus
- ✗ *Coordinator:* A. Chervan

**SMALL
RESEARCH
GRANTS ON
SOIL
SALINITY**

Project 05

Evaluation of ecosystem services of saline soils under the influence of reclamation

- ✗ *Institution:* National Scientific Center «Institute for Soil Science and Agrochemistry Research named after O.N. Sokolovsky»
- ✗ *Coordinator:* S.A. Balyuk

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

- ✕ In Pillar 3 we planned the following activities:
 - + Participation in the project of Russian Science Foundation on Economics of Land Degradation (ELD)

Research was made on the ELD on the territory of Russia, Armenia and Belorussia. Several publications are available on the topic

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

- ✗ Complimentary event was organized in the frames of the Pillars 2 and 3:

In September 2017 in Kharkiv (Ukraine) we organized a workshop dedicated to the methods of the study and reclamation of saline soils. A book was published following the workshop

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

- ✗ In Pillar 4 we planned the following activities:
 - + Eurasian soil information system is established and integrated with unified methodology and software
 - + We initiated the establishment of national data centers in several countries; a general agreement on the form of storage and exchange of data was reached

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

- ✦ The following events were organized in the frames of Pillar 4:

Courses on digital soil mapping and soil information management in Almaty (Kazakhstan), 31 of October – 4 of November 2016

Workshop on practical aspects of functioning of the Eurasian soil information system, Moscow (Russia) , 6-7 of September 2017



PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

- ✕ In Pillar 5 we planned the following activities:
 - + EASP participates in the harmonization of terminology, standards, and protocols throughout the world

EASP Secretariat participated in the workshop on the harmonization of data of soil laboratories (GLASOLAN) in Rome 31 of October – 2 of November 2017

4TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF EASP

- ✖ The Assembly took place in Tashkent (Uzbekistan) 13-15 of December 2017
- ✖ It was attended by the representatives of 12 countries (with Turkmenistan representative absent) and partners from research institutions and universities
- ✖ Totally 38 participants were present at the meeting
- ✖ The outcome of the meeting was the adoption of “Tashkent Communiqué”, election of new leadership of the EASP, and the adoption of the updated Implementation plan for 2018-2019

PILLAR 1

- ✖ The main recommendations of the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management to be implemented
 - + Minimize soil erosion
 - + Enhance soil organic matter content
 - + Foster soil nutrient balance and cycles
 - + Prevent, minimize and mitigate soil salinization and alkalinization
 - + Prevent and minimize soil contamination
 - + Prevent and minimize soil acidification
 - + Preserve and enhance soil biodiversity
 - + Minimize soil sealing
 - + Prevent and mitigate soil compaction
 - + Improve soil water management

PILLAR 1

- ✖ The system of successful project demonstration for training local stakeholders including farmers on the restoration of degraded ecosystems and SSM practices in irrigated and rainfed areas
 - + Technological polygon on saline soils
 - + Examples of organic agriculture
 - + Examples of small-scale melioration

PILLAR 2

- ✖ The network of educational centers of all the levels, starting from basic capacity building and up to postgraduate level is developed.
- ✖ The system of distant learning in the area of sustainable soil management and soil data management
- ✖ The strategy for soil knowledge dissemination developed and implemented
 - + World Soil Day celebration
 - + Museum activities, including local level museums
 - + Systematic communication through mass media
 - + School companies

PILLAR 3

- ✖ The 2nd Call for Small Research Projects on the topics
 - + Soil quality management
 - + Soil organic matter dynamics and quality
 - + Soil salinity management
- ✖ Publication of the outcomes of the First call of Small Research Projects
 - + Publication of book with full-text reports of the projects
 - + Publications of a special section in the Eurasian Soil Science journal
- ✖ Participation in current international initiatives and proposal for bilateral and multilateral cooperation projects submission to international and national foundations
 - + Horizon 2020 (CIRCASA)
 - + Russian Foundation for Basic Research
 - + Russian Science Foundation
 - + Others?

PILLAR 4

- ✖ Establishment and support of national soil data centers
 - + Establishment (reestablishment) of soil data centers in the countries, where soil information institution is absent
 - + Support of existing soil data centers
 - + Harmonization of soil information systems in the existing soil data centers
- ✖ Establishment and support of national systems of soil monitoring
 - + Establishment of the bank of reference soil samples and monoliths
 - + Development of the scheme of collection of field soil information
 - + Development of the system of remote soil monitoring

PILLAR 5

- ✘ Harmonization of the methods of field and laboratory studies of soils
 - + Harmonization of the methods of field soil study and sample collection to the European standards
 - + Development of the conversion tools for the results of the analyses of physical and chemical soil properties from one system to another
- ✘ Introduction of the international soil classification as an obligatory second system for soil description
 - + Preparation of specialists competent in WRB use
 - + Publication of correlation tables and other reference materials

NEW LEADERSHIP 2018-2019

- ✘ Chair – Gulchekhra Khasankhanova (Uzbekistan)
- ✘ Vice-Chair – Iuri Mosi (Moldova)



TASHKENT COMMUNIQUE

Tashkent COMMUNIQUÉ

December 13-14, 2017 Tashkent, Uzbekistan

We, the Eurasian Soil Partnership focal points and representatives of 12 countries from Eurasia (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine and Uzbekistan), as well as representatives of ICARDA and CACAARI, Scientific Information Center of Interstate Commission for Water Coordination, Project and Research Institute UZGIP, National University of Uzbekistan and Research Institute for Karakul breeding and Ecology participated in the meeting of the Eurasian Soil Partnership, held in Tashkent, The Republic of Uzbekistan from 13 to 14 December 2017. A meeting was held with the support of the Subregional Office of FAO for Central Asia and South Caucasus FAOSEC and of the Institute of UZGIP. As active participants of the Eurasian Soil Partnership (EASP), we would like to summarize our work in this communiqué, to share them with stakeholders in the partner countries of the EASP and the Global Soil Partnership (GSP).

Recognizing that the sustainable management of soil resources (SSM) represents an important instrument to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially those related to food security and nutrition, adaptation to climate change and mitigation, the achievement of the objectives of neutral land degradation and general ecosystem services.

Emphasizing that soil degradation (in its various forms, particularly salinization, erosion, loss of soil organic carbon and soil pollution) in the region is a serious problem that hinders the valuable development of the region.



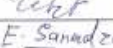





We are committed to achieving the Implementation Plan of the Eurasian Soil Partnership for 2018-2019 due to the made at the meeting additions and corrections, in cooperation with various partners and stakeholders, and developing cooperation with similar initiatives at the global and regional nature, such as the Initiative of Central Asian Countries on Land Management (CACILM2), projects of the regional branch of the International Center for agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) and Coordination of International Research Cooperation on soil Carbon Sequestration in Agriculture (CIRCASA).



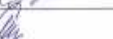

We, the participants of the fourth meeting of the Eurasian Soil Partnership, hereby commit:

- Implement the activities included in the work plan 2018-2019 specified in Annex 1;
- Implement the main objectives of the VGSSM, contributing to the prevention of soil degradation, creating a system of demonstration polygons of successful projects (remediation and reproduction of soil fertility and management of irrigated soils).
- Support and request to be prioritized the project proposals for the implementation of the regional work plan for 2018-2019.

- Create a network of training centers at all levels (from farm to political structures) for hanging skills on sustainable soil management. Introduce training distance learning programs on sustainable management of soil resources and processing of soil information.
- Develop a programme for the dissemination of knowledge about soil through the media, World Soil Day, thematic museums at the national and regional level, as well as for kids and students.
- Hold a second round of small research projects, and publish the project results of the first round.
- Engage in current international and bilateral projects.
- Organize / restore and maintain soil data centers.
- Conduct work to harmonize methods of field and laboratory diagnosis, and to develop a system conversion of existing data from laboratory tests.
- Make the WRB as the second system in addition to national soil classifications, and to establish correlation tables and work instructions for the users.
- Provide expert support to the initiatives of GSP on protect soils from contamination, Soil organic matter maps and network on the "Black soils".
- Finally, we undertake to organize and participate in the next Plenary Meeting of the EASP in 2018 in dates, which will be defined later.

Tashkent Communiqué (Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 13-14.12.2017)

Country	Function	Signature
Armenia	Focal Point	
Azerbaijan	Focal Point	
Belarus	Alt. Focal Point	
Georgia	Focal Point	
Kazakhstan	Focal Point	
Kyrgyzstan	Focal Point	
Moldova	Focal point	
Russian Federation	alt. focal point	

Tajikistan	alt. Focal Point	
Turkey	focal point	
Ukraine	focal point	
Uzbekistan	Abdullatip Umid	

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

