

International Year of Soils

The 68th UN General Assembly declared 2015 the International Year of Soils (IYS). The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has been nominated to implement the IYS 2015, within the framework of the Global Soil Partnership and in collaboration with Governments and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. The IYS 2015 aims to increase awareness and understanding of the importance of soil for food security and essential ecosystem functions. The specific objectives of the IYS 2015 are to:

- (i) raise full awareness among civil society and decision makers about the profound importance of soil for human life;
- (ii) educate the public about the crucial role soil plays in food security, climate change adaptation and mitigation, essential ecosystem services, poverty alleviation and sustainable development;
- (iii) support effective policies and actions for the sustainable management and protection of soil resources;
- (iv) promote investment in sustainable soil management activities to develop and maintain healthy soils for different land users and population groups;
- (v) strengthen initiatives in connection with the SDG process (Sustainable Development Goals) and Post-2015 agenda; and
- (vi) advocate for rapid capacity enhancement for soil information collection and monitoring at all levels (global, regional and national).