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First Announcement and call for communications



SSSBF

Société de la Science du Sol du Burkina Faso
Soil Science Society of Burkina Faso

25 October to 1st November 2015, Ouagadougou - Burkina Faso

7th International Conference of the African Soil Science Society

Theme: Critical soil solutions for sustainable Development in Africa

First announcement and call for communications

Invitation and call for communications

The African Soil Science Society (ASSS) and the Soil Science Society of Burkina Faso (3SBF) invite participants to the 7th International Conference of the Africa Soil Science Society that will be held from 25 October to 1st November 2015 in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso). This 7th International Conference will gather soil scientists, land planners and users as well as all related specialists to deliberate on the contribution of soil science for a sustainable development in Africa, with special attention on issues such as food insecurity, climate change, land degradation, land and water knowledge management and renewable energies. Contributions will include oral communications (keynote speeches, scientific papers) and poster presentations. Proposed contributions must be relevant to one of the following sub-themes: Soil productivity in tropical agro-systems, Land ownership and sustainable land management, Soil and climate change, Education and capacity building in soil science in Africa. The Africa Soil Science Society is a non-profit organization founded in 1986, with the aim of promoting and fostering soil science in all its facets and facilitating the collaboration and cooperation amongst the Regional and National Societies of Soil Science in Africa.

Background

There is a vital need for increased agricultural production to ensure adequate food for the current and future generations in Africa. But, land is also required for several other and conflicting purposes such as cities and infrastructure constructions, the support of varied plant life for biodiversity conservation. In addition to this competition for land, the global environmental issues such as land degradation and desertification, climate change and bio-fuels have accelerated the demand/pressure and highlighted the multifunctional role of soils. Future food security for a growing Africa population can only be assured if sufficient area of fertile soils and water are made available for food production. However, if land and soil degradation continue in this continent, it will be hard for future generations to meet their basic needs.

The international community is seeking new ways of developing the concept of sustainable development, with regards to practical ways for a coherent implementation of synergies between the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are thus been developed for the Post-2015 Development agenda, following the end of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Within this context, special attention should be paid to soil resources and the year 2015 has been declared as the International Year of Soils. However, the ongoing debate is on how to effectively address the role of soils and land in the up-coming SDGs? What would be the contributions of local soil functions and ecosystems services in the SDGs? Scientists working in Africa must contribute to this important debate since Africa is facing an increasing rate of natural resource degradation and is the one the continents with the most unequal distribution of suitable land.

The 7th ASSS International Conference will thus focus on critical soil solutions that can help achieving sustainable development in the Africa Continent. During a four-day period (26-29 October) of scientific exchanges and debates focusing on a thorough analysis of issues related to sustainable development and land management in Africa, participants will be able to deliberate on (i) socio-economic

sustainability of tropical agro-systems, (ii) land pressure and the increasing number of small scale farmers, (iii) community land ownership and agribusiness, (iv) emerging constraints or opportunities in land management such as carbon sequestration, climate change and the buffering role of soil, and the strategy for improving education and capacity building in soil science in Africa. Three other days (30 October to 1st November) will be used for a transnational field trip between Burkina Faso and Ghana.

Objectives of the Conference

The objective of the Conference is to bring together soil scientists from Africa, interested stakeholders, and policy makers to provide a forum for disseminating the acquired knowledge and technology for the benefit of the continent population and for sound deliberations on the different sub-themes of the colloquium. The conference through its outcomes will make a significant contribution for ensuring sustainable land management, food security and sustained livelihoods in Africa.

As one of the Africa contribution to the activities to mark the 2015 International Year of Soils; the Conference will also provide an opportunity (i) to strengthen the ASSS as regional body and the National Soil Science Societies in Africa, (ii) to consolidate the relationship with the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS), the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) and the collaboration with various soil partners. Through this conference, the ASSS also wish to reinforce its relationship with the African Union, to therefore, play a key role as an institution of the civil society at Africa continent level.

The Technical focus of the Conference

The 7th International Conference of ASSS will focus on soil and land related challenges and solutions for a sustainable development in Africa. Specific sessions will be held on the following sub-themes:

Sub theme 1: Soil productivity in tropical agro-systems

The relationship between soil and crop, forestry and rangelands will be discussed under this sub-theme, including soil fertility management, soil conservation and restoration, socio-economic and environmental outcomes of technology packages, etc.

Sub theme 2: Land ownership and sustainable management

This session will deal issues related land transaction and sustainability, local communities and land legislation, migrations and land ownership, gender and land ownership, etc.

Sub theme 3: Soil, climate and climate change

This sub-theme will include topics in soils, water and atmosphere, Land use/land cover change and carbon sequestration, organic matter storage, carbon credits, adaptation to climate changes, cropping calendars, soils as buffering systems, soil pollution, smart agriculture, etc.

Sub theme 4: Africa Soil Landscapes and Soil genesis

This session will deal with Soil data collection and management, including soil process and soil properties dynamics, soil survey and mapping, soil modelling and pedometrics.

Sub theme 5: Knowledge, Education and capacity building in soil science

The discussion in this session will focus on local knowledge and ethno-pedology, endogenic management of soil resources, dynamic and new functions of soils, strategies for improving education and capacity bulding in soil science and soil management.

Venue

The conference will be hosted by the city of Ouagadougou, the capital city of Burkina Faso (West Africa). It is a well-known for its hospitality; with proven records in organizing international events such as African Festival of movies of Ouagadougou (FESPACO) and the International Saloon of Art of Ouagadougou (SIAO). Ouagadougou can be easily joined by air or by road. Better conference rooms and

accommodation facilities are offered by high standing hotels and guest houses. All these facilities will enable good environment of the presentations and field trips.

Conference tours:

Following four days scientific discussions in conference rooms, a field tour will be organized from Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso to Pagua area in Ghana. Soil profiles and various land use systems will be observed along a well-defined transect. Cultural activities will also be included to allow participants to discover the rich cultural inheritance of Burkina Faso.

Conference language: French or English /Français ou Anglais

Format of Papers and Publication of Abstracts and Papers

Abstracts and full papers should be submitted by respective deadlines. All papers should be typed and double spaced and should include:

1. Title and name(s), institutional affiliation(s) and complete mailing address (es) including e-mail of the author(s) with an indication of which author is responsible for correspondence.
2. Abstract, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion, eventual acknowledgements, list of References.

Two high-quality books of abstracts and proceedings will be published in volumes tentatively titled "Abstracts and Proceedings of the 7th ASSS". Abstracts for oral or poster presentations will be accepted for presentation only after the revised version submitted on time.

Manuscripts must be written in British English, typed on A4 size paper and not longer than 3,000 words double spaced pages typed in Times New Roman font size 12. Pages should be numbered consecutively. Numbers 1-10 should be spelt out in text while 11 to infinity should be written out in numeral form. Where the numbers are at the beginning of a sentence they should be spelt out. Hard copies of all manuscripts should be submitted in duplicate and soft (CD) copies in MS Word for Windows 2003.

Some important dates:

- **15 May 2015:** 2nd announcement
- **1st June 2015:** Deadline for abstract submission
- **5 July 2015:** Notification for abstract acceptance
- **31 August 2015:** 3rd announcement
- **30 September 2015:** Deadline for Full paper submission
- **2 October 2015:** Final programme
- **25 Oct-1st Nov 2015:** Conference and field tour
- **April 2016:** Publication of the Proceedings

Abstracts should be sent through ASSS website (www.asssonline.org) or by email to: Dr. Mamadou TRAORE, Email: iribatraore@yahoo.com and sssbfaso@outlook.com

Conference languages: English and French

Co-organizers:

- African Union (AU)
- UN Programme for Food and Agriculture (FAO)
- International Union of Soil Science (IUSS)
- Global Soil Partnership (GSP)
- Etc.

Registration and payment

- **Registration fees:** Conference fees per participant are: US\$250 and US\$100 for students (evidence should be provided). The deadline for the payment of these respective fees is by 30th of September 2015. After this date, the registration fees will be US\$300 and US\$150 respectively.
- **Payment procedure:** This will be provided in the 2nd announcement.

Scientific and Technical Committee

Visit the ASSS Website for the List of the international Scientific Committee and the list of the ASSS executive Bureau members.

For more information: Visit ASSS Website: www.asssland.org or www.asssonline.org

