

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.

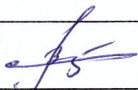


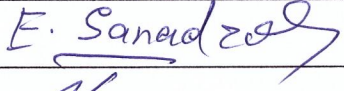
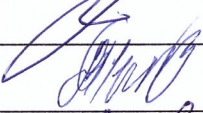


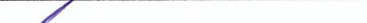
We are committed to achieving the Implementation Plan of the Eurasian Soil Partnership for 2018-2019 due to the made at the meeting additions and corrections, in cooperation with various partners and stakeholders, and developing cooperation with similar initiatives at the global and regional nature, 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 handing 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	<i>[Signature]</i>
Turkey	focal point	<i>[Signature]</i>
Ukraine	focal point	<i>[Signature]</i>
Uzbekistan	Abdullaziz Umid	<i>[Signature]</i>