

Special Session SS-1-13

Soil for Society Network

Organizers: Texas A&M University, University of Wisconsin, University of Nebraska, Policy Center for the New South.

Date/time and location: Sept. 14, 14:00-15:30, Room 12

Description: This session will present an initiative, Soil for Society Network (the Network), seeking to establish a network of networks for soils in support of water, food, and climate security. The session is intended to present the Network, disseminate its objectives, solicit participant feedback, and form new partnerships. Mission/Vision of the Network is sustainable soil management for climate change mitigation, and water & food security. The Network is intended as a global network elevating resilient soil systems to secure healthy societies. Soil is at the heart of water, food, climate, and ecosystem security, and therefore resilient soil systems are at the heart of securing healthy societies. Advancing sustainable soil practices in managed lands and ecosystems is a grand global challenge only possible through scientific collaboration spanning nations, cultures, societal sectors, and disciplines. The National Science Foundation is supporting a diverse team in designing the Network to address this challenge given that improving the resiliency of soil systems is a societal grand challenge requiring global collaboration to create solutions. Call to Action: Join us for (1) Community: We are a research-oriented community spanning career stages, nations, cultures, disciplines, and sectors of society, including underserved and marginalized groups often most closely tied to the land. We create shared values and provide an inclusive space that fosters a culture of integrated thinking; (2) Knowledge Creation & Sharing: We facilitate strategic, transdisciplinary scientific collaboration with an emphasis on the integration of early career researchers. We increase global access to knowledge on soil and land management and its impact on global food security and climate adaptation; (3) Solutions: We develop solutions driven by a systems approach to strategic scientific collaboration and resource sharing across social and economic dimensions; (4) Co-ownership: We credit network collaborations and individual contributions. All of these and more will be discussed during the session. This session is aligned with the Congress theme on Water-Human-Economy-Ecology Nexus under a Changing Environment.

Program:

1. Overview of the network: Rabi H. Mohtar
2. Engagement activities: Bassel Daher
3. Open Discussion