



wageningen soil conference

SOIL SCIENCE IN A CHANGING WORLD

“Be not astonished at new ideas; for it is well known to you that a thing does not therefore cease to be true because it is not accepted by many.”

– Baruch de Spinoza

FIRST CIRCULAR

Soil Science in a Changing World

23–27 AUGUST 2015

WAGENINGEN, THE NETHERLANDS

Mankind is facing unprecedented environmental changes in the 21st century. We are just beginning to grasp the magnitude of our impact on the global environment and the related risks for our societies. We have a choice to make changes to the impact we have and thereby partly control the environmental changes and its societal consequences.

In 2015, declared by the United Nations as the International Year of the Soil, Wageningen University would like to invite you to the second edition of the Wageningen Conference on Applied Soil Science. Both the success of the first Wageningen Soil meeting, with its thematic programming, and the recognition of the importance of the soil by the UN shows that there is a growing acknowledgement for the important role of soils in solving the problems of our time.



Climate change.
Food security.
Water resources.
Biodiversity.
Land Functions.

Not issues that provoke vivid images of soil scientists contributing to solutions to mitigate these problems. These solutions are addressed, however, by many scientists participating in multidisciplinary think tanks. But soil scientists have kept a remarkably low profile in these discussions and think tanks. In this conference we will discuss the importance of soils and soil science for combating the problems we are facing around the globe.

During the meeting we will address the importance of soil scientific knowledge for global issues. We want to address these topics in a dynamic way, by top key-note speeches, challenging debates, inspiring workshops and master classes as well as oral and poster presentations by participants.

The Wageningen Soil Meetings aim to provide a platform for:

- Sharing knowledge of soils across the world and across science
- Engaging in interdisciplinary exchanges of ideas, thoughts, and opinions
- Thinking out of the box and being innovative and creative

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

With this conference we want to emphasize the importance of soil science for combating and mitigating the challenges of our time: food security, water resources, climate change, land functions, ensuring biodiversity and how to govern these issues and create policy for taking effective measures.

This will be the second edition of a new scientific soil conference series entitled Wageningen Soil Conference (formerly Wageningen Conference on Applied Soil Science). We have chosen a thematic approach instead of the

disciplinary organisation of most conferences. At the Wageningen Soil Meeting each conference day will be divided into two thematic parts. Each part will cover one of the global issues that will be addressed during the conference. The session will start with two key-note speeches followed by a lively debate between the two keynote speakers. The content of both keynote speeches will be available for all prior to the conference through the conference website and in the conference proceedings book.



The second part of each session will be organised in parallel sessions. Participants can choose to participate in a workshop or master class or attend one of the oral presentation sessions. In the program ample time will be allocated for poster contributions.



The Scientific Program will be organized around six themes:

FOOD SECURITY

healthy soils, healthy people



- Soil productivity/fertility
- Soils and micro-nutrients
- Organic matter and soil productivity
- Soil Information to feed the world

CHAIR Pablo Tittonell
KEYNOTES Bernard Vanlauwe
Deborah Bossio

WATER RESOURCES

blue and green water



- Water harvesting in dry lands
- Scaling soil-hydrological functions
- Soils as physical and chemical filters
- Optimizing water-use efficiency

CHAIR Artemi Cerdà
KEYNOTES John Quinton
Günter Blöschl

BIODIVERSITY

soils as a hotbed for life



- Land use change and soil biodiversity
- Climate change and soil biodiversity
- Soil DNA-repository
- Soil contamination and soil eco-system functions

CHAIR Lijbert Brussaard
KEYNOTES George Kowalchuk
Laurent Philippot

GOVERNANCE AND POLICY

soils on the global political agenda



- Soil Science and the Millennium Development Goals
- EU Water & Soil directives: policy driven soil research
- UN convention to combat desertification
- Soils in Horizon 2020

CHAIR Luca Montanarella
KEYNOTES Ronald Vargas
to be announced

CLIMATE CHANGE

soils and feedbacks



- Carbon sequestration
- Soil respiration and GHG emissions
- Changing farmers best practices
- Waterproof deltas

CHAIR Karsten Kalbitz
KEYNOTES Ingrid Kögel-Knabner
Ivan Janssen

LAND FUNCTIONS

soil-scapes in the anthropocene



- Combating the loss of fertile soil
- Desertification
- Consequences of land use change
- Cascading carbon transport

CHAIR Violette Geissen
KEYNOTES Gerard Govers
Nicki Whitehouse



PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Sunday (August 23rd)	Arrival/registration, <i>ice-breaker</i>
Monday	Full-day papers
Tuesday	<i>Field trip/networking day</i> , conference dinner
Wednesday	Full-day papers, <i>free evening</i>
Thursday (August 27th)	Full-day papers, <i>closing drinks, delegates depart</i>

SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS AND PROCEEDINGS PUBLICATION

The proceedings of the conference will consist of an abstract book and a special issue of selected papers from the participants of the conference in the new EGU journal SOIL. The price of the abstract book will be included in the registration fee.

REGISTRATION COSTS AND PROVISION

The registration costs for the conference will be around 500 euro, this will include a delegates pack containing the proceedings, and lunches and refreshments during the meeting.

SOCIAL PROGRAM

A choice of various field trips will be offered on Tuesday. The topics of the field trips will be announced in the next circular.

We will also provide room for groups to work together instead of going on a field trip. During the first edition of the Wageningen Soil Meeting, such group collaboration resulted in the launching of the Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative (www.globalsoilbiodiversity.org).

CONTACT INFORMATION

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ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Deadline for abstracts: 28 February 2015

Replies to authors: 1 May 2015

The website for abstract submission will be available soon.

Web: www.wageningenur.nl/wageningensoilconference2015

VENUE AND HOUSING

Wageningen City of Life Sciences

Housing possibilities will be offered in the next circular.

