



The Spanish Society of Soil Science: history and future perspectives

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The Spanish Society of Soil Science (SECS; <http://www.secs.com.es>) has reached sixty years of existence, after being established in 1947 at the Spanish Council for Scientific Research (CSIC) as an initiative of renowned scientists including José María Albareda, Salvador Rivas Goday, Fernando Burriel, Tomás Alvira and others. However, soil studies in Spain began in the first third of XX century, coordinated by Emilio Huguet del Villar, internationally outstanding researcher who was the President of the Subcommittee for the Mediterranean Region of the International Society Soil Science, with the activities of the Forest Research Institute and the Institute of Mediterranean Soils of the Regional Catalonian Government.

With the creation of the CSIC and the Spanish Institute of Soil Science and Agrobiology, directed by José M. Albareda, Soil Science research was promoted in all scientific fields and through the Spanish geography.

The SECS is considered equally heiress of previously existing organizations, in particular the Spanish Commission of Soil Science and Phytogeography, created in 1925, which was the Spanish voice in various international organizations and meetings related with Soil Science.

After these years, Soil Science has developed considerably, showing a great diversification of fields of study and research and its applications, as well as a growing social awareness of the soil degradation processes and the need to implement measures to protect natural resources nonrenewable on a human scale, and an increasing role of universities and CSIC in Soil Science research.

Currently, the SECS is a scientific organization dedicated to promoting the study, knowledge, research and protection of soil resources; spread the scientific importance of soil functions as nonrenewable natural resource in society and promote the interest in its protection; and preserve the knowledge about soils, their management and use, both from productive and environmental perspectives.

The SECS has helped and sponsored numerous conferences and seminars related to different aspects of Soil Science, and directly organizes the National Congress of Soil Science (since 2004, the Iberian Congress of Soil Science) and National Soil Meetings held annual or biannually without interruption since 1975.

Some of the projects currently being carried out include TeSECS (a database of PhD theses), GloSECS (an updated multilingual soil science glossary), promotion of soil museums. Also, the SECS publishes the four-monthly Spanish Journal of Soil Science since 2011 (<http://sjss.universia.net>).