



Evolution of key concepts in modern pedology with reference to Italian soil survey history

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In the second half of XIX century, early soil scientists were rooted in disciplines like agro-chemistry and geology. Their approach to soil science was consequently influenced by their cultural background. In parallel with the evolution of pedology as a discipline, the different approaches and specific expertise of soil scientists allowed an integration of knowledge and a progress towards a more holistic vision of soil. This process, problematic but necessary for a real step forward of pedology, will be discussed with reference to the history of soil survey in Italy.