



Soil! Get the Scoop - The Soil Science Society of America's International Year of Soils Campaign

David L. Lindbo (1), Jan Hopmans (2), Carolyn Olson (3), Susan Fisk (4), Susan Chapman (4), and Harold van Es (5)

(1) NC State University, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Soil Science, Raleigh, United States (david_lindbo@ncsu.edu), (2) University of California, Davis, Davis CA United States, (3) United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC United States, (4) Soil Science Society of America, Madison WI United States, (5) Cornell University, Ithaca, NY United States

Soils are a finite natural resource and are nonrenewable on a human time scale. Soils are the foundation for food, animal feed, fuel and natural fiber production, the supply of clean water, nutrient cycling and a range of ecosystem functions. The area of fertile soils covering the world's surface is limited and increasingly subject to degradation, poor management and loss to urbanization. Increased awareness of the life-supporting functions of soil is called for if this trend is to be reversed and so enable the levels of food production necessary to meet the demands of population levels predicted for 2050. The Soil Science Society of America is coordinating with the Global Soil Partnership and other organizations around the world to celebrate the 2015 International Year of Soils and raise awareness and promote the sustainability of our limited soil resources. We all have a valuable role in communicating vital information on soils, a life sustaining natural resource. Therefore, we will provide resources to learn about soils and help us tell the story of soils. We will promote IYS on social media by sharing our posts from Facebook and Twitter. Additionally SSSA developed 12 monthly themes that reflect the diverse value of soils to our natural environment and society. Each month has information on the theme, a lesson plan, and other outreach activities. All information is available on a dedicated website www.soil.org/IYS. The site will be updated constantly throughout the year.