



Digital Soil Mapping – A platform for enhancing soil learning

Phillip Owens (1), Zamir Libohova (2), Curtis Monger (2), David Lindbo (3), and Axel Schmidt (4)

(1) United States Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Research Station, Booneville, Arkansas, United States of America, (2) United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Soil Science Division, National Soil Survey Center, Lincoln, United States, (3) United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Soil Science Division, Washington, DC, United States of America, (4) Catholic Relief Services, Lima, Peru

The expansion of digital infrastructure and tools has generated massive data and information as well as a need for reliable processing and accurate interpretations. Digital Soil Mapping is no exception in that it has provided opportunities for professionals and the public to interact at field and training/workshop levels in order to better understand soils and their benefits. USDA-NRCS National Cooperative Soil Survey regularly conducts training and workshops for soil scientists and other professionals in the US and internationally. A combination of field experiences with workshops conducted in a class environment offers ideal conditions for enhancing soil learning experiences. Examples from US, Haiti and Central America show that Digital Soil Mapping (DSM) tools are very effective for understanding and visualizing soils and their functioning at different scales.