



The Spanish Society of Soil Science: Main projects and activities developed during the last years

Jaume Porta (1), Jorge Mataix-Solera (2), Irene Ortiz-Bernad (3), Carmen D. Arbelo (4), Montserrat Díaz-Raviña (5), David Badía (6), Josep M. Alcañiz (7), Fernando Santos (8), M. Carmen Hermosin (9), and M. Teresa Barral (10)

(1) Departament de Medi Ambient i Ciències del Sòl, Universitat de Lleida, Lleida, Spain, (2) University Miguel Hernández, Agrochemistry and Environment, Elche (Alicante), Spain (jorge.mataix@umh.es), (3) Departamento de Edafología y Química Agrícola, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad de Granada, Granada, Spain, (4) Departamento de Edafología y Geología, Universidad de La Laguna, Tenerife, Spain, (5) Instituto de Investigaciones Agrobiológicas de Galicia del CSIC, Santiago de Compostela, Spain, (6) Departamento de Ciencias Agrarias y del Medio Natural, Escuela Politécnica Superior de Huesca, Universidad de Zaragoza, Huesca, Spain, (7) Departamento de Biología Animal, de Biología Vegetal y de Ecología, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Bellaterra, Barcelona, Spain, (8) Departamento de Biología Animal, Ecología, Parasitología, Edafología y Química Agrícola, Universidad de Salamanca, Salamanca, Spain, (9) Departamento de Agroquímica, Microbiología Ambiental y Conservación de Suelos, IRNAS-CSIC, Sevilla, Spain, (10) Departamento de Edafología y Química Agrícola, Universidad de Santiago de Compostela, Spain

The Spanish Society of Soil Science (in Spanish: Sociedad Española de la Ciencia del Suelo, SECS) was founded in 1947 by the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) to promote cohesion and collaboration between soil science professionals, and with an innovative spirit and a willingness to serve the society. The objectives are: to promote the study, knowledge, research and protection of the soil; to spread, from a scientific point of view, the role played by the soil in favour of society, through ecosystem services such as the production of food and raw materials; The SECS also focus on the protection of other habitats and the conservation of our archaeological heritage; and to preserve knowledge of the soil, its management and use, both from the production and environmental point of view, leading to the optimization of its capabilities. The activities and services of the SECS are accessible on the web site www.secs.com.es, which is continually updated.

In this contribution, we will show some examples of recent projects and activities developed by the SECS such as: the edition of the Spanish Journal of Soil Science (SJSS) since 2011; books like the white book on “Tratamiento del suelo en los libros de texto de ESO y Bachillerato en España” available in <http://www.secs.com.es/archivo/libro-suelo.pdf>, in which the term “Soil” is analysed in many secondary school books (152) in the Spanish education system; conferences, courses, exhibitions, expositions, calendars, the comic “Vivir en el suelo” in different languages, and diverse material to promote and disseminate the importance of the soil to the society; and last but not least, the *Multilingual Soil Science Dictionary* (Spanish, Catalan, Gallician and Portuguese with translations in English and French (in process)) available online: <http://cit.iec.cat/GLOSECS/inici.html>. The promotion of student teams for soil science contests, the *SECS Award* to attend the *Simposio Latinoamericano de Enseñanza y Educación en Ciencia del Suelo* (SLCS, Quito, 2016) and other activities, such as incentives for young students, are also some of the strategies to promote the soil, together with an annual award to the best PhD thesis supervised by SECS members. These and other examples will be shown during the session with the main aim of exchanging ideas among soil societies to promote the soil. Access in www.secs.com.es.

Acknowledgements: to the members of the Spanish Society of Soil Science.