



# Division 4: The Role of Soils in Sustaining Society and our Environment

## What we do

This Division focuses on the transfer and outreach of good soil knowledge to society, as well as, taking responsibility for lifting the profile of soil among the general community. It takes the scientific knowledge and information developed in the other three divisions of the IUSS and shares this through education, international conventions and informing the public policy and debate. Sharing this knowledge between scientists, economists, policy makers and the broader community means this division interacts well beyond the traditional bounds of the soil science disciplines.

## Who we are

### Commission 4.1. Soils and Environment

This Commission looks at the soil as part of the ecosystem and how human activities impact on the soil and environmental interactions

### Commission 4.2. Soils, Food Security & Human Security

This Commission looks at the challenge of maintaining agricultural lands, providing enough safe food and nutritious food, and the role of soils in a changing world affecting human health.

### Commission 4.3. Soils and Landuse Change

In the context of global sustainability, this Commission investigates how soil functions can be managed and controlled to mitigate the impact of climate change. It also considers the impact of land use change with increasing urbanization, and the loss of productive land .

### Commission 4.4. Soil Education & Public Awareness

A well informed public is needed so that the importance of soil is understood. This Commission shares the developments in learning and teaching of soil science that support this aspiration, as well as, developing strategies that increase the connectedness of the public with soil.

### Commission 4.5. History, Philosophy, & Sociology of Soil Science

This Commission deals with the past; it links the study of what has happened in history and how soil can be used to help explain the past changes. This Commission investigates the relationship between human development and soil.



SOIL CONNECTS is the biannual newsletter of Division 4 in the International Union of Soil Sciences

Issue 3 - December 2015



Division 4 has launched a bi-annual newsletter to keep you up-to-date with soil and its role in society. Latest issues, events and ideas are shared here.

## Events and Stories in the International Year of Soils - 2015

### Towards the international year of soils: the challenge of bring people to care about soil

Cristine Muggler led a call to arms to launch the IYS in the 1<sup>st</sup> issue of the newsletter. There are examples of good work, such as school student presentations on the threats to soil held in Brazil. Cristine notes that much of this work is sporadic and it is our time to do more to *raise the soil's profile*, and in doing so calls on Division 4 to take the lead.

### Making securing our world's soil a global imperative

Some 85 participants from 14 countries came together in Texas, USA, to share their ideas to secure the world's soil. The concept of *Soil Security* was launched in the 20<sup>th</sup> WCSS in Korea. In Texas securing the soil was considered from a biophysical and socio-economic standpoint leading to an agreement on some global goals. Details can be found in Issue 2 of Soil Connects, and the next symposium will be held in Paris, Nov. 2016.

### International field course and soil judging

The IYS saw participants from 28 countries come together for this event. After 4 days of training the 16 soil judging teams battled it out. Hakuna Mata from Africa took 1<sup>st</sup> Place, and the overall winners came from the USA, followed by Spain and Hungary.



### A focus on education

Both issues have stories from the Commissions in Division 4 and their focus on innovations in education. Stories you can read included;

### A little soil knowledge

Tony Koppi, Issue 2

### Tea4Soil

Taru Lehtinen, Issue 2

**Connecting through Food**  
The Soil Association, Issue 3

### Some big stories

Stories from across the globe talking about the latest research and initiatives telling people how they can use and support their soil.

### Soil Renaissance

Noble Foundation

### Gardening in a polluted paradise

Kaine Korzekwa

### Global Soil Partnership

Pillar 2

Regular updates on national and international Soil Science conferences and workshops, as well as reviews of the latest books and reports can all be found in each issue of the Soil Connects newsletter, so get your copy now.....

The newsletter can be downloaded at: [http://www.iuss.org/index.php?article\\_id=423](http://www.iuss.org/index.php?article_id=423)



International Union of Soil Sciences