

2016 World Soil Day Celebration in Italy

In Italy, the World Soil Day was celebrated by a group of numerous Italian soil scientists at the Polytechnic University of Marche (Ancona) on 5th December, 2016. The Soil Science Division of the Polytechnic University organized a big exhibition devoted to secondary school students to introduce them to the discovery of the soil. More than 120 students and their professors attended nine different laboratories on soil forming factors (rocks, plants, and animals), the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of soil, the soil color, etc. The importance of the relief was also highlighted by showing a movie on badlands from central Italy. A video related to the event is accessible here: <https://youtu.be/ogTdCUT6RPM>



In the afternoon there was a workshop titled “Why a Global Soil Partnership?” to introduce the Italian Branch and the representatives of the Pillars forming the FAO Global Soil Partnership.

The importance of the soil as a critical component of the natural system and as a key contributor to the human well-being through its contribution to food, water and energy security and as a mitigating factor of biodiversity loss and climate change was stressed during a workshop held in the afternoon under the auspices of several organizations: FAO, Italian Society of Soil Science (SISS), Italian Society of Pedology (SIPe), Italian Society of Agricultural Chemistry (SICA), Italian Society of Agronomy (SIA), Italian Society for Horticulture (SOI), Italian Society for Sylviculture and Forest Ecology (SISEF), Italian Society of Entomology (SEI), and the Italian Association of the Agricultural Scientific Societies (AISSA).

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