



FROM THE DESK OF RATTAN LAL
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Sub: Soils and Global Issues

Dear Soil Scientists,

1. Soil is the common denominator in identification and implementation of strategies for addressing global issues of the 21st century: climate change, food and nutritional insecurity, eutrophication and contamination of natural waters, loss of biodiversity, rural poverty, social and ethnic inequality, civil strife and social unrest. Further, the ***health of soil, plants, animals, people and ecosystems is one and indivisible.***
2. Professionals and practitioners in soil science have an important responsibility to enhance awareness among general public and the policy makers that finite and precious soil resources must be ***restored, improved, sustained and enhanced (RISE)*** for provisioning of numerous ecosystem services for human wellbeing and nature conservancy.
3. National societies of soil science, affiliated with IUSS, may undertake formulation and approval of ***“National Soil Protection Policy” (NSPP)*** that promotes programs leading to restoration of degraded soils towards the goal of achieving “soil degradation neutrality” over a specific period (e.g., 2030).
4. Several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations (#2, #15) adopted in September 2015 can be realized only if world soil resources are managed sustainably. ***SDGs and soil health are intricately interconnected.***

Sincerely,

Rattan Lal,
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