



5th Conference of the Africa Soil Science Society - ASSS -

www.asssonline.org or www.asssland.org



22 - 28 November 2009, Yaoundé – Cameroon

Theme:

Soils and New Challenges for Sustainable Development in Africa

Background

In Africa, the rapid transformation of the social and environmental contexts, together with the impacts of agricultural practices on soil, water and atmosphere, has brought new questions and challenges to soil science. Moreover, the global environmental problems such as land degradation and desertification, loss of biological diversity and climate change have opened new debates on the multifunctional role of soils. Indeed, soils are no longer considered only as a resource base for quality food production, and more recently for bio-fuels agriculture, but also as a biological reserve and carbon sink.

In order to achieve these challenges for sustainable development of the Africa continent, soil scientists should assist decision making on: (i) how to better use soils and soil functions within a diversity of land users; (ii) how to develop more suitable agricultural systems for various soil types, taking into account the conservation of soil functions, the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and the control of diffuse pollution and soil pollutants, etc.; (iii) the mechanisms and scientific tools for more sustainable soil resources management in Africa; (iv) what to do in the field of economy, policy and education in order to improve soil functions related to air, water, environment and life quality. All these aspects will constitute the core topics to be discussed during the Fifth International Conference of the Africa Soil Science Society (ASSS) in Yaoundé (Cameroon) at the end of November 2009.

The Africa Soil Science Society is a non-profit organization founded in 1986. ASSS has successfully organized four International Conferences: Kampala (1988), Cairo (1990), Ibadan (1994) and Accra (2007).

The 5th International Conference will gather soil scientists, land planners and users as well as all related specialists interested on new challenges for a sustainable development in Africa, to deliberate on

emerging issues such as food insecurity and soaring food prices, renewable energies, climate change, land degradation, conservation agriculture, and land and water knowledge management.

Objectives of the Conference

The objective of the Conference is to bring together Africa soil scientists, interested stakeholders, and policy makers to provide a forum for disseminating the acquired knowledge and technology for the benefit of the continent population and for sound deliberations on the different sub-themes of the colloquium. The conference through its outcomes will make a significant contribution for ensuring sustainable land management, food security and sustained livelihoods in Africa.

The Conference will also provide an opportunity (i) to strengthen the ASSS as regional body and the National Soil Science Societies in Africa, (ii) to consolidate the relationship with the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) and the collaboration with various partners.

Through this conference, the ASSS also wish to reinforce its relationship with the African Union, to therefore, play a key role as an institution of the civil society at Africa continent level.

The Technical focus of the Conference

The 5th International Conference of ASSS will focus on soil and land related challenges for a sustainable development in Africa. Specific sessions will be held on the following sub-themes:

Sub-theme 1:

Soil data base development in Africa

This session will deal with Soil data collection and management, including soil properties, soil process, soil survey and mapping, soil modelling and pedometrics.

Sub-theme 2:

Soils, food crisis and food security

Topics related to soil in crop, forestry and livestock production will be discussed in this sub-theme, including relations between soil and crop varieties, cropping strategies, rangelands and forest ecosystems management.

Sub-theme 3:

Land and renewable energies

This session will discuss sources of renewable energies, especially those related to soil such bio-fuel (or agro-fuel) and biogas productions, improved fire set (Foyer amélioré), dams sedimentation and impacts on hydropower.

Sub-theme 4:

Soils and mitigation/adaptation to climate changes

This sub-theme will include topics in soils, water and atmosphere, Land use/land cover (LULC) and carbon sequestration, carbon credits, adaptation to climate changes, cropping calendars, etc.

Sub-theme 5:

Soil degradation and Sustainable Land Management in Africa

The discussion in this session will focus on the current status of land degradation (LD) in the agricultural fields, rangelands and forest of Africa, and the constraints and opportunities to prevent and control it. Sustainable land management (SLM) as a response to LD, should involve analysis of policies, technologies and innovations as well as identification of the barriers and bottlenecks that impede wider adoption of SLM, and enabling conditions that allow their scaling up successfully.

Sub-theme 6:

Up-scaling Conservation Agriculture in Africa

The session will discuss the challenges of promoting and up scaling Conservation agriculture (CA), a concept for resource-saving agricultural ecosystem production that strives to achieve acceptable profits together with high and sustained production levels while concurrently conserving the environment as one of the promising ways of implementing SLM.

Conference tours:

- Tour around Yaoundé: Observations of Forest soils and their use for sustainable development.
- Tour around Mount Cameroon: Observations of Recent and old volcano and derived soils; Visit to the Cap of Debunsha (with 10 000 mm of rainfall).

Some important dates:

- **30 November 2008:** Deadline for pre-registration
- **30 January 2009:** Deadline for abstract submission
- **15 February 2009:** 2nd announcement
- **30 Mars 2009:** Notification for abstract acceptance
- **30 August 2009:** 3rd announcement
- **30 September 2009:** Deadline for Full paper submission
- **2 November 2009:** Final programme
- **22-28 November 2009:** The Conference
- **April 2010:** Publication of the Proceedings

Abstracts should be sent through ASSS website (www.asssonline.org) or by email to:

Dr Yemefack (yemefack@itc.nl or myemefack@yahoo.fr)
and

Dr Zougmore (robert.zougmore@messrs.gov.bf or rb_zougmore@hotmail.com)

Conference languages: English and French

Co-organizers:

- African Union (AU)
- UN Programme for Food and Agriculture (FAO)
- International Union of Soil Science (IUSS),
- Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD),
- Cameroon Soil Science Society (CASSS),
- African Conservation Tillage Network (ACT),
- Etc.

Registration and payment

• Registration fees:

Conference fee per participant: US\$250 and US\$100 for students (evidence should be provided). The deadline for the payment of these respective fees is by 30th of October 2009.

After this date, the registration fees will be US\$300 and US\$150 respectively.

• Payment procedure:

This will be provided in the 2nd announcement.

Scientific and Technical Committee

Visit the ASSS Website for the List of the international Scientific Committee and the list of the ASSS executive Bureau members.

For information:

Visit ASSS Website:

www.asssland.org or www.asssonline.org

