

GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM ON SOIL BIODIVERSITY

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The [Global Symposium on Soil Biodiversity. Keep soil alive, protect soil Biodiversity](#) will be held from 10-12 March 2020, at the FAO Food and Agriculture Organization headquarters in Rome.

The event is jointly organized by the UN FAO and its [Global Soil Partnership \(GSP\)](#), the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS), together with the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) and the Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative (GSBI).

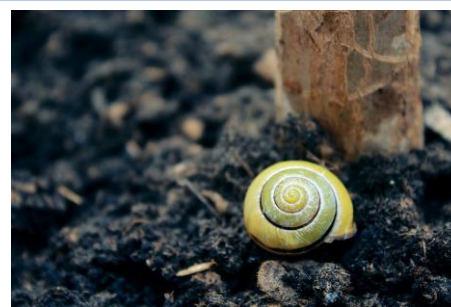
The main objective of the Symposium is to fill some critical knowledge gaps and promote discussion among policy makers, food producers, scientists, practitioners and other stakeholders on solutions to live in harmony with nature, and to achieve the SDGs through the conservation and sustainable use of soil biodiversity.

[The Organizing Committee of the Global Symposium on Soil Biodiversity is currently accepting abstracts](#) that will compete for oral and poster presentations during this symposium. Abstracts should address one of the following symposium themes:

- *Theme 1: State of knowledge on soil biodiversity* - the latest discoveries on taxonomic and genetic diversity of soil organisms, the benefits arising from soil biodiversity and the status of the world soil biodiversity
- *Theme 2: Soil biodiversity in action* - the role and the application of soil biodiversity in the field: effective and replicable methodologies, techniques, technologies and practices that are promoting the conservation and sustainable use of soil biodiversity, with a view to upscale those sustainable approaches to improve productivity, accelerate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of its resources, as well as guarantee equitable participation in productive landscapes
- *Theme 3: Soil biodiversity shaping the future of food systems* - legislation, policies, international frameworks and financial mechanisms to mainstreaming soil biodiversity

The abstracts shall be written in English, maximum 2000 words in Word format. The deadline for abstract submission is 31 January 2020. Authors will be notified with a decision regarding their abstract submission by 10 February 2020 and details for oral and poster presentations will be provided.

The [overall aim of the Global Symposium on Soil Biodiversity](#) is to review the role of soil biodiversity and ecosystem services in tackling environmental problems, and to drive actions towards the



implementation of the [World Soil Charter](#) along with the [Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management](#). Specifically, the symposium outcomes will provide evidence to support actions to protect soil biodiversity and promote its sustainable use and management by addressing the underlying causes of soil biodiversity loss and enhancing implementation of sustainable practices.

The symposium outcome document *Keep soil alive, protect soil biodiversity* will highlight the importance of soil biodiversity not only for food production, but for enhancing the benefits to all and in various ways and at multiple scales, including biodiversity-based solutions for global challenges, human well-being, health and nutritional food and new medicinal discoveries, including the discovery of new antibiotics.

Participants of the Global Symposium will include representatives from UN FAO member states, worldwide presenters whose abstracts are accepted and finally scientists and practitioners working in related fields, representatives from NGOs, civil society, indigenous peoples, local communities, and land users. Additionally, the symposium has called the attention of the private sector working on sustainable agriculture and technology development related to soil.

To know more

[Soil Biodiversity Symposium in FAO website](#)

[FAO Soils Portal](#)

[Global Soil Partnership](#)

[Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative](#)

[Global Soil Biodiversity Atlas](#)

[2015 International Year of Soils](#)

