



Montpellier 29th & 30th June 2017 – 2nd CONSORTIUM of MEMBERS

Report from the **Global Symposium on Soil Organic Carbon (GSOC17)**

21 – 23 March 2017 at FAO HQ

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**Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations**



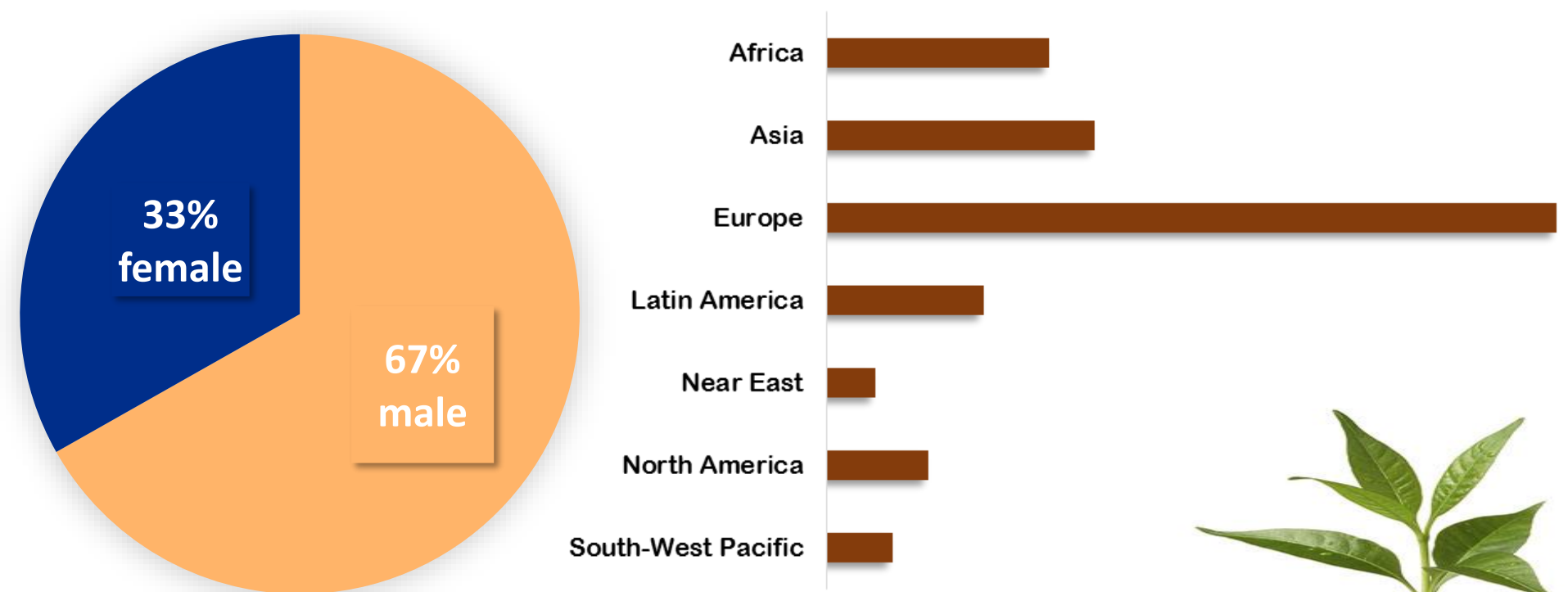
Milestone event

- One of the largest scientific events at FAO
- First event **co-organized by different UN organizations** to gather scientific evidence for policy development on the role of SOC for climate change, food security and SDGs agendas.



Participants

- 488 participants from 111 countries



Structure

- 100 oral and 34 poster presentations.
+ working groups
- Organized around 3 themes:



• Assessment & MRV



• Maintain and Increase SOC stocks

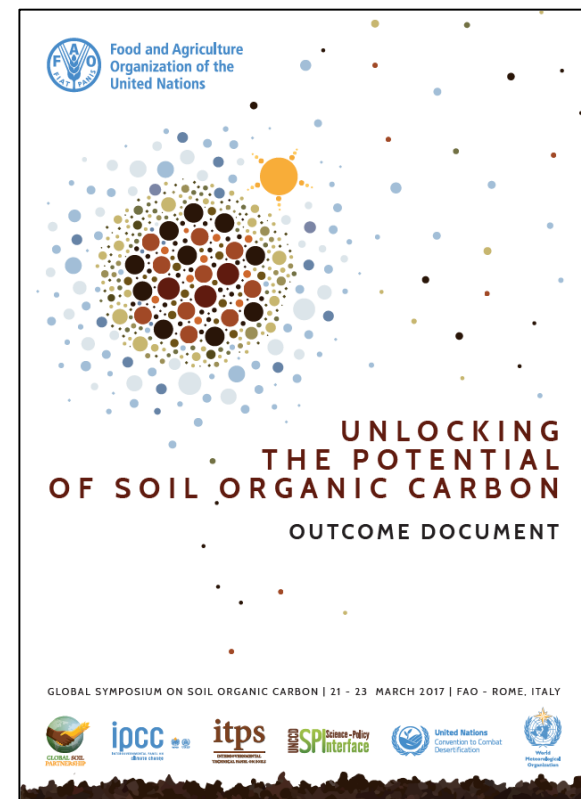


• Managing SOC, especially in reach SOC soils



Outcomes

- **Outcome document** derived from main messages of working groups, revised by ITPS, IPCC and SPI-UNCCD.
- <http://www.fao.org/3/b-i7268e.pdf>
- Special issues of the journals “Global Change Biology” and “SOIL”



Recommendations

- Capacity development for countries to establish SOC data management and national reference levels for SOC stocks
- Working group to develop guidelines for mapping, monitoring and MRV to be adapted at local level
- Improve estimations of SOC carbon sequestration



- Strategies and soil and land management practices for SOC protection and sequestration to consider local conditions and potential barriers to adoption
- Identify tangible, short-term benefits for farmers to trigger adoption of SOC management practices
- Prevent SOC losses by maintaining current SOC stocks



- In national and regional soil policies, prioritize soils with the highest carbon stocks to prevent SOC losses
- Support land-users to implement and sustain soil and land management practices to protect and enhance SOC

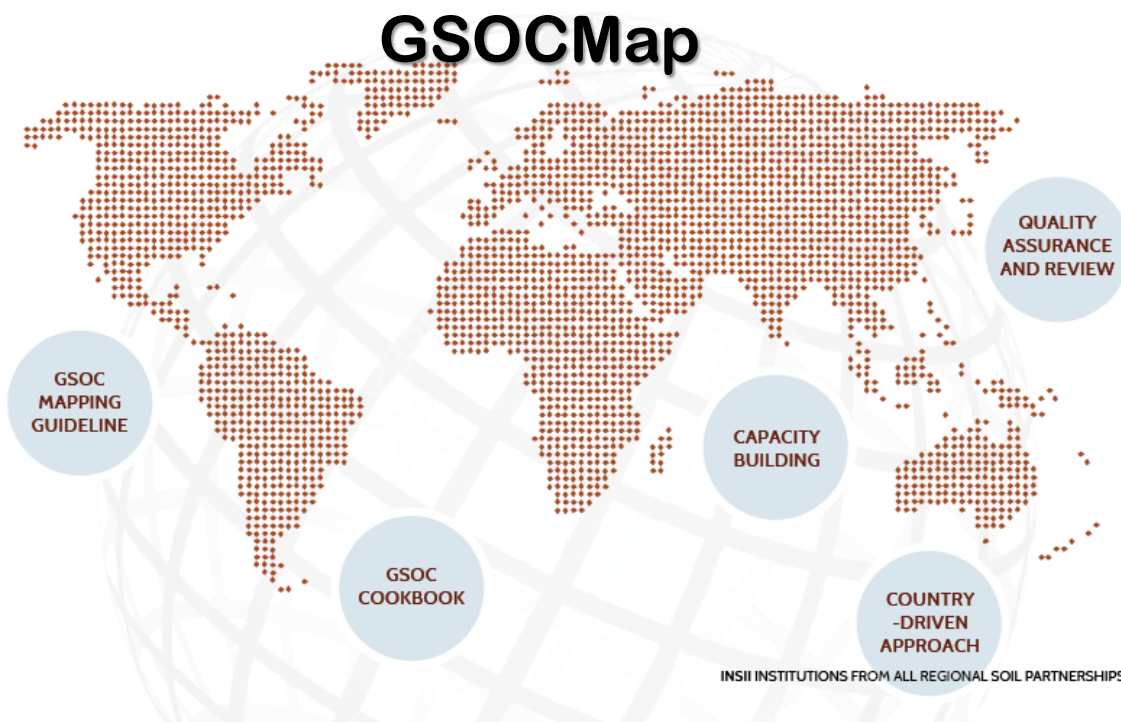


Way forward

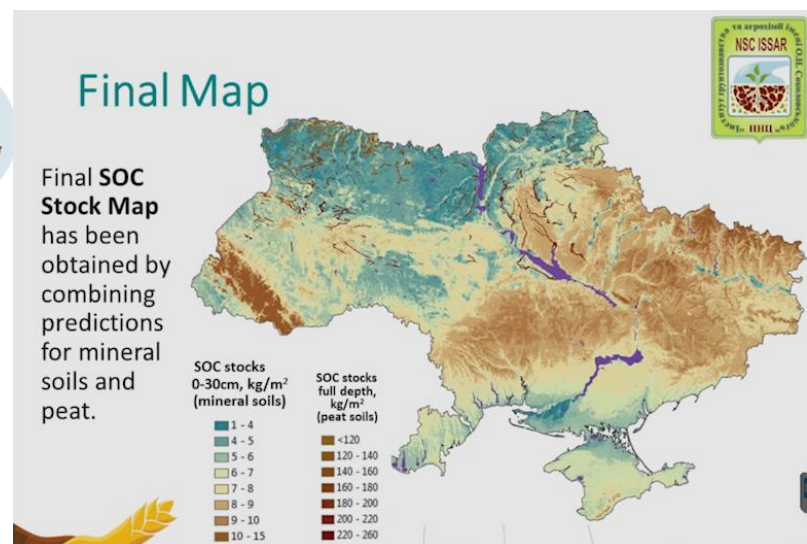
- Submit Outcome Document to: 5th GSP Plenary Assembly (last week), COP13-UNCCD, COP23-UNFCCC, FAO Council; COP CBD
- Implementation of the International Network of Black Soils (launched at the GSOC17, last week chair elected- China).
- Establish two working groups under the GSP:
 - To develop guidelines for measuring, mapping, monitoring and reporting on SOC;
 - In line with the VGSSM, develop a technical manual on managing SOC at regional and national levels.



GSOCmap based on national maps



SOC Map of Ukraine



Final remarks

- This is a high **Soil Carbon Momentum**, we need to keep it through bold **JOINT** actions.
- **Investment on Sustainable Soil Management is vital and would yield multiple benefits.**
- There is a huge need to **DEVELOP/STRENGTH NATIONAL CAPACITIES** on Soils, focusing on SOC.



Final remarks

- SOC is crucial for soil health and for various ecosystem services. SOC Sequestration could greatly contribute to various agendas, including climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- Restoration of degraded soils is now needed (approx. 33% of soils are degraded).
- Innovation is needed, but in the framework of Sustainability emergencies (not only responding to while compromising the future).





**INCREASED
SOIL ORGANIC
CARBON**

**MITIGATES
CLIMATE
CHANGE**

**FEEDS THE
PLANET**

21 - 23 | MARCH 2017 | FAO - ROME, ITALY

#GSOC17

THANK YOU!



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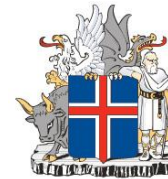
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