

The World Year of Soil was celebrated at Gorgan University of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (GUASUR), Gorgan, Iran with the collaboration of the Iranian Soil Science Society on 18 Dec 2015. Students of the Soil Science Department, Soil related officials from different organizations, soil science pioneers in Golestan Province and the university academic staff were present at the meeting.

The detailed program of the meeting was as follows:

1. As a Board member of the Soil Science Society of Iran (SSSI), my speech was on introducing the term **Soil Security** and its importance mainly by addressing the key note speeches at the 20th World Congress of soil science in South Korea. Then I announced the initiation of the Golestan province branch of the SSSI. This branch has five board members from university and soil related organizations. The Golestan branch of SSSI would try to promote the society understanding of the soil and how to treat soil in a sustainable manner as its first goal. Besides the main board, the student branch of the SSSI was also initiated at GUASUR.

2. Dr Ali Najafinejad, president of the university gave his speech on the importance of soil and announced the establishment of the Soil Museum at the university in the 2016 world soil day. I was assigned to do this job. The soil monoliths from all around the province and also the whole country would be collected. Golestan province is well known for its unique Mollisols. Alfisols, Inceptisols, Aridisols and Entisols are other soils orders present in Golestan.

3. **Hujjat al-Islam** Namvar, talked on the importance of soil conservation as emphasized in the holy Koran.

4. Dr Ghorban Ali Roshani, the head of Cotton Research Institute of Iran, gave his speech on the need for a soil law. He emphasized the urgent need for the law on the protection and sustainable use of the soils.

5. Traditional music was performed by the former soil science graduate of GUASNR.

6. Soil Pioneers including the emeritus Professors and Soil Engineers were officially appreciated.

7. Students were highly motivated to participate in the election performed to form the Student Branch of the SSSI in Golestan. PhD, MSC, and BSc students were nominated and five were elected. They will play a main role to introduce the importance of soil to other students.

8. Finally soil contest was performed. On the stage, three student groups each consisted of a BSc, MSc, and PhD, were asked some general applied questions on different aspects of soil and finally the winner were rewarded.