

Società Italiana della Scienza del Suolo

(Italian Society of Soil Science)

40th National Congress, Celebration of the IYS and World Soil Day

by

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In December 1st-3rd 2015, was held in Rome the 40th National Congress of Italian Society of Soil Science (SISS), organized by CREA- RPS, (CREA- Research Center for the Soil-Plant System) and the University of Palermo. About 100 scientists attended the congress from Italy. The objective was to recognize the key role of the soil in the healthy food production, under the slogan “Healthy soil for Healthy Life” the same adopted by FAO for the IYS.

In the Opening Ceremony three distinguished invited delegates delivered their speeches, in representation of scientific and governmental institutions: Sally Bunning (Senior Land Management and Soil Conservation Officer, FAO), Parviz Koohafkan (President of the World Heritage Agriculture Foundation) and Ian D. Hollingsworth from Australia (HESSE).

The congress was supported by international and national scientific societies, associations and research institutes: International Union of Soil Sciences-IUSS, *Associazione Italiana Società Scientifiche Agrarie-AISSA*, *Società Italiana di Chimica Agraria-SICA*, *Società Italiana Pedologia-SIPE*, *Società Italiana di Microbiologia Agraria, Ambientale e Alimentare-SIMTREA*, *Società Italiana di Agronomia-SIA*, *Consiglio per la ricerca in agricoltura e l'analisi dell'economia agraria-CREA*, *Università degli Studi di Palermo-UNIPA*, EXPO2015.

The main themes and subjects, that have been presented and discussed by 3 invited speakers, 24 oral presentations, 40 posters are summarized in this report. More information and a comprehensive program of the Conference can be found at: http://www.scienzadelsuolo.org/congressi_.php#sis.

The scientific program:

The conference consisted of four thematic main sessions, covering different aspects of soil quality analysis, soil processes, functions and services in agricultural, natural and urban ecosystems, strengthening the key role of soil as foundation for vegetation and food production.

Session 1- Soil quality in the space and in the time

Session 2- Biogeochemical interactions and Soil quality

Session 3- Land use and management for healthy life

Session 4- Soil and society

In addition to the conference, were carried out two other activities:

1. Awards

We begin with the open Photographic Contest “*Healthy Soil for Healthy Life*”,

More information can be found at: [http://www.scienzadelsuolo.org/concorso .php](http://www.scienzadelsuolo.org/concorso.php).

During the conference we promoted the Best poster Award. One poster for each session was awarded.

2. Social Events

Along with the intensive scientific activities, the social life of the participants of the congress was rich in remarkable events. The first day of the conference ended at the CREA- Research Center for the Soil-Plant System, where a World Soil Celebration Party was organized. Local food and drink were complemented by nice celebrative cakes:



The outstanding results of the congress were discussed during the banquets and the closing ceremony.

In addition, most of congress participants have attended or were involved in two events more:

- the celebration of the World Soil Day 2015 and the closure of the International Year of Soils 2015, organized in FAO Rome Offices, on 4th December 2015, under the slogan “*Soils: a solid ground for life*”.
- the celebration of the closure of International Year of Soils 2015, the 5th December 2015 in Rome, an exhibition organized by AISSA (*Associazione Italiana Società Scientifiche Agrarie*). Main goals of the exhibition were: i) to raise soil awareness in the society involving children in open laboratories, holding seminars and open discussions; ii) to communicate that our soils are threaten because of land use, management practices, pollution, climate change; iii) to promote the sustainable use of soil resources that can ensure food quality.