1st February 2017

Sub: Soils and Global Issues

Dear Soil Scientists,

1. Soil is the common denominator in identification and implementation of strategies for addressing global issues of the 21st century: climate change, food and nutritional insecurity, eutrophication and contamination of natural waters, loss of biodiversity, rural poverty, social and ethnic inequality, civil strife and social unrest. Further, the health of soil, plants, animals, people and ecosystems is one and indivisible.

2. Professionals and practitioners in soil science have an important responsibility to enhance awareness among general public and the policy makers that finite and precious soil resources must be restored, improved, sustained and enhanced (RISE) for provisioning of numerous ecosystem services for human wellbeing and nature conservancy.

3. National societies of soil science, affiliated with IUSS, may undertake formulation and approval of “National Soil Protection Policy” (NSPP) that promotes programs leading to restoration of degraded soils towards the goal of achieving “soil degradation neutrality” over a specific period (e.g., 2030).

4. Several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations (#2, #15) adopted in September 2015 can be realized only if world soil resources are managed sustainably. SDGs and soil health are intricately interconnected.

Sincerely,

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