

ห้องสมุดกรมพัฒนาที่ดิน

ROAD TO *WORLD SOIL DAY*

5 December

Land Development Department
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand



What is the World Soil Day?

World Soil Day (WSD) is held annually on December 5th as an important means to focus the world's attention on the importance of soil and on the most sustainable ways to use it. The aim of the formal establishment of World Soil Day is to promote global awareness and educate the public on topics related to soils in all regions.

December 5th was chosen as World Soil Day as it corresponds with the royal birthday of His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, who dedicated Himself over seventy years to soil conservation and soil condition improvement in His attempt to bring recognition to the importance of soils to mankind.

It should be noted here that in June 2013, the FAO conference unanimously endorsed World Soil Day and requested its official adoption at the 68th UN General Assembly. On December 20th, 2013, the UN General Assembly declared December 5th as the official International World Soil Day.



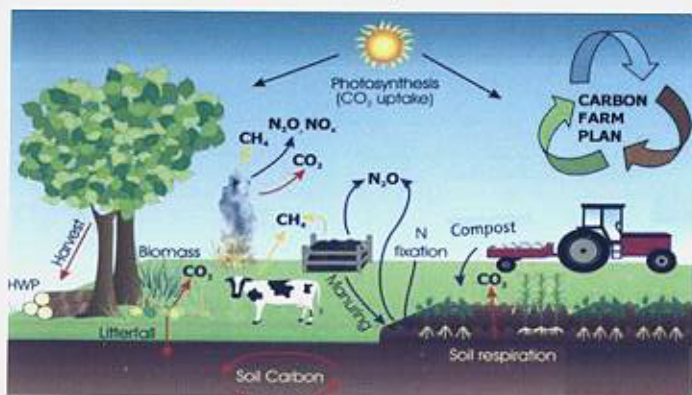
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Why Soils Need Worldwide Recognition

The very existence of mankind is dependent upon the production of food that soil provides. By the same token, soil has been considered one of the most precious and limited resources that also contribute to other needs of human beings including energy, clothing, medicines and foundation for all kinds of construction. Moreover, soil also plays an important role for the overall ecosystem and global biodiversity. For instance, the soil organic carbon is a key element of the global carbon cycle through the atmosphere, vegetation, soils, rivers and the oceans. As a result, it can tremendously escalate the effects of global warming. Apart from this, to date, a global phenomenon occurring in the pedosphere is the desertification or land degradation. This is especially so for the tropical areas where natural conditions are conducive to desertification if the soil is inadequately managed.

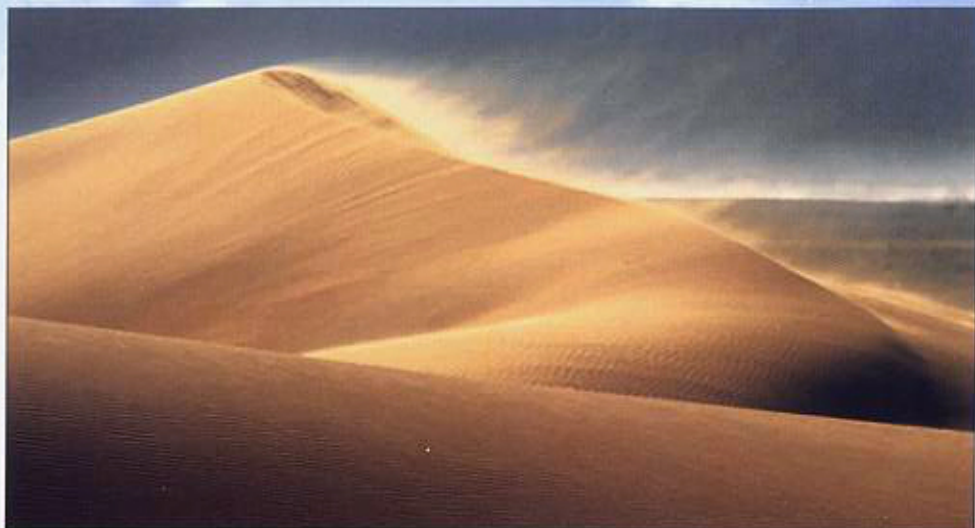






Unfortunately, the importance of soils and the discipline of soil science have not received the status of recognition of vital importance among the general population of the world, its governments, or science funding institutions. This can be confirmed by the increase in the number of the land degradation areas in many parts of the world normally resulting from inappropriate management, land misuses and deforestation. Thus, an urgent need to raise awareness and to promote sustainable uses of our soil resources is crucial now. Furthermore, great effort to increase worldwide awareness and activities related to soil conservation by means of conferences, press releases, television and radio broadcasts to advocate the use and need of soil for human survival, and its sustainable management is necessary.







Therefore, the committee and members of the International Union of Soil Science sought to designate a day as the “World Soil Day” to bring recognition to the importance of soils to mankind, and for the day to be used as the essential impetus to draw international attention to the natural soil resource on which all forms of life depend.

Road to World Soil Day 5 December



● 2002: Initiating the World Soil Day

During the 17th World Congress of Soil Science in August 2002 in Bangkok, Land Development Department set up an exhibition entitled His Majesty the King Bhumibol Adulyadej’s Vision, Leadership and Commitment on Sustainable Land Development in Thailand. The delegates from many countries around the world were



deeply impressed with an array of soil conservation and improvement projects in Thailand that His Majesty the late King graciously supported. Furthermore, The six Royal Development Study Centres in different regions of Thailand established by His Majesty the late King, His efforts to improve land use management and conservation of soil resources were indeed impressive and appreciated. Moreover, His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej had created series of experiments with international soil scientists, engineers and irrigation personnel. His initiatives related to soil and water conservation using vetiver grasses have been well accepted worldwide. In addition, His Majesty had demonstrated a great vision on effective use and conservation of soil resources, bridging the gap between soil scientists and farmers which, in turn, has benefited all.



New Theory

Farming



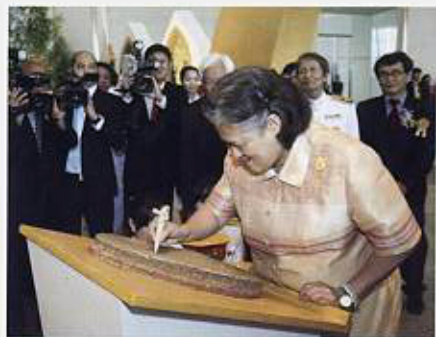
Therefore, during the 17th World Congress of Soil Science in Bangkok in August 2002 and at a subsequent Inter-Congress Meeting in Philadelphia in 2006 and in Brisbane in 2010, The International Union of Soil Sciences unanimously agreed to confirm the proposal requesting the 5th of December to be designated as the World Soil Day to honor His Majesty the late King for His promotion of soil science and soil resources conservation, and also agreed to present His Majesty the late King with the first award of "Humanitarian Soil Scientist." At the time, although World Soil Day had not yet to be formally declared, a number of countries already recognized December 5th as the National Day of Soil.





● 2012: Royal Recognition of the World Soil Day

On April 16th, 2012 at Siriraj Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand, the board members of the International Union of Soil Science and the Soil and Fertilizer Association of Thailand presented the “Humanitarian Soil Scientist” award to His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej and requested to designate His birthday, December 5th, as the World Soil Day.



During the period of December 3 - 5, 2012, the Land Development Department was assigned by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives to arrange an event entitled “To Honor His Majesty the King for the Recognition of the Humanitarian Soil Scientist award and for Celebration of the World Soil Day, 5 December.” at Siam Paragon, Bangkok. The event organizing team felt that it was their

highest honor when Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn presided over the royal opening ceremony of the event on December 3rd, 2012. Moreover, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn signed her name on a clay plate to celebrate December 5th as the World Soil Day.



WSD 2014

IYS 2015 & WSD 2015

WSD 2016

WSD 2017

WSD 2018

WSD 2019

World Soil Day
5 December
designated
by UNGA on
20 Dec 2013

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2012-2013 FAO
conference
officially
designated WSD
and having UNGA
consider
at 68th session

.....
2012 Royal
Recognition
of WSD and
presentation
of the Humanitarian
Soil Scientist award
to H.M. the late King
Bhumibol Adulyadej
of Thailand

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2002-2010
International
Confirmation of WSD
at 18th, 19th WCSS

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2002 WSD was
initiated at 17th
World Congress of
Soil Science (WCSS)
in Bangkok, Thailand



that it would include World Soil Day (WSD) and the International Year of Soils 2015 as an additional item to the provisional agenda of CL146. In addition, on December 5th, 2012, the Office of Agriculture Affairs, Mr. Rapibhat Chandarasrivongs, the Permanent Representative of Thailand to FAO and FAO in Rome organized an event to celebrate World Soil Day at the FAO Headquarters.

- March 2013: The letter of the Minister of Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand was submitted to FAO to request for “Seed Financial Commitment” to strengthen the proposal of the International Year of Soil (IYS) and also to reiterate the support of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) for the IYS initiative.

- June, 2013: The first chairperson of the Global Soils Partnership Assembly, Mr. Rapibhat Chandarasrivongs, requested the FAO Assembly and the United Nations to consider formally establishing World Soil Day and designating 2015 as the International Year of Soils. Consequently, on June 22nd, 2013, the FAO Assembly Conference in Rome (C 2013/36) agreed to designate December 5th as the World Soil Day and declared the year 2015 as the International Year of Soils.

- Between December 2012 and December 2013, formal request to Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) for the official designation of December 5th of every year as the World Soil Day.

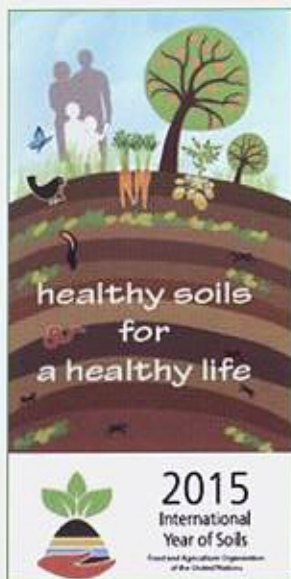
- During December 3 - 7, 2012, the FAO Council in Rome announced





- July - October 2013: Requested the FAO Director General to present the resolution to the UN Secretary General requesting consideration from the 68th UNGA.
- December 5th 2013: FAO held a high level event entitled "A Day Dedicated to Healthy and Productive Soils" to celebrate World Soil Day.
- December 20th, 2013: the 68th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York, USA agreed to designate December 5th as the World Soil Day (WSD) and declared 2015 the International Year of Soils (IYS).





- December 5th, 2014: The formal launch of the International Year of Soils 2015 and the first official World Soil Day at the UN Headquarters in New York, USA. At the event, Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha delivered the royal speech on behalf of His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej.





• World Soil Day 2015: Implementing the International Year of Soils. The theme for the internationally-wide celebration was “Soils, a Solid Ground for Life”. The special focus was placed on increasing awareness and understanding of the importance of soil for food security and for the ecosystem.





• World Soil Day 2016: On December 2nd, the World Soil Day was celebrated at the UN Headquarters in New York. The event entitled "Soils and Pulses, a Symbiosis for Life" was presided over by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn who presented a Royal speech as requested by the FAO via a video message. The theme was the strategic alliance between soils and pulses aimed to achieve sustainable food and agricultural systems.





• World Soil Day 2017: The Global Soil Partnership celebrated the World Soil Day 2017 under the theme “Caring for Planet Starts from the Ground.” Despite the essential role that soils play in human livelihoods, there is still a worldwide increase in soil resources degradation due to inappropriate management practices, population pressure and inadequate governance over the soil resources. Therefore, more attention and education on sustainable soil management and proper land utilization are of vital importance.





- World Soil Day 2018: “Be the Solution to Soil Pollution” was designated as the theme of World Soil Day 2018. The campaign aims to ensure that people have safe and nutritious food for healthy life without endangering essential ecosystems. Furthermore, soil pollution cannot be clearly observed or assessed, rendering it ‘a hidden reality’ - a hidden danger which can cause serious consequences.



In addition, the World Soil Day Award (WSDA) will be awarded for the first time in Bangkok, Thailand on 5 December 2018 to prize the best World Soil Day event held on the framework to the 2017 communication campaign “Caring for the Planet Starts from the Ground”. It honors individuals, communities, organizations and countries that organized remarkable and engaging World Soil Day activities or campaigns in the previous year.



Let us Celebrate World Soil Day 5 December

It is our shared obligation to effectively utilize our valuable soil resources and conserve them for the future generations.

Only with close cooperation within each nation and between nations can we most effectively conserve, manage and enrich our soil resources which inevitably will lead to more quality life for all.

We wish to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to those who have been working diligently to make the World Soil Day as important event for the world.





World
Soil Day



Día Mundial
del Suelo



Journée
mondiale
des sols



วันดินโลก



Всемирный
день почв



اليوم العالمي
للتربة



世界土壤日



বিশ্ব মাটি দিবস



Dünya
Toprak
Günü



Dia do
Solo



Hari Tanah
Sedunia



Svetovni
dan tal