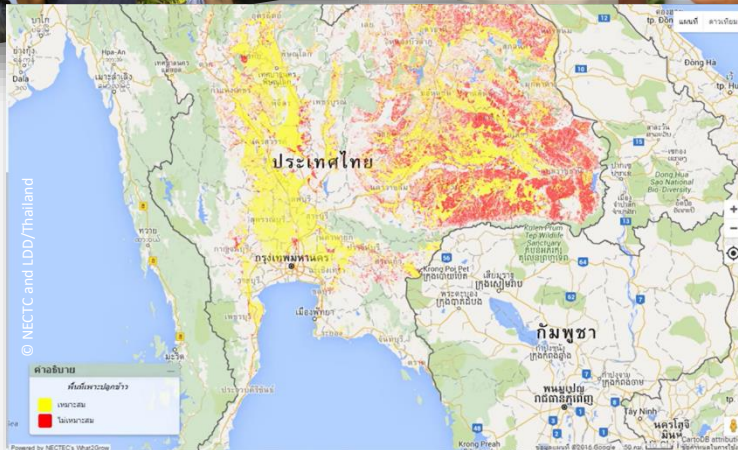




Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# *Asian knowledge hub on sustainable soil and land management*

*Learn, share, inspire*



# *Webinar on “Harvesting awareness: soil events and distinctive awards”*

**Date:** 7 September 2023

**Time:** from 2:00 to 3:30PM GMT+7 (Bangkok time)

**Platform:** Zoom©

**Language:** English

## *Introduction*

In 2023, the FAO’s regional office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP) developed a knowledge hub to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experiences on sustainable soil and land management in the Asian region. Thus, (i) to enhance the capacity of individuals and organizations in implementing sustainable soil and land management practices, (ii) to facilitate the identification of knowledge and technology gaps that can boost research and development activities, (iii) to encourage the adoption of proven methods while inspiring innovation in sustainable soil and land management, and (iv) to support projects’ formulation and implementation activities. In this regard, the hub is an integral component of the FAO's strategy to advance sustainable soil and land management in Asia.

The hub reports and describes countries’ original engagements to assess, monitor, preserve, restore or enhance soil health over time as well as United Nations contributions to the topic in terms of equipment, online applications, certification systems, training systems, awareness raising systems and others. Please note that the hub does not report about projects and research studies. By aligning with the principles of collaboration and shared learning, the hub has the potential to drive positive change in agricultural and environmental practices.

The information in the hub were collected using a participatory approach involving the public sector, non-profit sector, academic and research institutions and intergovernmental organizations, and they are meant to support the work of a large range of stakeholders including farmers, local communities, extension agents, policy makers, project managers, researchers and academia, and even the private sector. Being an open-access, live tool, stakeholders have the ongoing chance to submit contributions to FAORAP for review and potential incorporation into the hub.

The hub has information organized into five categories depending on their core scope:

**SCOPE 1: Soil assessment, monitoring and mapping**, including soil sampling, soil analysis, data analysis and interpretation, and digital soil mapping;

**SCOPE 2: Policy**, including charters, guidelines and recommendations developed to support countries on policy development. Instruments to support countries on achieving and reporting on international targets are also reported under this scope;

**SCOPE 3: Investment**, intended as actions and tools that trigger investments at the national, regional and global levels;

**SCOPE 4: Field activities**, including capacity building activities for the transfer on knowledge, data, information and technology to farmers and other land users; and

**SCOPE 5: Communication**, including awareness raising, technical and scientific cooperation, and networking activities.

The webinar on “Harvesting awareness: soil events and distinctive awards” is organized under scope 5 on communication. This webinar is one among a series of online events orchestrated to facilitate the use of the knowledge hub within the region.

*Note:* The online platform hosting the hub is currently under development. However, the specifics regarding the subjects to be covered during the webinar are contained within this document.

## *Webinar's objectives*

1. To promote the establishment and the effective use of national certifications schemes of good practices;
2. To foster the organization of national and regional events around the celebration of the World Soil Day on December 5; and
3. To encourage the submission of applications for the World Soil Day Award and the Glinka World Soil Prize from the Asian region.

## *Who can participate?*

Participation to the webinar is open to all stakeholders interested on the topic.

## *How to participate?*

To register for the upcoming webinar on **“Harvesting awareness: soil events and distinctive awards”**, please follow the registration process outlined below:

1. Click on the provided link to access the registration form: [https://fao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_GI-221WsSeemsf6Xl0nfXQ](https://fao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GI-221WsSeemsf6Xl0nfXQ)
2. Fill out the registration form with accurate and complete information. Make sure to provide your name, email address, organization (if applicable), and any other required details.
3. Once your registration is confirmed, you will receive a confirmation email containing the webinar details, including the Zoom link, date, time, and instructions on how to join the webinar.

Please ensure that the email address you provide during registration is correct and regularly checked to receive important updates and notifications.

We look forward to your participation in the webinar and your contribution to the discussion on promoting soil health and sustainable management practices.

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Should you have any questions or require further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Lucrezia Caon, Land Management Officer, FAORAP at [lucrezia.caon@fao.org](mailto:lucrezia.caon@fao.org)

# Programme

2:00 – 2:05PM	<b>Welcome remarks</b> <i>Ms Lucrezia Caon, Land Management Officer, FAORAP</i>
2:05 – 2:30PM	<b>National certifications schemes of good practices – the experience of Malaysia</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Malaysian Organic (myOrganic) Certification Scheme</li><li>• Malaysian Good Agricultural Practice (myGAP) Certification Scheme</li></ul> <i>Ms Saiarah Binti Asri, Farm Certification Section, Crop Quality Control Division, Department of Agriculture, Malaysia</i>
2:30 – 3:05PM	<b>International celebrations and awards</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• World Soil Day</li><li>• World Soil Day Award</li><li>• Glinka World Soil Prize</li></ul> <i>Ms Isabelle Verbeke, communication officer, Global Soil Partnership, FAO</i>
	<b>What is it like? Interview with the winner of the Glinka World Soil Prize 2022</b> <i>Mr Ashok Kumar Patra, ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science (IISS), India</i>
3:05 – 3:25PM	<b>Questions and answers</b> <i>Moderator: Ms Lucrezia Caon, Land Management Officer, FAORAP</i>
3:25 – 3:30PM	<b>Closing remarks</b>



## *Insights about the webinar's subjects*

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### ➤ **Malaysian Organic (myOrganic) Certification Scheme**

**Country of origin:** Malaysia

**Year of development:** 2003

**Copyright:** Farm Certification Section, Crop Quality Control Division, Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security.

**Scope:** It aims to increase the number of farms that practice organic farming without using pesticides and synthetic fertilizers for the production of safe and nutritious food, and for the preservation of the environment and workers' health and welfare.

**Users:** Agriculture farms.

**Beneficiaries:** Farmers, workers, consumers and the overall environment.

**Brief description:** This certification scheme was developed to acknowledge farms that practice organic farming based on the Malaysian Standard and the Asian Organic Agriculture Standard. It covers four agricultural areas: crop, bee keeping, wild harvest and crop breeding.

Farmers can apply for the certification at the Department of Agriculture (DoA) that acts as a certification body. To achieve myOrganic certification, producers must follow specific criteria and practices that comply with organic farming principles. These principles typically include:

- **Prohibition of synthetic pesticides and chemical fertilizers:** Organic farming practices should minimize the use of synthetic inputs and promote the use of natural alternatives, such as compost, manure, and biological pest control methods.
- **Preservation of soil fertility and biodiversity:** Organic farmers are encouraged to maintain and improve soil health through techniques like crop rotation, cover cropping, and proper land management. They should also promote biodiversity by conserving natural habitats and utilizing diverse plant and animal species.
- **Traceability and record-keeping:** All stages of production, processing, and distribution should be documented to ensure traceability and transparency within the organic supply chain.

Farms and processors seeking myOrganic certification must undergo regular inspections and audits conducted by DoA to verify compliance with organic standards.

**Limitations:** Limited numbers of farms due to stringent rules of organic standard.

**Notes on its development:** It is the first Organic certification scheme developed in Malaysia. It was developed based on Malaysian Standard MS1529: 2015.

**Supportive material:** Please visit [www.doa.gov.my](http://www.doa.gov.my) and <http://www.doa.gov.my/index.php/pages/view/377?mid=70>

**Contacts:** Miss Saiarah Binti Asri, Farm Certification Section, Crop Quality Control Division, Department of Agriculture. Email address: [saiarah@doa.gov.my](mailto:saiarah@doa.gov.my).

## ➤ Malaysian Good Agricultural Practice (myGAP) Certification Scheme

**Country of origin:** Malaysia

**Year of development:** 2002

**Copyright:** Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security

**Scope:** It aims to increase the number of farms that implement good agricultural practices for the production of safe and quality food while preserving the environment and workers' health and welfare.

**Users:** Agriculture farms

**Beneficiaries:** Farmers, workers, consumer and the overall environment.

**Brief description:** myGAP (Malaysian Good Agricultural Practices Certification Scheme) is a certification scheme designed and implemented since 2002 by the Department of Agriculture to recognize farms that implement good agricultural practices to produce safe and nutritious food, that preserve the environment, and that guarantee workers' health and welfare.

Farmers have to apply for the certification and comply with a set of given criteria. The certification process consists of three steps: site inspection, farm auditing and sample analysis.

**Limitations:** it is a voluntarily certification scheme.

**Notes on its development:** It is the first Good Agricultural Practices certification scheme developed in Malaysia. It was developed base on Malaysian Standard MS1784: 2016.

**Supportive material:** Please visit [www.doa.gov.my](http://www.doa.gov.my) and <http://www.doa.gov.my/index.php/pages/view/373?mid=68>

**Contacts:** Miss Saiarah Binti Asri, Farm Certification Section, Crop Quality Control Division, Department of Agriculture. Email address: [saiarah@doa.gov.my](mailto:saiarah@doa.gov.my)

The screenshot shows the myGAP website interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for 'PAPARAN UTAMA', 'BORANG MYGAP', 'HUBUNGI KAMI', and 'APLIK'. Below the menu is a large image of a lush green tea plantation. Underneath the image, there is a section titled 'Selamat Datang ke MyGAP' which provides a brief overview of the scheme. Below this, there is a section titled 'Elemen Amalan Ladang Baik' (Good Agricultural Practices Elements) which lists seven key elements: Rekod Penyimpanan, Jenis Tanaman, Racun Serangga, Kesihatan, Latihan Penuaian, Pengairan, and Pembajaan Tanah. Each element is accompanied by a small icon and a brief description of the practice.

**Selamat Datang ke MyGAP**  
MyGAP adalah skim pengajian yang komprehensif untuk sektor tanaman, akuakultur dan ternakan. MyGAP dilaksanakan berdasarkan piawaian Malaysian Standard (MS), MS 1784:2016 Crop Commodity – Good Agricultural Practice digunakan untuk modul sektor tanaman dan MS 1998:2007 Good Aquaculture Practice (GAP) – Aquaculture Farm – General Guidelines serta MS 2487:2012 – Code of Practice for Seaweed Cultivation untuk modul sektor akuakultur, Manakala MS 2027:2006 Good Animal Husbandry Practice untuk sektor ternakan.

**Elemen Amalan Ladang Baik**  
7 elemen yang termaktub di dalam piawaian Malaysian Standard Crop Commodity – Good Agricultural Practices (MS 1784:2016):

- Rekod Penyimpanan**  
Aktiviti penyimpanan dan pengeluaran tanaman haruslah direkod dan maklumat sumber tanaman serangga ke pasaran. Pendaftaran produk haruslah mengandungi maklumat jenis tanaman, nama dan alamat sumber tanaman.
- Jenis Tanaman**  
Pemilihan tanaman yang tepat haruslah mengikut kesesuaian kawasan tanaman dan mengikut pemersihan dan mengikut piawaian yang ditetapkan.
- Racun Serangga**  
Penyemburan racun serangga haruslah mengikut ketetapan piawaian yang mana buah yang disembur hanya boleh dijual jika keadaan buah itu mencapai jangka masa yang selamat untuk dimakan. Setiap racun serangga haruslah didaftar di bawah Jawatankuasa Racun Serangga Malaysia.
- Kesihatan**  
Kesihatan pekerja adalah kritikal yang harus diberi perhatian haruslah dititik beratkan kesihatan yang
- Latihan Penuaian**  
Penuaian yang sempurna seperti penggunaan bekas untuk memuat/mengambil sayur dan memazikan sayur tidak terkena tanah ketika dipetik.
- Pengairan**  
Air adalah perkara yang paling utama untuk tanaman dan juga pembersihan akan penanaman. Oleh itu air haruslah bersih dan terjaga.
- Pembajaan Tanah**  
Teladang harus memazikan keadaan tanah, jenis produk pengeluaran dan lakukan tanah sebelum ini haruslah direkod bagi membolehkan tanah yang diguna pakai dalam keadaan yang sempurna.

## ➤ World Soil Day

**Country of origin:** United Nations

**Year of development:** 2014

**Copyright:** Global Soil Partnership, FAO

**Scope:** to focus attention on the importance of healthy soil and advocating for the sustainable management of soil resources.

**Users:** governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), educational institutions, farmers, and the general public

**Beneficiaries:** governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), educational institutions, farmers, and the general public.

**Brief description:** World Soil Day is an annual observance dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of soil and its crucial role in sustainable agriculture, food security, and climate change mitigation. It takes place on December 5th each year. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) officially designated this day to highlight the significance of soil as a finite natural resource.

Throughout the day, various events, workshops, seminars, and educational programs are organized globally to increase awareness and understanding of soil-related issues. These activities involve a wide range of stakeholders, including governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), educational institutions, farmers, and the general public, all working together to protect and conserve one of Earth's most vital resources.



FAO, within the framework of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP), has received the official mandate to facilitate the implementation of the World Soil Day. Every year, the GSP releases campaign material to support the celebration of the World Soil Day worldwide. In 2018, an international award was established for individuals and/or institutions that have made an effort to organize successful celebrations in the framework of the World Soil Day campaign of the previous year. The King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award (WSDA) is sponsored by the Kingdom of Thailand that provides a medal, a USD 15 000 cheque, as well as a trip to Thailand (if feasible) to receive the prize.

**Limitations:** willingness of stakeholders to celebrate the day.

**Notes on its development:** An international day to celebrate Soil was recommended by the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) in 2002. Under the leadership of the Kingdom of Thailand and within the framework of the Global Soil Partnership, FAO has supported the formal establishment of WSD as a global awareness raising platform. The FAO Conference unanimously endorsed World Soil Day in June 2013 and requested its official adoption at the 68th UN General Assembly. In December 2013 the UN General Assembly responded by designating 5 December 2014 as the first official World Soil Day.

The date of 5 December for WSD was chosen because it corresponds with the official birthday of H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the King of Thailand, who officially sanctioned the event. In 2016 this day was officially recognized in memory and with respect for this beloved monarch who passed away in October 2016 after seven decades as head of state.

**Supportive material:** please visit <https://www.fao.org/world-soil-day/about-wsd/en/>

**Contacts:** please contact the GSP Secretariat at [GSP-Secretariat@fao.org](mailto:GSP-Secretariat@fao.org)

## ➤ Glinka World Soil Prize

**Country of origin:** United Nations

**Year of development:** 2016

**Copyright:** Global Soil Partnership, FAO

**Scope:** to raise awareness amongst policy makers and the general public about possible solutions to tackle acute national and local problems of soil degradation, and to encourage all stakeholders and soil practitioners to engage in field-oriented work, with direct contributions to the preservation of the environment, food security and poverty alleviation as specified in the Revised World Soil Charter.

**Users:** any stakeholder that have made outstanding achievements in implementing the principles and recommended actions of the revised World Soil Charter.

**Beneficiaries:** policy makers, the general public and soil practitioners.

**Brief description:** the Glinka World Soil Prize is a prestigious, annual international award named after the pioneering Russian scientist, Konstantin D. Glinka, who made significant contributions to the study of soil science. The Prize aims to recognize individuals and organizations that have made outstanding achievements and contributions in the field of soil science, soil management, soil conservation, and sustainable land use. It serves to promote soil-related research, innovation, and practices that enhance soil health, biodiversity, and ecosystem services.

The award comes in the form of a USD 15 000 check and a Glinka gold-plated medal. The winner of the award is announced at the World Soil Day celebrations at FAO HQ premises in Rome.

**Limitations:** willingness of qualified candidates to compete for the award.

**Notes on its development:** The Glinka World Soil Prize aims to keep up the momentum generated by the International Year of Soils 2015. It is currently sponsored by the Russian Federation.

**Supportive material:** please visit <https://www.fao.org/world-soil-day/glinka-world-soil-prize/en/>

**Contacts:** please contact the GSP Secretariat at [GSP-Secretariat@fao.org](mailto:GSP-Secretariat@fao.org)

