



Land Development Department



International Union of Soil Sciences



GLOBAL SOIL
PARTNERSHIP

World Soil Day 5 December



Land Development Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
Bangkok, Thailand
www.idd.go.th

Why we need World Soil Day?

Recognizing importance of soils

Soil is a finite natural resource and is non-renewable on a human timescale. Soils are also the foundation of agricultural development and ecosystem sustainability, and provide the basis for food, feed, fuel and fiber production, clean water, nutrient cycles, organic carbon stocks, and one-quarter of global biodiversity, and also serve as a platform and source for construction.



Our soils are in risk

Despite the essential role of soils in the life of humanity, their degradation is increasing due to inappropriate practices, growing population pressures and inadequate governance of this essential natural resource. The urgent need is to raise awareness and to promote sustainability of our limited soil resources using the best available scientific information and building on all dimensions of sustainable development.



World Soil Day is a day dedicated to soils.

World Soil Day is an important tool for promoting education about soil resources, awareness of soil degradation and campaigning to secure healthy soils at all levels continuously and practically.

Why 5 December is designated as World Soil Day

- At the 17WCSS in Bangkok in 2002, IUSS proposed World Soil Day to raise awareness of the importance of proper soil management. World Soil Day is celebrated each year on December 5th in honor of the birthday of Thailand's King, His Majesty Bhumibol Adulyadej, for his untiring efforts in the promotion of soil science and soil resource conservation and sustainable management.



At the 17WCSS, there was an exhibition on the topic “His Majesty the King’s Vision, Leadership and Commitment on Sustainable Land Development Activities in Thailand”.

The delegates from many countries around the world were impressed by His Majesty’s grace, became conscious of his talent, and recognized the importance of His Majesty’s work in the field of soil resources development. Successive discussions, meetings and resolutions continued for eight years.



- At the 19WCSS in Brisbane in 2010, the IUSS council approved 5 December as World Soil Day and promoted it through the FAO.

- On 16 April 2012, the IUSS council presented the Humanitarian Soil Scientist Award to His Majesty.

- The FAO had supported World Soil Day and requested that the United Nations have it officially adopted.

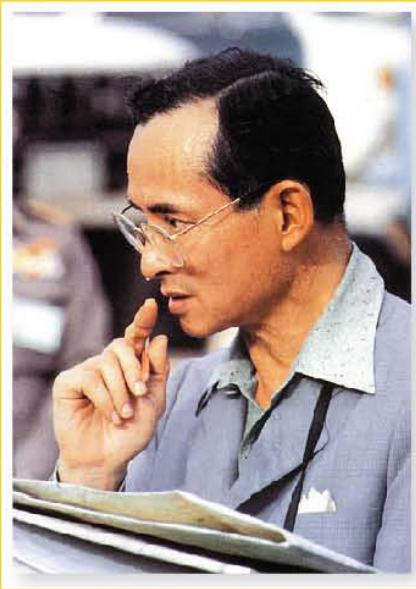


Speeches and exhibitions were presented to celebrate World Soil Day in the meeting of cabinet Food and Agriculture Organization at FAO Headquarter in Rome in 2012. FAO held a high level event **“A day dedicated to healthy and productive soils”** to celebrate World Soil Day on 5 December 2013.



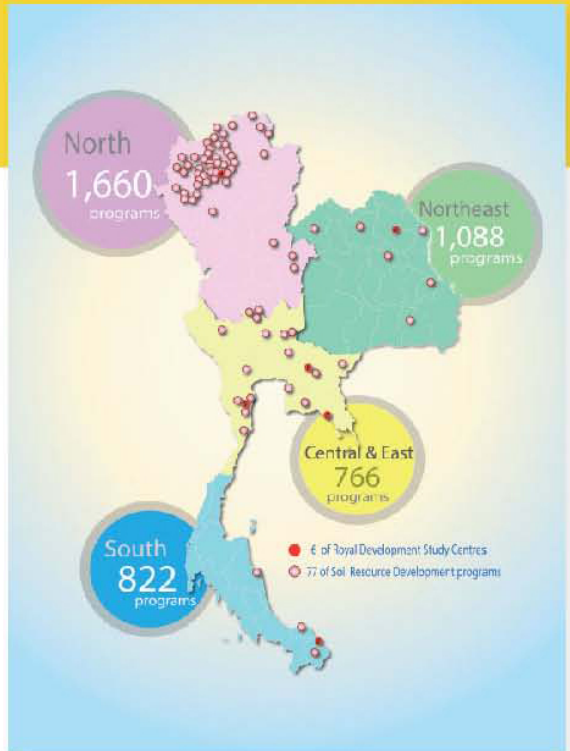
- On 20 December 2013, the 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly (68th UNGA) decided to designate 5 December as World Soil Day and declare 2015 the International Year of Soils.

Royally Initiated Projects for Sustainable Development



Since 1952, King Bhumibol has initiated more than 4,000 innovative programs to raise the Thai people's standard of living. Six royal development study centres have been established in the four regions of Thailand.

The study centres have been recognized as "models of success", where farmers and other members of society can learn how to become self-reliant in sustainable way.



1986



1992



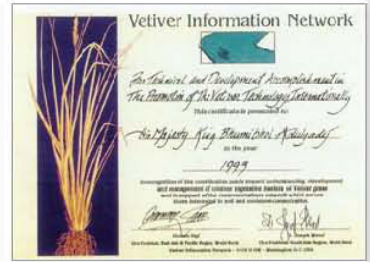
2012

His masterpieces benefit to the Thai people and mankind.

IUSS Presented the first Humanitarian Soil Scientist Award

The achievements of the royal project are recognized and accepted by the public domestically and internationally. His Majesty has received several awards in recognition of his intellectual soil management and conservation.

- In 1993, His Majesty has been presented with **the International Merit Award** for excellent work as a soil and environment conservationist by The International Erosion Control Association (IECA) and **the Vetiver Grass Bronze** by the World Bank's Asia Technical Department.



- FAO presented the Telefood Medal to His Majesty for his outstanding work in the field of agricultural development in Thailand in 1999.



- On 16 April 2012, His Majesty was presented with the **“Humanitarian Soil Scientist Award”** by the IUSS.



He was honored as the first recipient of the Humanitarian Soil Scientist award for his dedication to soil resource management.

Do you know 2015 will be International Year of Soils?

The International Year of Soils aims to be a platform for raising awareness of the importance of soils for food security and essential eco-system functions in the same way World Soil Day does.

2015

International Year of Soils



▪ **The goal is to make International Year of Soils** a memorable year demonstrating that the soil scientist community can really contribute the efforts for food security, hunger eradication, climate change adaptation, poverty reduction and sustainable development.

▪ **“Healthy soils for a healthy life”** is a theme to raise awareness of the importance of sustainable soil management.



Let's celebrate World Soil Day 5 December

We are the starting point for stopping the degradation of soil and protecting our environment to:

- Celebrate and advocate World Soil Day 5 December in every year
- Publicize World Soil Day as a day dedicated to soils
- Create and carry out activities to educate people and raise their awareness of the importance of soil
- Urge individuals, agencies, policymakers and governments to support this event

Be a part of this success!!
Starting with yourself, your peers
and your country

