



National Council for Scientific Research
Conseil National de la Recherche Scientifique
المجلس الوطني للبحوث العلمية

The 10th International

Meeting on Soils with Mediterranean Type of Climate

22 – 26 June 2009

Beirut, Lebanon

First Announcement

and

Call for abstracts

Motivation

Soil is one of the most important natural systems of the earth, representing an essential component of land resources. It is the place where people live and grow food and fiber and provide oxygen and biodiversity, water infiltrates through and purified.

The use of soils in road building, construction, ceramics and the cement are areas where a basic knowledge of soil and landscapes is important. Research institutes promote these studies. Carbon dynamics, is the central link between the physical climate and biogeochemical systems. Soils are, therefore, a major route to understanding and predicting the effects of human actions on our planet

Human interference usually has a negative impact mainly leading to the disturbance of ecosystems provoking land degradation. It could however, have a positive effect through land rehabilitation and soil protection.

Worldwide, soils are threatened by erosion, chaotic urban sprawl, contamination and salinization. Soil however, helps and improves the recharge of groundwater thus contributing to cope with water shortage and water scarcity and reducing the impact of climate change.

Therefore, this conference will highlight the problems of soil management and conservation. These issues concern scientists and stakeholders living not only in areas with soils of Mediterranean Type o Climate.

However, the soils of these regions are extremely fragile and prone to deterioration because of the

climatic pattern and long history of human civilizations and pressure.

Papers are solicited that illustrate the benefits of using geospatial data and information technology to build models providing soil information problems and management and the use of modern techniques to support decision making and rapid information systems serving poverty alleviation and sustainable development.

Successful environmental research studies and papers on applications, management and sustainable development, including policies and participatory bottom-up response actions to mitigate climate change and drought, combat desertification and provide income generating activities are especially welcomed.

Topics

Case studies that could contribute to conference sessions

- Soil classification and mapping
- Impact of climate change on soil behaviour and productivity
- Soil resilience to drought and desertification
- Land degradation
- Land quality in the framework of soil contamination and decontamination
- Secondary soil salinity and soil salinity management
- Effective irrigation and fertilization of Mediterranean soils within the context of integrated production
- Soil as component of organic farming in the Mediterranean context
- Organic amendment to enhance carbon sequestration using composted materials and domestic solid and liquid wastes
- Natural and man made hazards associated to soil hydrological, physical and physico-chemical properties: Mass movement, soil erosion and sedimentation
- Soil forest ecosystems and forest fires
- Use of Remote Sensing and GIS for the studies of soil characteristics, soil erosion and mass movement
- Management of soil information

Important Dates

- 15 September 2008: Early Registration and payment of reduced fees
- 15 February 2009: Deadline of abstract submission and registration
- 15 April 2009: Notification of abstract acceptance
- 22 June 2009: 10th IMSMTC conference

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