

FROM THE SPHERE OF SCIENCE

International Pedological Conference

Soils under Global Change – a Challenge for the 21st Century

The Conference *Soils under Global Change – a Challenge for the 21st Century* took place in Constanta (Romania) in September 3–10, 2002. It offered the opportunity for discussing the problems of soil degradation prevention and mitigation including relationships to desertification, drought and global climatic changes and other problems of ecology.

The Conference consisted of following plenary sessions: General Items – Desertification – Global Climatic Changes – Soil Pollution – Land Degradation Processes – Degradation of Soil Processes – Soil Compaction and Structure Degradation – Soil Erosion – Drought and its Effects on Farming and Environment. About eighty papers (including fourteen invited papers) were presented in individual plenary sections.

List of invited papers:

Blum W. (Austria): Soil and international conventions

Hannam I. (Australia): International and national legal and institutional frameworks for the sustainable use of soils

Várallyay G. (Hungary): Global change-soil degradation processes and their management

Horn R. (Germany): Strain-stress effects in structural unsaturated soils on coupled mechanical and hydraulic processes

Baltea D. (Romania): Interdisciplinary research of the global environment change – international programmes and concepts

Rubio J.L. (Spain): Forest fire as a desertification trigger in Mediterranean countries

Tejwani G.K. (India): Soil and water conservation research and development in India

Wesemael B. van (Belgium): Greenhouse gas emission from agricultural soils under global change

Dumitru M. et al. (Romania): Land and soil quality monitoring in Romania

Birkas M et al. (Hungary): Land use impacts on crop production

Voplakal K. (Czech Republic): The content and fractional composition of the phosphoric acid, its transformations and its plant available content in the main soils representatives of Czech Republic

Akker J.H. van der (Netherlands): Prevention of subsoil compaction by using the carrying capacity concept

Popa N. et al. (Romania): Choosing the input parameters of soil erosion models

Vermes L. (Hungary): Importance of international actions and co-operation for drought mitigation

The conference field programme consisted of the numerous soil profiles evaluation of the soil types typical for a region of Eastern- and Southern Romania. Besides it, the participants visited the Braila Central Research Station for Improvement of Soil Affected Soils, the Perieni Central Research Station for Soil Erosion Control, the Research Station of Plant Irrigation in Dobrogea and the National Research and Development Institute of the Danube Delta.

Final evaluation of the Conference and its field excursion: all the participants were fully satisfied with a Conference programme, with a high level of papers and posters presented at the Conference, with an excellent organization and with a very interesting and valuable field programme. The Conference enabled scientists from many countries to exchange their results, discuss important above-mentioned problems, and create international research teams.

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