

SESSION ON SOIL INITIATIVES TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA

SEPTEMBER 15TH (13:30 TO 18:00)



VENUE :

LE PALAIS DES CONGRÈS RABAT BOUREGREG



www.rise-swc.com



Rabat, Morocco

The session on **Soil Initiatives Towards Sustainable Agriculture in Africa**, aims to address the continent's urgent soil degradation challenges by showcasing innovative technologies for soil health assessment and novel management practices. It will feature expert-led discussions, case studies, and policy-relevant recommendations aligned with the 10-Year Action Plan of the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit.



SESSION AT RISE-SWC INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: SOIL INITIATIVES TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA

SEPTEMBER 15TH (13:30 TO 18:00)



13:30-14:00

REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS

14:00-14:15

OFFICIAL OPENING

Moderator of APNI session: **Dr. Hakim Boulal, APNI**

Representative of the Moroccan Ministry of Agriculture
Pr. Lamiae Ghaouti (DG INRA, Chair of Morocco WASWAC)

Pr. Duihu Ning, President of WASWAC (World Association for Soil and Water Conservation)

Dr. Kaushik Majumdar (DG APNI)

14:15-14:30

SESSION 1: NEW VISIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE SOILS IN AFRICA

Moderator: **Dr. Mohamed El Gharous, AITTC UM6P**

Managing Soil Health in Africa

Prof. Rattan Lal, Ohio State University (USA),
Pre-recorded

14:30-14:45

Soil Health Restoration for Sustainable Food and Nutrition Security: APNI Vision 2030

Dr. Kaushik Majumdar, APNI

14:45-15:00


Continental Initiative for Fertilizer and Soil Health: The 10-year Africa Union Action Plan and Delivery Strategy

Dr. Manyewu Matumba, African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)

15:00-15:15

Insights and Lessons Regional Hub for Fertilizer and Soil Health for West Africa and the Sahel

Dr. Shamie Zingore, APNI





15:15-15:30

Coalition of Implementers: A Strategic Partnership for Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan Implementation Support

Mr. Larry Umunna, Coalition for Implementers for Fertilizers and Soil Health (CIFSH)

15:30-15:45

From Potential Benefits to Global Impact: Unleashing Africa's Soil Potential with Conservation Agriculture

Dr. Rachid Mrabet, INRA Morocco, WASWAC Councilor & Former Deputy President

15:45-16:00

DISCUSSION SESSION 1

16:00-16:30

COFFEE BREAK AND PARTICIPANTS' PHOTO

16:30-16:45

SESSION 2: SOIL ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT FOR A RESILIENT LANDSCAPE IN AFRICA

Moderator Session 2: **Pr. Rachid Bouabid, ENA Meknes**

Decision support tools for assessing soil degradation and monitoring restoration measures

Dr. José Alfonso Gomez, CSIC-UCO Cordoba (Spain) and WASWAC Councilor

16:45-17:00

Promoting Soil Health and Livelihood Opportunities in Degraded Landscapes: The Case of UCCP

Dr. James Mutegi, APNI

17:00-17:15

Carbon Sequestration: Serving the Dual Purpose of Climate Change Mitigation and Food Security

Prof. Ngoni Chirinda, UM6P

17:15-17:30

From Soil to Survival in the Global South: Building Climate Resilience through Healthy Soils

Dr. Sudarshan Dutta, OCP Nutricrops

17:30-18:00

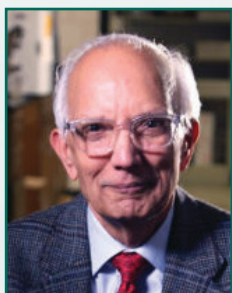
DISCUSSION SESSION 2 AND GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

18:00

CLOSING APNI'S SESSION AND DEPARTURE OF PARTICIPANTS



Voices Behind the RISE–SWC 2025 Conference



Dr. Rattan Lal

Professor and Director, Ohio State University's CFAES Rattan Lal Center, USA

Dr. Lal has authored 1000+ journal articles and 100+ books. He holds honorary degrees from nine universities and has received major awards, including the World Food Prize (2020) and India's Padma Shri (2021). He has led global soil science organizations and served on the 2021 UN Food Security Summit Science Committee.



Dr. Kaushik Majumdar

Director General, African Plant Nutrition Institute (APNI), Benguerir – Morocco

Dr. Kaushik Majumdar is the Director General of the African Plant Nutrition Institute based in Morocco. He was the Vice President and Coordinator of the Asia and Africa Programs of the International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI) before joining APNI.

Dr. Majumdar has a Ph.D. in Soil Mineralogy/Soil Chemistry from Rutgers University, U.S.A. His current research interest is in precision crop nutrition for climate resilience and soil health in smallholder production systems, and how better plant nutrition can translate to better human health outcomes. Dr. Majumdar has co-authored over 100 peer-reviewed publications, book chapters, scientific and popular articles.



Dr. Manyweu Mutamba

Acting Head of Agriculture, AUDA-NEPAD, Johannesburg – South Africa

Dr. Manyweu Mutamba leads the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) at AUDA-NEPAD, advancing food security, land restoration, and climate-smart agriculture. With 20+ years across Africa, Asia, and Latin America, he has shaped policies and investments that strengthen climate resilience and rural development.



Dr. Shamie Zingore

Director of Research & Development, African Plant Nutrition Institute (APNI), Benguerir, Morocco

Dr. Zingore is an internationally recognized expert in soil fertility, he pioneered the 4R Nutrient Stewardship program in Africa. With over two decades of research, he has advanced innovations in nutrient management, use efficiency, and smallholder farming systems, shaping major R&D investments and policies on food security, land restoration, and climate resilience.



Larry Umunna

Executive Director, Coalition of Implementors for Fertilizers and Soil Health, Abidjan – Ivory Coast

Larry Umunna leads the Coalition of Implementors for Fertilizers and Soil Health. Formerly West Africa Regional Director at TechnoServe and Country Director for Nigeria, he has over two decades of experience building public-private partnerships that improve agricultural markets, nutrition, and sustainable livelihoods across Sub-Saharan Africa.



Dr. Rachid Mrabet

Research Director, INRA Morocco, Rabat

Dr. Rachid Mrabet is Research Director at Morocco's National Institute of Agricultural Research (INRA). With 30+ years in conservation agriculture and dryland agronomy, he has led national and international collaborations on soil health, water conservation, and climate-smart farming, including contributions to the IPCC AR6 WGIII on Agriculture and Land Use.



Dr. José Alfonso Gómez Calero

Research Scientist, CSIC – Institute for Sustainable Agriculture, Córdoba – Spain

Dr. Gómez Calero specializes in soil and water conservation for Mediterranean systems, especially olives and vineyards. He has coordinated major EU research programs on erosion control, hydrology, and sustainable land management and authored 130+ peer-reviewed publications.



Dr. James Mutegi

Senior Scientist, African Plant Nutrition Institute (APNI), Kenya – Nairobi

Dr. James Mutegi is an agronomist focused on soil fertility, nutrient management, and climate change. He has coordinated regional soil health and fertilizer initiatives across Eastern and Southern Africa and co-authored numerous scientific papers, manuals, and training resources for sustainable agriculture.



Dr. Sudarshan Dutta

Lead Agronomist (India), Agoro Carbon Alliance

Dr. Dutta leads carbon farming implementation and sustainable nutrient management in India. Formerly at APNI and IPNI, he has 15+ years working with smallholder systems across Africa and Asia, translating research into best practices and capacity building for improved soil health and productivity.



Prof. Ngonidzashe Chirinda

Assistant Professor, UM6P; Coordinator, Africa Carbon Flagship Programme, Benguerir – Morocco

Prof. Chirinda's work centers on soil carbon, greenhouse gas mitigation, and climate-smart agriculture. He contributes to international expert panels, including IPCC processes, and has published widely on sustainable land management and emissions reduction in agriculture.

THE 6TH WASWAC World Conference

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