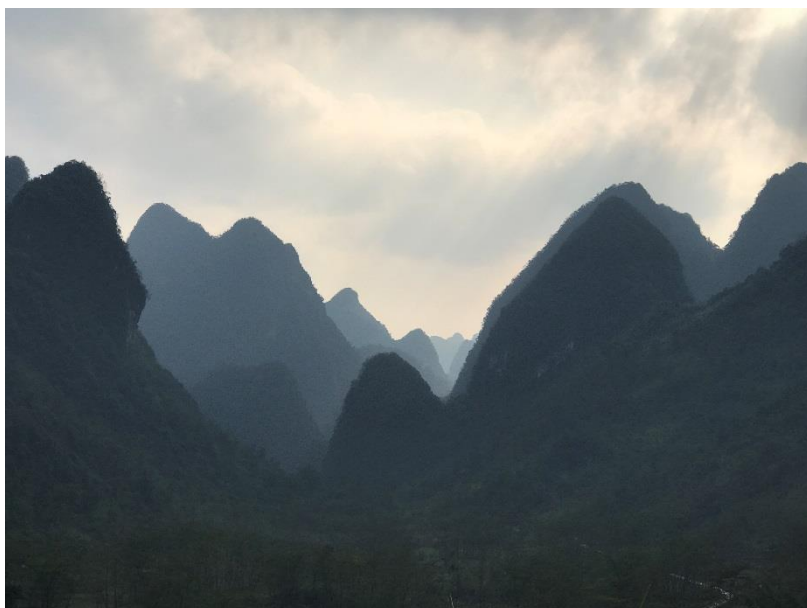




WORLD ASSOCIATION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

HOT NEWS

Issue 01, 2017



WASWAC HOT NEWS No. 01, January, 2017

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Cover photo: Karst area glance in Hechi, Guangxi Province, China.

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For ISWCR paper submission:

<http://www.journals.elsevier.com/international-soil-and-water-conservation-research/>

WASWAC Website: www.waswac.org

WASWAC New Website is being established

We are sorry to inform all our members that attacked by the hacker(s), our official website www.waswac.org was damaged serious, all information released after September of 2015 was lost.



In addition, the background system could not connected to the website, this means that our website can not be renewed, all operations to manage this website do not get response. So we decide to re-establish a new wesite with safer technologies. We have entrusted a website construction company to design, this may take about a month, the new website is expected to be finished by the end of March. We are so regret about this. Any important news we will send to our members by email during this period. Any suggestions or queries please feel free to let us know by our official email waswac@vip.163.com or waswac@foxmail.com.

**Prime Importance on Conservation, Development and
Management of Fresh Water, Land and Soil
- Call of the Day in the interest of the Civilizations**

By P.K.Mandal

Rtd. Additional Director of Agriculture, Govt of West Bengal, India

The 1st Asian Conference on Water and Land Management for Food and Livelihood Security was held in the Indira Gandhi Krishi Viswavidyalaya, at Raipur of Chhattisgarh State in India during 20-22/01/2017. This conference was organised jointly by the Indira Gandhi Agricultural University and the Soil Conservation Society of India. In perspective to the 3 days long conference, many important outcomes were mentioned, which will be very useful and helpful for policy establishment, and for plans and programmes implementation in the interest of the Civilization.

(1) soil erosion in many forms have been accelerated, such as Splash, Sheet, Rill, Gully, Ravine, Stream bank erosion, Slip erosion, Land slide and Sand ladening on table land, etc. High rate of sediment yield happened then rendering these lands out of farming because of their decreased fertility and productivity as well as decreased area; (2) deposition of eroded soil and spoils in the surface water bodies have been decreasing their water holding capacity, deposition in to the river bed has been reducing its depth but increasing width by eating the bank, causing spate of flush water on the adjoining land; (3) increase in intensity, recurrence and spatial expanse of Drought and Floods, which destroy the standing crops and production; (4) decreased groundwater recharge due to increasing overland flow of rain water in to the rivers; (5) decreased quantum of surface storage of fresh water due to decreased storage capacity of the surface water bodies thereby reducing the surface irrigation water for agriculture; (6) over-exploitation of ground water resulting in fast

depletion of this important resource, although in fact is reservoir for drinking purposes; (7) declining arable land area due to its diversion to non-farming purposes, resulting less production. (8) the main source of fresh water is the rain water which is retained over-land in surface water bodies as well as underground aquifer. The demand by volume of useable in-land water is increasing day by day for both agricultural and non-agricultural purposes. The need of industrial water, drinking water and other urban uses are mainly met from the underground aquifer. This causing over draft, alarming the situation. (9) urbanization is encroaching the arable land and also over drafting the ground water, (11) brick making with the top soil of the arable land is dwindling the productivity of the crops, (10) physiography of many lands are changing making these unfit for any kind of use less to speak of, as well as for farming and (11) environmental degradation by ignition of smoke, release of effluents from urban areas and heavy industries, increase of air temperature by burning of fossil solid, liquid fuel, (12) frustrating the obligation and responsibility in the projects meant for Soil and Water Conservation, (13) some where paddy lands are being converted exclusively for large size fishery called verdi (vast water body filed with ground water in summer months) round the years, which were under fish-cum-paddy culture in rainy season, which is one of the reasons for decrease of crop area and production of agricultural commodities and depletion of ground water with threat to environment, (14) melting of ice caps of the Hills, rise of sea level due to increase of air temperature and out of the melting water of the ice caps.

The measures will be need. There is nothing alternative of food and other essential agricultural commodities which are produced on the land and fertile soil with optimum water for the survival of the mankind and animals. In addition to the existing starvation and malnutrition suffers of the world, along with the increase of population the demand of the cereals, oil seeds, pulses, vegetables, sugar, commercial crops, fodder, fruits, medicinal plants, raw materials of agri-based industries, structural materials, aesthetics etc, many others are in the rise day by

day. Food (Cereals and Pulses) is the prime importance, which is produced on prime farm land having good soil. Apart from the human consumable essential commodities, feed for domestic animals produced from the farm land. Only a 2.5 cm thick layer of soil is formed from the parent rock by natural processes in a long span of 800- 1000 years. Arable soil on the land is the foundation and entire agriculture is the superstructure on it. If the foundation becomes weak, fragile and inadequate, the entire superstructure becomes threatened and collapses at any time. The land area is limited and non-expandable. Lands should be protected from accelerated degradation, degraded lands and soil on it should be upgraded by reclamation. Rain water should be retained in all the elevations so that it can not rush down by devastating the lower reaches but is compelled to retain in situ as well as recharge to the ground water aquifer. There is future for indefinite period for the succeeding generation of human being. As such, soil conservation is the crux of the day to combat the situation and the only solution.

Awareness generation about the priority of Soil & water conservation. There should be a clarion call to generate awareness to give real emphasis on the integrated soil and water conservation, rather plot to plot soil and water conservation in order to upgrade the degraded lands and soils to resist degradation of land and soil, conserve rain water in inland both in surface and in ground to build and maintain a strong and firm foundation of Agriculture as well as non-agriculture for the present and for the future. This should be given the top agenda now in all programs and schemes.

Programmes to be revived and launched. While above is the distressed picture, the National and State Governments should take such measures through policy, plan augmenting new schemes and reviving the closed schemes. In national level, the concerned Ministry should revive the closed Soil & Water conservation Schemes in plains and hills, Desert and Plateau development projects, Detailed Soil Survey, Land Use and Conservation Planning, celebration of National Land Resource Conservation week, training of technologists and farmers etc. The cost norm or unit

of works should be enough for the real saturation of the treatment area through mechanical and vegetative and cultural Soil and Water Conservation measures. The misery cost norm should not prevail, that will again be wastage of all. Hence, liberal cost norm should be provisioned. Enough Budgetary fund should be allotted and released for real expenditure.

Year of Integrated Soil and water Conservation. Let the forthcoming year be the year of Integrated Soil and water Conservation. May it be voiced clarion call “Agriculture is the super culture of all the cultures in the World. Conserve Land, Soil, fresh water for nourishing People, Plants and Animals and for survival of the Civilization”. Unless enough and productive land/soils and fresh water are available, the full success for food security can hardly be achieved. Therefore, the Governments may consider afresh to launch a development programme exclusively for “Natural Resources Conservation (Soil and Water Conservation) Mission”. It is very much relevant that the entire Soil & Water Conservation operation is densely labour intensive and environment friendly, also environment refreshing, in other words protection and deriving production therefrom.

The official functionary is needed. Strong official organization should be established with the specialized enough number of technical personnel who will transform education, undertake research and transmit the established practices to the land owners and users and will plan, design, formulate and implement the schemes. Once resources will be built up then, industry, agriculture, non-agriculture etc. can be accommodated thereon. Governments should established such functionary at National, State/Provincial, District, Sub-Division/Taluka, Block and Ground level maintaining a line of hierarchy on the principle of responsibility and authority should be co-terminus. If strong set up of functionary is build up then only vertical development will be possible in all respects.

Human Resource deployment. Right man in right place is fruitful for handling the appropriate matter. What is further realized that, enough human resources and

technologies on Soil and Water Conservation/Agriculture are in stock as the products/come out from the of the Agricultural Universities and Research Organizations of International, National and Regional spheres. These human resources, technology and tools should be deployed and mobilized. The prime need now is the strengthened official functionary manned from very ground level to the national level to transform those and to ensure food security as well as to generate all other bio-commodities.

Dissemination of know-how and feed back of performance of evolved technologies, tools and farm machineries. It is observed that, in the scientific conference, seminars, symposium participants and speakers are mostly of scientists, teachers, research scholars. The discussion and deliberations on the know-how are confined among them. These are to be transmitted and disseminated to the field functionary technologists and validated by them, the researchers, guides are to know the performance for further exercise. But, mostly, their participation is very less. Its is necessary to ensure, their participation. The Government departments are urged to depute their related employees to participate in the scientific conference, seminars, symposium or the better quantitative and quantitative output.

Base level education in agriculture includes soil and water conservation. Agriculture discipline should be introduced in school education in Higher Secondary courses like Pure Science and Biological Science. Somewhere vocational Agriculture course exists. But that does not serve the purpose.

The spread and gravity of the situation are widespread, not confined in one country. Hence, it is urged that, some international organizaions should be considered this like Millennium Development Goals, “Natural Resources Conservation (Soil and Water Conservation) Mission” may launched world wide on its EXTENSION, RESEARCH AND EDUCATION.

COMING MEETINGS



SESSION during the EGU 2017 General Assembly, April 23-28 2017, Vienna, Austria

SSS1 – History, Education and Society of Soil Science, Taxonomy

Division SSS – Soil System Sciences.

Contributions that show new educational approaches, cooperation with other disciplines and efforts to improve sustainability are of interest.



**European Geosciences Union
General Assembly 2017**

Vienna | Austria | 23–28 April 2017

EGU.eu



SSS1.8

The contribution of the Soil Science Societies to scientific knowledge, education and sustainability

See here: <http://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU2017/session/23790>

1st World Conference on Soil and Water Conservation under Global Change (CONSOWA)



See here: www.consowalleida2017.com

GeoMEast2017

15 ~ 19 July 2017, Sharm El-Sheik, Egypt

Host Organizations



Soil-Structure Interaction Group in Egypt (SSIGE)



Housing and Building Research Center, HBRC



Geo-Institute of HBRC



Egyptian Geotechnical Society (EGS)



Egyptian Tunneling Society (ETS)

GeoMEast 2017 will provide a showcase for recent developments and advancements in design, construction, and safety Inspections of transportation Infrastructures and offer a forum to discuss and debate future directions for the 21st century.

The proceedings of GeoMEast 2017 will be published in some Edited Books by Springer-DE, which will be indexed in EI and submitted for inclusion in ISI "Thomson Reuters". In addition, some journal special issues will be published in some prestigious journals from selected best papers of the conference; including the: Innovative Infrastructure Solutions, Springer & International Journal of Geosynthetics and Ground Engineering, Springer & Environmental Geotechnics, ICE; however, authors need to expand and include materials that are at least 50% different than the accepted papers in the proceedings.

The program will include Podium Presentations, Poster Presentations, Keynote Lectures, Workshops, Courses, Awards, Technical Meetings, and Technical and Social Tours.

Simultaneous translation may be provided during the conference in Arabic, English, French, German, Russian and any other required languages.

Details at: <http://www.geomeast2017.org/>



- Mid-day workshop, 10:00am—2:30pm
- Wednesday, March 22nd, 2017
- At **PETERSEN FARMS OF RUSH CITY INC**, 6596 525th St, Rush City MN 55069
- Lunch will be served
- Presenters include Jay Fuhrer, USDA-NRCS Soil Health Specialist and area farmers
- Learn about soil health, practical applications for corn and soybean producers, strip-tillage success, cover crop options, and more!

Please **RSVP** to Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District by Friday,
March 17th, 2017 at 651-674-2333

For more information, contact Craig Mell at craig.mell@mn.nacdnet.net



INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

Soil Classification: a powerful tool for planning Soil Conservation

July 21, 2017

Riga, Latvia

Organized by



and by

Latvijas Augsnes zinātnes biedrība
Soil Science Society of Latvia



**LATVIJAS
UNIVERSITATE**
UNIVERSITY OF LATVIA
ANNO 1919

Please, save the date.

The second circular will be sent before the end of February 2017



Details at: <http://www.azb.lu.lv/eng/>

SYMPOSIUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND DROUGHTS RESILIENCE IN AFRICA

**Integrating Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies
to Enhance Food Security in the African Continent**
Nairobi, Kenya, 16th-18th October 2017

DEADLINES

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 30th March 2017

Deadline for submission of papers: 30th June 2017

Deadline for the submission of revised papers: 30th July 2017

Deadline for registrations: 30th August 2017

Since the conference book is expected to be launched shortly after the event, the deadlines need to be followed.

CONTACT POINTS FOR SCIENTIFIC INPUTS AND STRATEGIC COOPERATION

All questions related to scientific inputs and strategic partnerships, as well as the book, should be sent to:

Walter Leal (BSc, PhD, DSc, DPhil, DEd, DLitt, FSB, FRGS, FLS)

Professor of Environment and Technology

Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (Germany) and Manchester Metropolitan University (UK)

E-mail: info@iccip.net

and/ or

Izael Da Silva, Strathmore University - Strathmore Energy Research Centre, Kenya

E-mail: idasilva@strathmore.edu

CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATION AND CONTACT POINT FOR FURTHER DETAILS

All questions related to abstracts and registrations should be sent to:

Svenja Scheday

International Climate Change Information Programme

E-mail: svenja.scheday@haw-hamburg.de

More Changes to Cover Crop Guidelines

Many of you are seeding cover crops on your operation to improve soil health, increase forage options for livestock or both, without any involvement or reward from the government.

But for those of you who have crop insurance policies, you may have found trying to get your cover crop program in harmony with federal rules has been a bumpy ride. But there have been some changes recently. The Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Risk Management Agency (RMA) have updated termination and reporting guidelines for cover crops, according to a December 2016 USDA Bulletin. To view the zones and additional guidelines, www.nrcs.usda.gov and click “Cover Crop Termination Guidelines.”

Here are some highlights:

- ✚ The intended use of cover only will be used to report cover crops. This includes crops that were terminated by tillage and reported with an intended use code of green manure.
- ✚ An FSA policy change will allow cover crops to be hayed and grazed. Program eligibility for the cover crop that is being hayed or grazed will be determined by each specific program, the USDA says. If the crop reported as cover only is harvested for any use other than forage or grazing and is not terminated properly, then that crop will no longer be considered a cover crop.
- ✚ Crops reported with an intended use of cover only will not count toward the total cropland on the farm. In these situations a subsequent crop will be reported to account for all cropland on the farm.
- ✚ A cover crop managed and terminated according to NRCS Cover Crop Termination Guidelines isn't considered a crop for crop insurance purposes. Cover crops can be planted with no subsequent crop planted, before a subsequent crop, after prevented planting acreage, after a planted crop, or into a standing crop.

Ryan Stockwell, senior agriculture program manager for the National Wildlife Federation, says it's important to clarify what all of the language means —namely, that farmers may plant a cover crop into a standing crop as long as the insured crop can be expected to reach average yield.

“Also, one important point not stated in the fact sheet is that weather-caused delays in termination are not grounds for ineligibility for crop insurance,” he adds.

“Weather must be taken out of the equation when determining the termination of a cover crop, or if a cover crop interferes with the growth of an insured crop. Simply put, cover crops cannot be blamed for bad weather.”

The rules certainly aren't perfect, and Stockwell rightly points out that covers are the only agronomic practice in which RMA has created specific rules tied to eligibility, “even though scientific research is conclusively showing cover crops pose less risk to yield loss than other practices.”

But I certainly hope enough of these conflicts with crop insurance have been minimized that it's not stopping too many no-tillers from at least experimenting with covers.

Copy from: <https://www.no-tillfarmer.com/blogs/1/post/6383-more-changes-to-cover-crop-guidelines>

Call for nominations for the UNCCD Land for Life Award

The UNCCD Secretariat has the pleasure to invite qualified nominators to propose outstanding candidates that demonstrate qualities and results that have been contributing to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality goal at national or international level following certain selection criteria. They are in particular interested in potential nominees who have been contributing significantly to solve or reduce the issue of forced migration due to environmental degradation. Deadline:

28 February 2017

Details at:

<http://www.unccd.int/en/programmes/Event-andcampaigns/LandForLife/Pages/2017-Land-for-LifeAward.aspx>

VACANCIES

1. ENIGMA Innovative Training Network: 15 PhD positions



The ENIGMA Innovative Training Network offers 15 PhD positions (see the list next page) to talented and enthusiastic students holding a relevant Master degree (or equivalent) starting preferably before July 2017.

ENIGMA will train researchers in the development of innovative methods for exploring process dynamics in subsurface hydrosystems, in order to enhance understanding and predictive modelling capacities. ENIGMA is a consortium of high profile universities, research institutions and companies located in France, Spain, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden, USA and UK.


ENIGMA is seeking highly qualified and motivated students with a strong background in geophysics, hydrology, hydrogeology, hydrogeophysics, biogeochemistry, microbiology, soil physics or a related discipline.

The successful PhD candidates will conduct the research work in 2 or 3 institutions, in collaboration with industrial partners. She/he will have access to the most advanced field infrastructures across Europe and will benefit from the ITN resources to develop her/his research.

We are now inviting outstanding students to apply as PhD candidates!

Applicants should apply through the website with a motivation letter for up to 3 PhD topics (see website for further details), a CV with relevant documentation, and names of at least two referees.

We offer:

 Cutting-edge research projects

- + A training program tailored to the needs of each student
- + Network-wide events with 5 Workshops and a Summer School
- + Friendly and multi-disciplinary environment
- + Attractive salary in accordance with the MSCA regulations
- + Excellent career opportunities

There will be a round of evaluation between March 25th, 2017 and March 31st, 2017.

There will be one other evaluation process in June 2017.

Candidates can continuously apply until **June 2017**.

Candidates can apply even if they have not already finished their Master. They just need to graduate before September 2017.

Details at: <http://www.earthworks-jobs.com/geoscience/itnenigma17011.html>

2. Research Assistant - salary grade E13 TV-L Berliner Hochschulen - 2nd qualification period (PostDoc) (Hydrogeologist, Geoecologist, Soil Physist)



part-time employment may be possible

The Chair of Hydrogeology of the Institute of Applied Geosciences investigates the complex behaviour of dissolved constituents and microorganisms in the environment and deals with the management of water resources in hydrologically sensitive regions. Selected candidate shall be integrated into a young interdisciplinary research group.

Faculty VI - Institute of Applied Geo Sciences / Hydrogeology

Reference number: VI-25/17 (starting at 01/04/17 / for a period of 3 years / closing date for applications 03/03/17)

Working field: Research and teaching at the Chair of Hydrogeology in the field of numerical modeling at laboratory and field scale. The candidate shall have the

opportunity to set up her/his own group in the modeling field, which includes the acquisition of own research funding. He/She shall teach courses in the field of hydrogeology and contribute to the supervision of undergraduate, graduate, and PhD students. The candidate will have the opportunity to improve her/his skills in supervising a group of young scientists.

Requirements: Successfully completed university degree (Master, Diplom or equivalent) and PhD in hydrogeology, geoecology or soil physics. Suitable candidates will have a PhD and an excellent research record in one of the above disciplines. The scientist shall have elaborate experience in the field of the mathematical modelling of flow and transport processes in soil and groundwater. The scientist shall have extensive experience in one or several of the following fields:

- ✚ Reactive mass transport modelling and hydrogeochemical modelling
- ✚ Hydrological modelling and data assimilation
- ✚ Simulation of heterogeneous systems and up-scaling
- ✚ High performance computing and uncertainty analysis

In addition to the scientific qualifications, the candidates shall be capable of developing their own codes and expand existing software. Further information can be obtained from Prof. Dr. Irina Engelhardt, E-Mail: irina.engelhardt@tu-berlin.de. Please send your written application with the reference number and the usual documents (in particular letter of motivation, mail contacts of two references) to Technische Universität Berlin – Der Präsident – Fakultät VI, Institut für Angewandte Geowissenschaften, FG Hydrogeologie, Frau Prof. Dr. Engelhardt, Sekr. BH-N 3-2, Ernst-Reuter-Platz 1, 10587 Berlin.

To ensure equal opportunities between women and men, applications by women with the required qualifications are explicitly desired.

Qualified individuals with disabilities will be favored.

Please send copies only. Original documents will not be returned.

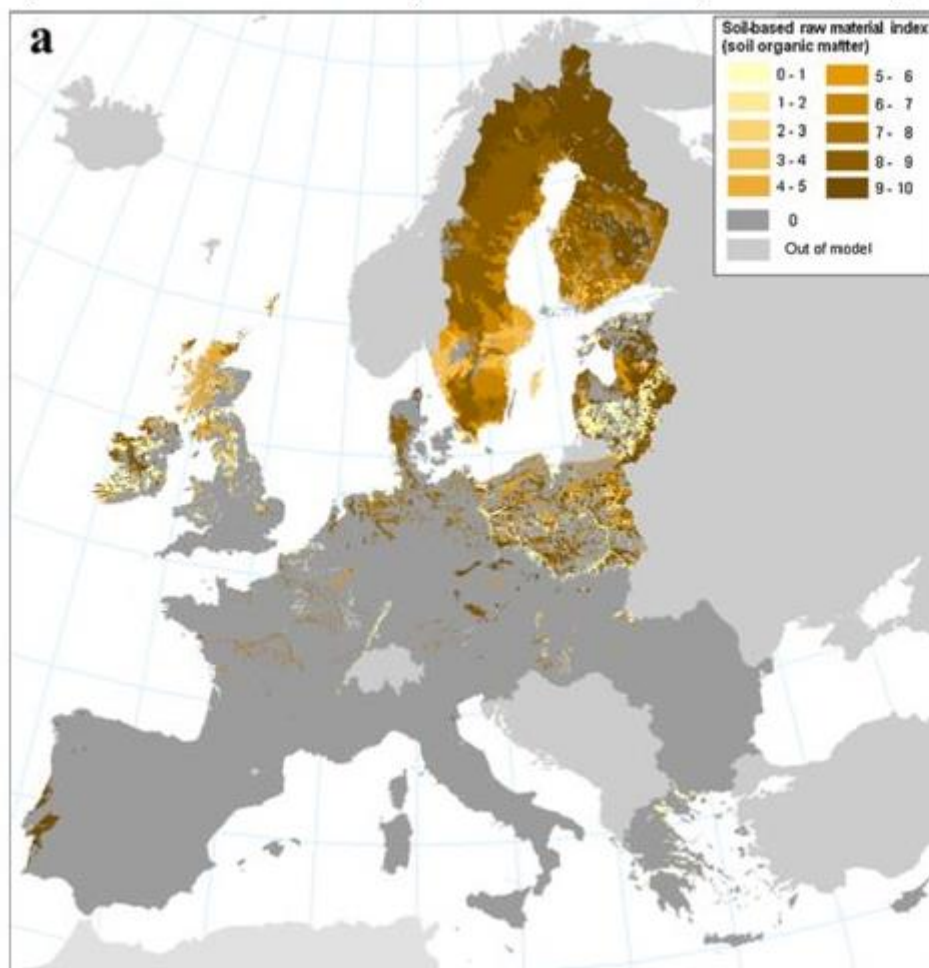
The vacancy is also available on the internet at

<http://www.personalabteilung.tu-berlin.de/menue/jobs>

Maps indicating the availability of Raw Material from soils in the EU

This dataset (maps) indicates the availability of Raw Material (organic soil material and soil material for constructions) from soils in the European Union.

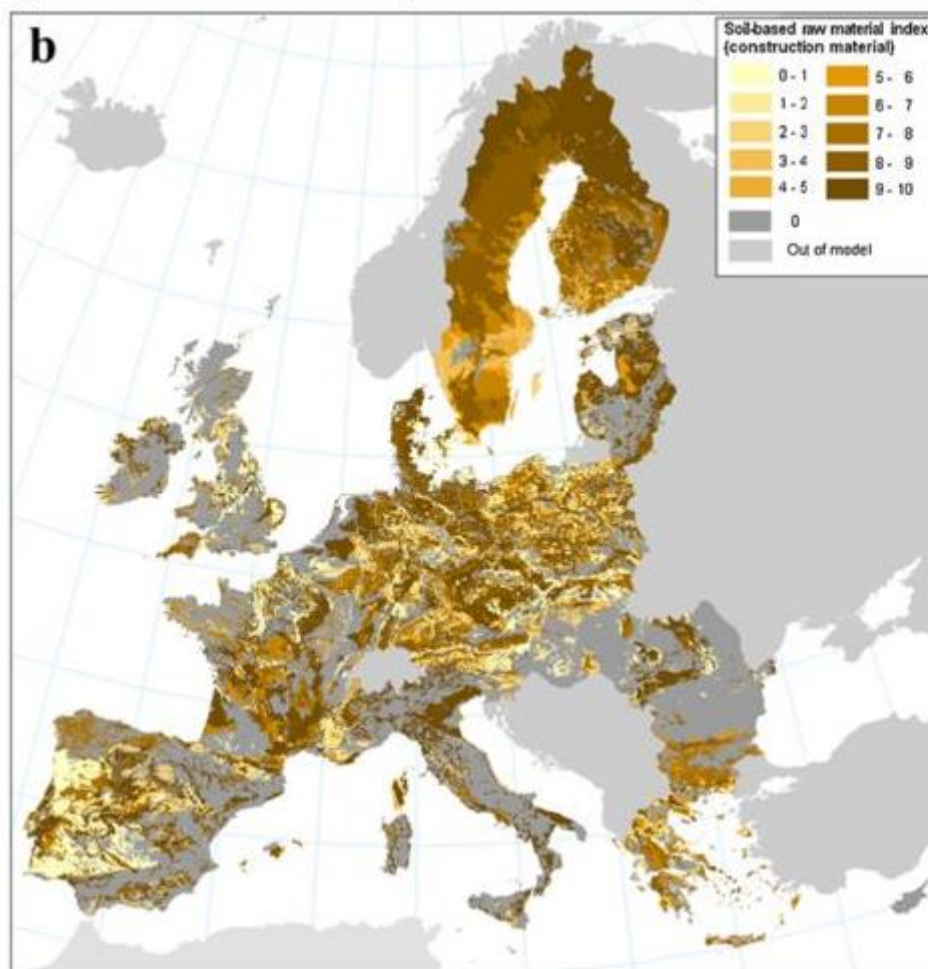
Figure A: Raw material availability from soils of the European Union. Organic soil material



Raw material provisioning of the mapping units was calculated on the basis of the proportional shares of the Soil Typological Units (STUs) with raw material content in the area of each mapping unit. Once again it is important to stress that geological maps showing availability of materials worthwhile for human use that are present below the soil cover were not considered in this assessment and might show a very different pattern. The result of the assessment is presented in the figures A and B (see below). It is well acknowledged that this first approximation to highlight the availability of soil-born raw materials on the continental scale might be biased (1) by the classification of soil materials of human interest for excavation and (2) by the

thematic and geographic limitations of the dataset. However, the attempt to consider the main human activities that require materials of soil origin and to map the locations where those materials are available on a continental scale provides new insight to this field of research. These maps showing a continental overview can suggest opportunities for raw material extraction from soil which can serve current or future needs for a number of applications, such as construction and the health industry (soil organic matter). The maps show that northern and north-eastern Europe have large stocks for both applications, while most other regions of the continent do not have large reserves of soil organic matter but are generally well suited for extraction of construction materials, with substantial intraregional differences."

Figure B: Raw material availability from soils of the European Union. Soil material for constructions



Details at: <http://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/content/map-indicating-availability-raw-material-soils-european-union-organic-soil-material-b-soil>



WASWAC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM (Issued 120501)

(For applicants from all countries)

Name: (Ms./Mrs./Mr./Prof./Dr.) Gender: ☐F ☐M
Institution:
Postal address:
State/Province: Zip/Postal code: Country:
Phone: Fax:
Emails (Please give at least 2 addresses to ensure uninterrupted contact): (1)
(2) (3)
My specialized field(s):
Please sign me up for the WASWAC membership in category*: ☐1(IM)☐2(LM)☐3(OM)☐4(SM&GM)
Membership for the year(s) @US\$ = US\$
Donation for developing country membership, etc. US\$
Donation to the Moldenhauer Fund US\$
Total US\$

***Membership categories & rates** from July 18, 2005, amended March 3, 2007 and March 4, 2010.

- 1.** IM (Individual membership): US\$20 for 5 years for developing countries (In China, members pay 150 yuan RMB); US\$40 for 5 years for developed countries and persons working in international organizations worldwide.
- 2.** LM (Life membership): US\$80 for developing countries (In China, members pay 550 yuan RMB); US\$160 for developed countries and persons working in international organizations worldwide. Persons who have passed their 60th birthday pay only half of these LM rates.
- 3.** OM (Organization membership): For universities, research and implemental institutions, government agencies, NGOs, societies, associations and international organizations, etc. Persons belonging to an Organization member will receive the same online products and services as the other two above categories: \$100/year for an organization with up to 150 persons; \$150/year for an organization with up to 300 persons; \$200/year for an organization with up to 500 persons; and \$10/year for an additional 100 persons or part thereof.
- 4.** SM&GM (Student membership & Gift membership): US\$5/year worldwide, to be purchased to give to colleagues, friends, students, etc.

For sending money by foreign wires through a bank, please give the following information to your bank:

Name of Receiver (A/C Holder's Name): World Association of Soil and Water Conservation

Bank Name and Address: China Construction Bank, Shoutinanlu Branch, Beijing, China, No. 9 Shoutinanlu Street, Haidian District, Beijing, P R China

A/C NO.: 1100 1042 7000 5301 6996

Message to write on the Bank Sheet: WASWAC Membership due for Ms./Mrs./Mr./Prof./Dr., Country

NOTE: **1.** Do not deduct the bank fee from the amount of money to send. **2.** For sending money by wire/bank transfer or check please add US\$7 per transaction to compensate for the charge at the receiving bank in Beijing. This additional charge does not apply for **WESTERN UNION** or any payment of US\$50 or more.