



## **World Soil Day Celebration**

### **Be the Solution to Soil Pollution**

**Monday, 3 December 2018 (13:15-14:30)**

**Conference Room 12 UN Headquarters, New York**

On 20 December 2013, the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly designated **5 December** as World Soil Day (WSD). Soil, like air and water, is fundamental for life on earth. Although there is an intrinsic association of food production with soils, they also provide us with clean water, fuel, building materials, fiber, habitat, medicines and nutrients.

Taking note of the importance of soils for food security and nutrition, food safety, sustainable development and human health, the theme for the World Soil Day celebration 2018 is “Be the solution to soil pollution”. Soil pollution affect the food we eat, the water we drink, the air we breathe, our health and the health of all the organisms in the planet. Human activities are the major source of soil pollution.

We continue to use more, and we are exposed to thousands of chemicals in our everyday lives, and tons of urban, industrial and agricultural waste end up in our soils. Further damage to this precious resource would hamper efforts to provide enough and healthy food. All stakeholders need to take action in order to become a solution to soil pollution.

This year’s World Soil Day celebration at the United Nations Headquarters in New York will take place on Monday, 3 December 2018, in an event co-hosted by the Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations and the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The observance will pay special tribute to His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, a soil scientist and advocate for sustainable soil management, on whose birthday World Soil Day is celebrated.

World Soil Day is a major platform to raise awareness at the international, regional and national levels about the essential role of soils for human life. This event in New York will celebrate World Soil Day 2018 as part of the efforts to promote sustainable soil management, which support our path towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.