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The « 4 per 1000 »
Asia-Pacific Regional Conference
on
Soil Health to address Climate Change & Food Security

19th to 22nd September 2023
Kanha Shanti Vanam (Hyderabad, India)

With the support of



And in partnership with



Agenda

(Draft updated on 12 September 2023)

Day 1	
Tuesday, 19 September 2023	
18:00	Welcome cocktail, Arrival of participants

Day 2	
Wednesday, 20 September 2023	
08:30 to 09:00	Registration, Opening of the Posters exhibition, Networking
09:00 to 11:00	Inauguration and opening session (high level policy participation)

Inauguration under the High patronage and in presence of:

Honourable Shri Kailash Choudhary, Minister of State of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, India

OR:

Honourable Sushri Shobha Karandlaje, Minister of State of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, India

- ✓ Honourable Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, India → to be confirmed.
- ✓ Honourable Damien O'Connor, Minister of Agriculture, Minister for Biosecurity, Minister for Land Information, Minister for Trade and Export Growth, Associate Minister of Transport, New-Zealand [Video] → to be confirmed.
- ✓ Honourable Tang Renjian, Minister of Agriculture & Rural Affairs, MARA (Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Affairs), People's Republic of China → to be confirmed.
- ✓ Honourable Sakiasi Raisevu Ditoka, Minister for Rural, Maritime Development & Disaster Management, Fiji
- ✓ Honourable Kamlesh D. Patel, affectionately known as Daaji, Spiritual Guide, Heartfulness Institute, India
- ✓ Mr. Thierry Berthelot, Consul General of France in Bangalore (States of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana), India
- ✓ Ms. Ingeborg Bayer, Counsellor Food and Agriculture, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, India
- ✓ Khun Chayaditt Hutanuwatra, Advisory of Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand → to be confirmed.
- ✓ Mr. Takayuki Hagiwara, FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) Representative in India [Video] → to be confirmed.
- ✓ Dr Himanshu Pathak, Director General, ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research), India

- ✓ **Dr Mangi Lal Jat, Global Research Program Director, RFFS (Resilient Farm and Food Systems), ICRISAT (International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics), India**
- ✓ **Dr Praveen Rao, Former Vice Chancellor, PJTSAU (Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University), on behalf of TAAS (Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences), India**
- ✓ **Ms. Joanna Kane-Potaka, Deputy Director General Strategy, Engagement & Impact, IRRI (International Rice Research Institute), The Philippines (OR: Dr. Sheetal Sharma, Senior Scientist Soil Science, Research Lead Digital Tools, Sustainable Impact Department, IRRI (International Rice Research Institute), India; OR: Other Senior Representative) → to be confirmed.**
- ✓ **The Alliance of Bioversity international & CIAT, local representative → to be confirmed.**
- ✓ **Mr. Shamik Trehan, CEO, Dr Reddy's Foundation, India (OR: Dr Suman Saraswat, Associate Director of Operations, Dr Reddy's Foundation, India)**
- ✓ **Mr. Anil Kumar SG, Founder & CEO, Samunnati Financial Intermediation and Services Private Limited, India**
- ✓ **Mr. Ranveer Chandra, Managing Director for Research for Industry & Chief Technical Officer of Agri-Food, Microsoft, India → to be confirmed.**
- ✓ **Dr Paul Luu, Executive Secretary of the international « 4 per 1000 » Initiative & President of the « 4 per 1000 » Asia-Pacific Regional Conference.**

11:00 to 11:30	Signature of documents to join the « 4 per 1000 » Initiative and other MoUs
11:30 to 12:00	Coffee break and Group photo
12:00 to 12:45	Keynote Speeches

- The importance of Soils and Soil Health at all levels:
Professor Rattan Lal, Professor of Soil Science, Ohio State University, USA [Video]
- The importance of Soils and Soil Health in Asia:
FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) GSP (Global Soil Partnership): Asia Soil Atlas [Video] → to be confirmed.
- The global level situation of Soil Health and the most promising developments:
Dr Ananya S Rao, Senior Scientist, Forests by Heartfulness, Heartfulness Institute & UNESCO MGIEP (Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development), India
- A successful example for landscape restoration at scale: The Heartfulness Green Initiative at Kanha Shanti Vanam:
Dr V. Ramakantha, Forests by Heartfulness, Leader of the Heartfulness Green Initiative, Heartfulness Institute, India

12:45 to 14:00	Lunch
14:00 to 18:00	The context in the Asia-Pacific region
14:00 to 15:45	Policy approaches to fostering Soil Health at national level and situation of the international « 4 per 1000 » Initiative in the region

- Keynote Speech
Mr. Kazuhiko Akiba, Deputy Director General for Technical and Environmental Affairs, MAFF (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries), Japan [Video] → to be confirmed.
- Presentations of national situations and solutions
 - “Advances in Soil Carbon and Soil Health Research in Asia” by **Dr Budiman Minasny, Professor in Soil-Landscape Modelling, University of Sydney, Australia; Member of the STC (Scientific and Technical Committee) of the « 4 per 1000 » Initiative**
 - “Soil Health situation and Research Advances in the Pacific area” by **Dr Beverley Henry, Adjunct Associate Professor, School of Biology and Environmental Science, Queensland University of Technology, Australia; Member of the STC (Scientific and Technical Committee) of the « 4 per 1000 » Initiative**
 - **Mr. Nitesh Kumar, India Program Lead, GGGI (Global Green Growth Institute), Republic of Korea**
 - Japan: **Mr. Keishi Okumura, Chief of the Sustainable Agriculture Division, MAFF (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries), Japan → to be confirmed.**
 - India: **Mr. Somesh Kumar, Chief Advisor to Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, Government of Telangana, India → to be confirmed.**
 - Indonesia: “Soil Health and Climate-Resilience and Low-Carbon Agriculture Development in Indonesia”, National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), The Republic of Indonesia, by **Dr Yiyi Sulaeman, Senior Soil Researcher, National Research, and Innovation Agency (BRIN), Republic of Indonesia; National focal point for the « 4 per 1000 » Initiative**
 - Fiji
 - Sri Lanka: Ministry of Agriculture, Foreign Training Unit, Sri Lanka → to be confirmed.
 - Australia → to be confirmed.
 - New-Zealand → to be confirmed.
 - Vietnam: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development → to be confirmed.
 - Cambodia: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries → to be confirmed.
 - The Philippines: Department of Agriculture → to be confirmed.
 - Mongolia → to be confirmed.
 - China → to be confirmed.
 - Thailand → to be confirmed.

15:45 to 16:15	Coffee break
16:15 to 18:00	The work of Farmers' and Foresters' Organizations, in the field, for Soil Health

- Keynote Speech GCAN [Video]
 - ✓ Farmers' and Foresters' Organizations insights
 - **IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements) - Organics International → to be confirmed.**
 - **Mr. Ramji Prasad Bhattarai, Director, Carbon Farmers of Nepal**
 - **Mr. Shailesh Kumar Acharya, Operation Manager, Carbon Farmers of Nepal, on: "Carbon farming initiative with smallholders in Nepal."**
 - **Mr. Nicolo Aberasturi, Earth Flora Inc, The Philippines, on: "Down To Earth. Real Food. Real Farmers. Producing clean, healthy food that's good for the people and for the planet."**
 - **Mr. Muhammad Usman Ali, Executive Director, Bajwa Family Ranch, Pakistan**
 - **Mr. Kariyawasam Majuwana Gamage Thilak, Executive Director, LOAM (Lanka Organic Agricultural Movement), Sri Lanka**
 - **Mr. Tim Marshall, Chair of the NASAA (National Association of Sustainable Agriculture Australia) → to be confirmed.**
 - **Organic and Regenerative Investment Cooperative, Australia → to be confirmed.**
 - **The Tribals, India → to be confirmed.**

18:00 to 18:10	Wrap-up Day 1
19:00 to 22:00	Reception dinner

Day 3	Thursday, 21 September 2023
9:00 to 10:45	Science context and findings in the Asia-Pacific region
	Monitoring, Reporting and Verification

- Keynote Speech

Dr Jagadeesh Yeluripati, Senior Scientist (Ecosystem Modelling), Group Leader, Human and Environmental Modelling group, Information and Computational Sciences Department, The James Hutton Institute, UK
- ✓ Presentations on MRV
 - **Dr Yiyi Sulaeman, Senior Soil Researcher, National Research, and Innovation Agency (BRIN), Republic of Indonesia, on: "Participatory Soil Health assessment at farmer's plot level: a lesson learned".**

- **Mr. Falguni Ganguly, Lead speaker, Digital Green, India**, on: “A MRV approach to support data driven decision making for smallholder farmers in Bihar, India - A Case Study.”
- **Dr. U. Surendran, Principal Scientist & Head, Land and Water Management Research Group, CWRDM (Centre for Water Resources Development and Management), India**, on: “Comparative analysis of the existing models of Carbon Credits estimation towards Developing a Framework for estimation of Carbon Credits in Agriculture.”
- **Mr. Praveen Pankajakshan, Vice President Data Science & Artificial Intelligence, Head of CropIn AI Labs, CropIn Technology, India.**

9:00 to 10:45	Science context and findings in the Asia-Pacific region
	Understanding of functional mechanisms of soil leading to Carbon sequestration

- Keynote Speech

Dr Mangi Lal Jat, Global Research Program Director, RFFS, ICRISAT, on behalf of TAAS (Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences), India, about: “Regenerative Agriculture for Soil Health, Food and Environment Security” organized by TAAS in June 2021”.

- ✓ Presentations on the functional mechanisms of soil leading to Carbon Sequestration

- **Dr Suresh Kumar Chaudhari, Deputy Director General (Natural Resource Management), ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research), India** → to be confirmed.
- **Dr Amaresh Kumar Nayak, Director, ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) - National Rice Research Institute, India**
- **Dr. Sheetal Sharma, Senior Scientist Soil Science, Research Lead Digital Tools, Sustainable Impact Department, IRRI (International Rice Research Institute), India**
- **Dr Suzanne Reynders, Head of International Priority Program Soil and Climate, INRAE [French National Research Institute], France**, on: “On the way towards a Soil Carbon International Research Consortium in line with the « 4 per 1000 » Strategic Objectives.”
- **Prof. Nandasiri Weerasinghe, Professor Emeritus, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka** [\[Video\]](#)
- **Dr Tika Bahadur Karki, Senior Scientist, Chief of the National Agronomy Research Center, Nepal Agricultural Research Council, President of ASON (Agronomy Society of Nepal)**
- **Ms. Wendy Umberger, Chief Executive Officer at ACIAR (Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research), Australia** → to be confirmed.

9:00 to 10:45	Science context and findings in the Asia-Pacific region
	Scientific evaluation of practices such as biochars, crop residus uses, etc.

- Keynote Speech
Prof. Jagdish Kumar Ladha, Ph.D., Adjunct Professor, Department of Plant Sciences, UC Davis University, USA; Member of the STC (Scientific and Technical Committee) of the « 4 per 1000 » Initiative, on: “Carbon and Nitrogen Management for Climate-Resilient Crop Production and UN SDG (United Nations Sustainable Development Goals) Achievement”.
- Presentations on the Scientific evaluation of practices such as biochars, crop residus uses, etc.
 - **Dr Tapan Jyoti Purakayastha, FNAAS, FFAST, FISS (Indian Society of Soil Science), IARI (Indian Agricultural Research Institute), India → to be confirmed.**
 - **Dr. Ayaka W. Kishimoto, (Principal Scientist) Division of Climate Change Mitigation, NIAES Research Institute for Agro-Environmental Sciences, NARO (National Agriculture and Food Research Organization), Japan**, on: "Scientific evaluation of Carbon Sequestration through biochar application" [\[Video\]](#) → to be confirmed.
 - **Mr. Ajay Kumar Mishra, Senior Associate Scientist - Soil Science, IRRI (International Rice Research Institute), The Philippines**, on: "Sustainable Natural Farming in South Asia: Enhancing Soil Carbon and Agricultural Resilience."
 - **Mr. Stephan Demmel, Consultant, Fandem Consulting, Belgium & Community Biomass, Indonesia**, on: “Community-scale rice straw gasification in Indonesia to benefit soils, people, and the environment."
 - **Mr. Raosaheb Kote, Chief Thematic Programme Executive, BAIF Development Research Foundation, India**, on: “Soil Health and Carbon Sequestration: The BAIF Development Research Foundation experience."
 - **Dr Md Jasmin Uddin, Professor, Department of Soil, Water and Environment, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh**, on: "Effects of Peanut (*Arachis hypogaea*) Residues."
 - **Dr Ayyanadar Arunachalam, Director ICAR-CAFRI (Central AgroForestry Research Institute), India → to be confirmed.**
 - **CAAS (Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences), China → to be confirmed.**
 - **VAAS (Vietnamese Academy of Agricultural Sciences), Vietnam → to be confirmed.**
 - **Mr. C Shiwa, Tokyo University of Agriculture, Japan → to be confirmed.**
 - **Dr Seungdon Lee, Director General of NIAS (National Institute of Agricultural Sciences) of the RDA (Rural Development Administration), Republic of Korea → to be confirmed.**

- Mr. Chen Chi Chung, Council of Agriculture Minister, TARI (Taiwan Agricultural Research Institute) → to be confirmed.

10:45 to 11:15	Coffee break
11:15 to 13:00	Civil society and the business sector as agents of change for Soil Health
	Mobilizing citizens, communities, and local governments

- Keynote Speech
ALGOA (Asian Local Governments for Organic Agriculture), South Korea [Video] → video to be confirmed.
- Presentations of projects/actions
 - Prof. Dr. André Leu, D.Sc., International Director, Regeneration International [Video]
 - Dr Praveena Sridhar, Team Member of the Save Soil Movement, Conscious Planet, Isha Foundation, India, on: "Soil Health in Asia and Pacific: Journey of 25 years of Revitalization of Soil."
 - Mr. Murli Dhar, Director Sustainable Agriculture Program, WWF (World Wildlife Fund)-India, on: "Boosting supply chain sustainability through investment in soil."
 - Mr. Sébastien Roumegous, CEO, Biosphères, France
 - Prof. JIAN Jinshi, Expert of CBCGDF (China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation), Professor of the Institute of Soil and Water Conservation, Northwest Agriculture and Forestry and Chinese Academy of Sciences. Research field: Carbon Cycle and Climate Change, China
 - Mr. Navin Vivek Horo, GIZ India, on: "Circularity of Bioresources for Sustainable Soil Health and Carbon Sequestration."
 - Combating Poverty & Climate Change Foundation, Pakistan
 - Fondation Grameen, India → to be confirmed.
 - Ms. Bev Postma, CEO, Grow Asia, Thailand → to be confirmed.

11:15 to 13:00	Civil society and the business sector as agents of change for Soil Health
	Carbon Farming as a business model

- Keynote Speech
Speaker to be determined.
- Presentations of local or regional actions/projects
 - Samunnati Financial Intermediation and Services Private Limited, India, → speaker to be confirmed.

- Dr Suman Saraswat, Associate Director of Operations, Dr Reddy's Foundation, India
- Mr. Arindam Datta, Senior Fellow, TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute), India

11:15 to 13:00	Civil society and the business sector as agents of change for Soil Health
	Business commitments and hands-on action

- Keynote Speech
 - **Speaker to be determined.**
- Presentations of local or regional actions/projects
 - Ms. Sainiana Rokovucago, CEO, FRIEND Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprises & Development, Fiji
 - Mr. Sam Yamdagni, CEO & Chairman, PSS Perfect Seal and Services Co., Ltd, - Amarenco Group, Thailand
 - Mr. Kamlesh Kumar, Chairman and Managing Director, Hindustan Salts Ltd, India
 - Mr. Dun Feng, China
 - Mr. Anirudh Keny, Director of Business Development & Partnerships APAC & Africa, Boomitra Inc, India, on: Digitalizing Carbon Farming: Empowering SmallHolder Farmers through Carbon Markets."
 - Mr. Aravind, Tropical Agro System Ltd, Member of AIESEF (All India Spices India Spices Exporters Forum, India.

13:00 to 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 to 14:15	Plenary for presentation of breakout sessions
14:30 to 16:00	Breakout sessions on “priorities, needs and commitments” to leveraging the transition to restoring soil health with agroecology.
	. Transition support policies (regional and national contexts)
	. Scientific guidance and technical support (decision-makers, NGOs, Producers organizations, companies)
	. Mobilization of civil society stakeholders (NGOs and companies)
	. Agroecology for producer and capacity building for practitioners
16:00 to 16:30	Coffee break
16:30 to 17:30	Plenary session with the presentation of the report from the breakout sessions followed by a discussion with participants.
17:30 to 18:00	Presentation on elements for the regional road map deducted from the previous sessions.
18:00 to 18:30	Conclusion in plenary and Closing remarks and speeches.

