**Session Proposal**

# Session Title

Future of Soil Science: Next 20 years and beyond

# Session Organizers

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# Session Description

It has been 20 years since the publication of the influential book "The Future of Soil Science," which set the stage for numerous advancements in soil science. This session aims to explore the trajectory of soil science over the next two decades and beyond, building on the foundation established by past research and innovations. It also aims to feed the discussion of the pessimists (“pedology is dead and buried”) and the optimists (“future for soil science is brighter than ever”), and makes background reading for the 23rd World Congress of Soil Science in China.

As we confront global challenges such as climate change, food security, and sustainable land management, the role of soil science is increasingly vital. This session will delve into latest research topics, emerging technologies, and innovative practices that are shaping the future of soil science. Topics will include advancements in soil health monitoring, the soil science-informed machine learning, and the development of sustainable agricultural practices that enhance soil security and biodiversity.

Experts from academia, industry, and policy-making will share their insights on how soil science can contribute to solving some of the most pressing environmental and societal issues. Attendees will gain a comprehensive understanding of the latest trends and future directions in soil science, as well as practical knowledge that can be applied to their own work.

Join us for an engaging and forward-thinking discussion that will not only reflect on the progress made over the past 20 years but also envision the exciting possibilities that lie ahead. Whether you are a seasoned soil scientist, a student, or a professional in soil science for long time, this session will provide valuable perspectives and inspire new ideas for the future of soil science.

# Format

Oral presentations and/or panel discussions

# Proposed Speakers

Speaker 1, Rattan Lal (e.g., a leading expert in soil carbon research) Ohio State U

Speaker 2. Alex McBratney or Budiman Minasny (e.g., a leading expert in Pedometrics research) University of Sydney

Speaker 3. Alex YECS

 more to identify