**Session Proposal**

# Session Title

Accelerating equity in Soil Sciences to strengthen the IUSS.

1. **Session Organizers:**

**LEAD CONVENER:** Laura Bertha Reyes-Sánchez. National Autonomous University of Mexico. lbrs@unam.mx

**CO-CONVENER:** Xin Song, Institute of Soil Science, CAS. xsong@issas.ac.cn

# Session Description

Today, women constitute half of the agricultural workforce worldwide (World Bank, 2017), and on the other hand, of the 8.156 billion human beings in the world (UN, 2024), half we are women (UN, 2019). However, when we talk about the labor and research sectors in soil sciences, only about 32% of the members of soil science societies are women according to the average data obtained for 44 Soil Societies belonging to the IUSS.

Meanwhile, the problems that Soil Sciences face today are many, they are large and very complex, which is why the active creative and innovative participation of the best minds is required, because SCIENCE *can only be as good and innovative as the sum of its individuals’ brilliance* (Reyes-Sánchez & Irazoque, 2022). That is why, science needs to ensure it has the largest pool of individuals to choose from, and the reason because any efforts to overcome the complex problems that today endanger the soil resource need to include women in its study, solution design, and application.

Closing the gender gap in sciences is not just a matter of fairness; it is essential for creating a better future. By embracing diversity and promoting gender equality, *we can unlock untapped potential and drive innovation what the other 50% of humanity can contribute because breakthroughs and discoveries of tomorrow depend on the creativity and collaboration of people from ALL backgrounds*. Therefore, the real change we need and must seek is not for women to resist or confront gender gaps but for gender gaps to not exist. That is why, we need to fight for the inclusion of all scientists based on their professional qualifications and totally and strongly reject exclusions based on the identifying characteristics and factors of gender, religion, nationality, race, political orientation or way of thinking.

Because the key are YOU AND ME, not OR, and not VS., and because together we are stronger, **in this session we invite the IUSS scientific community to present their research accompanied by proposals for action to** *accelerate equity and promote diversity in soil science to strengthen the IUSS*.

# Relevance

This session is relevant for the **“Soil and the Shared Future for Mankind”** because it offers the space and opportunity, within the framework of the IUSS WCSS, to present arguments, discuss, and come closer to the recognition that despite political opinions and temporal trends, science is a human effort to build knowledge, so no science can exclude half of the population, neither from its history nor from its present, and *to achieve equity we must recognize our diversity and include every human being*: not based on constituting the same quantity but on contributing the same quality and capabilities as the main criterion for advancement in any discipline, because *no scientific discipline has ever benefited from narrow visions, and soil science cannot and should not be the exception* (Reyes-Sánchez & Irazoque, 2022). **The IUSS must advance by accelerating equity in soil science to strengthen itself**, *and you are invited to collaborate to achieve it.*

# Format

Oral and Poster presentations for discussion about how to advance on DEI within the IUSS.

# Proposed Speakers