**Session Proposal**

# Session Title

Harmonization of Soil Health Monitoring: Scientific, Institutional, and Societal Perspectives

# Session Organizers

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# Session Description

Society, policy, and science are becoming aware of the need for a systemic understanding and definition of soil health. This encompasses its role in delivering ecosystem services, supporting human well-being, and contributing to climate change adaptation and mitigation. Despite growing awareness, major challenges persist, particularly the urgent need for harmonized methodologies for soil health quantification and monitoring, including integrated sets of indicators tailored to diverse environmental conditions and soil types*.*

In most drylands, soil and landscapes are extensively degraded due to long-term human pressure. To support sustainable soil and landscape management, the amount, quality, accessibility, and concerted collection of soil information are crucial, along with the advancement of modeling. To reach this objective, perspectives, barriers, and opportunities across society, policy, and science must be addressed.

The session aims to establish a networking opportunity for society, stakeholders, policy, and scientists at any career stage, through oral presentations and roundtable discussion, about projects, initiatives, and results on soil health monitoring, considering the perspectives across the different spheres.

The session welcomes contributions on soil data and information, soil legacy data, soil health assessment (indicators, monitoring, methods, modeling), soil information systems, definition and assessment of soil degradation, soil living labs experience, and sustainable soil and landscape management, but not limited to. Contributions may include intermediate results, project proposals and outcomes, method proposals or validations, projection of previous results in unstudied conditions, reviews, meta-analysis, opinions, and perspectives.

The session organizers coordinate two PRIMA-funded projects, SOILS4MED (Soil Health Monitoring and Information Systems for Sustainable Soil Management in the Mediterranean Region) and SHARInG-MeD (Soil Health and Agriculture Resilience through an Integrated Geographical information systems of Mediterranean Drylands), as well as the Horizon Europe project SUS-SOIL (Sustainable Soil and Subsoil health promotion by implementing agroecological land use and management to enhance ecosystem services delivery for society).

# Format

Proposal: Considering a session of 1.5 hours, the session will start with a 10-minute oral presentation by an invited speaker, who will present on the EU Mission Soil Deal for Europe and the projects SOILS4MED, SHARInG-MeD, and SUS-SOIL. The session will continue with four to five 10-minute oral presentations, carefully selected from the contributions received. In the final part of the session, a 10-minute oral presentation by a second invited speaker representing the civil society perspective will close the oral presentations. To close the session, a 15/20-minute roundtable discussion will take place among the session organizer, invited speakers, and two selected authors from the contributions received.

# Proposed Speakers

Pandi Zdruli, CIHEAM-B, senior research scientist and member board EU Mission Soil Deal for Europe, contributing to presenting the Mission and projects

Praveena Sridhar, Conscious Planet - Save the Soil Movement, chief science and technology officer of the Save Soil movement, contributing to presenting the civil society perspective