



Session Proposal

1. Session Title

Bridging young and senior soil scientists to foster future generations of soil advocacy

2. Session Organizers

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3. Session Description

The intergenerational exchange of soil knowledge is crucial for Earth stewardship. Structural shifts in soil science over the past decade have sparked discussions about reshaping traditional norms and broadening representation across age, gender, and nationality (Reyes-Sánchez & Irazoque, 2022; Cerón-González et al., 2025). As the Young and Early Career Soil Scientists (YECS) Working Group expands within IUSS, it plays a significant role in shaping the future of soil science. YECS is committed to ensuring that soil science is more inclusive, globally connected, and responsive to the needs of early-career researchers and underrepresented groups.

Additionally, the IUSS Strategic Plan (IUSS, 2022) highlights the importance of enhancing soil awareness and education by engaging a broad audience. Addressing this issue with a shared vision from both YECS and IUSS requires innovative educational



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and scientific practices that bridge generational gaps and integrate diverse perspectives, thereby enhancing the development of a stronger future generation of soil scientists. By fostering collaborations between young and senior soil scientists, this session will showcase the transformative power of intergenerational partnerships in advancing our understanding of soils. Among the session objectives are:

- a. Showcase impactful collaborations that connect generations in soil research, education, and outreach.
- b. Explore innovative strategies for intergenerational learning within soil science.
- c. Identify barriers and opportunities for knowledge transfer between generations.
- d. Propose new strategies to achieve intergenerational collaboration.

4. Relevance

Empowering young soil scientists is a high priority for the International Union of Soil Sciences. This session aligns with both IUSS priorities and the theme “Soil and the Shared Future of Humanity”. Ensuring the development of a new generation of soil scientists with interdisciplinary knowledge and strong values depends on our current ability to engage and empower young scientists from diverse disciplines within the scope of soil sciences (Reyes-Sánchez, 2024).

The IUSS and its national soil science societies must advance by supporting Young and Early Career Soil Scientists: encouraging collaboration between senior scientists and young professionals through interdisciplinary ideas and projects, thereby shaping the future of IUSS scientists.

5. Format

This session will include oral presentations followed by an interactive discussion. Participants will be encouraged to engage in dialogue and exchange ideas on best practices for intergenerational knowledge-sharing and co-production.



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6. Proposed Speakers

Potential speakers, who are leading or co-producing projects worldwide involving intergenerational collaborations in soil science, have been identified.

References

Cerón-González, A., Ng, H., Ivelic-Saez, J., Vega-Aguilar, A., Agbor, D., Pacci, S., Glina, B., **2025**. Securing the future of soil science: Addressing global demographic barriers to engage youth and accelerate early careers. *Geoderma*, 455, 117220. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoderma.2025.117220>

IUSS, **2022**. IUSS Strategic Plan (2021–2030). International Union of Soil Sciences.

Reyes-Sánchez, L.B. and Irazoque, A., **2022**. Reevaluating diversity and the history of women in soil science: a necessary step for a real change. *Span. J. Soil Sci.* 12. <https://doi.org/10.3389/sjss.2022.10401>

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