



Session Proposal

1. Session Title: Cultural Wisdom, Global Soil Futures: Advancing Soil Security Through Connectivity

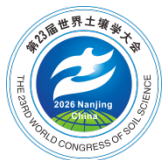
2. Session Organizer:

Dr Nkosinomusa Buthelezi-Dube, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, email: duben5@ukzn.ac.za, primary contact person

3. Session Description

This session will explore the dynamic interplay between cultural soil knowledge and global collaboration in achieving soil security, focusing on the connectivity domain (i.e. the link between societal engagement and sustainable soil management). This domain of soil security emphasizes the need for inclusive dialogue, education, and policy to bridge diverse cultural perspectives with scientific innovation.

Soil is deeply embedded in cultural identities, shaping traditional practices, livelihoods, and ecological wisdom. Simultaneously, global challenges like climate change and food insecurity demand unified strategies. This session will examine cultural patterns of soil understanding through case studies of indigenous stewardship and local ecological knowledge. It will discuss the soils' role in a shared future by linking interdisciplinary approaches (agroecology, policy, and technology) of equitable resource governance and Sustainable Developmental goals. The presentations will highlight cutting-edge research integrating cultural heritage with soil science, emphasizing decolonizing soil narratives and amplifying marginalized voices in sustainability discourse. The key questions are: How can cultural



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knowledge systems reshape modern soil governance? What barriers hinder inclusive dialogue between local practices and global frameworks? How can connectivity drive equitable solutions for soil degradation and climate resilience?

4. Format:

Panel discussion and oral presentations (if time allows)

5. Proposed Speakers:

I intend to invite **at least 4 panelists** from the list below.

1. Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim (Environmental Activist, Chad)

Contribution: Grassroots perspectives on soil-climate justice and decolonizing sustainability.

2. Dr. Priscilla Settee (Indigenous Scholar, University of Saskatchewan, Canada)

Contribution: Framing soil as a cultural legacy and advocating for Indigenous-led policy.

3. Dr. Rattan Lal (Soil Scientist, Ohio State University, USA)

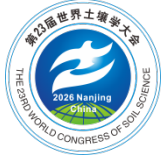
Contribution: Evidence-based arguments for hybrid knowledge systems.

4. Dr. Joji Cariño (Senior Policy Advisor, Forest Peoples Programme, Philippines)

Contribution: Policy pathways to protect cultural soil knowledge in global governance.

6. Dr. Lucas Moreira (Soil Governance Specialist, EMBRAPA, Brazil)

Contribution: Case studies on scaling traditional soil innovations.



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7. Dr. Marylyn Kajumba (Gender and Soil Specialist, Uganda)

Contribution: Addressing equity gaps in soil sustainability dialogue.

8. Dr. Alex McBratney (Soil Security Scholar, University of Sydney, Australia)

Contribution: Structuring transdisciplinary collaboration models.