



**International Congress
on
Successful Transformation toward Land
Degradation Neutrality
(Future Perspective)**

Ankara, TURKEY, 17-19 June 2019

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

Organized by:



Under the auspices of:



United Nations

Convention to Combat
Desertification

On behalf of:

Soil Science Society of TURKEY (SSST)
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion
(ÇEM)

Konya Food and Agriculture University (KFAU)

- We cordially invite you to participate in the International Congress on "Successful Transformation toward Land Degradation Neutrality (Future Perspective)" in commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of the coming into force of the United Nations Conventions to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), to be held in Ankara, TURKEY, 17-19 June 2019.

Background

- The Soil Science Society of TURKEY (SSST) is an NGO established in 1964 in order to develop, disseminate, and introduce the theoretical and applied soil science in Turkey. It has 841 members, most of whom are working in the universities and public sector. SSST is a community of scientists and colleagues, who are dealing with soil issues, guides and leads for the protection, usage, and evaluation of our lands by taking into account the scientific experiences and developments on soil and past misapplications. To the Soil Science Society of Turkey organized 22 scientific meetings; 13 national levels, 10 international levels, biennially.

Objectives

- The objective of this congress is to create a unique ground (platform) by bringing broad groups of senior scientists, academicians, experts, policy makers, young researchers and students from different national and international institutions to analyze the current and the future trends of soil and land resources; establish new policies based on the principles of land degradation neutrality and finally create a universal message for the sustainable use of world soil and land resources.

Who is expected to participate?

- Researches and experts from all international Soil Science Unions, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, Agriculture and Forestry Faculties of International and National Universities, Departments of Geology, Survey and Environmental Engineering Departments of Engineering Faculties, and related national and international nongovernmental organizations.

A person wearing blue jeans and a light-colored shirt is using a long-handled tool, possibly a hoe or a similar agricultural implement, to till the soil in a field. The ground is dark brown and appears to be covered in dry leaves or mulch. The person is captured in a dynamic pose, with their legs spread wide and arms extended, suggesting active work.

Main topics of the congress;

1) Successful transformation of agricultural sector for LDN: focusing to enhance the soil health in the food production chain:

The soil health is the capacity of a soil to function, within ecosystem and land use boundaries, to sustain productivity, maintain environmental quality, and promote plant and animal health. The use of uncontrolled pesticides and chemical fertilizers and poor land/soil management practices in conventional agriculture damages soil biodiversity, makes the land unsuitable for food, and trigger to land degradation. In this context, the agricultural sector needs to be transformed by developing actions to ensure soil health considering food security which is one of the most important milestones in achieving the goal of LDN.

2) Successful transformation of forest sector for LDN: focus on preventing forest loss:

Deforestation permanently destroys valuable plant and wildlife species and also can impact heavily on communities who are dependent on forests as a source of emergency income. In many countries, local people are one of the driving forces behind forest conversion. The transformation strategies need to be more focused on helping these people derive greater, sustainable income from forests. This may include making direct rewards to local people for conserving their forests. The efforts to help people and governments make appropriate land-use decisions is a fundamentals step to transform forest sector.

3) Data-driven decision making across the LDN transformation process:

Today's advanced analysis methods and the increasing availability of data are putting ever more opportunities on policy development, implementation and monitoring of their impacts. Decisions based on intuition and experience are increasingly being challenged by a data-driven decision-making. In the domain of LDN and its transportive implementation needs use of these opportunities to predict the expected results and monitoring of the middle or long-term changes.



4) Integrated planning approaches for sustainable use of land/soil resource:

Conventional land-use planning has frequently failed to produce a substantial improvement in land management or to satisfy the priority objectives of the land users. In order to achieve LDN by 2030, a cross-sectorial and spatial approach to land use planning is required so that interventions designed to avoid, reduce or reverse land degradation can be spatially optimized across the landscape in order to achieve no net loss. Moreover, planning processes must be able to navigate the inevitable social, economic and environmental tradeoffs resulting from competing demands for land so that solutions can be identified and pursued more strategically, helping promote agriculture productivity and ecosystem health simultaneously.

5) Unlocking the investment for LDN :

Soil ecosystem services (ES) that flow from land-based natural capital provide multiple benefits to humans but to date no consensus has formed on a comprehensive framework for their classification and economic valuation, and therefore a systematic approach has not been developed to evaluate their importance. Therefore, there is a need to develop a comprehensive framework for the economic assessment of soil ecosystem services in order to better inform decision-making at various levels of governance in order to monitoring and impact assessment of LDN.



6) Role of Gender in LDN to achieve the SDG:

The first-ever Gender Action Plan to the UNCCD was adopted at COP13 in Ordos, China. Its overall goal is to support and enhance the implementation of the gender-related decisions and mandates adopted in the UNCCD process. The Convention recognizes the importance of women in order to achieve the LDN , and identifies critical areas for their engagement: (i) awareness-raising, and participation in the design and implementation of programmes; (ii) decision-making processes that men and women adopt at the local level in the governance of development, implementation and review of regional and national action programmes (RAPs and NAPs); and (iii) capacity-building, education and public awareness, particularly at local level through the support of local organizations.

7) Sustainable value chains for land degradation neutrality:

Land degradation is a critical issue for all businesses. For example, it can affect the cost and benefit of the companies by affecting the availability and cost of resources. It relates not only to businesses that directly extract or collect resources from land (agriculture, food or forestry) but also to businesses that have indirect links to land through supply or value chains (i.e. chemicals, apparel, tourism, insurance and finance). Achieving LDN will only be possible if interventions combine biophysical solutions with efforts to ensure the livelihoods of those using the land. Incorporating sustainable value chain development into LDN interventions is critical for achieving LDN. Moreover, it is important to achieve LDN targets, in order to ensure sustainability of the supply and value chain of agriculture and forestry-related sectors.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

17 June 2019:

08.30-09.30 Registration
09.30-13.00 Opening Ceremony (Global observance of the World Day to Combat Desertification)
13.00-14.00 Lunch
14.00-14.30 Keynote Speaker I (Recep Konuk, Founding President of KFAU, President of PANKOBİRLİK)
14.30-19.00 Oral and Poster Presentation
19.30-22.30 Gala Dinner (25th Anniversary of UNCCD)

18 June 2019:

09.00-09.30 Keynote Speaker II
09.30-13.00 Oral and Poster Presentation
13.00-14.00 Lunch
14.00-18.30 Oral and Poster Presentation

19 June 2019:

Field Trip (Konya- Karapınar)

*** A Youth Forum on “Land Degradation Neutrality from Local to Global Scale” for young scientists will be organized.**

GUIDELINES

- Abstracts must be written in English
- Abstracts must be submitted in MS Word (.doc) file
- Maximum number of words: 500
- Type the title of the abstract in **CAPITAL BOLD LETTERS**
- Write the name/s of author/s with initials preceding the last name, institution/s, city and country
- Underline the name of the presenting author
- Use double-space between the heading and the text of the abstract
- Specify your preference for ORAL or POSTER presentation
- Any abstracts received after the deadline will not be reviewed
- In order to present (oral or poster) the presenting author needs to be registered, with own expenses, at the congress.



HONORABLE COMMITTEE

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Erdoğan ÖZEVREN, UNCCD Regional Coordinator for Northern Mediterranean

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IMPORTANT DATES

February 15, 2019	Abstract submission deadline
March 15, 2019	Announcement of accepted papers
May 15, 2019	Deadline for submission of full papers and registration fee
May 31, 2019	Distribution of final announcement
June 17-19, 2019	Congress

METHOD OF SUBMISSION

Abstracts should be submitted by **15th February 2019** using our online abstract submission system. Acceptance of abstracts will be notified to the Leading Author no later than **15th March 2019**, following evaluation by the Executive Programme Committee and an International panel of referees. Oral and poster presented papers will be published and distributed per USB.



REGISTRATION

Before	15 Feb 2019	225 Euro (250 TL)
After	15 Feb 2019	300 Euro (300 TL)

INFORMATION

For further information please contact:
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VENUE
 Ankara, Turkey