

World Reference Base for Soils: Is it only for Europe?

(S05-micheli163044-Oral)

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Abstract:

In the past decade there has been an enhanced interest in soil information for global environmental studies. The 20 year old, but still the only available harmonized global soil map, the FAO-UNESCO Soil Map of the World, is based on information collected thirty or more years ago. In 1998 the International Union of Soil Science (IUSS) endorsed the World Reference Base for Soil Resources (WRB) as the recommended soil correlation system for all soil scientists. The European Commission selected WRB as correlation scheme for harmonized soil maps and databases for Europe. It is widely used and tested on other continents as well, however its universal acceptance and adoption is still questioned. Major points of the debate as well as possibilities for improving acceptability of WRB will be highlighted.

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Presentation Information:

Presentation Date: Thursday, November 14, 2002
Presentation Time: 10:45 am

Keywords:

correlation, classification, world soils, reference base