



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Determination of the clay content of soils

25 June 2024

AGENDA



Determination of the clay content of soils

Belgium and Luxembourg Soil Laboratory Network (BESOLAN)

(English session - virtual meeting)

25 June 2024 1:00 – 5:00 PM CEST

1:00 – 1:10 PM CEST | Opening, welcome remarks

Mr Filippo Benedetti, Coordinator of the Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN)

Ms Marija Romic, chair of the European and Eurasian Soil Laboratory Network (EUROSOLAN)

Mr Kristof Tirez, Belgium and Luxembourg Soil Laboratory Network (BESOLAN)

Chair of the webinar: Mr Joost Salomez, Government of Flanders, Department of Environment and Spatial Planning

1:10 – 1:50 CEST | Introduction on the importance of clay content in soil

General introduction – GLOSOLAN perspective

Ms Hanane Aroui, GLOSOLAN vice-Chair, Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD)

Indicators soil health based on the relation between soil organic matter and clay

Mr Axel Don, Thünen Institute of Climate-Smart Agriculture, Germany

1:50 – 2:30 CEST | Standard methodology for the determination of the clay content of soils (Brussels, Flemish, Walloon Regions and Luxemburg)

The sieving and sedimentation method (ISO 11277)

Ms Chris Vanhoof, Flemish Reference Laboratory for Environmental Monitoring (VITO)

Mr Lionel Leydet, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Viticulture, Administration of Technical Agricultural Services

Mr Gilles Colinet, Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech, EESP, University of Liège

2:30 - 2:50 PM CEST | Questions and answers

Mr Joost Salomez and presenters

2:50 - 3:00 PM CEST | 10-minute break

3:00 – 4:00 CEST | Alternative methods for the determination of the clay content of soils and comparability with the sieving and sedimentation method

Near-infrared spectroscopy

Ms Clémence Mariage, Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech, EESP, University of Liège

Should laser diffraction become the new standard for soil particle size analysis ?

Mr Bruno De Vos, Research Institute for Nature and Forest

Determination of soil particle size distribution using the dynamometer method

Ms Maria Kreimeyer, AGROLAB Laboratory Group, Germany

4:00 – 4:30 CEST | Methods complementary to the determination of the clay content of soils

Identification of clay minerals by X-ray diffraction

Ms Nathalie Fagel, Département de Géologie, University of Liège

Interpretation and application of mineralogy results

Ms Simone Marx, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Viticulture, Administration of Technical Agricultural Services, Luxembourg

4:30 - 4:50 CEST | Questions and answers

Mr Joost Salomez and presenters

4:50 - 5:00 CEST | Wrap up and closure of the webinar

Mr Filippo Benedetti, Global Soil Partnership Secretariat

Mr Kristof Tirez, Belgium and Luxembourg Soil Laboratory Network

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The Global Soil Partnership (GSP) is a globally recognized mechanism established in 2012. Our mission is to position soils in the Global Agenda through collective action. Our key objectives are to promote Sustainable Soil Management (SSM) and improve soil governance to guarantee healthy and productive soils, and support the provision of essential ecosystem services towards food security and improved nutrition, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and sustainable development.

Land and Water division - Natural Resources and Sustainable Production

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www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership

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