

# Seminar on Healthy Soils for a Healthy Life



## Organizers:

**International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA),**  
United Arab Emirates

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO),**  
United Arab Emirates

*"Let us promote sustainable soil management rooted in proper soil governance and sound investments. Together, we can promote the cause of soils, a truly solid ground for life."*

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon ( from a message for World Soil Day)

**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2015 from 10:00 to 12:00

**Venue:** International Center for Biosaline Agriculture, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

## Agenda

- 10:00-10:10 Welcome speech by Dr. Ismahane Elouafi (Director General, ICBA)
- 10:10-10:20 Message – Mr. Mehdi Drissi, FAO Representative in the UAE and Sub-regional Coordinator for the Gulf Cooperation Council States (GCCS) and Yemen
- 10:20-10:40 Human need of soils – where do we stand? (Dr. Shabbir Shahid, ICBA)
- 10:40-11:00 Sustainable soil management through soil governance and sound investments. Highlights of The Status of the World's Soil Resources (Dr. Muhammad Akhtar Bhatti, FAO)
- 11:00-11:15 Presentation on ICBA Soil Museum (Dr. Abdullah Alshankiti, ICBA)
- 11:15-11:30 Discussion
- 11:30-11:35 Group photo
- 11:35-12:00 Healthy break

## Background

At the 68<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly, 2015 was declared the International Year of Soils (IYS): a year to raise awareness at international, regional and national levels about **fundamental role of soils for human life**. ICBA is joining FAO in celebrating IYS with participants from several organizations from the UAE.

Since its inception in 1999, ICBA has been working with partners from over 35 countries in different regions on raising awareness about soils through building capacity of NARS staff, and introducing sustainable soil management practices for crop production in marginal environments.

ICBA and FAO are holding a joint seminar in the context of the IYS and the status of the world's soil resources.