

## WORLD SOIL DAY 2017 CELEBRATION

The event will be held at the Marius du Plessis Hall of Institute of Soil, Climate and Water on 5 December 2017 from 10:00.

World Soil Day was designated by the General Assembly of the United Nations 68th Session Second Committee Agenda item 25 on agriculture development, food security and nutrition on 13 October 2013, to be observed and celebrated every year on 5 December, over the world by all Member States, the organisations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organisations, civil society, non-governmental organisations and individuals to emphasise the importance of Soil. DAFF through the Directorate: Land Use and Soil Management as the focal point of Soil resource and the Institute of Soil, Climate and Water of the Agricultural Research Council are hosting the seminar to mark this World Soil Day under the theme of **"Caring for the Planet starts from the Ground."**

Soils are clearly key to addressing the pressures of a growing population. The recognition, advocacy and support for national efforts in promoting sustainable management of soils are the only hope to guarantee a food-secure world based on stable and sustainable ecosystems. Healthy soil leads to climate change mitigation and adaptation, reduced forced immigration, improved nutrition, preserved biodiversity, cleaner water and food security.

The objectives of the 2017 World Soil Day celebration are to raise awareness on the importance of sustaining healthy ecosystems and human wellbeing by addressing the increasing challenges of soil pollution, climate change, declining soil fertility and soil organic carbon by raising the profile of healthy soil by encouraging governments, organisations, communities and individuals around the world to engage in proactively improving soil health.

Link: [www.fao.org/world-soil-day](http://www.fao.org/world-soil-day)



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