

Issue	Description
Name	Soil Management for Sustainable Agriculture
Contact persons	Carmelo Dazzi & Giuseppe Lo Papa (University of Palermo – Italy) carmelo.dazzi@unipa.it; giuseppe.lopapa@unipa.it;
Credits	3 ECTS
Prerequisites	The course is primarily intended for PhD students from EJP SOIL affiliated institution but is open to participants from other institutions.
Objectives	<p>The aims of this course are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduce the importance of soils for the environmental quality. - Present generally accepted and scientifically proven principles to promote sustainable soil management. - Provide technical guidelines to address soil threats that hamper sustainable soil management.
Content/ Key components/ elements	<p>Soil management is important for crop productivity and environmental sustainability. Because of the projected increase in world population, and the consequent necessity for the intensification of food production, the management of soils will become increasingly important in the coming years. To achieve future food security, the management of soils in a sustainable manner will be a fundamental challenge for soil scientists. To face such challenge, a proper knowledge of the soil features and classification and an appropriate knowledge of the soil threats and conservation practices, are mandatory.</p>

Learning outcomes	<p><u>Understanding</u> the role of the soil in the environmental equilibria;</p> <p><u>Knowledge</u> of the main soil classification systems;</p> <p><u>Prevention</u> of soil threats that hamper a sustainable soil management by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Minimizing soil erosion.2. Preventing soil acidification.3. Enhancing soil organic matter content.4. Preventing soil biodiversity.5. Fostering soil nutrient balance.6. Minimizing soil sealing.7. Preventing soil salinization and alkalization.8. Preventing soil compaction.9. Preventing soil contamination.10. Improving soil water management.
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