



International Union of Soil Sciences



**International  
Decade of Soils**  
2015-2024

## **Global Soil Proverbs**

**A book proposal of IUSS**

**as an activity of the International Decade of Soils 2015 -2024**

### **- Rationale**

Every country has a wide archive of proverbs that provide people with advice about how to lead their lives. In each country, proverbs have integrated people's experiences and perspectives into some form of belief. While having been passed down orally from generation to generation and modified by people at the time when they lived, the proverbs have become an integrated part of our culture.

Our ancestors have settled and farmed in soil since the Neolithic period, maybe earlier than this. People in the ancient times communicated their experiences and knowledges through proverbs. Many proverbs on soils are available in every country in the globe. Most of them are still useful even at the modern information age. Proverbs can provide us not only with the scientific principle of soil processes and management but also with insights on how soils are roots of our well-being.

The objective of the Global Soil Proverbs book is to archive the proverbs relating to soils from IUSS member countries and share the insights on how soils are related to philosophy, culture and life in each country. This will coincide with the mission of IUSS in providing the global soil message to various stakeholders in every member country. This will be a good milestone for IUSS towards its centennial in 2024.

- **Book Title: Global Soil Proverbs**
- **Editors: Jae Yang, Mary B. Kirkham, Rattan Lal and Sigbert Huber**
- **Guidelines**
  1. Potential author(s) from each country who will volunteer to write a chapter of the Global Soil Proverbs should provide the following information to Jae Yang ([yangjay@kangwon.ac.kr](mailto:yangjay@kangwon.ac.kr)) and Sigbert Huber ([iuss@umweltbundesamt.at](mailto:iuss@umweltbundesamt.at)) by March 31, 2018. An intended date of book publication will be December 5, 2018.
    - Letter of Intent to contribute a chapter
    - Name of author(s)
    - Name of country
    - Name of author's language

## 2. Guideline for the chapter writing

- Deadline of chapter submission: June 30, 2018
- Length of chapter: up to six pages (format as this guideline, Times New Roman 12)
- Contents: Each chapter will contain the following contents for each proverb (clusters of proverbs that all relate to the same idea or theme shall be discussed and illustrated together) with the suggested sequence
  - Name of Country
  - Proverbs in author's original language/dialect
  - Proverbs literally translated into English
  - Short explanation of the meaning in English: for example, why that proverb is important and a country's specific information about the use of the proverbs
  - Specify the IUSS Division and Commission to which the proverb is relevant (please refer to the missions of the Division and Commission at [www.iuss.org](http://www.iuss.org))
  - Related picture(s): one or two with specifying the need of black & white or color

### Short example from Korea

- 신토불이(身土不二)
- Body and land are the one but not the two
- Agricultural products including foods that are produced in soils of Korea are good for health. This proverb is known to come from an ancient book entitled 'Principles and Practice of the Eastern Medicine (동의보감)' published in 1612. This implies that agricultural goods produced in the soil near the consumers' places at the right season are not only fresh and easy to access without a long storage and circulation but also good for nutrition and health. This proverb has been cited in a campaign to promote the consumption of domestic agricultural products as compared to the imported ones. However, this proverb is also used to stress the importance of soil because our life originates from the soil and will return to the soil.
- IUSS Division 4, Commission 4.5



(black and white)