



# HOT NEWS

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## The 6th WASWAC World Conference was Successfully Held



The opening ceremony

The 6th WASWAC World Conference was successfully convened in Rabat, Morocco, from 15 to 17 September 2025. This conference was organized by the World Association of Soil and Water Conservation (WASWAC) and hosted by the National Institute of Agricultural Research (INRA). Supporting institutions included the Chinese Society of Soil and Water Conservation (CSSWC), FAO Global Soil Partnership (GSP), the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), OCP Nutricrops, International Water Management Institute (IWMI), African Plant Nutrition Institute (APNI), Institut agronomique et vétérinaire Hassan-II (IAV Hassan-II), Université Mohammed VI Polytechnique (UM6P), National School of Agriculture of Meknes (ENA), Shenyang Agricultural University (SYAU), Jiangxi Academy of Water Science and Engineering (JAWSE), Institute of Soil and Water Conservation of CAS & MWR.



At the opening ceremony held on 15 September, Prof. Duihu Ning, President of WASWAC, Prof. Leonardus Vergutz, Chief Scientific Officer of OCP Nutricrops, and Dr. Vinay Nangia, head of the research team at the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) attender and delivered welcoming addresses. Dr. Lifeng Li, Director of the FAO Land and Water Division, delivered a video address, emphasizing that soil erosion is not merely an environmental issue but also poses a direct threat to food security, drinking water quality, rural livelihoods, and ecosystem resilience.

This theme of this conference is “Resilient Landscapes: Innovations and Traditions in Climate-Adaptive Soil and Water Conservation (RISE-SWC)”. Attending experts and scholars engaged in in-depth exchanges and discussions on key topics: Impact of climate change on soil erosion and coping strategies; The role of water resources management in addressing climate change; Challenges and opportunities of land use planning and management in the context of climate change; Integration of traditional wisdom and modern technology in soil and water management; Social and economic considerations in soil and water management; Strategic shifts in soil and water conservation practices and technologies to address climate change; Monitoring and early warn-





Prof. Duihu Ning, the president of WASWAC delivered the welcome address



Dr. Rachid Moussadek, Senior Scientist and Specialist in Soil and Sustainable Intensification moderate the conference



Dr. Redouane Arrach, Secretary-General of the GS. Ministry of Agriculture made a speech



Dr. Augusto Becerra, Deputy Director General at the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) made a speech

ing mechanisms in soil and water management.

In two keynote panels themed "Climate Change and Soil-Water Security" and "Embedding Soil Health and Smart Water Management at the Core of Science-based Policy Development, Innovative Funding, and Agricultural Research Priorities", Prof. Duihu Ning, President of WASWAC,



Prof. Leonardus Vergütz, Chief Scientific Officer of OCP Nutricrops made a speech



Dr. Lifeng Li, Director of the FAO Land and Water Division made a speech



Dr. Kaushik Majumdar, Director General at African Plant Nutrition Institute (APNI) made a speech



Mr. Alexandre Huyh, FAO Representative in Morocco made a speech

Prof. Leonardus Vergütz, Chief Scientific Officer of the OCP Nutricrops, Prof. Nangia Vinay, Director of GCZSC-UM6P, Dr. Kaushik Majumdar, Director General of APNI, Dr. Vinay Nangia, Research Team Leader of ICARDA, Prof. Baoyuan Liu, Vice President of WASWAC, and Tarik Benabdelouahab, Head of Department in INRA, attended discussion. They emphasized the role of technological innovation in controlling soil erosion and reducing the agricultural carbon footprint, while calling for enhanced international cooperation and effective measures to combat land



degradation and desertification, thereby safeguarding soil and water resources.



Keynote panel

The conference invited 17 keynote presentations, and arranged 99 oral presentations and 81 poster presentations.



Reporting in each sub-topic meeting room





Poster presentation



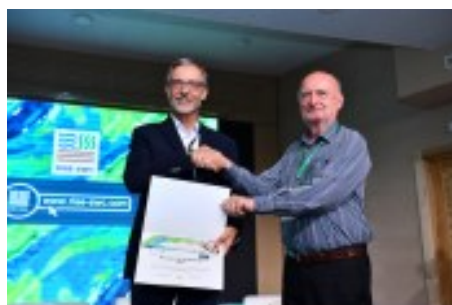
Engaged and interactive audience

In line with the conference theme, five side events were held during the conference, FAO Side event: Launch of International Network on Soil Erosion-INSER, New visions for sustainable soils in Africa, Soil assessment and management for a resilient landscape in Africa, New initiatives for sustainable farming system and soils health and feedback from NARS and partners, PRIMA EU.

These sessions delved into integrating soil erosion prevention into public policy, global soil erosion mapping initiatives, integrated watershed management, and global soil erosion research and monitoring. They offered fresh perspectives for soil conservation strategies across Africa, the Mediterranean area, and the whole world.



The conference recognized award winners for two types of communication. There were 10 recipients for Oral presentations, including Dr. Hongming Zhang, Dr. Manuel La Licata, Dr. Qianxi Yang, Dr. Yin Chen, Dr. Rim Tehraoui, Dr. João L.M. Pedroso de Lima, Dr. Hamza Laaich, Dr. Oumaima Iben Halima, Dr. Hatim Sanad, Dr. Laura Pedretti. For Poster presentations, 4 winners were evaluated, including Dr. Xiaojie Zhang, Dr. I.Iouloudakis, Dr. Hang Xu, Dr. Lamanehouda.





On the 17th, some conference participants undertook a field visit to the regional center for agronomic research of Kenitra. The purpose of this visit was to gain insight into its practices in sustainable soil and water management, particularly through a citrus cultivation platform dedicated to the transfer of innovative technologies.

The Director of the Regional Centre for Agronomic Research of Kenitra, Mr. Hassan BENAOU-DA, outlined their research programmes and their principal outcomes. His presentation highlighted progress across multiple domains: improvement and conservation of citrus genetic resources; pest and disease control (plant pathology, virology, entomology, fungicides, weed science); agricultural techniques (fertilisation, irrigation); application of digital and precision agriculture in citrus cultivation; and socio-economic aspects.



Opening session





Field trip

Subsequently, Mr. Abdellah Elaissaoui and his team demonstrated an innovative, low-cost precision irrigation management technique. This solution, validated through farmer trials, achieves water savings of 20% to 30%.



Group picture



## The Youth Training was Held Post-Conference



Group picture

Following the 6th WASWAC World Conference, on September 18 and 19, 2025, a special training aimed to equip participants with the knowledge and practical skills to face soil erosion and water scarcity, two of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time, was held with the title of “Youth Capacity for Resilient Soil and Water Conservation in a Changing Climate”.

The two-day programme systematically covered three key areas include soil erosion by water at the global and regional levels, innovative modelling tools for soil and water conservation, and innovative tools for soil and water conservation research. This comprehensive approach expanded the knowledge base of young researchers and enhanced their capacity to address soil and water conservation challenges within the context of climate change.



Opening remarks & objectives of the Training keynote speaker Prof. Ghaouti Lamiae-INRA & Prof. Duihu Ning-WASWAC/IRTCS



Prof. Valentin Golosov-Moscow State University made a keynote presentation



Dr. Dennis C. Flanagan-Purdue University attended the training session and delivered a keynote presentation





Keynote speakers:

Dr. Rachid Moussadek-INRA/ICARDA

Prof. Mohammed Chikhaoui-IAVHII

Dr. Rachid Mrabet-INRA

Dr. Tarik Benabdelouahab-INRA

Dr. Abdelmajid Zouahri

## Meeting of the WASWAC Council was Held

On September 16, 2025, the Meeting of the WASWAC Council convened following the closing ceremony and summary session of the 6th WASWAC World Conference. Participants include the council members, the secretariat staffs, and the official journal editorial board staffs.

This Council Meeting focused on organizational development and future strategies, pooling global expertise to advance soil and water resource conservation.



Prof. Duihu Ning, President of WASWAC chaired and addressed the meeting



Prof. Qingbin Pan, Secretary-General of WASWAC delivered a work report

The meeting was chaired and addressed by Prof. Duihu Ning, President of WASWAC. He first outlined the core agenda items, then Secretary-General Prof. Qingbin Pan delivered a work report on behalf of the WASWAC Secretariat, systematically reviewing recent achievements and progress in academic exchanges, journal publications, and international training programs.

Guiding the discussion on future development, President Ning led council members in an in-depth exchange of views, particularly on key initiatives such as deepening international cooperation and promoting technological innovation. Council members from multiple countries and regions actively contributed insights, offering suggestions for the WASWAC development based on their respective field experiences. The discussion atmosphere was lively.

This council meeting clarified key priorities for WASWAC next phase of work. It will further advance technical exchange and cooperation in global soil and water conservation, providing robust support for ecological conservation and sustainable development.



Discussion and exchange





Council meeting

## The ISWCR Editorial Board Meeting was Held

The official journal of WASWAC, International Soil and Water Conservation Research (ISWCR) Editorial Board Meeting was held on September 17, 2025, during the RISE-SWC in Rabat, Morocco.



Editors-in-Chief Prof. Michael Maerker delivered the welcome address



Editors-in-Chief Prof. Dennis Flanagan presided over the meeting

Editors-in-Chief Prof. Michael Maerker delivered the welcome address extending a warm welcome to all Editorial Board members present. He emphasized the Editorial Board's pivotal role as the guardian of the journal's academic quality, while urging members to leverage their professional expertise to collectively enhance the journal's influence within the field of soil and water conservation.

At the meeting, Prof. Paige Chyu, Executive Editor of the journal, delivered a special report on the development journey of ISWCR. As an internationally influential academic journal in the field of soil and water conservation, ISWCR has long provided a professional exchange platform for global research in this domain. Prof. Paige Chyu systematically outlined the journal's achievements since its inception, the evolution of its academic positioning, and the pathways for enhancing its international influence, offering crucial reference points for the journal's future development planning.



Editors-in-Chief Prof. Baoyuan Liu made  
summary speech



Executive Editor Prof. Paige Chyu made a re-  
port

Chaired by Editor-in-Chief Professor Dennis Flanagan, the discussion focused on elevating the journal's scholarly standards and strengthening the Editorial Board's structure. New editorial board appointments were announced, injecting enhanced professional expertise into the journal's peer review and content development processes.

During the discussion, all members emphasized that by leveraging the professional expertise of its global editorial board, the journal should continuously enhance its academic quality and international influence, thereby providing a high-quality platform for advancing academic exchange and facilitating the translation of research outcomes in the fields of international ecological conservation and sustainable utilization of water and soil resources.

Editors-in-Chief Prof. Baoyuan Liu delivered the closing remarks. He affirmed the practical achievements of the meeting, emphasizing that ISWCR must continue to anchor itself at the forefront of international soil and water conservation research.





Discussion and exchange



Group picture

## **WASWAC Councilors**

Abdulvahed Khaledi Darvishan	Ivan Blinkov	Qingbin Pan
Alfred Hartemink	Ivan Minchev	Rachid Mrabet
Annie Melinda Pas-Alberto	Jorge A Delgado	Sergey Chalov
Arora Sanjay	José Alfonso Gomez	Sevilay Hacıyakupoglu
Baoyuan Liu	Laura Bertha Reyes Sanchez	Seyed Hamidreza Sadeghi
Bořivoj Šarapatka	Lillian Øygarden	Shabbir Ahmad Shahid
Carmelo Dazzi	Mahmoud A. Abdelfattah	Shachi Pandey
Chinapatana Sukvibool	Mark Nearing	Stefanos Stefanidis
Clemencia Licona Manzur	Michael Maerker	Thomas W. Goddard
Dennis C. Flanagan	Moshood Tijani	Tijana Vulević
Duihu Ning	Nigussie Haregeweyn Ayehu	Tolga Görüm
Eli Pavlova-Traykova	Nikola Živanović	Valentin Golosov
Fei Wang	Panos Panagos	Velibor Spalevic
Fenli Zheng	Paola Andrea Campitelli	Wanwisa.Pansak
Goran Skataric	Paulo Tarso S. Oliveira	Xiubin He
Ian Hannam	Qin Chen	Zachary Gichuru Mainuri

## **WASWAC Advisors**

Chi-hua Huang	Jean Poesen	Samran Sombatpanit
Des E. Walling	Machito Mihara	William Critchley
Dingqiang Li	Rattan Lal	Winfried Blum
Hans Hurni	Rosa M. Poch	
James Owino	Samir El-Swaify	

## **WASWAC Honor Presidents**

Jose Luis Rubio	Miodrag Zlatic	Rui Li
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(Names are arranged in alphabetical order)





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