

COORDINATORS:

- The NJF Environment section;
- Lithuanian Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry;
- Lithuanian Soil Science Society;
- Lithuanian Ministry of Agriculture;
- Lithuanian Academy of Sciences.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE:

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- Kristiina Regina, MTT, Finland;
- Svein Skøien, County Governor Østfold, Norway;
- Algirdas Radzevičius, ASU, Lithuania;
- Sigitas Lazauskas, LRCAF, Lithuania;
- Jonas Volungevičius, Lithuanian Soil Science Society, Lithuania;
- Lars J. Munkholm, AU, Denmark;
- Algirdas Juozas Motuzas, ASU, Lithuanian Soil Science Society, Lithuania;
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- Aldis Karklins, LUA, Latvia;
- Samson Bjarnar Hardarson, AU, Iceland.

ORGANIZING GROUP:

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NJF Seminar (483)**SOIL DEGRADATION:*****THEORY, EVIDENCE AND PROTECTION ACTIVITIES***

22–25 September 2015, Vėžaičiai, Lithuania

Invitation to the NJF Seminar (483) „SOIL DEGRADATION: THEORY, EVIDENCE AND PROTECTION ACTIVITIES“

Dear Colleague,

You are kindly invited to the NJF seminar „Soil Degradation: Theory, Evidence and Protection Activities“.

Serious problems of land degradation and failing soil fertility are rapidly declining production levels in large parts of the world. Human-induced soil degradation worldwide has affected about 2000 million ha or 15 % of the total land area. Water erosion is thought to be a major reason for such extent of soil degradation. Due to this, the EU annually loses from 8 to 12 million ha of good, fertile soil and, if estimated in financial terms, this makes up a loss of about 40 million €. As a result, a search for solutions how to sustainably intensify production is becoming one of the key issues for agricultural and soil sciences. Modern intensive agriculture based on the use of chemicals poses a major threat to nature and primarily to soil. The problem is further expanded by farmers seeking maximal yields and attempting to offset poor soil and crop management by excessive use of fertilizers or pesticides, which results in contamination of soil and agricultural products. All this disturbs vital soil ecological functions such as chemical buffering capacity, organic matter decomposition, nutrient cycling, biodiversity and aesthetic functions. Soil degradation most often manifests itself through the loss of humus, reduction of biological activity, destruction of structure, increasing compaction, acidification, salinization, nutrient leaching and runoff.

The capacity of soil to counteract various anthropogenic loads is limited and eventually is not capable of resisting the increased physical, chemical and biochemical loads and thus loses part of its valuable functions (e.g. productivity, biological filter, neutralizer of harmful compounds).

The aim of this seminar is to come up with ideas and provide answers to some of the urgent questions - how to protect the soil from human-induced degradation and to achieve sustainable management in compliance with the soil protection regulations. The fact that the solution to the above-mentioned problems is highly relevant and pressing has been endorsed in the resolution of the United Nations – the year 2015 has been declared as the International Year of Soils.

HIGHLIGHTING TOPICS:

- Soil Acidification Management: the Experience on the Long-Term Basis
- Soil Erosion Problems in the Baltic Sea Coastal Zone
- Soil Organic Matter as a Key Factor of Soil Fertility and Ecosystem Productivity
- Soil Structure and Sustainability
- Management of Soil Organisms and Biological Processes in Soil
- Modern and Innovative Measures to Mitigate Soil Degradation

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME:

- **22 September** : Arrival, registration. Sightseeing in Klaipėda (sightseeing tour “Klaipėda in the Prussian Kingdom”; Klaipėda city panorama view from the bird flight). Welcome party at the Klaipėda Old Town.
- **23 September**. Registration. Seminar opening. Plenary sessions. Oral/poster presentations. Gala dinner dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the Vėžaičiai branch of LRCAF.
- **24 September**: Visiting the unique long – term field and lysimetric experiments of Vėžaičiai branch of LRCAF. Excursion to the most unique place in Lithuania – the Curonian Spit (during tour we will enjoy astonishing breathtaking views of the Curonian Lagoon, landscape of sand dunes, cultural elements including the remains of postal tracks, trade villages from the 10th and 11th centuries, traditional fishermen villages and other archaeological heritage covered by sand). ***In parallel*** of the Seminar – expedition (The expedition will be dedicated to International Year of Soil - 2015 and organized by Lithuanian Soil Science Society. The aim of this expedition – to evaluate the peculiarities of Retisols and to analyze modifications of WRB 2014 in relevance to Lithuania. During the expedition there will be 2-3 types of Retisols presented (2 types of afforested landscapes and 1 – of agrarian landscape).
- **25 September**. Scientific conference – expedition (organized by Lithuanian Soil Science Society).

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Early registration and dissemination of abstracts: **August 3, 2015**
- Submission of scientific papers: **August 17, 2015**
- Notification of paper acceptance: **August 24, 2015**
- Closing of registration and deadline for paying the participation fee: **September 1, 2015**

REGISTRATION FEE:

NJF members before 15th of August - 250 EUR, until 1st of September - 300 EUR

Others before 15th of August - 300 EUR, until 1st of September - 350 EUR

Students before 15th of August - 200 EUR, until 1st of September - 250 EUR

The Seminar registration fee is not covering the accommodation and travelling expenses. The fee includes participation in the Welcome party and Welcome day excursions, attendance of the Seminar, lunches, coffee breaks, one copy of the Seminar materials and visiting field experiments/ or participating in the Seminar expedition.

The participation fee should be paid till 1st of September, 2015

This seminar is recognised for the NJF certification. Please find details at [www. http://www.njf.nu/](http://www.njf.nu/)