

FOREWORD

This publication contains joint proceedings of the 6th Africa Soil Science Society (ASSS) and the 27th Soil Science Society of East Africa (SSSEA) conference proceedings Nakuru, Kenya from 20-25 October 2013. The conference critically analyzed Land and Water Management (LWM) technologies, innovative products and services; and strategies benefiting small-scale agriculture in Africa. This 6th ASSS Conference followed the previous 5th Conference held on 22-28 November 2009 in Yaoundé, Cameroon, and the 27th SSSEA followed the 26th meeting held at Jinja Uganda on 21-25 November 2011. The SSSEA and the ASSS decided to pool resources and have a joint Africa-wide conference.

A particular focus of this joint conference was the contribution of LWM in the Agricultural Product Value Chains (APVS's), addressing threats and opportunities associated with climate change, and scaling up of proven technologies for transformational impact on the livelihoods of African small-scale farmers.

In addition, land use planning and policy was addressed during this conference. In line with the comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP's) goal of eliminating hunger and reducing poverty through agriculture, the conference touched on the pillars relating to sustainable land management; market access; increasing food supply and reducing hunger.

This was achieved through presentations on research findings, technology dissemination and adoption. The conference featured invited keynote speakers in plenary sessions, followed by sessions of related thematic oral and poster presentations.

Apart from these proceedings, a major output of the conference was publication of a book entitled *"Transforming Rural Livelihoods in Africa, The contribution of land and water management to enhanced food security and climate change adaptation and mitigation in the African continent*, Edited by Walter Leal Filho, Anthony O. Esilaba, K. P. C. Rao and G. Sridhar.

During the conference, the first ever Soil Atlas for Africa was officially launched. The conference resolved that the role of soils and Soil Science in ensuring food security and providing other key ecosystem services be given appropriate recognition. These are fundamental for sustainable production and adaptation to climate variability and climate change.

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