

20th International Congress of Soil Science (ICSS-2024)

Soil Health: A Key to Food Security

FEBRUARY
20-22, 2024



Venue

PMAS Arid Agriculture University
Rawalpindi-Pakistan

ORGANIZED BY
Soil Science Society of Pakistan

In Collaboration with

PMAS Arid Agriculture University



Rawalpindi, Pakistan

www.sss-pakistan.org info@sss-pakistan.org

Background

Welcome to the enlightening world of “Soil Health: A Key to Food Security.” Soil health is a critical and often underrated component of global food security. In an era of growing global population and increasing food demand, the quality and vitality of our soils play a key role in ensuring a sustainable and nutritious food supply. While debates about food security frequently revolve around crop yields, climate change and distribution systems; It is essential to recognize that the foundation of our food systems lies below our feet i.e., the soil. Healthy soils not only support crop growth but also contribute to environmental sustainability and economic stability. In this 20th International Congress of Soil Science (ICSS-2024), we will delve deeper into the vital role that soils play in feeding the world's population. Soil health encompasses a variety of attributes, including its physical, chemical, and biological properties, all of which contribute to the soil's ability to support plant growth, support diverse ecosystems, and provide essential nutrients to the crops on which we depend for our livelihood. The 20th ICSS-2024 is expected to bring together stakeholders including academia, research, industry, and farming community from Pakistan and abroad to share their provocative ideas with fellow soil and environmental scientists in relation with the theme of the congress. The ICSS-2024 organizing committee is looking forward to see you at PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi-Pakistan.

PLANERY PAPERS

Four to five invited papers will be presented in plenary session of the Congress. In addition, one keynote speech will also be delivered. The Organizing Committee will request leading scientists of national repute to address major areas concerning theme of the Congress.

VOLUNTARY PAPER

SSSP invites soil and environmental scientists to submit abstracts for oral and poster presentation. Any number of abstracts as co-author can be submitted but each author will be allowed to present only one abstract as oral and poster as a presenting author.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

The submitting author is entitled to deliver one oral presentation. The precise duration allocated for each presentation in the session will be communicated by the ICSS-2024 Technical Committee well in advance of the congress's commencement."

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Each poster will be allocated a number and a display panel/space measuring as per format available on the website <https://sss-pakistan.org/icss-2024/>. Poster format must include, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Conclusions, 2-3 References and acknowledgment, if any. Poster must be legible from a distance of at least 1.5 meters.

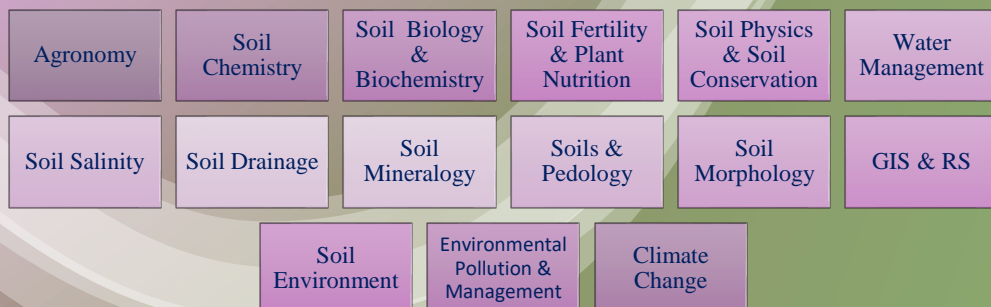
ONLINE PRESENTATIONS

Online presentation mode is reserved exclusively for international speakers and invited experts who are unable to attend in person. The decision to permit and arrange online presentations will be made by the organizing committee for those who express a preference for virtual presentation.



Scope ICSS-2024

Abstracts can be submitted within the scope of the following thematic areas for the ICSS-2024. If your paper does not fit in these subject areas, please indicate its discipline.



Selected papers presented in the congress may be published in the Society's Journal "Soil & Environment", after peer review. SE is an impact factor journal published by Soil Science Society of Pakistan (<http://www.se.org.pk/>). Note: For any query regarding the abstract submission, please contact Convener Technical Committee (Prof. Hafiz Naeem Asghar Email: congress@sss-pakistan.org, naemasghar@yahoo.com, Tel: +923006615229).

Best Poster Prize

A committee of scientists will judge the posters presented in different sessions of the Congress and determine the 1st, 2nd and 3rd best poster. During evaluation, every presenter will be given 5 minutes for brief about his/her poster. Presenter can check poster evaluation Performa from the website <https://sss-pakistan.org/icss-2024/>. The evaluation criteria will include quality of research, its relevance to Pakistan agriculture and presentation quality. The evaluation Performa can be downloaded from <https://sss-pakistan.org/icss-2024/>.

Important Dates



Registration Fee

Details of registration fee are as under:

Local Professional Participants:	Life Members (SSSP)	PKR 3000
	Regular Members (SSSP)	PKR 3000 + 1000 (Annual Fee)
	Non-Members	PKR 4000
Student Participants	Members (SSSP)	PKR 2000
	Non-Members	PKR 3000
Foreign Participants:		USD 100

Registration for the Congress is compulsory before submitting abstracts. Registration fee covers Congress materials, tea and lunch during the Congress.

Abstracts of non-registered participants will not be included in the Technical Program.

Fee Payment

Please pay Registration Fee to Soil Science Society of Pakistan at National Bank of Pakistan, NIH Branch, Islamabad. Congress registration details are available on <https://sss-pakistan.org/icss-2024/>. Participants are required to submit registration fee (preferably online) to the Society account and send its proof to Treasurer SSSP, **Dr. Ghulam Murtaza Jamro** via Email: treasurer@sss-pakistan.org, gjmjamro@gmail.com or WhatsApp: +923070364559.

The fee can be submitted online using the following details:

Account Title: Soil Science Society of Pakistan Account No.: 16544018304351

Bank: NBP, NIH Branch, Islamabad. Personal cheques are not acceptable. Foreign participants can pay at the time of Congress.

Foreign Participants

We strongly recommend that foreign participants reach out to the ICSS-2024 organizers well in advance to facilitate the necessary arrangements, including travel, visa applications, transportation, boarding, lodging, and any other essential aspects of their ICSS experience. Our team is here to assist and ensure your smooth participation, so please do not hesitate to contact us for any support or guidance you may require. Transport from Islamabad International Airport can be arranged. Every foreign participant should make arrangement for receiving Pakistani visa by contacting the Pakistani Embassies and consulates located in their home countries. However, Congress organizers would provide formal invitation letter after their confirmation and abstract submission. In this regard, please contact Prof. Dr. Azeem Khalid, Congress Secretary/General Secretary of Soil Science Society of Pakistan, via email: general.secretary@sss-pakistan.org/ azeem@uair.edu.pk or WhatsApp +923016005958. The invitation from the Society is meant to facilitate the grant of visa and does not imply to bear the responsibility of sponsoring the trip to Pakistan.

Travel Guide

PMAS Arid Agriculture University is situated on Murree Road, almost in the center of the cosmopolitan twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad, the capital of the country. These cities are beautiful towns located at the foothills with a blend of old and new cultures and constructions. Whether you arrive at the bustling Faizabad or Pirwadhai Bus Stations, Central Railway Station, or via Islamabad International Airport, you will find numerous ways to reach the ICSS-2024 destination. For your convenience Rawalpindi Metro Bus system (Red line, blue line, yellow line and green line), Cabs (Uber, in-Drive and Yango) and Bykea (bike) are easily available. For any query please contact Convener Transport Committee (**Dr. Qaiser Hussain**, Email: qaiser.hussain@uuar.edu.pk, Tel: +923314872466).

Faizabad Bus Station

1.5 KM to PMAS AAUR
(5-10 min)



Pir Wadhai Bus Station

7.0 KM to PMAS AAUR
(20 min)

Islamabad Intl. Airport

33 KM to PMAS AAUR
(45 min)



Rawalpindi Railway Station

7.7 KM to PMAS AAUR
(30 min)



Metro Bus Service (Four lines)

Red Line, Green line, Yellow line, Blue line
Nearest Station to PMAS AAUR (*Khatam e Nabawat*)

Cab services

Uber, In-drive, Yango and Bykea (bike)

Metro Bus Guide Map



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Islamabad_Metro_Bus_Map_January_2023.png

Accommodation

Accommodation requirements must be communicated to Convener (**Dr. Shahzada Sohail Ijaz**, Email: shahzadasohail@uuar.edu.pk, Tel: +923335196330). Accommodation Committee on the given Proforma available on the Society website <https://sss-pakistan.org/icss-2024/>. A limited number of rooms in different institutions' rest houses/hostels can be reserved on first come first served basis at Rawalpindi. Rooms in hotels can also be arranged on request.

Post Congress Tour

A one-day tour nearby Islamabad shall be arranged on February 22, 2024, provided reasonable numbers of participants are interested. For information, please contact Convener Committee (**Dr. Muhammad Akmal**, Email: akmal@uuar.edu.pk, Tel: +923455973793)

Congress President

Prof. Dr. Zahir Ahmad Zahir

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Congress Secretary

Prof. Dr. Azeem Khalid

Environmental Sciences, Institute of Soil and Environmental Sciences, PMAS Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi, Pakistan. (General Secretary SSSP)

Email: general.secretary@sss-pakistan.org / azeem@uuar.edu.pk Cell: +92 301 6005958.

Advisory Board

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30. Chief Executive, Punjab Agricultural Research Board, Lahore
31. Dr. Shahid Maqsood Gill, Member, NRD, PARC, Islamabad

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55. Mr. Rashid Ahmad, Executive Director, Crop Life Pakistan
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Congress /General Secretary: Prof. Dr. Azeem Khalid, PMAS-Arid Agri. Univ. Rawalpindi

Congress Assoc. Secretary/Joint Secretary SSSP: Dr. Muhammad Iqbal

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