



World Soil Day

Why in News

World Soil Day (WSD) is held annually on **5 December** to highlight the importance of healthy soil and to advocate for the sustainable management of soil resources.

- The **theme** for WSD 2019 is '**Stop Soil Erosion, Save Our Future**'.



Key Points //

- It was recommended by the **International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS)** in **2002**. **Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)** has supported the formal establishment of WSD as a global awareness-raising platform under the leadership of the **Kingdom of Thailand** within the framework of the **Global Soil Partnership**.
- **5 December 2014** was designated as the **first official World Soil Day** by the **UN General Assembly (UNGA)**.
- The date of 5 December was chosen because it corresponds with the official **birthday of H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the King of Thailand**, who **officially sanctioned** the event.
- FAO gives **two awards** in line with this day-
 - **The King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award**- an annual award that honours individuals, communities, organizations and countries that organized remarkable and engaging World Soil Day activities or campaigns in the previous year.
 - **The Glinka World Soil Prize**- an annual award for dynamic change-makers dedicated to solving one of our world's most pressing environmental issue: **soil degradation**. It honours individuals and organizations whose leadership and activities have contributed, or are still contributing to the promotion of sustainable soil management and the protection of soil resources.

Source: FAO

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