

# The Sand Land Soil System and Society

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Worldwide, arid soils such as Lateralites from African Savannas to the Xeralfs and Xererts of the Mediterranean Basin, Ortents and Orthids of Asian Deserts are uniquely different in their strategic roles for utilizing the land in places where a delicate balance between annual climatic cycles and general trends toward desertification predominate. Arid lands cover 1/3 of global land surface and contain irreplaceable natural resources with potential productivity of meeting the demands of more than two billion people and serving as sources and sinks of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> to combat global warming. The soil system in these arid areas are being degraded, underutilized and kept in a stage of obliviousness due to inadequate public literacy and most importantly, in-sufficient scientific evaluations based on pedology and soil taxonomy standards. Implementation of food security projects and sustainable development programs on randomly selected sites and assessment of land degradation worldwide, by powerful computers and satellite imagery techniques without field work and identification of Representative Soil Units, are data producing and grant attracting but, counter productive.

We live in a world in which there is an order out there and things are precisely measured and categorized for efficient utilization. Why not the soils, mainly in arid areas?. How we could generalize the world of soils under our feet by concept of soils are the same?. Expansion of educational programs, quantification of multiple ecosystems within the arid regions through detailed and correlated field studies, coupled with application of remote sensing technology can provide opportunities for project designers to extrapolate the results of their studies and promote national productivity and regional economy. Otherwise, all nations would inevitably pursue a self-destructive cause of fueling their economies by consuming their capital and by degrading natural ecosystems and therefore accelerating the depletion of their most valuable natural resources. Answering to these questions and coping with tsunami of others on the occasion of this international gathering in the Great Country of China should rely on our good conscience and exercise of professional responsibilities in a way, Hunger shall last no longer.