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## To the Readers

Editor-in-Chief

*Prof. Metodi Teoharov*

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*Dear readers of Bulgarian Journal of Soil Science,*

*Dear colleagues,*

On the occasion of marking 2015 as the International Year of Soil the Managing Board of Bulgarian Soil Society decided to release its own online journal. After accepting the general publishing requirements and confirming the approved sections of the journal the management of the Editorial Board prepared the first issue. I believe that the journal will be greeted by all readers and colleagues both abroad and in our country as we are all aware that soil is a unique natural resource and it is as valuable as water and air for every living being. We must know and preserve soil because it is a living biological system which is subjected to the impact of external and internal factors of any kind. That is why care of soil is in fact care of people. The modern man rarely remembers that soil is the first born offspring of Mother Earth and it is characterized by the inestimable quality of fertility. Knowledge, conservation and protection from all sorts of abuse is an obligatory prerequisite for ecological and sustainable soil management.

Soil scientists, no matter where in the world they are, are always guided by the Dokuchaev and neo-Dokuchaev paradigm “properties – processes – factors of soil formation” and this is the basis on which they suggest measures for preservation of soil fertility. This proven formula most accurately determines its genesis, evolution and changes in time and space. In certain historical periods this model of natural law was violated and parts of the Earth broke off and formed new lands. Huge land ecosystems, cities and islands remained under water flooded by seas and oceans. Historical artifacts show that soil has preserved the traces of lost civilizations. It possesses the historical memory “to store” climatic changes, rocks, vegetation, animals and people. In the profile of Red Cinnamon Forest Soil on Bulgarian land particles of relics of St. John the Baptist were discovered. Today under the surface of the soil cover explorers find sanctuaries, Thracian tombs, fortress walls, fine mosaics, chariots, amphorae and gold treasures.

Soil is a national century-old fortune, an irreplaceable natural resource, which is used for multiple purposes and in comparison with the other components of the ecosystem it virtually has very specific natural functions. The attitude of man and society to soil is actually attitude to themselves and to the future generations. Soil is a natural and historical body, which creates and reproduces material and spiritual values. It is a complex structurally organized system, which has components similar to those of Man: solid phase (skeleton), gaseous phase (respiratory system), liquid phase (blood system) and living matter (heart pulse). As a complex multifunctional system soil patiently endures the vagaries of time and man. Modern people build huge motorways and seal under asphalt and concrete dearest black

earth, they surround themselves with concrete walls and palaces and build housing estates, new cities, petrol stations, shopping malls. They create numerous dumpsites, tailings and embankments, which scarify soil with heavy metal and organic waste. We must not forget that soil is organically linked to the living and non-living natural habitat and if they are separated this fact can play “a bad joke” to the Earth. We must not forget that in such case soil is turning into a non-renewable resource.

All this obliges us to accept soil as both our own and Nature’s creation which is closely linked to the future of many generations. That is why it is necessary to know its genetic essence and to protect it from the impact of all natural forces and Man’s violations. Ignorance of soil as the primary means of creating material and spiritual benefits, its irrational use move people away not only from nature but also from their genetic essence and habitat. That is why the main goal that Bulgarian Journal of Soil sets to itself is being recognized by the Bulgarian and world soil community as their scientific edition so that every research fellow and preservationist can publish their ideas in the journal.

The journal will deal with contemporary topics and tasks, connected with ecology, climatic changes, the origin, diagnostics, classification, use and preservation of soil and land resources as well as increasing their fertility. Therefore, the main sections to which the journal will adhere are as follows: Genesis, Geography and Classification of Soils, Soil Physics and Agrophysics, Soil Erosion and Degradation, Agrochemistry and Agroecology, Agrotechnics and Hydromelioration, Soil Microbiology, Biodiversity, Biosphere, Technosphere and Noosphere, Plant Protection, Ecology and Preservation of Soil Resources and Environment.

I believe that the journal will provide answers to a number of questions raised by modern soil science. With our first issue the Science Editorial Board and all Bulgarian soil scientists appeal to all people on our planet: “Preserve the soil and soil fertility as this is the eternal and inestimable treasure for our children and for all of us!”

***Good luck to Bulgarian Journal of Soil Science!***

***Founders of the Journal:***

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