**SB60 Side Event Abstract**

**Title -** **Soil Health for People and Planet: Leveraging policy, integrating governance, exploring collaboration**

Addressing the challenges of soil degradation requires a varied toolbox that includes solutions from robust policy frameworks and effective governance mechanisms. Policy instruments are needed to support and prioritize soil conservation, restoration, and sustainable management.

This discussion session brings together policy advocates, researchers and practitioners, to delve into the multifaceted dimensions of soil policy, governance and the need for collaboraton. We will discover innovative strategies, best practices, and emerging trends that highlight how various policy instruments can be used to safeguard soil health and promote sustainable land management practices.

Key themes to be addressed include the role of policy interventions in mitigating soil degradation, how to balance multiple societal demands from soils in policy, integrating traditional knowledge into modern governance frameworks, and the socioeconomic implications of soil management decisions. Moreover, the session will explore where there are opportunities for cross-sectoral collaboration, citizen engagement, and international cooperation in advancing soil policy agendas.

By fostering interdisciplinary exchange around the complexities of soil governance, this session seeks to catalyse action towards building resilient and regenerative soil systems that can support future generations and sustain planetary health.

Taking the form of a “fireside chat”, the facilitator will pose questions to each panellist and catalyse an interactive discussion on what soil health looks like in practice and how it can be achieved.