



The British Society of Soil Science in the International Year of Soils

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During the IYS, the British Society of Soil Science is engaging in a large number of activities aimed at raising the awareness of soil within society. Regional Groups are organising Society participation in a number of events, a number of which are large, annual events providing access to a mixed audience of stakeholders. The success of the Society in raising awareness in soil during the IYS will not lie solely in developing new events which take time and money to organise, advertise and host, but primarily in linking up with existing events that are already featured with the UK's annual calendar of trade shows, agricultural meetings and scientific conferences. Examples of such events include the Royal Highland Show in Edinburgh in June, the World Water Congress in May, and internationally Expo15 in Milan with other societies across Europe. In addition, BSSS is aware of many soil-related activities being organised by research organisations (e.g. Lancaster University, James Hutton Institute, CEH, University of Aberdeen) and is working with these organisations to provide a synergy of activities. This has the combined effects of reducing costs, increasing access to potential audiences and stakeholders, and avoiding overlap with events that were already organised.

The IYS also finds BSSS one year on from their success in bidding to host the World Congress of Soil Science in 2022 in Glasgow. Activities by BSSS during 2015 are intended to develop a momentum towards this Congress and to raise awareness of British Soil Science and the Congress amongst industry, researchers, policymakers and the general public. This will provide a springboard for increasing sponsorship and funding for the World Congress, and will hopefully result in increased attendance and quality of experience for the delegates at the Congress.