



## Aapresid is distinguished as Soil Conservation Champion by FAO

This award is to acknowledge institutions' trajectory and achievements in its role as "soil guardians".

The GLINKA World Soil Prize is granted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations-FAO whose slogan is "The care of the planet begins with the ground". The President of the Argentine No till Farmers Association (Aapresid), Mr. Pedro Vigneau, participated in the World Soil Day ceremony held on December 5th in Rome.

"This recognition is to the Argentine farmers whose agriculture is 91% based on No Till", said the President of Aapresid in his speech.

"This positions the No Till system agriculture as a referent in soil conservation, so this sustainability diploma turns us into natural resources protectors who provide more opportunities for interaction, dialogue and joint work", said Santiago Nocelli Pac, Manager of Aapresid Prospective Program, and added: "They do not reward us only for producing more, but for producing and conserving".

Aapresid was born thirty years ago due to the interest of a group of farmers who worried about the soil erosion. They decided to build collaborative solutions by adopting the technology of conservation agriculture (No till or Zero Tillage) adapting their local machinery for that purpose, sharing experiences and researching with a strong spirit of disruption and innovation to carry out its mission of sustainability.

The Glinka World Soil Prize aims to maintain the momentum generated by the International Year of Soils in 2015. The name of the award is derived from Konstantin Glinka (1867-1927) who was a prominent Russian soil scientist. He was credited for contributing to understand the principles of the geographic distribution of the soil resources and for his extensive exploration activities, mapping and evaluation of vast areas of Siberia, the Far East and Central Asia, as well as for his important studies in mineralogy, chemistry and paleopedology.

"This distinction will contribute in a timely manner to sensitize policy makers, scientists and the general public about possible solutions to local, national, regional and global soil degradation issues, encouraging all stakeholders involved to contribute more actively to the preservation of the environment, food security and poverty alleviation, as specified in the revised World Soil Charter", expressed Mr. Nocelli Pac.

"The Glinka World Soil Prize entails a great responsibility and it also brings about the discussion of the FAO endorsement to the global dialogue", added the agronomist.

María Beatriz "Pilu" Giraudo, former President of Aapresid, underlined: "This award implies more commitment to monitoring and continuous improvement, and involves the use of technologies that allow ecology and production to go on ahead together".

According to the latest report from the world soil state, the overwhelming conclusion is that most of the world's soil resources are in fair, poor or very poor conditions. The most important threats are erosion, carbon loss and nutrients imbalance. Conservation Agriculture (CA) is based on the "No Till" precept, something that Aapresid has been preaching for many years and listed as a priority practice for mitigating those damaging impacts.

"We redouble our mission, our energy and mainly our Aapresid's spirit to strengthen it inside the institution and to radiate it to others worldwide. We share this award proud of being farmers who promote a model that allows us to recover, maintain and even improve the soils", concluded Mrs. Giraudo.

Mr. Alejandro Petek, member of the Aapresid directive board, remarked: "As part of the American Confederation of Farmers Organizations for a Sustainable Agriculture (CAAPAS) and also belonging to the Global Conservation Agriculture Network (GCAN), we share the pride and joy of this prize with all the other farmers and institutions who aim to create a better world through the promotion of conservation agriculture with zero tillage, not only for this generation but also for the future ones. We thank FAO for this recognition. This boosts our efforts to implement production systems to improve the quality of the environment and of food, fiber and energy production".

