

Project Update: May 2014

1. The soil macrofauna sampling was completed in all land use systems within the Havana-Matanzas Plain (natural regeneration forests, pasture with leguminous trees or silvopastoral systems, pastures without trees, agroecological farms, sugarcane and crop systems), carrying out the sampling for the dry period in January 2014.
2. The processing of the taxonomic and ecological characterisation of soil macrofauna communities in all land use systems is almost finished. The inventory of soil macrofauna shows a composition of three phyla, seven classes and 23 orders, and 73 families, 65 genera and 41 species have been named or identified.
3. Brief talks were given to technical staff and workers in some of the land use systems evaluated, which includes the local communities. They learnt about the functional role of soil macrofauna, its sampling methodology and indicative value of soil quality. This knowledge will enable them to continue the monitoring of soil biodiversity in an independent way.
4. Some results were also presented in courses on soil biology and ecology in Master's Degree about Soil, coordinated by the Universidad Agraria de La Habana 5. A digital version of the practical manual for the work with the soil macrofauna was conformed, and new information is being added to this digital version for its final publication.