

## APPSA-LESOTHO UNDERTAKES SOIL PROFILE AND CHARACTERIZATION IN ALL STATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH



Soil profile is an important tool in soil nutrient management through which valuable insight into soil fertility status can be gained. Soils possess many physical, biological, and chemical properties which exert great influence on the distribution and development of vegetation and life. APPSA-Lesotho has preferred to establish Regional Center of Leadership (RCoL) in horticulture and horticulture-based farming systems. It is critical to ascertain soil status particularly on the sites on which research trials and demonstrations would be conducted.

RCoL technicians jointly with soils section and farm management of the Department of Agricultural Research (DAR) are engaged in soil profile and characterization. A study of the soil profile including history and status is important from crop husbandry point of view. It reveals the surface and the subsurface characteristics and qualities, namely depth, texture, structure, drainage conditions and soil-moisture relationships, which directly affect plant growth.

Soil sample from each horizon would be taken for analysis at the DAR soils laboratory. Interpretation of soil results will be made as well as recommendations for soil use that have a minimal negative impact on the ecosystem. Loamy-textured soils are commonly described as medium textured with functionally equal contributions of sand, silt, and clay. These medium-textured soils are often considered ideal for agriculture as they are easily cultivated by farmers and can be highly productive for crop growth.