

My Trip Report: 2016 ESSC Conference in Romania

I humbly wish to thank the Thrust for the travel grant support and the opportunity to participate at the 2016 European Society of Soil Conservation (ESSC) conference. The “ESSC 2016 Conference” was very international and was well attended by very many participants from within and outside the EU. In the forum were scholars, academia, policy makers, farmers and other stakeholders who had the interest to further understand the processes going-on in and around the Soil and its environs towards achieving sustainable food production and world food security.

My Activities during the 2016 ESSC Conference

The following are the tasks I performed while at the conference:

1. Firstly, I arrived Cluj, Romania (beautiful city) on the 14th of June at about 14:00 Romanian time (12:00 UK time) to familiarise myself with the new environment.
2. On June the 15th, the opening day, I registered for the event at about 9:45am while the opening ceremony began at 12 noon. Series of lectures were given and I had the opportunity of listening to first-hand information coming from scholars and the people from the industry on soil and environment related matters.
3. On 16th June, 2016, I gave an oral presentation of my experiment: “Organic amendments applied to a degraded soil: effects on soil chemical properties and maize yield”
4. As requested in the acceptance letter, I will write a full paper of my abstract which will be published in the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation after the conference.
5. As part of the conference activity, on 18th June, 2016, I participated in the conference field trip. The field trip was an interesting experience for me. Especially listening to pedologist, geographers, geologists and biologist describing the processing taking places within the soil and how these processes influence the soil minerals (soil nutrients).

Benefits from the conference-

The following were what I benefited by attending the 2016 ESSC conference:

1. I had first ever experience and opportunity to present my PhD work to an international audience. Thus, this will enhance my public speech.
2. After my presentation, I received lots of feedback and some of the participants suggested some further materials I should read. I am delighted to have such feedbacks on my research.
3. I gained some knowledge while listening to the other presenters both during the oral and poster presentation sections. More so by interacting with other presenters, I had the opportunity of further understanding of complex nature of soil from their perspective.

4. Being present in the conference, I had the opportunity to listen to the latest state of the art techniques in combating soil degradation. This is especially so during the presentation by Dr Creamer (from Ireland) on “The multi-tasking soil- how do we manage multiple soil functions? She x-rayed the problems facing soils and the challenges in overcoming soil degradation and the need to match demand on soils and the supply capacity of soils in meeting our demands.
5. Further, the conference provided me the opportunity to network with other researchers and keeping me up-to-date with the latest and future research in my area of research.

Figures 1 and 2 captured some of the activities I participated in during the conference section.



Figure 1 Conference morning and evening activities



Figure 2 Day 2: Poster presentation section

Generally, I gained immeasurable knowledge and made good networking contacts.