

**AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE SCIENTISTS  
OF THE NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CENTER “INSTITUTE FOR SOIL SCIENCE AND  
AGROCHEMISTRY RESEARCH NAMED AFTER O.N. SOKOLOVSKY”  
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF AGRARIAN SCIENCES OF UKRAINE**

Dear colleagues, soil scientists and agrochemists!

On February 24, 2022, the war began again on our continent. The war - is the most destructive and unnatural phenomenon for human society. The many years of creative work of our fathers, our generation, the plans and hopes of our children were destroyed by the unjustified aggression of the Russian Federation.

Kharkiv city was a city of scientists and students, one of the most Russian-speaking cities in Ukraine, located 40 km from the Russian border. It was an exceptionally peaceful and tolerant city, suitable for a happy comfortable life for its citizens and guests of the city.

However, despite the false assurances of the Russian leadership that the military actions of the Russian Federation are not directed at the civilian population, from the first days of the invasion round-the-clock shelling of residential areas of the city began with ground artillery, ballistic and cruise missiles, and aviation. It is impossible to convey the feeling of horror of a peaceful person, waiting for an explosion in the night after an attack aircraft or a bomber flying over him. Explosions of hailstones, cluster charges of hurricanes and shells of heavy howitzers - this is the reality of Kharkiv residents today, but not the fakes of Russian propaganda about the “Russian world” and “protection”. Today, more than 1300 buildings in Kharkiv have already been destroyed, of which more than 600 are multi-storey buildings and this number is constantly growing, more than 200 Kharkiv residents have already died from explosions and under the rubble, regardless of their nationality, language or religion.

We are soil scientists, and in our multiple expedition trips throughout the country we have never experienced any manifestations of national or racial hostility, and aggressiveness towards visitors. Ukraine is a multinational friendly family united now against inhuman aggression. In this tragic time for our country, we appeal to you not only as colleagues, but as an intellectual force capable of contributing to ending the war crimes of the Russian Federation in Ukraine.

You are scientists, and like no one else can realize the disastrous consequences for the entire continent in the case of a further continuation of the war in Ukraine. Fifteen power units of nuclear power plants turned out to be in the risk zone and direct hostilities - these are 15 potential Chernobyls! Millions of refugees, an economic crisis due to the disruption of trade ties, and a very high risk of the conflict expanding to other countries - this scenario will become real if the aggressor's criminal plans are not stopped.

As a result of hostilities, the soil cover of Ukraine is being disturbed, 60% of which is represented by unique chernozem (black soil), the most fertile soil in the world. This is our national treasure. We can irretrievably destroy the objects of scientific research that were created by our predecessors for decades - these are stationary field experiments, including long-term ones, research sites, monitoring sites. We run the risk of losing scientific staff, who leads the most important directions of soil and agrochemical science, scientific schools and, of course, young people, who are the future of Ukraine. In this difficult time for the country, we ask for financial support for our Institute, which is the flagship of Ukrainian soil and agrochemical science, the coordinator of scientific research in this area in Ukraine. We ask you to provide non-refundable financial support for the Institute and a team of scientists in any form: gratuitous charitable contribution, targeted grant, advance payment for promising projects, financial support within the ERA4Ukraine Portal.

Dear friends, we urge you to spread the true information about the monstrous war unleashed by the Russian Federation in Ukraine. Don't be silent! Do everything possible to stop the inhuman destruction of the Ukrainian people, the Ukrainian land! Join the protests, spread truthful info about the war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, influence public opinion and the government in order to prevent even worse consequences for all mankind!

*The staff of the National Scientific Center “Institute for Soil Science and Agrochemistry Research named after O.N. Sokolovsky” March 25, 2022*