



"4 per 1000" Initiative, Agricultural soils for food security and climate

Editorial by Dr. Paul Luu

For an idea to arise and a seed to germinate...

It is a great honor to write these first words of the first editorial of the first newsletter of the "4 per 1000" Initiative. Here we are finally! After more than two years of existence and in the middle of this third year, as requested by the Consortium of the members of the Initiative, we are launching the newsletter, essential link with the partners and the members of the "4 per 1000" Initiative. It is true that time is running out, and yet we know that to meet the commitments made in Paris during the COP 21 to limit global warming to less than 2 °C and even 1.5 °C in 2050, we must not lose a single minute. Now that the awareness of the Initiative is established, and the governance essential to its operation is in place, we must resolutely turn to action.



Support those who, on a daily basis, act in the field to increase the amount of sequestered carbon in agricultural and forest soils, support decision-makers to develop and implement ambitious policies for soil organic carbon sequestration, encourage companies to develop value chains that respect the objectives of our initiative, continue advocacy to strengthen the collective awareness of the imperative need for a global action for the storage of carbon in the soil of the planet... these are the numerous actions we must take. But contributing to each of these components is not enough, it must also be known and shared with other actors at all levels.

This is the ambition we are pursuing through the implementation of the "4 per 1000" collaborative platform, already in operation and tested by the Scientific and Technical Committee and the Executive Secretariat. Its opening to partners and members is scheduled for September 12 to 14, 2018, at the Global Climate Action Summit to be held in San Francisco at the initiative of the Governor of California, Mr. Jerry BROWN. This Summit will be one of the highlights of the year regarding collective action against climate change. We will report on this in a future edition of this newsletter.

And precisely this newsletter is also a link within the network of many actors who are mobilized everywhere to catalyze change. This letter is yours, it will exist only for you and by you, and thanks to your contributions, whatever their nature. You will thus find in the body of this first edition, the composition of the Executive Secretariat and the functions of each one, in order to allow you to identify more easily an interlocutor. So, if you wish to suggest articles, relay local or global news, press articles, publicize the actions that you lead or that others lead and that seem to you in line with the objectives of the "4 per 1000" Initiative, do not hesitate to contact us at the following address: communication@4p1000.org.

This newsletter will reflect your actions and our joint efforts. In advance, be thanked for your commitments, your concrete actions, your projects and your ideas, because before things happen in the field it is necessary that an idea arises, and a seed germinates... and without fertile soil, no seed...

Dr. Paul LUU, Executive Secretariat

Some ideas, some suggestions...

Please send an email to the Executive Secretariat: communication@4p1000.org



How does the Governance of the "4 per 1000" Initiative work?

The International Initiative "4 per 1000" was officially launched on December, 1st, 2015 by Mr. Stéphane Le Foll, then French Minister of Agriculture, Agri-Food and Forestry, during the COP 21 of UNFCCC which took place in Paris. Countries, international organizations, local authorities, groups of farmers and foresters, institutions of research and education, and other economic actors, mobilized in favor of the initiative which is part of the agenda of solutions (Lima-Paris Agenda for Action) during that COP.

The Declaration of Intent for the constitution of a "4 per 1000" Consortium (COP 22 - Marrakesh 2016), signed by 94 members on November 17th, 2016, allowed the establishment of the governance of the Initiative, and the election of the President of the Consortium.

The Governance is articulated in 4 instances:

- **The Forum of Partners** (the signatories of the Paris (2015) Declaration of Intent sharing the principles and goals of the Initiative), which **constitutes the place for discussion, collaboration and partnership**. Meeting once a year, but also forming a digital community, it is organized into colleges:
 - Countries and provinces
 - International and regional organizations, development banks
 - Research/Education institutes and universities
 - Farmers' organizations
 - Civil society and non-profit foundations
 - Private companies and for-profit organizations
- **The Consortium of Members is the decision-making body of the "4 per 1000" Initiative** (the signatories of the Marrakech Declaration of Intent (2016), potentially all partners of the Forum except the private-commercial organizations). It makes decisions, by consensus, on the orientation, the policy, the roadmap (program of work), the budget, the approval of the recommendations from the Scientific and Technical Committee, etc. It meets at least once a year, at the same period of the annual meeting of the Forum, but also at other times according to its own agenda. In November 2017, the Consortium gathered 149 members involved in the decision-making process.

Dr. Ibrahim Hassane Mayaki, CEO of NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development) and former Prime Minister of Niger, was elected **Chairman of the Consortium of Members** (as well as the Forum of Partners) and **Mr. Stéphane Le Foll**, Mayor of the city of Le Mans, and former French Minister for Agriculture, Food and Forest, was elected **Vice-Chairman**.
- **The Scientific and Technical Committee (STC)**, made up of 14 internationally recognized high-level scientists, selected by the Consortium on the proposal of the Executive Secretariat, is the scientific body of the Initiative ([see its composition here](#)). It is a multidisciplinary group, with a balanced composition of geographical origin and gender, each member of which must regularly produce a declaration of interests. The STC meets several times a year and during the first years, it:
 - proposed a set of criteria and indicators for the evaluation of projects and actions based on the principles and objectives of the Initiative, as well as on the Sustainable Development Goals ([read](#))
 - formulated proposals for the guidelines of an International Program for Research and Scientific Cooperation ([read](#)).
- **The International Executive Secretariat is the executive body of the "4 per 1000" Initiative.**

The "4 per 1000" Executive Secretariat supports the 3 previous bodies, the Forum of Partners, the Consortium of members and the Scientific and Technical Committee (STC).

[The Governance in a nutshell](#)

A few figures... 281 Partners and 149 Members (November 2017)

All countries or organizations that joined the Initiative ([see here how to join](#)) sent their application to the Executive Secretary. If the application is complete, the Executive Secretary submits the list of new partners and members to be approved to the Consortium of Members, at the beginning of each meeting. After this formal approval, the new partners and members are included in the official list. The new partners and members having applied since the last meeting in Bonn in November 2017, will be added to the official list after the next meeting of the Consortium that will take place in Katowice (Poland) on December 13th, 2018.

[Listing of the Consortium of Members and Forum of Partners of the Initiative \(November 16th, 2017\)](#)

Focus... The Executive Secretariat

The International Executive Secretariat is the executive body of the "4 per 1000" Initiative.

Its mission is to provide support to the three governance bodies (Partners Forum, Consortium of Members and Scientific and Technical Committee) and to coordinate and implement the roadmap of the Initiative, particularly through the organization of statutory meetings and the management of common tools (website including the collaborative platform). Hosted by the CGIAR System Organization, an International Organization with headquarters in Montpellier (France), the Executive Secretariat is made up of a small team managed by Dr. Paul Luu, Executive Secretary of the "4 per 1000" Initiative since September 1, 2016. The human and financial resources allowing the operation of the Initiative, including the Executive Secretariat, are provided on a voluntary basis by some members and partners of the Initiative.

In addition to its technical portfolio, each member of the Executive Secretary is the correspondent in charge of the follow up of a region of the world.

The Executive Secretariat is composed of:

Dr. Paul LUU, Executive Secretary of the "4 per 1000" Initiative, is in charge of the coordination of the Executive Secretariat team, the mobilization of resources, implementation of the roadmap and organization of the statutory meetings of all bodies of the Initiative. Dr. Paul LUU is an agronomist specialized in tropical agronomy, graduate from AgroParisTech, the Institute of Tropical Areas and the University of Montpellier (PhD). He began to work in the field (6 years) in agronomic research projects (St. Lucia, Sri Lanka and Tonga) before joining the International Relations Department of the French Ministry of Agriculture where he was in charge (7 years) of the relations with FAO, the World Bank and the CGIAR, of bilateral relations with Africa and the Mediterranean area, and the management of the French Food Aid. Afterwards, he served 9 years as Technical Advisor "Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry" and as Director of ODEADOM (French Overseas Departments and Territories). In 2011, Dr. Paul LUU was appointed Director of Agropolis International (Montpellier) before joining the CGIAR Consortium in September 2013 as Liaison Officer with the French Authorities, then as Protocol Officer. He is Executive Secretary of the "4 per 1000" Initiative since September 1, 2016.

If you wish to exchange information (project, initiative, scientific publication...) on Asia, Oceania and North America, please contact Dr. Paul LUU (paul.luu@4p1000.org).

Dr. Paloma MELGAREJO-NARDIZ, Sciences Officer in charge of the link with the international research and scientific cooperation program with the STC. She is based in Paris (France) at INRA. Dr. Paloma Melgarejo is a Professor from the National Institute for Agricultural and Food Research and Technology of Spain (INIA). She studied Agriculture Engineering at the High Technical School of Agriculture Engineering - Polytechnic University of Madrid, and got her PhD in Agricultural Engineering in 1983 by the same university. After researching for 32 years in Plant Pathology at INIA as scientist, she took the position of Deputy Director of Foresight and Coordination Programs from 2008 to 2017. In September 2017 she joined the Executive Secretariat as Sciences Officer, seconded by INIA, and nominated by the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture. She is author or co-author of more than 100 scientific papers included in the Web of Science, author or co-author of 50 books, monographies and collective books, and has provided more than 300 contributions to congresses and symposia. She has been Associate Professor at the Polytechnic University of Madrid for 22 years, and has participated in 45 research projects; coordinating 25. She has received several awards such as the Twentieth Anniversary Ozone Protection Award, Montreal Protocol Awards: Implementers Awards - The United Nations (ONU) - September 2007. **If you wish to exchange information (project, initiative, scientific publication...) on Central and South America, please contact Dr. Paloma MELGAREJO (paloma.melgarejo@4p1000.org).**

Dr. Viridiana ALCANTARA CERVANTES and Ms. Gianna BRAUN are in charge of following-up actions and supporting actions and projects of the partners and members of the Initiative. They also represent the Executive Secretariat at science-policy events, building and strengthening partnerships and networks as well as supporting the moderation of the collaborative platform. Dr. Viridiana Alcántara Cervantes and Mrs. Gianna Braun are Officers at the German Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE), and are based in Bonn (Germany).

Dr. Viridiana Alcántara Cervantes is a Mexican national, who completed her undergraduate studies in Geo-ecology at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany in 2012. Her thesis focused on peri-urban wastewater irrigation in Mexico. From 2013 to 2017, she accomplished her PhD working with Thuenen Institute of Climate-Smart Agriculture on carbon sequestration in deep ploughed subsoils. In 2017, she worked as Land and Water Officer at FAO Headquarters in Rome, mainly supporting the Global Soil Partnership.

Ms. Gianna Braun finished her studies of agronomy with a focus on crop and soil science at the University of Bonn in 2015. Currently, she is completing her PhD in cooperation with the United Nations University and the University of Bonn in the topic of pesticides and antibiotics used in agriculture and aquaculture. Her research area is in the coastal areas of the Red River and Mekong Delta, Vietnam.

Both Viridiana and Gianna joined BLE and the Executive Secretary in January 2018

If you wish to exchange information (project, initiative, scientific publication...) on Africa and Europe, please contact Dr. V. ALCANTARA CERVANTES (viridiana.alcantara-cervantes@4p1000.org) or Ms. Gianna BRAUN (gianna.braun@4p1000.org).

Mrs. Brigitte CABANTOUS is in charge of the logistical organization of the statutory meetings (STC, Consortium and Forum) and contributes to the update of the website. She is seconded to the Executive Secretariat on a half-time basis by CIRAD, the French agricultural research and international cooperation organization working for the sustainable development of tropical and Mediterranean regions, and she is based in CIRAD Campus in Montpellier (France).

The Executive Secretariat is still looking for a secondment related to a Communication officer and webmaster. If your institution or organization wishes to provide such a secondment, please contact Dr. Paul LUU: paul.luu@4p1000.org

Save the date!

First Africa 4 per 1000 Symposium: **October 24-26, 2018 in Johannesburg** (South Africa).

The event is jointly organized by NEPAD, Regeneration International and the "4 per 1000" Initiative. The Symposium will bring together existing projects supported by NEPAD (AFR100, CAADP and CSA), as well as GGW and "AAA" Initiative to explore and identify synergies in terms of soil carbon and soil health. Agenda and registration available soon.

The official launch of the "4 per 1000" Collaborative Platform will take place during the **Global Climate Action Summit - September 12-14, 2018** in San Francisco (CA).

The Second "4 per 1000" Initiative Day will be organized on **December 13th, 2018** in Katowice (Poland), during the COP 24.

We are all concerned!

Every single one of us can take action to get things moving forward. Together we can make a difference. Our actions, individual or collective, can make things happen.

[Join the Initiative!](#)

The Executive Secretariat needs stronger means to implement the roadmap and organize meetings of the STC or a meeting in your region, if you wish to contribute to our common effort, please contact the Executive Secretariat: secretariat@4p1000.org

They act!

Discover different members' projects

CIRCASA (coordination of international research cooperation on soil carbon sequestration in agriculture)

The CIRCASA project aims to strengthen the coordination and synergies in European and global research on SOC sequestration in agricultural soils, leading to an improved understanding and scientific basis to target ambitious practices required to preserve and enhance SOC. This three-year project is based on a partnership of 24 research institutions. It contributes to the four pillars of the research program of the "4 per 1000" Initiative, and is allocated € 2.5 million by the European Commission via Horizon 2020. <https://www.circasa-project.eu/>

SOCa (beyond climate soil carbon sequestration for sustainable tropical family farming)

This project concerns family farming systems in West Africa. SOCa relies on the CASA network, African countries (Benin, Cameroon, Ivory Coast and Madagascar), as well as some CGIAR centers (ICRAF and IITA). This project is financed by BNP Paribas Foundation. It contributes in particular to pillars 1 (Estimate of soil organic carbon sequestration potential and associated benefits), 2 (Development of practices adapted to specific soil and climatic conditions) and 3 (Definition and strengthening of the enabling environment) of the "4 per 1000" Initiative research program (the 4th one being on measuring, reporting and verification (MRV)). <http://www.umn-ecosols.fr/en/recherche/projets/136-soca>

CGIAR-CCAFS

CGIAR - CCAFS (CGIAR's research program on Climate change, Agriculture and Food Security) has produced a book and videos to explain how to measure soil carbon, greenhouse gas emissions and analyze mitigation options in smallholder farming.

<https://ccafs.cgiar.org/blog/book-and-videos-explain-how-measure-soil-carbon-and-greenhouse-gas-emissions-and-analyze#.Wz87i9UzbIX>

Climate-smart livestock production and land restoration in Uruguay

This project is financed by Global Environment Facility (GEF) and is carried out by the Uruguayan Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (MGAP).

The agricultural sector is by far the most important economic activity in Uruguay, but it accounts for 73% of national GHG emissions, the livestock sector being responsible for 93% of the agriculture sector emissions. The project objective is to mitigate climate change and to restore degraded lands through the promotion of climate smart practices in the livestock sector, with focus on family farming. It will tackle the barriers that stop small and medium sized farmers from adopting climate smart practices and technologies. These are: (1) High perceived risk of new technologies and practices; (2) Lack of awareness of low-cost sustainable alternatives to current management practices; (3) Inadequate incentives and technical assistance to guide the transition to Climate Smart Livestock Management (CSLM); (4) Lack of an interinstitutional strategy on CSLM and (5) Lack of scientific knowledge and data on CSLM practices and its impacts on GHG emissions, soil conservation, and biodiversity.