

# SOILS FOR FOOD SECURITY AND CLIMATE

"4 PER 1000"

represents the proportion  
4‰ or 0,4 %:

An annual growth rate of 0.4 % in soil carbon stocks (or "4 per 1000") in the first 30 to 40 cm of soil, would significantly reduce the concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> from human activities in the atmosphere.



Through photosynthesis, plants recover about 30 % of the CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere each year.

They are then transformed by living organisms in the soil (bacteria, earthworms...) into organic matter essential to the production of food for humans because it retains water, nitrogen and phosphorus, which are essential for the growth of plants.



Launched at UNFCCC CoP 21 in December 2015, the international "4 per 1000 Initiative: Soils for Food Security and Climate" aims to show that agriculture, and in particular agricultural soils, can provide concrete solutions to the challenge of climate change while at the same time meeting the challenge of food security by implementing agricultural practices adapted to local conditions: agroecology, including agroforestry, regenerative agriculture, conservation agriculture, and also landscape management...

The international "4 per 1000" Initiative promotes the natural sequestration of organic carbon in soils and brings the vision of healthy, carbon-rich soils to fight climate change and eradicate world hunger.

## WHY THIS INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVE?

Based on solid scientific documentation, the international "4 per 1000" Initiative consists of bringing together, within the framework of the Lima-Paris Action Plan, all voluntary public and private actors around the world to engage in a transition towards a regenerative, productive, highly resilient agriculture, based on appropriate management of land and soil, which creates jobs and incomes and thus leads to sustainable development.

## A PRIORITY: THE HEALTH OF AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY SOILS

- 75 % of soils are already degraded to varying degrees due to human activity – and climate change is accelerating this process [source FAO – 2020].
- Our ability to feed 9.8 billion people in 2050 in a context of climate change will depend, among other things, on our ability to keep soils alive.

