



Editorial

#24

April 2024

Dear Partners and Members,

Following the welcome progress made at COP 28 Climate Change in Dubai last December; 2024 marks a year of 3 COPs: Biodiversity in Colombia (21 October to 1 November), Climate Change in Azerbaijan (11 to 22 November) and Desertification in Saudi Arabia (2 to 13 December). These are all major meetings and opportunities to address these three major challenges facing humanity, in addition to food security, in the light of soil and soil health as a major part of the solution.

In the meantime, 2023, after 2022, is officially the hottest year on record for the planet since the pre-industrial era, and extreme weather events are occurring with increasing frequency, affecting the lives of millions of people around the world, particularly through farming. And yet, as we keep reminding ourselves, agriculture is also part of the solution, and not just part of the problem, not just in the face of climate change, but also in the fight against desertification and even against the erosion of biodiversity. But it is a question of promoting certain types of agriculture, and certainly not conventional or industrial agriculture, which we need to move away from as quickly as possible, without invoking false reasons such as food sovereignty or global food security to procrastinate action. But we do need to look at the various challenges, not in isolation from each other. We need to enter what some have called the "Anthropocene", a new period in the relationship between human societies and their environments, which tackles and seeks to resolve the issues of climate change, biodiversity, desertification, and food security at the same time... all while considering food systems as the object of change. Only time will tell if this is the right approach.

At the end of 2024, our Initiative will be 9 years old. With 825 partners to date, it promotes the collective work of its network and friends at all levels and in all directions based on its Strategic Plan, to increase its impact and raise awareness among decision-makers and the public of the importance of soils and their health by increasing their organic matter, i.e. carbon, content.

In this context, for over a year, thanks to partnerships with the FAO, the FARM Foundation and Deloitte Sustainability (France), work has been carried out on MRV (Monitoring, Reporting and Verification) tools and systems. In this newsletter, you will find a summary of the work carried out, the events organised, and the tools made available in this area. I would like to take this opportunity to thank, more particularly, our partners involved in these results or their funding, namely in addition to those already mentioned above, the French Ministry of Agriculture and the public and private players working on these MRV systems.

In June, we will have the pleasure of organising the 4th edition of our Virtual Fair as part of European Green Week, a fair in which I urge you to take an active part. At the same time, we are preparing a parallel event during SB60 in Bonn in June, as well as during the Global Soil Partnership Partners' Day, also in Rome at the beginning of June. IF you are attending SB60 or GSP PA, keep an eye on the agendas for these two events.

Our Scientific and Technical Committee (STC), which should soon be back to full strength with two new members currently being selected from the nearly 40 applications received (we would like to warmly thank all the applicants and the institutions that relayed our call for applications), will be meeting in May in Montpellier, and will be resuming the organisation of new webinars following the success of the first three, which you can find online [on our YouTube channel](#). It should be noted that the STC has been meeting since December 2023 in its dual role as STC of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative and as the STC of the International Soil Carbon Research Consortium (IRC).

As far as the life of the Initiative is concerned, I would remind you that we are still looking for member organisations wishing to represent their college on the Board, particularly the college of producer organisations, for which we have no candidate at this time.

To conclude this editorial, I would like to remind you that your Initiative needs you and your support, whatever form it takes: human resources, hosting events, financial support, etc. In the next few days, we will be launching a call for funding, open to all: individuals, local authorities, governments, various organisations, businesses, etc. We're counting on you and your generosity (private funding will be eligible for tax deduction, and this information will be specified, particularly as regards its geographical coverage, in the appeal to be published very shortly).

Take care of yourselves, your loved ones, and our most precious common asset: our soil.

Dr. Paul LUU

Executive Secretary of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative





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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 its annual roadmap and organize statutory meetings in particular of the STC or regional meetings. If you wish to contribute to our common effort, please contact the Executive Secretariat: secretariat@4p1000.org



Deloitte.

Joint seminar of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative and Deloitte France on MRV systems related to Soil Health in the context of Agroecology

Last 19 March 2024, an important thematical conference took place online: a joint webinar co-organized by the international "4 per 1000" Initiative and Deloitte France (Sustainability branch). This webinar has focused on MRV [standing for Monitoring, Reporting and Verification] related to Soil Health, in the context of soil carbon storage and agroecology.



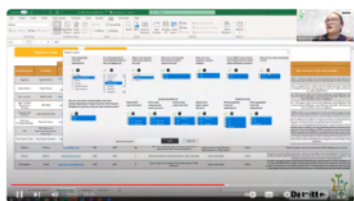
The panel of speakers was composed of Dr Paul Luu, Executive Secretary of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative and three persons from the Sustainability team of Deloitte France: Ms. Marine Pochat, Sustainability Director ; Ms. Gabriella Cevallos, Agri-Climate Manager and Ms. Alette Lefranc, Consultant.

Dr Paul Luu has reminded the participants about the Vision, Mission, and Strategic Objectives of the "4 per 1000" Initiative, especially Strategic Objectives: B4_MRV-Tool Kit & E1_Monitoring, Reporting & Verification. Then, the Deloitte Sustainability team presented the needs for MRV tools and the results of the inventory of MRV (systems and tools), they collected, through interviews of key experts in the MRV systems constellation (scientists, private MRV tools providers, etc.).

The purpose of MRV systems is to enable organizations to:

1. Quantify the environmental impact of agroecological practices;
2. Track progresses on their deployment;
3. Support farmers transition in the deployment of agroecological practices. This inventory of MRV solutions aims at simplifying the decision-making process, by compiling existing solutions and detailing their specificities.

The agreed definition of MRV, being used in the study, is ORCaSa's one (*), stating that a MRV is intended to monitor the processes for quantifying the impact of a project on climate change mitigation, report results and activity data to stakeholders, and verify the veracity and accuracy of results by external parties.



Finally, the inventory demonstration has been led online, showing the full scope of 48 criteria (different functionalities like: geographical scope, etc.) which can be chosen by organizations interested in the end results. Since the end of March 2024, [this living inventory has been available online on the "4 per 1000" website](#), for end-users wishing to find some guidance in their choice of MRV tools.

The international "4 per 1000" Initiative is thankful to Deloitte France for the huge work conducted by the Sustainability team and very grateful to Deloitte Foundation France, which funded this study, and made it possible for the "4 per 1000" Initiative to benefit from this 'pro bono' study which enabled to push further the knowledge on this key subject and make it available for all practitioners. Deloitte and the "4 per 1000" Initiative also insist on thanking all the stakeholders who agreed to be interviewed and challenged during this very important study.

[Link to the replay of the webinar.](#)

Note : This inventory of existing tools will be regularly updated with new tools, at the suggestion of their respective developers. The tools mentioned in this inventory have not been evaluated by the "4 per 1000" Initiative, which, consequently, makes no recommendation or validation regarding these tools and their use.

() The EU-funded project ORCaSa, led by INRAE, will launch, and roll out the initial operational phases of the IRC (International Research Consortium) on Soil Carbon, as the coordinator of soil carbon research and innovation. The "4 per 1000" STC Scientific and Technical Committee has become the interim IRC Scientific and Technical Committee in 2024.*



‘Regreening the Sahel - Restoring land and livelihoods’, the next event of the Climate-Soil Community of Practice of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative will be coming in April

Land degradation is a serious threat in Africa, particularly in the Sahel where the combination of climate change, increased population, loss of tree and vegetative cover, and intensified land use is undermining the natural resource base on which rural communities depend. Solutions for a restoration of the dry lands are key to reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss and address the effects of climate change. It is about regaining lost ecological functions by enabling communities to improve the productivity, resilience and sustainability of their livelihoods by adapting some combination and sequence of innovative regreening practices that regenerates the land and restore the landscapes.

‘Regreening the Sahel - Restoring land and livelihoods’, the next event of the Climate-Soil Community of Practice of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative will be coming in April.

If you are interested in this event or the Community of Practice, please follow this [link](#).

This Climate-Soil Community of Practice (CoP) was created in 2020 by the [“4 per 1000” Initiative on soils for food security and climate](#) with the support of the [GIZ Sector Project Soil Protection, Combating Desertification, Sustainable Land Management \(BMZ\)](#) in 2020.



The "4 per 1000" 2024 Virtual Fair

The "4 per 1000" 2024 Virtual Fair will allow stakeholders from the EU and around the world to share their latest ideas, projects and achievements in advancing soil health in agriculture and beyond.

The Virtual Fair is integrated into the international “4 per 1000” Initiative’s collaborative platform and can be accessed by everyone. It is directed towards a broad audience from all stakeholder groups who hold an interest in soil health. The two main objectives of the Fair are networking and knowledge sharing, both to disseminate information about soil health and to promote its advancement.

The Fair’s opening on June 17 (2pm - GMT+2) will be marked by an online session on ZOOM, during which our newest members will take you on a journey around the world, presenting their virtual stands. Afterwards, the Fair will remain open for any visitors until June 21. Visitors will also have the opportunity to have direct contact with the presenters at their respective stands during this period of time. They will be able to learn about innovative approaches to advancing soil health in agricultural soils benefiting both the climate and food security.

To find out more about the different events and to register, click [here](#).



Soil Carbon Sciences Webinar Series

After the huge success of [the first three editions](#), the Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative launches a new Soil Carbon Sciences Webinar Series.

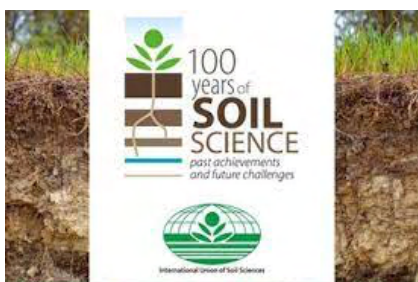
- May 2, 2024: 'Can Increasing Soil Organic Carbon Boost Crop Productivity?'

As we face climate change and food security challenges, understanding the interplay between soil health and crop productivity is highly relevant. Dominic Woolf from Cornell University will share his latest findings from an analysis of more than 10,000 controlled field trials extrapolated to the global scale. He will discuss the effectiveness of soil organic carbon sequestration compared to nitrogen fertilization in improving crop yields, especially under optimized soil management. Mauricio Cherubin from University of Sao Paulo will draw from studies in tropical regions on the implementation of soil carbon management techniques which resulted in improvements in crop productivity and livelihood. We will discuss the potential increase in global crop production by optimising soil carbon levels and opportunities of using technologies and practices to achieve multiple benefits.

Information and registration [here](#).

- June 6, 2024: 'How to Measure Soil Health'

The session is designed to present the latest scientific findings and essential knowledge for identifying crucial soil health indicators. During the session, Dr. Cristine Morgan from the Soil Health Institute will shed light on a selected set of cost-effective and responsive indicators for soil health assessment, while Dr. Iêda de Carvalho Mendes from Embrapa Cerrados will share insights from Brazil's large-scale soil health evaluations, focusing on the role of soil enzymes. Information and registration [here](#).



Join the the international "4 per 1000" Initiative in the session on **"Soil governance: building on stakeholders' interaction and involvement for a sustainable management of soils"** during the [IUSS centennial meeting](#) in Florence (19-21 May, 2024)!

Are you going to be on site and would like to have a coffee and exchange on recent developments in your organisation and in the Initiative during the conference? **Just reach out to [Claudia Schepp](#)**, we'd love to hear from you!

The Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative responded to a call by the T20, a G20 engagement group that brings together researchers and think tanks from the G20 countries and beyond. The current [T20 Brasil process](#) aims to put forward policy recommendations to G20 officials in form of a final communiqué and task force recommendations. **The STC of the "4 per 1000" Initiative got the opportunity to contribute a policy brief on soil resilience, to make sure that soils are well addressed in the G20 decisions on global food security.**



WWF just published **'[Food Forward NDC, a new guidance tool](#)**, which aims to support the enhancement and implementation of NDC ambitions for agriculture and food systems transformation. The tool addresses different aspects of food systems and provides easily accessible content to identify policy measures and practices and reflect on their impacts for climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as sustainable development.

The Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative was among the reviewers of the Soil Section of the tool.



UNFCCC COP 28 in Dubai: What are the major results from the point of view of the international “4 per 1000” Initiative?

COP 28 of the UNFCCC, held in Dubai in December 2023, was the most attended Climate COP, with the participation of nearly 90,000 people according to observers.

But what came out of this unique COP of 2023, particularly with regard to the subjects that interest the Initiative, especially carbon sequestration in soils and soil health.

[The Executive Secretariat of the Initiative offers you a summary in a few pages of progress in these areas, but also of the distance we still have to cover to achieve our objectives.](#)

The international "4 per 1000" Initiative has co-organized 3 regional meetings in 2023



The 2nd regional meeting in West Africa on Forest Soil Conservation and Restoration on May 15-17, 2023 in Abidjan, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, organised within the framework of the Terri4Sol Project, by the international “4 per 1000” Initiative and CIRAD, coordinator of the Terri4Sol Project, in partnership with the Ivorian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.



The 1st Northern Europe “4 per 1000” Regional Meeting: ‘More carbon in the soils for multiple benefits’, co-organized by the Baltic Sea Action Group and the international "4 per 1000" Initiative, from June 6 to 8, 2023 in Helsinki (Finland).



The 2nd Asia-Pacific regional meeting on 'Carbon sequestration in soils : potential, opportunities and strategies for healthy soils and climate change mitigation' co-organised by the international “4 per 1000” Initiative and Heartfulness Institute (India); with the support of the French Ministry of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty, the Dr Reddy’s Foundation (India), the Samunnati company (India), the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), the FARM Foundation (France) and the Biosphères company (France); in partnership with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the Trust for the Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS, India) and The Alliance of Bioversity international & CIAT; from 19 to 21 September 2023, at Kanha Shanti Vanam - Hyderabad (India).

To read the reports of these regional meetings, click [here](#).



The importance of Soil Health raised up at the ChangeNOW conference 2024 edition (25-27 March, 2024, Paris, France).

Paul Luu and Béatrice Breton-Askar represented the international "4 per 1000" Initiative at [ChangeNOW 2024](#). Key conferences and workshops were organized to advocate about healthy soils to fight climate change, Paul Luu notably presented the essential role of the "4 per 1000" Initiative.

DAFA* Conference - From March 11-14, 2024 - Berlin, Germany

From March 11-14, more than 500 participants discussed the latest insight of agricultural research in climate change, following an invitation by the German Agricultural Research Alliance ([DAFA](#)). The researchers issued a strong call for immediate action, to make agriculture better adapted to climate change and to minimize its contribution to green house gas emissions. While animal production and peatlands featured prominently in many sessions, the importance of healthy and carbon rich soils was well reflected throughout the conference, with multiple sessions on economic, political and ecological levers for and impacts of carbon farming as well as reflections on the potential and limitations of regenerative farming practices for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The [DAFA network](#) brings together German actors from public research institutes and universities and aims to improve the performance, transparency and international visibility of German agricultural research.

** The international "4 per 1000" Initiative only attended the conference, and did not make any contribution in terms of presentations/posters*



"Beneath the surface: exploring best practices for soil regeneration and carbon farming"

The first episode from the series "Beneath the surface" organized by the [Innovation Forum](#) in partnership with Bayer Crop Science took place on March 5th, 2024. More than 500 people joined this conversation on one of the most pressing issues: Soil Health.

Dr. Paul Luu, Executive Secretary of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative, set the scene and shared his knowledge and scientific background related to this topic. Watch the webinar as video [here](#) or listen to the audio as a podcast [here](#).

FARM Conference: The replay - Transforming agricultures: the challenge of financing

Were you unable to attend or would you like to replay [the Conference](#) organized by the FARM Foundation and held on February 13, 2024 at the 'Cité internationale universitaire' in Paris (France)?

You can watch the replay by clicking [here](#).



"4 questions to ... "

Mrs. Ercilia Sahores
Co-founder and Director of Regeneration International
Vice-President of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative



Photo: Regeneration International

"... This is a collective effort and as such it will take all of our passion and collaboration to mitigate climate change and produce healthy food.

The message is: take action, participate, be part of the solution. And please, reach out with ideas, initiatives, and solutions anytime ... "

1/ Mrs. Ercilia Sahores, could you introduce yourself in a few words?

I'm co-founder and Director of Regeneration International, a network of networks founded in 2015 and dedicated to promote, facilitate and accelerate the global transition to regenerative food, farming and land management for the purpose of restoring climate stability, ending world hunger and rebuilding deteriorated social, ecological and economic systems.

I studied Political Sciences and International Relations, and I have always been interested in the intersection between policy and agriculture. I'm a beekeeper and a farmer as well and that multiple perspective informs my actions and decisions.

I'm passionate about breaking the silos and working in collaborative projects. I'm honored to be able to do that within this initiative.

2/ As Vice-President of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative, what are the main actions you take?

As Vice-President, I participate in "4 per 1000" international meetings and events, chair the Bureau meetings, represent the organization, and participate in the decisions and proposals of the Executive Secretariat to define priorities.

I stay updated and connect the "4 per 1000" network, with the work being done both in the scientific fields as well as on the ground proposals.

3/ What does the "4 per 1000" Initiative represent for you?

To me the "4 per 1000" Initiative is one of the most concrete outcomes of all climate negotiations. It is a recognition of the fundamental role of agriculture to regenerate soil organic carbon, increase drought resilience and water holding capacity, reverse climate change, improve yields and produce highly nutritious food.

It is also an initiative that combines science, policy, civil society, the private sector, and a large network of partners that can influence the regeneration movement worldwide. Its local, regional, and international scope allows for a more local work with territorial actions as well as providing a global voice at international meetings.

4/ What message do you want to convey to the "4 per 1000" Partners and Members?

I believe "4 per 1000" Initiative has yet to express its full potential. It can be a fundamental lever internationally to fight global warming and convene the global movement towards regeneration. To do so, it will take all members of the "4 per 1000" Initiative to become more involved and engage their networks towards this goal. This is a collective effort and as such it will take all of our passion and collaboration to mitigate climate change and produce healthy food.

The message is: take action, participate, be part of the solution. And please, reach out with ideas, initiatives, and solutions anytime. Thank you for your work and commitment!

Save the date!

FAST (Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation) partners' meeting - April 22-24, 2024 - Rome (FAO - Italy)

FAST is a multi-stakeholder partnership that aims to catalyze and accelerate the transformation of agriculture and food systems by 2030 for people, climate, and nature. The partnership was developed to implement activities and achieve the objectives of the FAST Initiative, which was launched by the COP27 Presidency in 2022 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. The international "4 per 1000" Initiative is a partner of FAST.

To find out more, click [here](#).

4th International Soil Modeling Consortium Conference - Tianjin (China) - 7-10 May, 2024

The 4th ISMC Conference is a science symposium that aims to integrate and advance soil system modeling with Earth system science. The conference will address integration of soil modelling expertise in neighboring disciplines (climate, land surface, eco, hydro, and other models) and major scientific gaps in describing key processes and their long term impacts with respect to the different functions and ecosystem services provided by soil. More information [here](#).

Centennial Celebration and Congress of the International Union of Soil Sciences - May 19-21, 2024 - Florence, Italy

The celebration will occur on May 19th and will be followed by two intense days of congress, with plenary and parallel scientific sessions.

Both soil scientists and specialists from other disciplines will participate to each session, focusing on past achievements and future challenges.

The event will also empower the linkages with different disciplines, policy makers, stakeholders, institutions, and associations to effectively address civil society needs within agriculture, forestry, environment, urban planning, energy, education, and other societal issues.

More information [here](#).

The Scientific and Technical Committee of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative will hold its next meeting from May 22 to 24, 2024 in Montpellier, France.

The 9th edition of the "Soil organic matter" SOM2024 conference will take place from May 26 to 31, 2024 in Ben Guerir in Morocco, on the theme "Soil organic matter for global soil health and decarbonization".

More information [here](#).



Our Partners and Members act!

"Par ici le futur", the podcast that questions the future in the Occitanie region (France) - Episode 1: agriculture

How will we feed ourselves tomorrow? What will agriculture look like in France and Occitanie in 10 or 15 years' time? [In this episode](#) (in French), Jamy welcomes François Purseigle, sociologist and author of the book "*Une agriculture sans agriculteurs*", Julien Novak, winemaker at 'Domaine des Célestes' in Vauvert (France), Nicolas Metayer, deputy director of the Solagro association, and Marie Corbel, technical director at the 'Pôle Technique Interprofessionnel Régional'.

New program to benefit agricultural lands in New Brunswick, Canada

New Brunswick farmers have access to new resources to help them conserve and enhance the resiliency of their land. The Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program encourages farmers to accelerate the adoption of land use and management practices.

The program provides financial support to agricultural producers for the maintenance and provision of healthy soils and water resources, wildlife habitat and biodiversity, and for adapting to the effects of climate change – all of which promotes healthy, functioning ecosystems. **Funding is provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership.** To find out more, please click [here](#).

Canada boosts conservation and restoration efforts with investments in 27 new Indigenous-Led Natural Climate Solutions

On 26 January, the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Canada's Minister of Environment and Climate Change, announced an investment of almost \$12.8 million to support 27 Indigenous-Led Natural Climate Solutions initiatives across Canada. These new initiatives will conserve, restore, and enhance land management of wetlands, peatlands, and grasslands to store and capture carbon while benefitting biodiversity, climate resiliency, and human well-being. To read the press release, click [here](#). To find out more about the Indigenous fund for community-based environmental monitoring, click [here](#).

Agroecology: 'fOCus' on international cooperation and solidarity

In February, the regional multi-actor network Occitanie Coopération (France) publishes its [2nd 'fOCus' thematic dossier on agroecology](#), co-created with international cooperation and solidarity actors based in Occitanie (France).

This second thematic dossier aims to present the various regional and global stakes in these issues, identify regional reference players in the field, and centralize methodological keys and useful resources for project leaders wishing to launch an international agro-ecology initiative.

This 'fOCus' has been developed in partnership with reference organizations in the field of agroecology. A working group was set up with Agropolis international, [Cari](#) and the [Occitanie / Pyrénées-Méditerranée region](#) (France) to design this dossier. Other players in the region, such as [CIRAD](#) and [INRAE](#), also contributed to the exchange and capitalization groups, or through testimonials of their projects.

Save the date!

'Agroforestry - regenerating landscapes and diversifying production in Europe' - 27-31 May 2024 - Brno, Czechia

Organised by European Agroforestry Federation, this conference will cover research and practical sessions that address the opportunities and challenges in promoting the integration of trees with farming. More Informations [here](#).

The EU Green Week will be held on 29 May till 1 September 2024. More information to come [here](#).

60th sessions of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) (UNFCCC SB60) - 2-13 June, 2024 - Bonn, Germany. [Find out more](#).

GSP Plenary Assembly - 03 - 05 June 2024 - in person and online - FAO Headquarters, Rome (Italy)

The Global Soil Partnership (GSP) Plenary Assembly is the most important gathering of the partnership where crucial decisions concerning the global soil agenda are taken. It is the main platform for FAO Members and GSP partners to meet and exchange knowledge and expertise in sustainable soil management. Information [here](#). The day of June 4 will be dedicated to partner events. The international "4 per 1000" Initiative is preparing a side event on MRV following the work of Deloitte Sustainability France.

Neutrality - National Conference on the Contribution to Carbon Neutrality - Thursday June 6, 2024 - Ministry of Health and Solidarity - Paris (France)

The Neutrality Conference aims to enlighten companies that wish to complement their decarbonization efforts with initiatives to contribute to carbon neutrality.

Information and registration (before June 1, 2024) [here](#).

EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF) 2024 - From June 12 to 15, 2024 - Katowice, Poland

The ESOF 2024 conference focuses on six different thematic areas crucial for transforming the region and the world through science and research.

The ESOF 2024 conference is free of charge, open to everyone, including politicians, businesses, companies from various sectors, residents, children, and youth.

To learn more, please click [here](#).



Our Partners and Members act!

Recycling bio-waste into compost and digestate helps recycle fertilisers, contributes towards food security and is essential for effective carbon farming. **European Compost Organisation (ECN) explains [in this video](#) on why recycling bio-waste has never been more important.**

Towards the 2025 Status of the World's Soil Resources Report

The Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS) is gearing up to write the next Status of the World's Soil Resources Report, scheduled for publication on World Soil Day in December 2025! With over 60 lead authors and 150 contributing authors collaborating on regional assessments, the upcoming report will draw on the global expertise of these experts to guide soil management strategies over the next decade. To find out more, click [here](#).

ITPS is the main scientific advisory body to the Global Soil Partnership hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Biochar in sustainable soil management: potential and constraints

Biochar, derived from the pyrolysis of organic materials, is a decomposure-resistant soil amendment that enhances fertility, boosts agricultural productivity, and sequesters carbon in the soil for thousands of years. Its positive effects include improved nutrient availability, increased pH, and enhanced water retention capacity. Biochar can reduce nutrient losses, improve soil health, and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. While its effectiveness may vary, targeted application could be a promising strategy, taking into account factors such as soil type and specific environmental conditions. To read this FAO document, click [here](#).

Towards soil recarbonization in Kazakhstan through RECISOIL initiative

In February 2024, FAO's Global Soil Partnership (GSP) launched [the RECISOIL initiative in Kazakhstan to boost soil health and combat soil pollution](#). The week-long workshop focused on introducing the initiative to the potential participating instructions and thus the country's government. [RECISOIL](#) seeks to increase soil organic carbon stocks, support farmers in adopting sustainable soil management practices and contribute to the fight against climate change. In Kazakhstan, the initiative will also help address threats such as erosion and contamination by pesticides and heavy metals.

Looking for a digital tool to streamline the documentation of land restoration activities? **With Africa Tree Finder App proposed by 'ICRAF - World Agroforestry Center', you can explore indigenous trees, easily locate indigenous trees tailored to your location and preferences.** Download [here](#).

Additionally, [streamline your land restoration efforts with the Regreening App](#). This essential tool facilitates evidence-based data collection, ensuring the effectiveness of your restoration initiatives.

Save the date!

2024 Desertification and Drought Day - 17 June 2024 - Bonn, Germany

The 2024 Desertification and Drought Day will focus on the transformative power of healthy land for addressing today's most pressing and interconnected challenges, including climate change, biodiversity loss, food and water security —a blueprint for providing future generations with a healthy planet.

To learn more, please click [here](#).

Opening of the Virtual Fair of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative - June 17, 2024 - online on ZOOM

The newest partners of the International "4 per 1000" Initiative will take you on a journey around the world, presenting their virtual stands. Afterwards, the Fair will remain open for any visitors until June 21. Visitors will also have the opportunity to have direct contact with the presenters at their respective stands during this period of time. They will be able to learn about innovative approaches to advancing soil health in agricultural soils benefiting both the climate and food security. Information and registration [here](#).

World Living Soils Forum - October 9 and 10, 2024 - Arles, France

Moët Hennessy and ChangeNOW will co-organize the next World Living Soils Forum, an international event dedicated to soil conservation. For two days, experts and speakers will share knowledge, best practices and innovations to protect and regenerate the soil in a wide scale of fields.

To learn more, please click [here](#).

The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD - COP16) - 21 October to 1 November 2024 - Colombia. Information [here](#).

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC - COP29) - 11 to 22 November 2024 - Bakou, Azerbaijan.

More information to come [here](#).

The 8th Day of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative will probably be held online on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, on the sidelines of COP29. More information to come.

The UNCCD COP16 (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification) - 2-13 December 2024 - Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Find out more [here](#).



Our Partners and Members act!

The Agroecology Transition: Different pathways to a single destination - Eight country experiences

A brochure from CGIAR Initiative on Agroecology, briefly profiles the eight participating countries, describes key features of their agricultural living landscapes and the entry points for their agroecology transitions.

To find out more and download the brochure, click [here](#).

Public supports for agriculture and food: between inequalities and controversies

Every year, worldwide public support for agriculture and food exceeds \$700 billion. From one country to another, the type of public support, the mechanisms used to support producers and the amounts spent vary. A sensitive subject in the age of climate change and economic, social and environmental sustainability objectives, agricultural policies and public support are under fire from critics.

The FARM Foundation, in [this article by Abdoul Fattah Yaya TAPSOBA \(in French\)](#) for the PRISME, the Crédit Agricole Group's economic studies magazine (page 12), offers a world tour of the aid provided to farmers, and a review of current debates.

The [FARM Foundation](#) is a member of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative.

The Earthworm Foundation supports the Nestlé Group in France in its transition to regenerative agriculture!

The Earthworm Foundation, through the Living Soils program, is helping Nestlé to identify the origin of its raw materials, engage its suppliers and to develop and implement strategies to reach the Nestlé Responsible Sourcing standard in its pulp & paper, palm oil and coconut supply chains. More information [here](#).

The [Earthworm Foundation](#) and [Nestlé France](#) are partners of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative.

CIRAD and the 'Agence française de développement' (AFD) were at the 2024 Paris International Agricultural Show, from 24 February to 3 March. **The two organizations, which both work for the development of tropical and Mediterranean countries, have chosen "Soils and land: life in our hands" as the topic for this year's stand.** To find out more and watch replays of the side events and the "How can we manage soil fertility to boost food sovereignty in Africa?" conference, click [here](#). CIRAD and [AFD](#) are members of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative.

Biofunctool®: a low-tech, low-cost field device for assessing soil health

Healthy soils work well. This is the principle behind Biofunctool®, which measures three essential soil functions. **The tool developed by CIRAD and IRD**, is easy to use, cheap, and robust. It is backed by a newly developed mobile app and web platform, and will shortly be available to agricultural advisors, training staff and the scientific community.

To find out more, please click [here](#).



Our Partners and Members act!

Mobile application "Seed Trace" to facilitate collection and traceability of forest seeds

The **CATIE** (Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center), in collaboration with the United States Forest Service, conducted [the second workshop on the mobile application "Seed Trace" designed to facilitate the collection and traceability of forest seeds](#).

In the application developed and designed by the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Department of CATIE, data from seed trees such as latitude, longitude, diameter, health status, fruit kilograms, flowering evaluation, registration date, seed quality, germination percentage, among others, can be recorded. The locations of the seed trees in different life zones can also be viewed via GPS. This mobile application will soon be implemented by forest seed banks in Central America and the Dominican Republic. Based in Costa Rica, CATIE is a Member of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative.

SOCCROP, the first indicator of carbon storage trends in agricultural soils

Through the SOCCROP project, scientists from the Center for Space Studies of the Biosphere (CESBIO) and the AGIR laboratory of the INRAE Occitanie-Toulouse center (France) have characterized the duration of plot coverage using satellite images or modeling. They compared these approaches and developed a method based on satellite imagery to produce an indicator of the evolution of carbon storage in agricultural soils. More information [here](#) (in French).

Based in France, **Compostplus** is a national network of elected representatives and technicians from local authorities committed to source separation of biowaste. Today, it has 60 member communities (representing over 25 million inhabitants) throughout France.

On February 13 in Montpellier (France), the Composts Plus network organized a round-table discussion on the return of quality organic matter to the soil, with guests Mr Marc Dufumier, an agricultural engineer and author of the book "L'agroécologie peut nous sauver" (Agroecology can save us), and Ms Houot, research director at UMR ECOSYS, whose studies focus on the effects of recycling fertilizing materials (PROs) in agriculture.



Common Ground the following up movie to Kiss the Ground

Josh and Rebecca Tickell, filmmakers of "Kiss the Ground" (Netflix), have produced the documentary "Common Ground", winner of the Tribeca Film Festival. "Common Ground" explores how regenerative agriculture can help heal the soil, our health and the planet. More information [here](#).

Agroecology and safe food system transitions in Southeast Asia (ASSET Project)

Implemented by [GRET](#) as the general coordinator, in a strong articulation with [CIRAD](#) in charge of the scientific coordination, the overall aim of the ASSET project is to transform food and agricultural systems in Southeast Asia more sustainable, safer and inclusive, through harnessing the potential of Agroecology. More information [here](#).

At the end of January, NetZero announced the certification of its second Biochar plant.

[NetZero](#)'s mission is to bring biochar at scale in the tropics. Biochar is essentially solid atmospheric carbon extracted from plant residues and buried in the soil. It is a scientifically proven way to perform high-permanence carbon removal from the atmosphere while durably improving soil quality, allowing for higher yields and lower fertiliser use in agriculture.

In less than 3 years of existence, NetZero has succeeded in building, operating and obtaining certification for two biochar plants in Cameroon and Brazil.

NetZero is a Milestone Award winner of Musk Foundation's XPRIZE Carbon Removal competition, a recipient of the 'Efficient Solution' label from Solar Impulse Foundation, a Green Tech prize winner of the Tech for Good Awards, and a certified carbon-removal project under the Puro Standard.

'Tierras de montana' (Coffee Tank project) is looking for experts in regenerative agriculture to help them carry out their coffee projects in the municipality of Planadas in Colombia. The experts will be included in the work plan and budget of the calls for projects and climate funding for which 'Tierras de montana' is competing.

For further information, click [here](#).



Our Partners and Members act!

Amarenco, MiiMOSA and Eloi join forces to support agroecological transition

At the end of February 2024, Amarenco, MiiMOSA and Eloi announced on the ['Ferme Digitale' at the Paris International Agricultural Show](#), a collaboration aimed at supporting small and medium-sized farms in their transition to agroecology thanks to renewable energies. To view the round table, click [here](#).

Amarenco, Miimosa and Eloi are making a concrete commitment to farmers by launching a call for applications [here](#). Each application will be studied by Amarenco and its partners and will receive a reply within six weeks, with indications of the next steps if the project is selected.

Thanks to their complementary expertise, the three partners offer concrete solutions and enable more farmers to benefit from the means of energy transition to accelerate their agro-ecological transition.

Indeed, Amarenco acts to protect crops and livestock against climatic hazards with its photovoltaic equipment, thus securing agricultural income and optimizing animal welfare, working conditions as well as control of water resources. Thanks to Amarenco's installations, small and medium-sized farms generate rental income, enabling them to boost their investment capacity and benefit from an agro-ecology toolbox. Amarenco innovates by creating its "Echo programmes" and becomes the first independent electricity producer to integrate a financing scheme for actions to restore soil and ecosystems into its infrastructure.

MiiMOSA, Europe's leading financing platform dedicated to the agricultural and food transition, facilitates access to crowdfunding for agroecological initiatives and agrivoltaic installations.

Eloi is involved in farm takeovers between a farm owner and a sustainable agriculture project owner.



Support the international 4 per 1000 Initiative!



Support the "4 per 1000" Initiative by ordering the book 'Farmers have the Earth in their hands', directly on the Editions La Butineuse website by clicking [here](#).

The ambition of this concise book, written for the general public, is to provide a simple and non-judgmental overview of today's agriculture and the solutions that will ensure the future of humanity on planet Earth. Starting from its scientific foundations and the history of its "r-evolutions", this book attempts to shed light on the issues at stake without sidestepping the disturbing questions. Agriculture is part of the solution to climate change, but too many people still ignore it.

This book is also available in French and Spanish versions.

All royalties from this book will be donated to the international "4 per 1000" Initiative.

To support and donate to the "4 per 1000" Initiative, please contact Ms. Béatrice Breton-Askar by e-mail: [here](#).

To view the presentation file, click [here](#). We thank you in advance for your support.



Read ... Listen ... Watch ...



Agroforestry at work

Why do many farmers still resist adopting and scaling agroforestry? Are the economic benefits not enough, or not perceived to be enough? Or are there other reasons? Edited by Emmanuel Torquebiau, [this issue 62 of Tropical Forest Issues](#) puts agroforestry into context in four introductory articles on economic viability and resilience, gender inclusiveness, interactions with climate change and biodiversity and barriers to adoption. Tropenbos International then present 26 case studies from Africa, Asia, and Latin America that show the clear and tangible benefits from the adoption of agroforestry.



Soil and climate: what's the link between the two? What are the exchanges and interactions between soil and atmosphere? Can soil be an ally in the fight against climate change?

With Christophe Cassou, Climatologist at CERFACS, Claire Chenu, Agronomist, INRAE Research Director. To watch the program 'C dans l'sol - Soil and Climate', click [here](#) (in French).



How Farmers Reshaped a Region and Solved Drought

Permaculture Instructor Andrew Millison travels to the village of Laporiyah in Rajasthan India to see the 45 year water harvesting and community development project spearheaded by Laxman Singh. Click [here](#) to watch the video (11'33).



Agronomy ants

To watch this TV Monde short program, click [here](#) (in French).



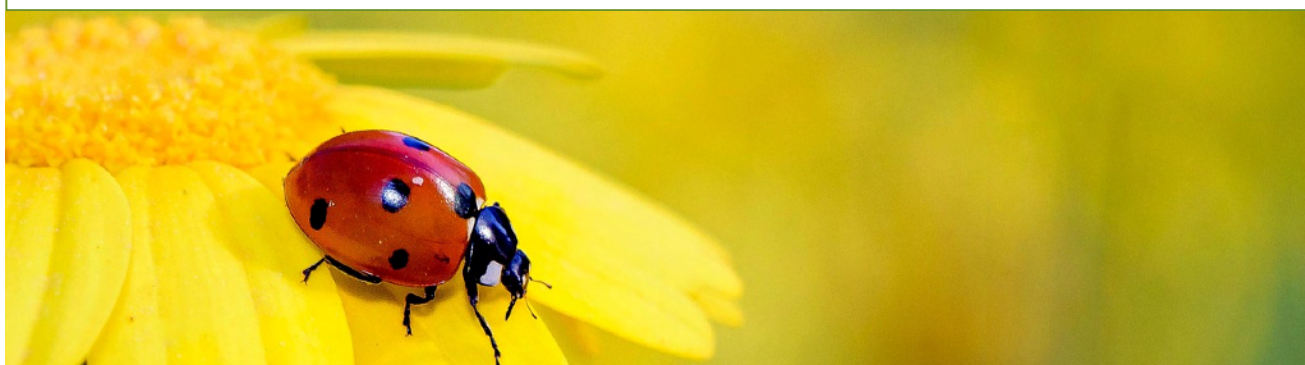
How photosynthesis takes place in plants & Process Of Photosynthesis (animated - 4:51) - Neurotech Lectures

Photosynthesis is a process used by plants and other organisms to convert light energy into chemical energy that can later be released to fuel the organisms' activities. This chemical energy is stored in carbohydrate molecules, such as sugars, which are synthesized from carbon dioxide and water. To see the animation click [here](#).



From Mother Earth to living soil

In France's Massif Central, Sarah Singla practises conservation agriculture based on three principles: minimal soil disturbance, permanent ground cover and crop rotation. In the Périgord region, Benoît Le Baube also protects his fields by no longer ploughing them. He also uses organic waste to fertilize the soil. To watch this Arte documentary, click [here](#) (in French).





They have joined the international "4 per 1000" Initiative!

(between January and March 2024)

National & local government bodies

MONTPELLIER MEDITERRANEE METROPOLE - France

Find out more [here](#).

Civil society & non-profit organisations

GROW West Africa - Ghana

Find out more [here](#).

International Union for Agroforestry (IUF) - Czechia. Find out more [here](#).

Sarvesham Development Foundation - India

Find out more [here](#).

Taiwan Homemakers United Consumers Co-op - Taiwan. Find out more [here](#).

Fair River International Association for Development - Ghana. Find out more [here](#).

Commercial & for-profit organisations

Agreena - Denmark

Find out more [here](#).

Laboratoire d'analyse et de contrôle des sols - France

For more information contact [Mathias Chynel](#).

Mad Modern World Limited - Royaume Uni - United Kingdom

Find out more [here](#).

NECTAR ingénierie Oléicole - France

Find out more [here](#).

RegenCampos SL - Spain

Find out more [here](#).

[See here how to join the « 4 per 1000 » Initiative.](#)

The international "4 per 1000" Initiative in a figure ...

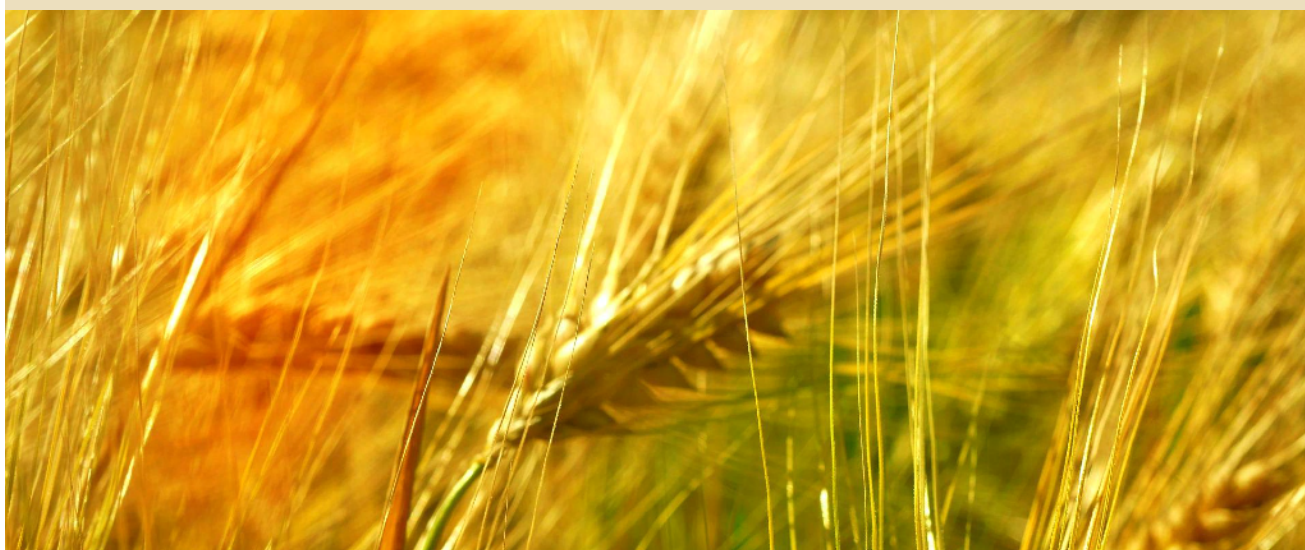
825 Partners including 363 Members! (March 2024)

All countries or organizations that wish join the Initiative (see [here](#) how to join) send their application to the Executive Secretary who controls the completeness.

If the application is complete, the Executive Secretary submits the list of new partners and members to be approved to the Consortium of Members or to the Bureau (depending on the time of year), at the beginning of each meeting.

After this formal approval, the new partners and members are included in the official list.

[Listing of the Consortium of Members and Forum of Partners of the Initiative](#)





Follow the international "4 per 1000" Initiative on social networks!

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YouTube: *4p1000 Initiative* www.youtube.com/channel/UCvBmNtaHxi3PcvbUkkL_UQg

If you would like the "4 per 1000" Initiative to relay your publications on its own social networks, please add the following mention at the bottom of the information you publish: **@4p1000initiative**



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 [here](#).

The international "4 per 1000: Initiative: Soils for Food Security and Climate"



<https://4p1000.org>



Any ideas, any suggestions...

For the next newsletter, please send us your information, your events,... **no later than June 10, 2023.**

You can send an e-mail to socialmedia_admin@4p1000.org.