



## Editorial

#19

January 2023

Dear Partners and Members,

After a year 2022 rich in international meetings during which we talked about agricultures, food systems, soils and land, we are now projected into 2023. I would like to extend the best wishes of the entire international "4 per 1000" Initiative team to you and your loved ones in the New Year.

Without even needing to refer to the geopolitical (war in Ukraine) and climatic (extreme events with repercussions on agricultural production and food security) contexts, 2022 was a special year with, in particular, a meeting of the Conferences of the Parties (COPs) of the three major United Nations conventions, namely the one relating to desertification (UNCCD), the one dealing with climate change (UNFCCC) and the one taking biodiversity into account (UNCBD). As we had committed to do, the Initiative was present during these three COPs to observe, meet, argue and convince people of the importance of soil health. We have taken stock of these three COPs, taking as our angle of perception that of soils, soil health and carbon sequestration in soils thanks to agro-ecological practices (see page 9 of this newsletter for a review). It is far from negative, but it is not yet totally satisfactory, and we must continue our work, with COP 28 in Dubai in our sights.



As every year in January, the question of financial support for the Initiative and the means of operation of the Executive Secretariat arises. We are still in dire need of both human and budgetary resources, particularly in the context of the work of the Task Forces that will work on the emergence of projects for the implementation of the 2050 Strategic Plan and make concrete actions in relation to the objectives. All the reference documents (2050 Strategic Plan) and operational mechanisms (Implementation Plan and Cycle) are now validated by the Consortium of Members and are operational. It is only a matter of acting together to make our wishes come true. The Executive Secretariat, and more particularly Beatrice BRETON-ASKAR, is here to answer your questions and to help you find the best way to support the work of the Initiative.

In 2023, we plan to organise or co-organise 3 regional or sub-regional meetings, in West Africa, Northern Europe and Asia. We count on you to participate if you are in one of these regions, in person or online, as we hope to be able to hold these meetings in a hybrid format (more details in the heart of this newsletter).

Of course we will be organising (budget permitting) the 7th Initiative Day during COP 28 in Dubai (United Arab Emirates) around 6 December. We are thinking about an evolution of the format of the day, especially of the High Level Segment, because the World Soil Day, on December 5th, will fall this year during the COP Climate. A great opportunity to highlight soils and their health.

Before closing this editorial, I must acknowledge the work of Ms. Paloma MELGAREJO-NARDIZ, who was seconded to the Executive Secretariat of the Initiative by the Spanish INIA for 2 years, and then by the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture for 3 years, and who returned to Madrid at the end of last year to take up a new position. Paloma has been the indispensable link with the scientific world in the Executive Secretariat, organising and managing the work of the Scientific and Technical Committee, and bringing her skills and wonderful good humour to the daily work of the team. We thank her warmly for her immense contribution to the smooth running of the Initiative and wish her every success in the future, while we look forward to welcoming the person who will replace her through a new secondment from the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture in the coming weeks.

Take care of yourselves and your loved ones, as well as our soils.

**Dr. Paul LUU**

Executive Secretary of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative

To support and donate to the "4 per 1000" Initiative, please contact Ms. Béatrice Breton-Askar, our Resource Mobilization Senior Officer: [beatrice.breton-askar@4p1000.org](mailto:beatrice.breton-askar@4p1000.org)

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



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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](mailto:secretariat@4p1000.org)



# "4 per 1000 Initiative" Day

Sharm El-Sheikh - November 16, 2022



The 6th day of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative was held on November 16, 2022 in Sharm El Sheikh (Egypt) on the sidelines of the COP 27, in a hybrid version (face to face and online).

This event is divided into 2 parts, the Forum of Partners and the Consortium of Members.

The **Forum of Partners** was opened by a High Level Segment moderated by Wolfgang Zornbach (BMLE). Its theme was "Healthy Soils for a Healthy Planet". Numerous personalities representing "4 per 1000" partner structures (countries or regions, international organizations, agricultural producers' organizations, NGOs, research centers, companies, etc.) presented their point of view as well as the actions they are and will be deploying in this regard.

At the end of the morning, the annual activity report of the International Initiative "4 per 1000" was presented by the Executive Secretary, followed by the presentation of the Activity Report of the STC (Scientific and Technical Committee) by the Committee Co-Chair, Beverley Henry.

In the afternoon, the **Consortium of Members** held its meeting, for the presentation and adoption of the roadmap and the 2023 budget, and also validated the Implementation Cycle which will gain the Initiative to have all the tools it needs to be fully operational (2050 Strategic Plan, Implementation Plan of the 2050 Strategic Plan, Operational Framework of the Initiative and Implementation Cycle).

Videos and presentations related to this event are now online by clicking [here](https://4p1000.org).



Marc Baréty, Ambassador of France to the Republic of Egypt



Wolfgang Zornbach (BMLE) et Claudia Schepp ("4 per 1000" - BLE)



Helmy Abouleish - SEKEM





## The 14th meeting of the Scientific and Technical Committee of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative

**In the scientific field, the 14th meeting of the Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) of the "4 per 1000" Initiative was organized in a mixed form, in person and on line, on November 14-15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, under the frame of COP 27 in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt.**

The meeting took place in six sessions.

**Session 1 was about scientific papers.** The special issue entitled "Sustainable management practices to increase carbon sequestration in the soil" is already finished and will be published soon in the international journal "Regional Environmental Change". [The STC activity report 2016-2021](#) has been already finalised and presented to the Forum and Consortium in the 6<sup>th</sup> Day of the Initiative.

**Session 2 dealt with the formative assessment of projects.** The fourth call for formative project assessment was launched on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 and the deadline was 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022. Seven projects were submitted and assessed by the STC. Three of them were considered as being in line with the objectives of the Initiative "4 per 1000". After discussion it was proposed to postpone the launch of the 5<sup>th</sup> call to take into account the implementation plan and how the STC contributes to the plan.

**During Session 3 the involvement of the Initiative in different high-level actions was discussed:** ORCASA project, EJP-Soil, GSP and ITPS, and the EU Mission "A Soil Deal for Europe".

**During Session 4,** the international "4 per 1000" Initiative Implementation Plan (IP) and Strategic Implementation Cycle (SIC) was presented by the Executive Secretariat to the STC.

The last sessions were on the governance and outreach of the Initiative and the action plan for the next period. The STC members also discussed about its involvement on the 6<sup>th</sup> Day of the Initiative and what to transmit to the Consortium and Forum.

To learn more about the CST, click [here](#).

### Women-led teams receive unique catalyst grants for climate action

At an event at COP 27, on 15 November, the World Academy of Science for the advancement of science in developing countries ([UNESCO-TWAS](#)) and the Elsevier Foundation announced winning teams for new gender equity and climate action project grants for the global South.

The projects have three common themes: to strengthen gender equity; to address the climate-related needs of local communities; and to transfer knowledge from scientific research to real-life scenarios.

The projects are entirely led and conducted by women researchers.

**Member of the Scientific and Technical Committee of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative, congolese Soil scientist Lydie-Stella Koutika will lead a project on agroforestry systems to enable climate change mitigation, soil fertility improvement and staple food security in rural communities of the Congolese coastal plains in the Republic of Congo.**

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

### Call for Soil Mission 2023 projects

The European Union is investing 157 million euros for soil protection. For more information, click [here](#).



## COP 27 - The side events in which the "4 per 1000" Initiative participated

### "The Soil Health Resolution" - 11th November 2022 - COP 27 Blue Zone Food System Pavilion

The event on the 11th of November was organised by the [CA4SH Coalition](#) in the Food Systems Pavilion.

The aim of the event was to introduce [The Soil Health Resolution](#), which has been drafted in a cooperative effort of CA4SH and the international "4 per 1000" Initiative.

During the event, several high level people from all stakeholder groups took the chance to advocate for the importance of soil health and its recognition in international (climate) politics. Paul Luu, Executive Secretary of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative, delivered a video message, stressing the importance of the topic and underlining the good collaboration with CA4SH as well as our shared mission, to push the recognition of soil health to address multiple of today's biggest challenges: climate change, biodiversity loss and food security and the environmental and social challenges and chances arising from it.

For more information and to view the recording, click [here](#).

### "Farmers as soil carbon stewards", 12th November 2022 - COP 27 - Green Zone Hall B

This side event was organized by Egyptian Biodynamic Association ([EBDA](#)) in Hall B of the Green Zone and had the following objectives:



Naglaa Ahmed, EBDA et Paul Luu, "4 per 1000" Initiative

1. Provide the knowledge and awareness that sustainable agriculture systems would protect nature, combat global climate change, improve our health and gain more food security,
2. Biodynamic farming and sustainable production practices such as agroecology increase carbon sequestration and reduce emissions,
3. Agriculture carbon credits aim to reduce CO2 farm emissions and reward farmers for their positive environmental services sequestering and avoiding CO2.

**Sherif Gamal Eldin Hafez, Egyptian Biodynamic Association (EBDA)**, moderated the event, with speakers including:

- **Philippe Birker, co-founder [Climate Farmers](#)** on the topic of regenerative agriculture,
- **Patrick Holden, Executive Director of the Sustainable Food Trust (SFT)**, on sustainable food and farming systems,
- **Naglaa Ahmed, Manager of EBDA**, on how to improve the farmers living standard through [Economy of Love \(EoL\)](#) carbon credits,
- and **Paul Luu, Executive Secretary of the "4 per 1000" Initiative**, on the general principles of the [international "4 per 1000" Initiative](#), and its 2050 strategic plan.



## COP 27 - The side events in which the "4 per 1000" Initiative participated

### "Do look down! Soil health, a solution and an universal asset - from the global approach to concrete cases" - COP 27 Blue Zone, Pavillon France - November 12, 2022 from 2 to 3:30 pm

This event was organized by [Amarenco](#), the [international "4 per 1000" Initiative](#) and [CIRAD](#).

Eva Vandest, Group Head of Public Affairs, Amarenco, LUU Paul, Executive Secretary, "4 per 1000" Initiative and Vincent BLANFORT, Scientist, CIRAD, introduced the major role of soils and their health as part of the response to the main challenges of the century (climate change, loss of biodiversity, food insecurity, etc.), discussed the levers to be put in place using agroecology in the land sector and the situation and solutions throughout the world, notably in the French overseas territories, in Egypt, and in the field of agrivoltaism.

Then, Vincent Blanfort from CIRAD moderated a stakeholder panel composed of:

- Eva Vandest, Group Head of Public Affairs, Amarenco,
- Valérie Dermaux, in charge of Climate and Agriculture, [Ministry of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty of France](#),
- Thoraya Seada, Project Manager of [Carbon Footprint Center, Heliopolis University for Sustainable Development of Egypt, SEKEM](#),
- Precious Phiri, [Regeneration International](#) and
- Paul Luu, Executive Secretary of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative.

To view the event (starting at 2:56:10), click [here](#).







## COP 27 - The side events in which the "4 per 1000" Initiative participated

### "Farmers as soil carbon stewards", 14th November 2022, 16:00 pm - COP27 Blue Zone, Food and Agriculture Pavilion

This event takes place in the Food and Agriculture Pavilion at the UN Climate Change Conference 2022 (COP 27), co-hosted by [CGIAR](#), [FAO](#) and The [Rockefeller Foundation](#).

Agriculture, and in particular agricultural soils, can play a crucial role in food security and climate change. Regenerative agriculture has great potential to store carbon in the ground and restore healthy ecosystems, while improving the livelihood of farmers.

Supporting farmers to shift from conventional practices to organic and biodynamic agriculture has succeeded in increasing their standard of living, especially after introducing the Economy of Love carbon credits.

This event was moderated by **Maximilian Abouleish-Boes**, Chief Sustainable Development Officer at [SEKEM](#), with participants including:

- **Paul Luu**, Executive Secretary of the [international "4 per 1000" Initiative](#),
- **Lifeng Li**, Director, Land and Water division - [FAO](#),
- **Philippe Birker**, co-founder [Climate Farmers](#),
- **Thoraya Seada**, Project Manager at [Carbon Footprint Center, Heliopolis University for sustainable Development of Egypt - SEKEM](#).

To watch the event, click [here](#).



### "Why soil matters!? Ways forward to a better climate and living" - 17th November, 9:00 am - COP 27, Sustainable Agriculture of the Americas Pavilion



Every human being on Earth needs to be fed every day in order to live. Tomorrow there will be almost 10 billion of people on a planet with enormous limits and threatened by thoughtless actions. If we want to leave our children an agricultural land capable not only of providing our food today, but also of tomorrow, there is one capital more important than any other: the soil, a living soil.

[The international "4 per 1000" Initiative](#) which aims to demonstrate that agricultural soils can play a crucial role in food security and climate change, could help humankind to find another way, little explored yet, with greener solutions more in tune with nature and allowing every human being to meet their vital needs. For this to happen, it will be necessary to increase agricultural productivity through sustainable agrifood systems with safe and healthy diets, greater water efficiency, soil regeneration and carbon storage, less greenhouse gases, preservation of tropical forests and biodiversity, and greater equity for small farmers, indigenous people, rural youth and women.

This side event brought together **Beata Madari** of [Embrapa](#), **Eugenia Saini**, Executive Director of [FONTAGRO](#), **Oliver Gardiner** of [Regeneration International](#), **Abad Chabbi**, Research Director at [INRAE](#), and **Paul Luu**, Executive Secretary of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative. To watch the recording, click [here](#).

Légende photo: Beata Mari, Paul Luu, Abad Chabbi et Oliver Gardiner



COP 27 - The side events in which the "4 per 1000" Initiative participated



‘COP 27 Solutions Dialogues’ - November 8-17th, 2022 - Sharm El Sheikh (Egypt)

‘Under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment of Egypt, the [Future Economy Forum](#), [SEKEM](#) and [Now Partners](#)’ local and global partners and co-sponsors hosted ten Solutions Dialogue Evenings between November 8th - 17th in the large garden of a villa on the ocean, close to the official COP zones.

Developing and implementing concrete solutions was also the focus of the ‘COP 27 Solutions Dialogues’. **Dynamic dialogues amongst the 1,786 participants from 82 countries were inspired by 108 expert presenters from diverse industries, sectors and continents.**

**At one of these evenings, Paul Luu, Executive Secretary of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative presented the "4 per 1000".**

Please find topics and presenters [here](#).

To read the report, click [here](#).





**The Energy & Resources Forum was held on December 6, 2022 at the SwissTech Convention Center, EPFL campus, Lausanne, Switzerland.**

The Energy & Resources Forum has the goal of bringing together key stakeholders from science, business and policy to envision a sustainable energy future within the resource boundaries of our planet. More than 15 personalities took the floor. Paul Luu, Executive Secretary of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative intervened as an expert on the theme of soils. To learn more, click [here](#) and [here](#).

### To read ...

#### Soil Carbon Notes #2 / Executive Secretariat of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative

**"2022, the year of the 3 Rio Conventions' COPs on Desertification, Climate Change and Biodiversity: what has been achieved in terms of considering soils and soil health? »** by the Executive Secretariat of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative.

To read this note from the Executive Secretariat of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative, please click [here](#).

## 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, our Resource Mobilization Senior Officer: [beatrice.breton-askar@4p1000.org](mailto:beatrice.breton-askar@4p1000.org)

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

**"4 questions to ..."****Mr. Marc Fesneau****French Minister for Agriculture and Food Sovereignty**Photo: Xavier Remongin / [agriculture.gouv.fr](http://agriculture.gouv.fr)

**"... France supports financially and will continue to support the "4 per 1000" Initiative."**

**1/ Mr Marc Fesneau, could you introduce yourself in a few words?**

*I am honoured to have been appointed Minister for Agriculture and Food Sovereignty on 20 May this year, in the government of the Prime Minister, Elisabeth Borne.*

*Before taking up this position, I was since October 2018, Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister in charge of Relations with Parliament and Citizen Participation, in the governments of Edouard Philippe and then Jean Castex.*

*Since my 25th birthday, I have also had the pleasure of serving as a local elected official, in Loir-et-Cher (France) where I am originally from and where my family continues to live. I have held various positions such as Mayor, President of a community of communes and regional Councillor, a mandate in which I was mainly involved in regional planning, rurality and agriculture, and in particular I created a wood-energy sector in Loir-et-Cher. Today, I am still a municipal Councillor and a community Councillor.*

*In parallel to this political commitment, I began my professional career at the Chamber of Agriculture of the Loir-et-Cher, first in charge of European funds, then as director of the local development department.*

*It is an honour to be the Minister for Agriculture and Sovereignty. I am proud to be at the head of the Ministry of our farmers, these men and women who are mobilised every day to produce.*

**2/ Mr Marc Fesneau, as French Minister of Agriculture, what are the main actions you are carrying out in connection with the 'international "4 per 1000" Initiative: Soils for Food Security and Climate'?**

*France is committed to virtuous cultivation practices that rely on biological regulations that promote the closure of biogeochemical cycles, the storage of carbon in the soil and biodiversity. These farming practices include agroforestry, but also conservation agriculture, to name but a few. In order to assess the effectiveness of these practices, we encourage farmers to carry out personalised carbon diagnostics to analyse their situation at a given moment and see how this balance sheet can evolve according to the practices they use.*

*We must also develop leguminous crops, which fix nitrogen. These plants have the capacity to capture nitrogen from the air to produce their own source of fertiliser necessary for their development and, in so doing, limit other greenhouse gas emissions such as nitrous oxide, which is mainly emitted after nitrogen fertiliser is applied to agricultural plots. We are, therefore, investing massively to increase their cultivation in France with a national Plant Protein Strategy established over ten years. Our objective by 2030 is to double the surface area cultivated with these protein-rich plants, and to include them in various crop rotations to optimise nitrogen inputs.*

.../...



.../...

The development of low-carbon agriculture, or carbon farming, was also a priority of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union during the first half of 2022. By promoting the remuneration of practices that reduce greenhouse gases or sequester carbon in agricultural and forestry soils, low-carbon agriculture appears to be a new economic model that makes it possible to reconcile environmental transition and economic development. After several weeks of discussions and work with our European partners, particularly during the informal meeting of agriculture Ministers in February, our efforts led to the adoption of conclusions by the Council of the European Union in April 2022.

Through these conclusions, the Member States have given a strong signal that the agricultural and forestry sectors will play a full role in achieving the climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives that the Member States have set themselves, in particular through their capacity to absorb carbon from the atmosphere. Following these Conclusions, the Commission will very soon propose the establishment of a European certification system for carbon absorption: France will not fail to make ambitious proposals, in line with our climate transition objectives.

Finally, I would like to recall France's constant support for the international "4 per 1000" Initiative, and my work, as well as that of my predecessors, to get the States and institutions to sign up to it.

### 3/ What does the "4 per 1000" Initiative mean to you?

France supported the Initiative as part of the Lima-Paris agenda for action at COP 21. We are proud and happy that this Initiative has flourished, based on a message that is both simple and essential: agriculture is one of the fundamental and essential solutions for the climate. This includes soils, which are the first heritage, not only of farmers, but also of humanity as a whole.

Fertile soils with good water retention, managed in a sustainable way, are the indispensable basis to guarantee our ability to produce healthy and quality food in the long term. Soils are key not only to agriculture and livestock production, but also to food security, and they are a solution to capture more CO<sub>2</sub> in the soil. Soils, especially agricultural soils but also forest soils, are indeed part of the solution in the fight against global warming. This is why the "4 per 1000" Initiative is so important.

### 4/ What message would you like to convey to the Partners and Members of the "4 per 1000" Initiative?

To continue the mobilisation and the actions because each year this Initiative progresses, in knowledge, in sharing, in conviction. We hope that more and more countries and institutions will join this project. France supports financially and will continue to support the "4 per 1000" Initiative. This year, we are going further by joining forces with the FAO to develop tools for measuring and analysing soils, in line with the "4 per 1000" benchmark, to enable a better understanding and dissemination of what is virtuous for carbon sequestration in the soil and for soil health.

Today, we must continue to convince decision-makers at all levels, from local to international, to give more attention to the issue of soils and, ultimately, increase the number of projects in favour of their rehabilitation and good management, in order to promote carbon sequestration in soils. We need to mobilise society, actors in the field, those who can finance these projects and, of course, political decision-makers.



Paul Luu, Executive Secretary of the "4 per 1000" Initiative, Marc Fesneau, French Minister for Agriculture and Food Sovereignty and Ibrahim Mayaki, Vice-president of the "4 per 1000" Initiative. Photo: Saïdou Cheick

## Save the date!

**The International Agricultural Show (SIA) will be held from February 25 to March 5, 2023 in Paris, France.** For more information, click [here](#).

**"What soil health in field crops and what levers for improvement?" - Webinar - March 08, 2023 from 10am to 11:30am. Feedback from the Living Soils program developed by Earthworm on the 2021-2022 field season**

The Living Soils program developed by [Earthworm Foundation](#), aims since 2018 to accelerate the transition towards soil regeneration. The webinar aims to present the results obtained on 260 farms in 8 different cropping systems in France. This work was co-constructed and validated by the scientific committee of the Living Soils program.

Three points will be specifically addressed in this webinar:

- The link between soil health outcome indicators, carbon storage potential, and implemented practices
- The identification of priority action levers to accelerate soil regeneration
- An exchange with 2 farmers implementing different cropping systems as part of their transition, the obstacles encountered and the solutions implemented. To register, click [here](#).

**"Transitioning to More Regenerative Practices in the Northeast: Towards Inclusive and Fair Compensation for Farmers and Other Soil Health Stewards" - 3rd Symposium of the Northeast Healthy Soil Network - March 16 on line and March 17, 2023 in-Person on the Campus of the University of New Hampshire, Durham (USA) and Virtual**

A consortium of research and farmer advocacy institutions have come together under the banner of the Northeast Healthy Soil Network (NEHSN), to host NEHSN's third Symposium on Healthy Soils in the Northeast United States. The Northeast Healthy Soil Network (NEHSN) originated as a 2018 initiative in Tufts University's Global Development and Environment Institute, which conducts interdisciplinary research that emphasizes ecological, cultural, social, and institutional factors.

This event is organized by Food Solutions New England, UNH, NOFA-NH, Tufts (GDAE), and Dartmouth College with the support of NEHSN's international partners: the "4 per 1000" Initiative, and the French Ministry of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty.

The key objectives of the 2023 Symposium are to: rejuvenate and reignite the network in the post-pandemic period, realign regional policy goals in light of the 2023 Farm Bill, the Inflation Reduction Plan funding, and the Climate Smart Commodities Grants... To register, click [here](#).



## Our Partners and Members act!

**Listen to Marc-André Selosse in the first episode of the podcast "Les experts du vivant"!**

"Les experts du vivant" is a podcast series produced by the [French Ministry of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty](#). Its objective: to give the floor to experts from the agricultural world (farmer, agronomist, researcher...), in a direct and educational format, in order to transmit to everyone the keys to understanding the challenges of our time.

In this first episode, several specialists are interviewed (farmers, scientists, ministry officials, etc.) to understand what role agricultural soils play in climate regulation and how they should be preserved to maintain their sustainability. Because, beyond the effects of climate change, our soils are strategic assets that must be preserved to guarantee our food sovereignty.

To listen to the podcast (23 minutes, in French), please click [here](#).

**The hidden world of soil biodiversity by FAO**

Our well-being is highly dependent on biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides. Yet the loss of soil biodiversity is considered one of the main global threats to soils in many regions of the world.

If an enabling environment is built, soil biodiversity could be a nature-based solution to many of the problems that humanity is facing today, from the field to the global scale.

To discover the hidden world of soil biodiversity, please click [here](#).

**Sustainable agriculture and territorial dynamics in Southern countries, a project fo Agrisud International**

The French Development Agency ([AFD](#)) and the non-governmental organization [Agrisud International](#) are launching the second phase of the "Agriter" project. This initiative aims to develop sustainable family farming in five countries around the world, including three in Africa.

AFD and Agrisud Internationale are Members of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative. To learn more, please click [here](#) (in French).

More and more producers are adopting agroecological practices, as [here](#) in Senegal. This new approach to agriculture is beginning to bear fruit. It is based on a range of technical solutions adapted to each territory and each crop.

**CIRAD and its partners are convinced that agroecology can provide a response to the challenges posed by climate change and population growth.**

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

**Agroecology - Intercrops will benefit the farming and food systems of tomorrow?**

A new European project, coordinated by CIRAD and involving 27 organizations in 14 countries, launched recently. Named IntercropValuES, it aims to use the advantages of intercrops to build productive, diverse, resilient, profitable, environmentally friendly cropping systems that are acceptable to farmers and agrifood chain stakeholders.

This four-year project will test various innovations on three continents (Europe, Africa and China). It is funded with 7.4 million euros from the European Union's Horizon Europe program.

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



## Save the date!

### planet A® Institute Training Sessions - March to November 2023

The training cycle of Planet A® Institute dedicated to Higher Education in Agriculture has for central objective to get a panel of high-level experts created, belonging to public and private sectors, a rethought culture of the role of Agriculture to meet the societal, climatic and geopolitical challenges we have to face. Next sessions in March, April, May, June, September, October and November 2023. More information [here](#).

### Regional meeting in West Africa of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative in May 2023 - Abidjan - Ivory Coast

CIRAD organises this regional meeting in partnership with the Ivorian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Information to come [here](#).

### 1st Northern Europe "4 per 1000" Regional Meeting - June 6-8, 2023 - Helsinki, Finland

#### Join the conference connecting real-world farming, policy, research, and business for healthy soils in Northern Europe

Connecting real-world farming, policy, research, and business with each other is vital if we are to transition towards healthy soils and productive, highly resilient agriculture.

[Baltic Sea Action Group](#) and the ["4 per 1000" Initiative](#) invite you to join the first-ever Northern European regional meeting of the "4 per 1000" Initiative in Helsinki in June.

The three-day event brings together colleagues from all over Northern Europe and offers, among other things, 12 keynote speeches, 2 field trips, tens of posters, panel discussions, and countless opportunities to connect and gain new insights.

[Find out more and sign up.](#)

### 31st International Leadership Workshop for Rural Youth - From August 9 to 23, 2023 - House of Bavarian Agriculture, Herrsching, Germany

This event is organised again this year by the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL). The workshop is aimed at managers and multipliers from all over the world who hold positions of responsibility in the field of youth work or vocational training in rural areas. The motto of this year's workshop is: "Think globally - Get together and act locally".

Participants must be between 21 and 45 years of age and fluent in one of the three conference languages -German, English, French. Applications can be submitted until 01st of March 2023.

Information and registration [here](#).



## Our Partners and Members act!

**The Soil Study and Management journal of the French Association for Soil Study (Afes) offers a special 2022 issue: "[Soil biodiversity: a common good at the service of all](#)" (in French).**

This edition was an opportunity for [ELISOL environnement](#), a partner company of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative, in collaboration with [IRD](#), a member of the "4 per 1000", to publish an article on putting the SIPANEMA application and to present the major results of the [Afes](#) meta-analysis on the impact of agricultural practices on the biological functioning of soils through nematofauna (complete study published in open source in 'Soil biology and Biochemistry' [here](#)).

You will also discover in this edition how the ecological classification of earthworms is questioned today, how enchytraeids but also micro- and macro-arthropods can provide information on chemical stress or on the effects of agricultural practices or even a study on the overall impact of production methods on the biological quality of soils.

### [How biochar removes CO2 from the air - and helps farmers thrive - Axel Reinaud of the French company NetZero - TEDx - September 2021](#)

Biochar is a kind of charcoal that removes CO2 from the atmosphere, helping yield healthy crops and even producing abundant renewable energy in the form of electricity as it's made. This exciting climate change fighter is ready for scaling now. Entrepreneur Axel Reinaud outlines three ways to make this material more accessible to farmers -- so that our food system, energy grid and the climate can all reap the benefits.

### **ELENATURE and its mother company IEVA Group affirm their eco-friendly values and join the international "4 per 1000" Initiative**

IEVA Group revolutionizes beauty and well-being through technological, personalized and consumer-centric solutions, with an active focus on environmental protection.

IEVA Group owns several brands: L'Atelier du Sourcil, the No. 1 in Eye Beauty; ELENATURE, a range of organic, natural hair care products that combat the harmful effects of the environment on the hair and scalp; Twin.C by IEVA and Time.C by IEVA, connected jewellery and watches that measure environmental stress, and myIEVA, the beauty and wellness subscription offering that deploys beauty as a customised service.

*"ELENATURE is a new vision of premium beauty where technicality, efficiency and naturalness are inseparable from respect for the environment"*, Jean Michel Karam, President and founder of IEVA Group, mother company of the ELENATURE brand.

ELENATURE, an organic, natural and premium hair brand, defends irreproachable values in terms of eco-responsibility, whether in the design of its packs, its formulas or in the sourcing of its ingredients from eco-responsible agriculture.

[IEVA Group](#) and [ELENATURE](#) financially support the international "4 per 1000" Initiative.

## Save the date!

### International "4 per 1000" Initiative Regional Meeting in Asia on Soil carbon sequestration: potential, opportunities, and strategies for healthy soils and climate change mitigation in Asia - 7 to 10 February 2023 - Kanha Shanti Vanam - Hyderabad (India)

This meeting was originally scheduled for February and has been rescheduled for September 19-21, 2023. It is co-organized by the "4 per 1000" Initiative, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Alliance Bioversity International – CIAT, Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) and Heartfulness Institute.

Objectives of the Regional Meeting:

- \* To deliberate on the potential, challenges, opportunities, and strategies in soil C sequestration and soil health in Asia,
- \* To propose an implementation pathway from policy to action through a regional "4 per 1000" roadmap, which would include:
  - An action plan for establishing a regional consortium to foster collaborative research around carbon sequestration in soils and maintaining healthy soils, and
  - A regional database on good agricultural practices for carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation to support transition and payment for ecosystem services.

More information to come [here](#).

### The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) - COP 28, will be held in Dubai (United Arab Emirates) from 30 November to 12 December 2023.

More information to come.

### The 7th Day of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative will be held on the sidelines of COP 28, around December 6, 2023.

More information to come.



## Our Partners and Members act!

### A serious game about soil and agriculture

[The Living Soil Workshop](#) is a two-hour serious game to understand the different cause to effect relationships in the soil system and how collective choices can influence them. It is meant to illustrate the complex life, chemistry, and physics of the soil to different stakeholders. It can also be a great educative tool for students of all ages.

The living soils workshop has been co-created by Sparknews and the Ludi Soli association with the support of [Moët Hennessy](#), the project benefited from contributions from Marc-André Selosse and Lydie-Stella Koutika -two internationally recognized soil scientists - and [Gaiago](#), a company specialized in soilrevitalization.

### Moët Hennessy organized, under the patronage of the Global Soil Partnership, the OIV and the international "4 per 1000" Initiative, the 1st WORLD LIVING SOILS FORUM "Mobilizing and acting for living soils" was held on June 1 and 2, 2022 in Arles-en-Provence (France).

The forum brought together researchers, experts, public institutions, journalists, trade associations and companies from the Food & Beverage industry for two days of conferences, round tables, masterclasses, and workshops.

[More than 100 speakers](#) shared their experiences and knowledge during the 1st WORLD LIVING SOILS FORUM.

To see or review the different interventions, or any other information, please click [here](#).

Moët Hennessy is a Partner of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative.

### McDonald's France AgriTour

During the six stages of the AgriTour, McDonald's France met with farmers and the agricultural sector to further develop its sustainable supply chain strategy for 2030.

To watch the video "McDonald's AgriTour: time to take stock", click [here](#) (in French).

To learn more about McDonald's France commitments to farmers, click [here](#) (in French).

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](mailto:paul.luu@4p1000.org)





## Activities related to the "4 per 1000" Initiative

### Agroecology for climate adaptation and mitigation

The climate crisis is straining farmers' ability to ensure yields and secure sustainable livelihoods, threatening global nutritional security. In this context, agroecology – an ecologically, socially and economically sustainable approach to food and farming – can help to both absorb carbon and adapt to a rapidly changing climate. This info sheet, '[Climate change, adaptation, and the potential of agroecology](#)', shows how agroecological farms are more resilient to climate and environmental shocks.

This infosheet was produced by [IPES-Food](#), an independent panel of experts shaping debates on how to transition to sustainable food systems around the world.

**The impact startup [soil.is](#) was created in early 2022 with the objective of increasing the sequestration of carbon contained in the soils and plants of the land holdings of economic actors while ensuring to respect the local ecology and support social impact.** Their SaaS platform under construction will allow land actors to value their natural capital, by identifying carbon stocks, the potential of their land assets, and the solutions to achieve this (Nature-based Solutions - NBS, and financing tools). [soil.is](#) works in close collaboration with research organizations (IRD - UMR Eco&Sols, partner of two research projects: TULIPS and RESTCOAST) and brings together high level scientists (UNEP, IPCC, OpenStreetMap) with the aim of improving carbon sequestration with co-benefits on all soil types.

The [soil.is](#) team seeks to understand the needs of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) providers in the protection of soils and biodiversity, in particular biotechnological solutions for soil health, agroecology and regenerative agriculture, creation of green ecosystems & infrastructure, restoration and ecological management of degraded ecosystems (including forests, grasslands, wetlands, degraded soils...) and circular economy (biochar, compost, methanization, plant technosols...).

The targeted solution providers cover a wide range of activities including construction management, project management, equipment supply, R&D, and development services, including design offices and landscapers.

**For this purpose, a short survey has been created for SfN developers and their funders, which we invite you to complete at [this link in French](#), or [this one in English](#) (duration 5min).**

Then, the startup proposes to facilitate the connection of SfNs with land actors and access to financial instruments, which can be an interesting lever to develop access to a larger market for regenerative agriculture actors looking for customers and financing solutions. Learn more about [soil.is](#).

## To see ...

### The hidden wonders of soil - Jane Zelikova - TED Talk - June 2022

From nourishing our foods to storing massive amounts of carbon, soil is teeming with diverse microbial life that could slow global warming. Climate change scientist Jane Zelikova calls for agricultural practices that protect Earth's soil by growing climate-adapted crops that don't mess with the microbes. "Soils are the literal foundation of life on this planet -- the reason that we eat and the climate solution just waiting to be unlocked," she says.

To see the video, click [here](#).



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

**@4p1000 Initiative // Please Suscribe / like / share**



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YouTube : *4p1000 Initiative*

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCvBmNtaHxi3PcvbUkkL\\_UQg](http://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 international "4 per 1000" Initiative in a figure...

**751 Partners including 333 Members!** (January 2023)

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](#)





## They have joined the International "4 per 1000" Initiative!

(between September 2022 and January 2023)

### International & regional organisations

**Hualien County Government - Taiwan**

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

### Research and educational bodies

**KSCSTE- CWRDM - India**

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

**Research Center for Geospatial, National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) - Indonésie**

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

### Farmers & Foresters organisations

**RPPN ÁGUAS CLARAS - Brazil**

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

### Société civile, associations, ONG

**Centre for Livelihoods and Support to Sustainable Development (CLISSD) - USA**

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

**Réseau Compost In Situ - France**

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

### Civil society & non-profit organisations

**La Tierra del Jaguar - Mexico**

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

### Commercial & for-profit organisations

**CAS Regenerative - USA**

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

**INTACT - France**

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

**Laboratoires Dubernet - France**

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

**Living Ground Suelo Vivo - Ecuador**

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

**Resilient Future International Pvt Ltd - Pakistan**

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

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

To support and donate to the "4 per 1000" Initiative, please contact Ms. Béatrice Breton-Askar, our Resource Mobilization Senior Officer: [beatrice.breton-askar@4p1000.org](mailto:beatrice.breton-askar@4p1000.org)

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

## 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 March 10, 2022**. You can send an e-mail to [socialmedia.admin@4p1000.org](mailto:socialmedia.admin@4p1000.org).