

Editorial

#**22**October 2023

Dear Members and Partners.

Weeks and months go by with the same litany of records broken almost everywhere in terms of temperatures never recorded before. Entire regions are suffering from drought while others are underwater, and amid these hard-hit populations, farmers are watching their soil being blown away by the wind or water, and with it the future harvests, the lives of their children and ours. We are no longer simply making observations, since we are all closely affected, but we must all take action to protect the health of our soils and restore a semblance of normality to our climate.



As we all know, at the end of each year, we have the UNFCCC COP, which at least has the merit of putting the issue of climate change back in the headlines and under the spotlight. We want to make this new COP an important moment that will leave its mark on people's minds, through the commitment of all stakeholders in favour of Soil Health.

The "4 per 1000" Initiative will be present, as it is every year, and we are calling for a massive commitment from everyone in organizing of many of parallel events around soil health, carbon sequestration in soils, and agroecology, particularly on 5 December 5, which marks "World Soil Day" every year. We will be holding the "4 per 1000" Initiative Day on 6 December at a hotel in Dubai, but we want to make 5 December a highlight of COP 28, with the hope of organizing the High-Level Segment of the COP Partners Forum, at a pavilion yet to be determined.

In the meantime, we are delighted with the success of the Asia-Pacific Regional Conference of the "4 for 1000" community, held at Kanha Shanti Vanam near Hyderabad in India, from 19 to 22 September, and with the forthcoming International Workshop on "Transition to regenerative agriculture through agroecology: a systems approach", to be held from 25 to 27 October, 2023 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. In this second half of the year, Asia takes centre stage.

In addition, as decided at its meeting in Helsinki last June, the Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) of the "4 per 1000" Initiative has launched a series of 3 webinars on soil carbon science, the first of which was held on September 7, with the next scheduled for 17 October and 27 November, 2023.

This December, the "4 per 1000" Initiative will be 8 years old, 8 years of relentless action thanks to the perseverance of its Members and Partners, the work of its network, the STC, the Working Groups on the Strategic Objectives, and the involvement of the entire Executive Secretariat team. Its day-to-day work relies on the support and contributions of a limited number of countries, scientific organizations, civil society, and businesses. The second half of 2023 was difficult, but we managed to continue our actions thanks to an additional contribution. This should not mask the fact that more support and funding are needed to enable the Initiative to achieve its ambition, carry out its missions and further develop actions at all levels, including its participation in COP28. More than ever, support the Initiative and contribute to the continuation of its actions. We have set up new tools to receive your contributions and donations. Do not hesitate to contact us.

I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter, and I urge you to take care of yourself, your loved ones, and 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



The 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 was held from 19 to 21 September 2023, Kanha Shanti Vanam, Hyderabad, India.

Co-organized by the international "4 per 1000" Initiative and Heartfulness Institute in partnership with), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Alliance Bioversity International - CIAT, Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), this meeting was supported by International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-arid Tropics (ICRISAT), French Ministry of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty, the Dr. Reddy Foundation, Samunnati, the Foundation for Agriculture and Rurality in the World (FARM) and Biospheres.

More than 15 countries represented and 150 participants (on site and online)!

Dr. Paul Luu, Executive Secretary of the international « 4 per 1000 » Initiative and Ms Eva Vandest, Global Public Relations for Forests by Heartfulness, opened the conference, in the presence in particular of:

- · Honourable Sakiasi Raisevu Ditoka, Minister for Rural, Maritime Development & Disaster Management, Fiji
- · Shri Singireddy Niranjan Reddy, Honourable Minister for Agriculture, Government of Telangana, Hyderabad, India
- · Mr. Thierry Berthelot, Consul General of France in Bangalore (States of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana)
- · Honourable Kamlesh D. Patel, affectionately known as Daaji, Global Guide, Heartfulness Meditation and Movement, India.

4 Keynote speeches were delivered by:

- · Professor Rattan Lal, Professor of Soil Science, Ohio State University, USA
- Dr. Ananya S Rao, Senior Scientist, Forests by Heartfulness, Heartfulness Institute & UNESCO MGIEP (Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development), India
- Mr. Marcos Angelini, Data Scientist in Soil Information, Global Soil Partnership Secretariat (GSP-FAO)
- Dr. V. Ramakantha, Former Principal Chief Conserver of Forests, Indian Forest Service, Forests by Heartfulness, Leader of the Heartfulness Green Initiative, Heartfulness Institute, India.

Different themes were discussed during this Asia-Pacific regional meeting:

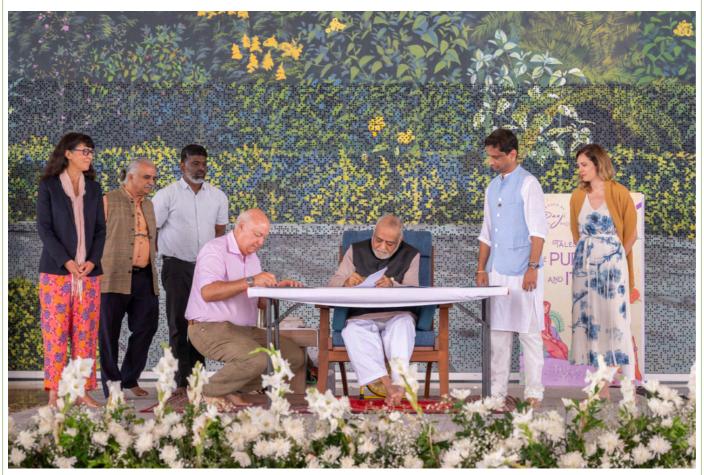
- The context in the Asia Pacific region:
 - Policy approaches to fostering Soil Health at National level and situation of the "4 per 1000" Initiative
 - The work of farmer's and forester's organizations, in the field, for Soil Health
- · Science context and findings in the Asia-Pacific region
 - · Monitoring, Reporting and Verification
 - · Understanding of functional mechanisms of soil leading to carbon sequestration
 - · Scientific evaluation of practices such as biochars, crop residus uses, etc.
- · Civil society and the business sector as agents of change for Soil Health
 - Mobilizing citizens, communities, and local governments
 - · Carbon farming as a business model
 - Business commitments and hands-on action.

A total of 28 presentations were given and 4 keynote speeches delivered.

For more information click here and to see the meeting, click here.

On September 23 in India, at the Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative on Soil Carbon Sequestration, a MoU* (Memorandum of Understanding) was officially signed between Honourable Kamlesh D. Patel, affectionately known as Daaji, Global Guide, Heartfulness Meditation and Movement, and Dr Paul Luu, Executive Secretary of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative.

*A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is a type of agreement between two (bilateral) or more (multilateral) parties. It expresses a convergence of will between the parties, indicating an intended common line of action. (Source Wikipedia)



Signature between Honourable Kamlesh D. Patel, affectionately known as Daaji, Global Guide, Heartfulness Meditation and Movement, Kanha Shanti Vanam, Hyderabad, India, and Dr Paul Luu, Executive Secretary of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative

From left to right: Ms. Béatrice Breton-Askar, Strategic Parnerships & Global Outreach, the international "4 per 1000" Initiative; Dr. V. Ramakantha, Former Principal Chief Conserver of Forests, Indian Forest Service, Forests by Heartfulness, Leader of the Heartfulness Green Initiative, Heartfulness Institute; Mr. Saravanan Subramaniam, Director Heartyculture Natural Products LLP, Heartfulness Institute; Ms. Eva Vandest, Global Public Relations for Forests by Heartfulness and Mr. Nitin Nirmal, Public Relations Manager, Heartfulness Institute

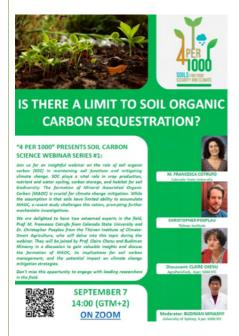




Soil Carbon Science Webinar Series 7 September, 17 October and 27 November, 2023

The Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative presents « Soil Carbon Science Webinar Series ».

The Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative launched this series on September 7 with the webinar "Is there a limit to soil organic carbon sequestration?".



This first insightful webinar focused on the role of soil organic carbon (SOC) in maintaining soil functions and mitigating climate change. SOC plays a vital role in crop production, nutrient and water cycling, carbon storage, and habitat for soil biodiversity.

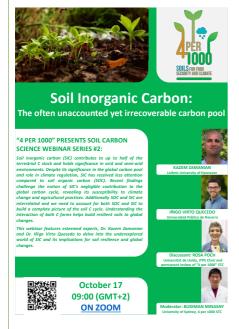
Recent developments have defined SOC into two operational fractions: particulate organic carbon (POC) and mineral-associated organic carbon (MAOC). The formation of long-lived MAOC is crucial for climate change mitigation.

The experts were delved into this topic:

- M. Budiman Minasny, The University of Sydney, member of the Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative
- Ms. Claire Chenu, Director of Research at INRAE, Professor of Soil Science at AgroParisTech, member of the STC of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative
- Ms. Francesca Cotrufo, Professor of Soil and Crop Sciences at Colorado State University
- Dr. Christopher Poeplau, Senior Researcher at the Thünen Institute of Climate-Smart Agriculture in Braunschweig, Germany.

To watch the seminar, click here.

The second seminar on October 17, 2023 has the theme: "Soil Inorganic Carbon: Unveiling its Role in Global Carbon Cycle".



Soil inorganic carbon (SIC), a pivotal component of terrestrial carbon stocks, contributes to up to half of the terrestrial C stock and holds significance in arid and semi-arid environments. Despite its importance in agriculture, CO2 sequestration, and climate regulation, SIC has received less attention compared to soil organic carbon (SOC). Recent findings challenge the notion of SIC's negligible contribution to the global carbon cycle, revealing its susceptibility to climate change and agricultural practices. Additionally SOC and SIC are interrelated and we need to account for both SOC and SIC to build a complete picture of the soil C cycle. In addition, understanding the interaction of both C forms helps build resilient soils to global changes. Experts

- M. Budiman Minasny, The University of Sydney, member of the Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative.
- Ms. Rosa Poch, Universitat de Lleida, ITPS Chair and permanent invitee of "4 per 1000" STC
- M. Kazem Zamanian, Soil scientist at Institute of Soil Science, Leibniz University of Hannover, Germany
- M. Iñigo Virto Quecedo, Soil scientist and Associate Professor at Universidad Pública de Navarra, UPNA, Spain.

To register (free, open to all) and find out more, click here.

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Soil Carbon Science Webinar Series 7 September, 17 October and 27 November, 2023

The last online seminar in this series proposed by the Scientific and Technical Committee of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative will take place on November 27, 2023 on the theme: "Measuring, Reporting and Verifying Soil Carbon Sequestration: Measurement or Modeling?".

There is a global interest in harnessing soil organic carbon (SOC) to mitigate climate change, enhance resilience, and ensure food security through Initiatives such as 4per1000. Concurrently, there is an urgent demand for credible and reliable measurement, reporting and verification frameworks for emission trading and national reporting.

Join our webinar to explore the critical issue of Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) for soil carbon stocks. Distinguished speakers, Prof. Alex McBratney of the University of Sydney and Prof. Pete Smith of the University of Aberdeen, will delve into measurement, modelling, and hybrid approaches.

Learn about their extensive research on technologies for measuring and auditing SOC change along with approaches in simulating and projecting change in SOC. Share their vision for a global framework for MRV of SOC stock change, supporting national and international endeavours, reshaping our approach to soil management.

To register (free, open to all) and find out more, click here.



The international "4 per 1000" Initiative has set up a strong Scientific and Technical Committee to guide its actions on a scientific level with 14 renowned experts from 5 continents and covering a wide disciplinary field.

Set up on 17 November 2016, the Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) is the scientific body of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative. The STC gives the orientations of the research program, plays a role of scientific and technical advice for the projects, proposes indicators for the evaluation framework, contributes and validates the constitution of a database for the digital resource center.



The international "4 per 1000" Initiative will shortly be issuing a call for applications to renew three to four members of the Scientific and Technical Committee at the beginning of 2024.

If you are a scientist and would like to apply, the call for candidates will shortly be posted on the home page of the Initiative's website.



"4 questions to ..."Mr. Alain DesvigneCEO of Amarenco Group

"... Through our AgriSolar activity, we prioritize food security, a resilient agriculture and protection against climate-related risks. Partnering with "4 per 1000" was a natural choice, and I have been a member for several years..."



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1/ Mr. Alain Desvigne, could you introduce yourself in a few words?

I have dedicated my life to regenerative development. Indeed, regen has always been at the core of my professional activity, driven by a craving to connect nature based solutions with core infrastructures. Starting with a Master's degree in water engineering, worked at ENGIE, went to do an MBA at INSEAD, was hired by SAMSUNG chairman's office in Seoul before I co-founded Amarenco 10 years ago, a leading independent renewable energy and energy storage company in Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

But for me, regen starts within before anything else. This is why I started the method of heartfulness when I was 17 years old and embraced this yoga centered on the limitless renewable energy of the heart.

2/ As CEO of Amarenco Group, what are the main actions you are carrying out in connection with the 'international "4 per 1000" Initiative: Soils for Food Security and Climate'?

The core business of Amarenco, providing low environmental impact renewable energy, takes part in mitigating climate change and its associated biodiversity loss. Since 2021, I have decided to go further, and, with the support of all our shareholders, I have committed Amarenco to ecosystem regeneration, with a particular focus on soil. We have embedded this commitment into the company's vision, mission, and motto: « Invest in RE.generation ».

Through our AgriSolar activity, we prioritize food security, a resilient agriculture and protection against climate-related risks. Partnering with "4 per 1000" was a natural choice, and I have been a member for several years. We regularly engage with Paul Luu and the initiative's members to develop a common vision and exchange knowledge and feedback on soil health. Amarenco also participates in or contributes to meetings and conferences, and my teams frequently rely on the documentation and training materials available on the platform.

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

The "4 per 1000" Initiative has played a pivotal role in the implementation of our vision. It has helped us grasp the significance of soils in regeneration and has connected me with a knowledgeable and passionate community dedicated to these issues.

For this reason, we have decided to officially launch our international regeneration program, the ECHO program, during the conference hosted by "4 per 1000" at the Glasgow COP26 in 2021.

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

The network we are building is unique. It consists of knowledgeable, demanding, and committed members.

But what stands out most to me is its diversity, through which we can hope to drive a genuine consideration of carbon and soil health at the scale of our industries and countries.

Save the date!

Season 10 of Tuesday Agrowebinars -Agreenium, in partnership with Acta - From Tuesday, October 3, 2023

Season 10 of Tuesday Agrowebinars kicked off on Tuesday, October 03. This season's main themes are Sobriety and Organic Agriculture. The 1st webinar focused on sobriety and policies for agriculture, food and the environment.

Find out more here.

GLF Nairobi 2023 Hybrid Conference: A New Vision for Earth - October 12, 2023 - Nairobi, Kenya - face-to-face or online

More information and registration here.

"Soil Inorganic Carbon: Unveiling its Role in Global Carbon Cycle" webinar - October 17, 2023 - online

The Scientific and Technical Committee of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative launched a « **Soil Carbon Science Webinar Series** ». The 1st was held on September 7 (see page 5 of this newsletter). To register for this 2nd online seminar (free, open to all) and find out more, click here.

'Transition to regenerative agriculture through agroecology: a systems approach' _ International workshop - 25-27 October 2023 - Siem Reap, Cambodia

The transition to regenerative agriculture is of special relevance for the Asia-Pacific region which is particularly vulnerable to climate change and where smallholders comprise a high proportion of farmers.

The objectives of the workshop are:

- To share Cambodian experience related to Agroecology (AE), Conservation Agriculture (CA), and coordination mechanisms in support to systems shift
- To learn from other experiences in South East Asia and Pacific related to Regenerative Agriculture, Agroecology, and support to transitioning processes
- To discuss the role of research in supporting the expected systems shifts.

This workshop is co-organized by Cambodian Conservation Agriculture and Sustainable Intensification Consortium (CASIC), Agroecology and Safe Food Systems Transition (ASSET) and Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture (ISA) projects, Agroecology coalition, the international "4 per 1000" Initiative, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM).

More information to come here.



This <u>Climate-Soil Community of Practice (CoP)</u> has jointly been launched by the international "4 per 1000" Initiative on Soils for Food Security and Climate and the GIZ Sector Project Soil Protection, Combating Desertification, Sustainable Land Management (BMZ) in 2020.

The core concern of this Climate-Soil Community of Practice is to raise the awareness of the climate change mitigation and adaptation potential of sustainable land management and soil organic carbon (SOC) enriching practices and identify concrete pathways for improvement and implementation. Its aim is to disseminate information on successful projects in the area of SLM and carbon sequestration, highlight good practices for overcoming adoption barriers and strengthen the case for sustainable land management as a key to effective climate action.

The Climate-Soil Community of Practice (CoP) provides a platform for collaboration and peer-learning amongst its members and offers an open space for discussion and creative thinking.

On September 27, 2023, the Climate-Soil Community of Practice (CoP) organized the online event: "Best practice experiences for agricultural carbon project development targeting Voluntary Carbon Markets (VCM) ».

Transforming agriculture and food systems requires a paradigm shift – away from a one-dimensional system that only produces food - to a system that provides multifunctional services. Smallholder farmers already make a significant contribution to nature- and climate positive agriculture but are not rewarded for it.

The agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU) sector offers a potential for 20-30% of the GHG mitigation required to meet the 2°C target. Soil carbon is of central importance for soil fertility and agricultural productivity and Mitigates Greenhouse Gases. Humus-rich soils are more resilient to the effects of climate change (including droughts), store more plant nutrients and increase soil biodiversity. Soil carbon conservation and enrichment thus makes important contributions to key development goals: Food security (SDG 2), climate adaptation and mitigation (SDG 13), biodiversity and land conservation (SDG 15).

Compensation schemes for ecosystem services provide incentives for smallholder agriculture to protect and rehabilitate the environment and its natural resources. Carbon markets may address the underfunded sustainable land management in developing countries. This mechanism, if implemented in a sustainable manner, can contribute to food security and development impacts.

This event, hosted by the international "4 per 1000" Initiative and GIZ, discussed best practice experiences for agricultural carbon project development, which include soil carbon certification for the benefit of smallholders.

To find out more, click here. To see the event, click here.

A noter dans vos agendas!

Regenerative Earth Summit - 8-9 November, 2023 - Cable Center, Denver, Colorado, USA

The Regenerative Earth Summit strives to cogenerate with organizations and leaders that work in collaboration with nature, by prioritizing eco-systemic health and focusing on the well-being of farming communities.

To learn more, please click here.

Agronomic Innovation Crossroads (CIAG)
"Agricultural specialization or diversity in the territories: issues, interests and limits, transition conditions" - November 9 - AGRO Toulouse-ENSAT Campus (in person or remotely).

Program & registrations here.

European Soil Mission Week - 21-23 november 2023 - Madrid, Spain

The Horizon Europe Mission 'A Soil Deal for Europe'. the EU Soil Observatory Stakeholders' Forum, and the EU-funded PREPSOIL project are joining forces to hold the first edition of the European Mission Soil Week. The European Mission Soil Week will be an annual event designed as a major European gathering that brings together the European soil community. Researchers, policymakers, farmers, foresters, spatial planners, land owners and managers, businesses and organisations, as well as the public, will meet to discuss the challenges for healthy soils. The event will be hosted by the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) and will take place under the Spanish EU Presidency on 21-23 November 2023 in Madrid. You can pre-register here.

"Measuring, Reporting and Verifying Soil Carbon Sequestration: Measurement or Modeling?" webinar - November 27, 2023 - online

The Scientific and Technical Committee of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative launched a « Soil Carbon Science Webinar Series ». The 1st was held on September 7 (see page 5 of this newsletter). To register for this 3rd online seminar (free, open to all) and find out more, click click here.

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

More information here.



Why a Soil Health Resolution at COP 28 of UNFCCC?

Last year at the COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, the international "4 per 1000" Initiative and CA4SH (Coalition of Action for Soil Health) were able launch the very <u>first Soil Health Resolution</u> at the Food Systems Pavillion. It represents a milestone for our common mission to promote soil health as a means to fight climate change and world hunger.

Building up on this success we aspire to rally support for presenting a resolution on soil health at COP 28 in Dubai in December as part of the GSP's action on "Promote awareness raising and advocacy on soil health".

For this purpose the international "4 per 1000" Initiative and CA4SH organized the side event "Why a Soil Health Resolution at COP 28 of UNFCCC?" at the 11th Session of the Global Soil Partnership Plenary Assembly at the Soil Partners' Day (July 13) in Rome at FAO headquarters.

This side event was introduced and moderated by Dr. Paul LUU, Executive Secretary of the International "4 per 1000" Initiative.

Prof. Rattan LAL (OSU) delivered the keynote address on the importance of Soil Health in general.

Speakers:

- Dr. Leigh Ann Winowiecki (Cifor-ICRAF) CA4SH on the Soil Health Resolution project to be supported at COP 28 of UNFCCC in Dubaï
- Mr. Oliver Oliveros Coordinator of the Coalition on Agroecology on the importance of Agroecology as vector of action to fight climate change
- Mrs. Diane Masure (APAD GCAN) from a Farmers organization to give concrete example of what it is possible to do in the fields
- Dr. Arwyn Jones (EU Soil Observatory EC-JRC) European perspective of land degradation and soil health
- Dr. Louis Verchot (Research Leader Land Restoration Group -Alliance Bioversity International-CIAT) on the importance of Soil Health.

Click here to see the presentations.





Soil health and resilient agriculture Explore the highlights from the first Northern European Regional Meeting of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative!

In June, we came together in Helsinki in Finland, for the very 1st Northern European Regional Meeting of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative. Whether you missed the event altogether, want to hear experts at sessions you didn't make it to, or itch to revisit a specific talk, worry not – we have made all the recordings available on YouTube!

The meeting was a three-day event packed with discussions, talks, networking, and field trips. The central theme of the meeting was "More carbon in the soil for multiple benefits".

The first day started with inspiring talks and conversations about regenerative agriculture. We discussed the opportunities it offers as well as the challenges we still face. Some farmers shared their success stories in regenerative farming, and we wrapped up the day with an artistic display focusing on soil.

On the second day, we delved deeper into the topics of soil and carbon in three parallel sessions that spanned most of the day, with keynote speeches and comments from a wide variety of representatives and experts in the fields of soil, water, biodiversity, and more. The day started with two youth delegates from The Finnish National Youth Council Allianssi, reminding us of the importance of hope.

At the end of the event, we summarised the key messages, emphasising the crucial role of soil health and its ongoing improvement. The key messages will be presented at the UNFCCC COP28 in Dubai (from Thursday 30 November to Tuesday 12 December 2023).

Lassi Häkkinen, a professional photographer joined us at Kalastajatorppa and on the field trip to Qvidja manor. He took some <u>beautiful photos</u> really capturing the atmosphere. You are free to use the photos for your own social media posts, as long as you credit the photographer, Lassi Häkkinen.



#22

A noter dans vos agendas!

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

The Scientific and Technical Committee of the Initiative will meet on December 4 and 7, 2023.

More information to come.

SoilCET International Symposium from January 24 to 26, 2024 - IFP Energies nouvelles, Rueil-Malmaison (near Paris, France)

At a time when the IPCC emphasizes the need to immediately reduce greenhouse gas emissions, soils and their ability to store carbon appear as a significant lever to achieve carbon neutrality targets. IFPEN & INRAE met these challenges and are energizing the scientific community to address the latest research developments in this field.

SoilCET is an international symposium gathering scientists to discuss the issues associated with soil carbon in the ecological transition.

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 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 to come.



The <u>Sustainable Leather Forum (SLF)</u> is the first international event dedicated to CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) in the leather industries.

Held on September 11, 2023, in the heart of Paris, France, it gathers more than 400 international participants to focus on social, environmental and economic issues.

As a unique platform for sharing the CSR best practices of the leather industries sector and its ecosystem, the SLF is an invaluable source of key information to help shape the CSR strategy of companies and support them in their transformation.

Over the course of an exceptional day, international experts and companies had the opportunity to speak during keynotes, round tables and debates punctuated by networking sessions.

The keynote entitled "Agriculture, soil and climate change: prospects and solutions" was presented by Paul Luu, Executive Secretary of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative.

Watch his speech here.



The Agri-Business Facility for Africa (ABF) launches a Call for Concept Notes for " Cocoa, Maize, Livestock".

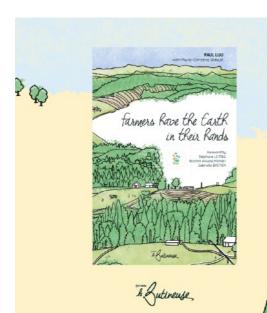
Are you working in the cocoa, maize, or livestock (cattle, sheep, goats) sectors in a member state of the Organisation of African, Caribbean, and Pacific states? Are you from the private sector, with a high interest in resilience, competitiveness, or direct supply linkages with off-takers for sustainability? Then this is a unique opportunity for you to realize your goal!

By applying for this Matching Grant Fund (MGF), you can obtain funding to realize your project idea in the named value chains! To apply, click here.

The Agri-Business Facility for Africa (ABF) is a project of German Development Cooperation launched in 2020 and designed as a pan-African knowledge and advisory hub. Together with the GIZ project MOVE-ComCashew, ABF is implementing the Joint Action "Business Support Facility for Resilient Agricultural Value Chains" which is a combined effort of the EU Directorate-General for International Partnerships (INTPA), Organisation of African Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) and German Government through the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).



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 the Executive Secretary by e-mail: secretariat@4p1000.org

To view the presentation file, click here. We thank you in advance for your support.





Government of Canada announced new living lab in Prince Edward Island at the end of August

The Living Laboratories Initiative uses a new approach to agricultural innovation in Canada. The program brings together farmers, scientists, and other collaborators to co-develop and test innovative practices and technologies to address agrienvironmental issues, including: mitigating and adapting to climate change, protecting soil and water quality, and maximizing biodiversity in agricultural landscapes.

To read the press release, click here. To find out more about the living Laboratories initiative, click here.

Viticulture, fruit and vegetables, cereals, livestock... A highly diversified agriculture occupies half of the Occitanie Region (France). France's leading region in terms of the number of farms (over 65,400 in 2016), it is also the 1st region for wines, organic produce, sheep, honey, dried vegetables, 2nd for fruits, 5th for cereals...

The Occitanie Region has implemented a number of policies, most notably the <u>Green Pact</u>, which aims to accelerate the ecological transition in all sectors, while building a model of fairness and solidarity. For the agricultural sector, this plan is reflected in the implementation of the <u>Sustainable Agriculture and Food strategy</u>, which aims to support the agro-ecological transition (including soil conservation and carbon sequestration).

The Occitanie Region (France) joined the international "4 per 1000" Initiative as a Member in September 2023.

The Argentine Secretariat for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries is responsible for designing and implementing production, marketing and hygiene plans in the fields of agriculture, fisheries, forestry and agro-industry. As a Member of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative, the Argentine Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries is involved in a wide range of activities. To find out more, click here.

The future of food: Serving people and the planet. Why agroecology is the future of food systems

In the quest to transform food systems in ways that serve both people and nature, agroecology is gaining prominence as a means of generating solutions. It is a farming and food system approach that's inspired by natural ecosystems, combines local and scientific knowledge, and focuses on the interactions between plants, animals, humans, and the environment. CIFOR-ICRAF, Member of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative, devotes a special file to agroecology.

Soil Atlas of Asia

The EUSO, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), has brought together over 100 soil experts from 45 Asian and European countries to produce the first-ever SOIL ATLAS OF ASIA. The atlas is targeted at the general public, decision-makers, politicians, teachers and even scientists in other disciplines, and aims to raise awareness of the importance of soil to human existence in Asia. The atlas explains, in a simple and clear manner, the reasons for the varying patterns of soil across Asia as well as the need to conserve and manage this increasingly threatened natural resource through sustainable use. At its heart is a series of annotated maps that show, for the very first time, the diversity of soil characteristics across the Asian continent in a manner that is comprehensible to the layperson. The Soil Atlas of Asia was formally launched at the opening of the 11th Plenary Assembly of the Global Soil Partnership in Rome, Italy on July 12th 2023. To download the Atlas, click here.

Appropriate farm scale mechanization can aid in agroecological transformation. A case of the CGIAR Initiative on Agroecology in Zimbabwe

By integrating mechanization carefully suited to local conditions, we strike a balance between modern technology and traditional wisdom. This approach enhances productivity while preserving soil health and ecosystem services. Through this journey towards agroecology, the initiative is fostering a more resilient and environmentally conscious future for agriculture! To learn more, please click here.





The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023 - Urbanization, agrifood systems transformation and healthy diets across the rural-urban continuum

This report, published by FAO in July 2023, provides an update on global progress towards the targets of ending hunger (SDG Target 2.1) and all forms of malnutrition (SDG Target 2.2) and estimates on the number of people who are unable to afford a healthy diet. The report provides recommendations on the policies, investments and actions needed to address the challenges of agrifood systems transformation under urbanization and to enable opportunities for ensuring access to affordable healthy diets for everyone.

Welcome to the Global Soil Doctors Programme, a farmer-to-farmer training platform

The Global Soil Doctors Programme (Global Soil Partnership - FAO) is a farmer-to-farmer training initiative that aims to build the capacity of farmers on sustainable soil management while supporting national governments and stakeholders in addressing the needs of their rural communities. This online platform provides support for farmers, policy makers, development planners, agricultural extension workers, NGOs, private sectors and any other practitioner/stakeholder interested in transmitting the importance of soil as a vital resource.

The Soil Doctors program is expanding its outreach to Laos with new educational posters supplementing materials available in English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Arabic, Chichewa, Nyanja, Dioula, Fulah, Kazakh, Mossi, Tumbuka & Bengali. To learn more, please click here.

'Agroecology - Making Ecosystem-based Adaptation Work in Agricultural Landscapes'

This recent report outlines how to make ecosystems-based adaptation projects work in agricultural landscapes from the German international development agency (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit - GIZ - GmbH). To read the report, click here.

Member of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative, the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) is a national, integrative agricultural scientific research organization with responsibility for carrying out both basic and applied research, as well as research into new technologies impacting agriculture.

CAAS is dedicated to overcoming a broad range of challenges impacting agricultural development and support of the local rural economy. Importantly, CAAS promotes sustainable agriculture within and outside China, extending its reach through technology exchange and cooperative research agreements with agricultural research institutions/universities domestically and internationally, and with global non-governmental organizations.

CAAS, established in 1957 and headquartered in Beijing, oversees 42 institutes, of which 32 are direct affiliates. Research and policy work at the academy cover a broad range of topics that have been categorized as eight disciplinary clusters, 134 focused fields, and 309 research focuses. The eight disciplinary clusters include crop science, horticulture science, animal science, veterinary medicine, agricultural resources and environment, agricultural mechanization and engineering, agroproduct quality, safety and processing, and agricultural information and economics.

To learn more, please click here.





Established in 1895, the Taiwan Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) conducts both basic and applied research for agronomic and horticultural crops in the fields of breeding and genetics, physiology, tissue culture, biotechnology, soils fertility and plant nutrition, diseases and pest managements, farm machineries, meteorology, agricultural economics, and extension.

The institute is situated on an area of 145 hectares, including 128 hectares of irrigated research fields and 17 hectares for administration buildings, research facilities and boarding houses for trainees and visiting scientists. TARI is the most comprehensive agricultural research institute in Taiwan. TARI is a Member of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative.



How can we sustainably meet the food needs of ten billion people by 2050?

'Nourrir le vivant', the CIRAD podcast, sets out to discover territories and populations that are reinventing their agriculture, and thus revisiting our relationship with the living world.

In "Climat, cultiver les solutions", the third season of 'Nourrir le vivant' - the CIRAD podcast, embark on a world tour and explore ingenious practices. Inspiration for more resilient agriculture worldwide.

To listen, click here (in French).

A new concept for designing, modelling and auditing agroforestry/intercrop systems

A team of scientists from <u>CIRAD</u>, <u>INRAE</u> and Institut Agro Montpellier has come up with a new key concept for studying and supporting the design of cropping systems combining different species, one of the pillars of the agroecological transition. The concept is explained in an article in Agronomy for Sustainable Development.

The ESSU (Ecosystem Services functional Spatial Unit) makes it possible to model and evaluate the design of cropping systems combining different species.

The ESSU is defined as the smallest spatial unit that provides all the ecosystem services rendered by a cropping system based on cultivated and wild biodiversity. On a plot level, the ESSU encompasses all the species that interact with each other and with their environment (for instance crops, trees, livestock, spontaneous vegetation, semi-natural habitats such as hedges, ditches and patches of forest, wildlife), to provide a set of ecosystem services. The ESSU has many possible applications in terms of the agroecological transition, since it takes account of the introduction of cultivated and wild biodiversity. To learn more, click here.

Based in the United States, Advanced Organics is a Member of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative. **Advanced Organics provides forest and agricultural consulting services and produces organic compost**. Advanced Organics uses only 100% recycled wood waste and other natural waste materials for our products. To find out more, click <a href="https://example.com/hem-example.com/h

Last July, the Association for the Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture (APAD) was awarded the Low-carbon label for field crops by the French Ministry of Ecological Transition.

215 APAD member farms representing 38,000 hectares in France are offering 250,000 carbon credits low-carbon label to companies and local authorities wishing to offset their emissions and support the agro-ecological transition led by farmers committed to a sustainable and virtuous agricultural production system.

This project, which has been running nationally for the past 2 years by and for farmers, once again demonstrates the positive and significant impact of the economic, social and environmental benefits of Soil Conservation Agriculture.

To find out more, click here. APAD is a Member of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative.



The mission of the Conservation Agriculture Association for the United Kingdom is to promote and support the adoption and dissemination of conservation agriculture (no-till) systems in the UK.

Conservation Agriculture (CA) is defined as a sustainable and resource saving agriculture production system comprising a set of farming practices adapted to the requirements of the constituent annual and perennial crops and local conditions of each farm and region, whose farming and soil management techniques protect the land from erosion and degradation, improve its quality and biodiversity, and contribute to the preservation of the natural resources, water and air, while optimizing yields and total farm output.

Agronomic practices included in CA systems are based on three core principles, which must be fulfilled concomitantly which are applied along with other complementary good agricultural practices:

- No or minimum soil disturbance (no till seeding and weeding)
- Maintenance of permanent soil mulch covers (crop residues, cover crops)
- Cropping system diversity (crop rotations, associated cropping).

To find out more about the work of the Conservation Agriculture Association for the United Kingdom click here.

The Conservation Agriculture Association for the United Kingdom is a Member of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative.

Rapid population growth, refugee crises, land degradation, water pollution, food price volatility and changing dietary patterns threaten the food security and sovereignty of Turkiye and its people, as well as its natural resources and environment. 'Functional Forests' (FF) is initiated by aLp Pir, a forest gardener based in Koycegiz, Turkiye, who aims to address these challenges by designing, implementing, managing, monitoring and disseminating purpose driven FF and produce multiple benefits and multiple revenues. 'Functional Forests' can also serve as a disaster relief response mechanism by enhancing the resilience and recovery of ecosystems and communities affected by disasters.

'Functional Forests' are inspired by natural forest ecosystems and incorporate principles of agroecology, permaculture, agroforestry and Syntropic Farming methods.

To learn more, please click here.

Three farmers, one mission: the story of the Ethiopian mango.

Amsalu Keche, Abreham Tera and Daniel Gemeda are not only mango growers in southern Ethiopia, but also heroes in their community. Amsalu always dreamed of a future where his children didn't go hungry. Abreham wanted his community to look for new ways to farm organically. And Daniel? He had already suffered many crop losses until he discovered an environmentally-friendly way to control the mango fly thanks to Biovision.

Thanks to Biovision's mango project, they not only received skills and knowledge on how to optimize their harvests, but also the hope of realizing their dream of a better future. Cooperation with growers is as important to success as cooperation with local authorities. Discover their inspiring stories and find out how you can help.

Economics of soil health systems, a Soil Health Institute study

Soil Health Institute recently announced the results of a study in collaboration with NACD (American National Association of Corporate Directors) and USDA-NRCS (U.S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service), highlighting the positive impacts of improving soil health on farm profitability and resilience observed on 30 farms across 20 states.

As part of an FarmerFocus series, we will feature one of the 30 farmers from the study each week, examining the economic and on-farm benefits they experienced through implementing a soil health management system (SHMS).

To read the full fact sheet on the economics of soil health systems, click <u>here</u>, and discover more about the economics of soil health <u>here</u>.





The Global Land Squeeze: Managing the Growing Competition for Land

In this report, World Resources Institute (<u>WRI</u>) researchers explore how rising demand for food, wood and shelter is squeezing land that's needed for storing carbon and protecting biodiversity. This research uses new modeling to give a true global picture of the carbon opportunity costs for land use and proposes a four-pronged approach—produce, protect, reduce, restore—for sustainably managing the world's finite land. To read this report, click <u>here</u>.

Kikandwa Environmental Association (KEA) is a developmental community based organisation in Uganda founded in 1999 with purpose of addressing rural development issues and natural resource management.

KEA was born out of the need to address the alarming low levels of food security, low income in the rural communities in addition to protecting against rapid degradation of natural resource on which more than 95% of Mubende and Mityana District depend for their livelihood.

KEA has grown into a strong organization through networking participatory planning at grassroot level and lobbying and advocating governments and other stake holders on the importance of agriculture and natural resource management issues in the district. KEA acts as a conduit to enable local communities to engage effectively with governments (Local, National, Regional and International), the private sector, NGOs and donor agencies in the sustainable development process. KEA has the self willing intention to share her experience /achievements and virtues with all other partners in Global Development. To find out more, click here, and to visit their stand at the Virtual Fair of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative, click here.

Since 1998, the Malian Association for Awareness of Sustainable Development (AMEDD) has been experimenting with approaches and activities based on the three pillars of sustainable development: ecological, economic and social. The NGO works closely with local authorities and rural organizations to "promote development that meets the needs of today's generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

Based in Kouiala, Mali, AMEDD is a Member of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative.

To find out more about AMEDD, click here.

To visit their stand at the international "4 per 1000" Initiative Virtual Fair, click here.

Member of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative, the 'Labizey Hallassa' NGO fights for the well-being of the people. Based in Niger, the NGO 'Labizey Hallassa' carries out a wide range of actions, notably to improve food security and promote agriculture. To find out more, click here.

To visit their stand at the Virtual Fair of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative, click here.

Carbon credits: this summer, Soil Capital paid out 3,200,000 euros to 400 farmers involved in a soil regeneration program

Three years after the launch of Soil Capital Carbon, the agronomy firm's programme for regenerative and more profitable agriculture, Soil Capital is making its second carbon payment to farmers. The programme rewards farming practices that improve soil health and sequester carbon in the soil, whether by planting cover crops, reducing tillage, using organic fertilizers, diversifying rotations or agroforestry.

In June 2022, 100 arable farmers in France and Belgium received payments that accompanied their carbon certification totalling nearly £1,000,000. In 2023, 400 farmers have received payments totalling nearly £3,000,000. There are now more than 1,000 farmers enrolled in the programme overall (600 new farmers have joined in recent months).

To learn more, click here.

<u>Soil Capital</u> was founded in Belgium as an independent agronomy firm in 2013 by three farming and finance professionals. Soil Capital joined the international "4 per 1000" Initiative as a Partner in 2020.

Paneco Ambiente Srl has been producing organic soil improvers allowed in organic farming for over forty years.

Their humus line is obtained from non-industrial bovine manure and agricultural vegetable by-products, all from a traceable supply chain. It is pollutant-free, slowly matured (12-15 months), and is able to restore the ecological balance of impoverished soils. To learn more, click <u>here</u>.



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

(between May and September 2023)

National & local government bodies

Région Occitanie - France

To learn more, please click here.

Research and educational bodies

Nanhua University - Taiwan

To learn more, please click here.

Civil society & non-profit organisations

Goumbook - United Arab Emirates

To learn more, please click here.

HUMUS+ Kaindorf - Austria

To learn more, please click here.

Farmers & Foresters organisations

Functional Forests - Türkiye

To learn more, please click here.

Viken county council - Norway

To learn more, please click here.

Civil society & non-profit organisations

Svensk Kolinlagring AB - Sweden

To learn more, please click here.

Commercial & for-profit organisations

ANOPAEA ORGANIC ESTATE PRIVATE COMPANY -

Greece. To learn more, please click here.

Humify GmbH - Germany

To learn more, please click here.

ROYAL CANIN - France

To learn more, please click here.

STOCK CO, - France

To learn more, please click here.

Viña Montes - Chile

To learn more, please click here.

See here how to join the « 4 per 1000 » Initiative.

The international "4 per 1000" Initiative in a figure ... 782 Partners including 346 Members! (September 2023)

All countries or organizations that wish join the Initiative (**see <u>here</u> 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







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

"Collection of soil metaphors" by Antonia Taddei and Abigail Fallot

This book is an invitation to metaphor: a method for collecting soil metaphors and tools for exploring them, alone or in groups. Far from being static, metaphors are images that can be discussed: they activate oral creativity and open up ways of shared understanding how to preserve soils. This initial collection is the result of a first series of encounters in France and Senegal.

The Permaculture Podcast

This is an ongoing series of releases to share News about Permaculture, to keep you informed of what's currently happening in and around the world for permaculture.

To find out more and listen to these podcasts, click here.

The film Planet Soil delves underground to uncover the fascinating living world beneath our feet.

Besides the familiar world above ground, populated by plants, animals and people, there is a second lesser known world: an underground community of roots, worms, arthropods, fungi, amoebae and bacteria. Astonishingly enough there are more living creatures in one teaspoon of healthy soil than there are people living on Earth. And all these organisms, working together in their billions, literally support all the life around us.

Directed by Mark Verkerk and et Ignas Van Schaick, <u>Planet Soil</u> exceeded all expectations in its triumphant run in Dutch cinemas, attracting an astounding four time more viewers than was expected and captivating audiences for a remarkable ten-week span. Audiences have hailed the film's message as urgent and vital.





Activities related to the international "4 per 1000" Initiative

Soil Monitoring Law

On 5th July 2023, the European Commission proposed a new Soil Monitoring Law to protect and restore soils and ensure that they are used sustainably. The new law aims to address key soil threats in the EU, such as erosion, loss of soil organic matter, salinisation, contamination, compaction, and sealing, as well as loss of soil biodiversity while enhancing reliance against extreme weather events and climate change. The new Soil Monitoring and Resilience Directive provides a legal framework to help achieve healthy soils by 2050. The Law will a) put in place a solid and coherent monitoring framework for all soils across the EU b) make sustainable soil management the norm in the EU and c) request Member States to identify potentially contaminated sites. Read the proposal for the directive here.

OFB and agriculture

Agriculture is closely linked to biodiversity. While intensive farming practices have a definite impact on the loss of biodiversity, other practices encourage it and use it as an ally for quality local production. Agriculture and biodiversity must move forward together. The French Office for Biodiversity (OFB) is committed to the principles of agro-ecology, and is working with the many players involved to support this dynamic.

To learn more, please click here.



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

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ex-Twitter: @4per1000 #4p1000

www.twitter.com/4per1000

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



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

October 2023 #22

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 December 10, 2023.

You can send an e-mail to $\underline{socialmedia.admin@4p1000.org}.$