



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

(August 2024)

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

The international "4 per 1000" Initiative promotes the natural sequestration of organic carbon in agricultural and forest soils, thanks in particular to the photosynthesis of plants and living soils, and brings the vision of healthy, carbon-rich soils to the fight climate change and eradicate world hunger. Indeed, soils richer in carbon are less susceptible to erosion and desertification, and are better able to absorb and retain rainwater. Increasing the organic matter content of agricultural and forest soils also increases their fertility by using less mineral fertilizer, and helps stabilize crop yields to ward off current variability.

Based on solid scientific documentation and with a Scientific and Technical Committee made up of 14 renowned experts, the international "4 per 1000" Initiative benefits from a 360° vision and expertise on the health of agricultural and forest soils.

With over 830 Partners, including 365 Members* (as of July 2024), the international "4 per 1000" Initiative has a global reach and involves all stakeholders who have a link with agricultural or forest soils. It is a unique Initiative in its kind composed of different "colleges" or stakeholder groups (countries, international and regional organizations, public and private funding bodies, farmers' and foresters' organizations, research institutes, NGOs and civil society, and private companies), linked by an innovative electronic collaborative platform, and driven by the same objective: healthy, carbon-rich soils. The international "4 per 1000" Initiative is characterised by the fact that it brings together all the voluntary players whose aim is to store carbon in soils.

The international "4 per 1000" Initiative encourages all voluntary actors throughout the world to commit to a transition towards regenerative, productive and highly resilient agriculture, based on appropriate management of land and soil, which creates jobs and incomes and thus leads to sustainable development.

On June 15, 2020, the Consortium of Members approved the Strategic Plan** of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative which will guide its action until 2050. The Implementation Plan of the Strategy was approved by the Consortium of Members in November 2022.

The international "4 per 1000" Initiative is part of the Global Agenda for Action (GCAA) adopted by the UNFCCC at CoP22 which follows up on the Lima-Paris Action Plan of COP21 and contributes to the goal of achieving a land degradation neutral world. The international "4 per 1000" Initiative is an official supporting partner of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, and of the FAO Global Soil Partnership (hosted by FAO).

The Executive Secretariat of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative is hosted by an international organisation based in Montpellier (France), the Alliance of Bioversity International & CIAT, two CGIAR research centers, CGIAR being a global agricultural research partnership. .../...

Why “4 per 1000”?

An annual growth rate of 0.4% in soil carbon stocks, or 4‰ per year, in the first 30 to 40 cm of soil, would significantly reduce the concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere linked to human activities, and thus reduce the impact of climate change.

The 4‰ per year growth rate of soil carbon stocks is not a normative target for each country, but is intended to illustrate that even a small increase in the carbon stock of agricultural (including grasslands and pastures) and forest soils is a major lever to contribute to the long-term objective in limiting the rise in temperature to +2°C, according to IPCC, the threshold beyond which the consequences induced by climate change would be of significant magnitude, and to improve soil fertility and agricultural production to enhance food security.

The international “4 per 1000” Initiative is intended to complement the necessary efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions globally and across all sectors. Participation in the Initiative is voluntary, it is up to each Member or Partner to define the way in which it contributes to these objectives.

To learn more:

- Website : [Home - 4 per 1000 \(4p1000.org\)](http://Home-4per1000.org) or <https://4p1000.org/?lang=en>

- The book : “*Farmers have the Earth in Their Hands*”, Paul Luu, with Marie-Christine Bidault ; Foreword by Stéphane Le Foll, Ibrahim Assane Mayaki and Gabrielle Bastien, Editions La Butineuse :

<https://www.editions-labutineuse.com/en/produit/farmers-have-the-earth-in-their-hands/>

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

* [updated partenaires membres.pdf \(4p1000.org\)](#)

** [The Strategic plan - 4 per 1000 \(4p1000.org\)](#)