International Initiative "4 per 1000" aims to:

1. **Accelerate climate change MITIGATION**
2. **Intensify the ADAPTATION of Agriculture to climate change**
3. **Improve FOOD SECURITY**

THE AMBITION of the "4 per 1000" Initiative is to encourage land users to transition towards a productive, highly resilient agriculture, based on the appropriate management of land and soils, creating jobs and incomes hence ensuring sustainable development.

Supported by credible scientific documentation, this Initiative invites all stakeholders to state or implement practical actions on soil carbon storage and management practices to achieve this ambition (e.g. through agroforestry, agroecology, conservation agriculture,landscape management, etc.).

Moreover we need to better quantify soil carbon stocks and encourage farmers to adopt agricultural practices to conserve and increase carbon stocks. That is why all stakeholders (farmers, economic players, NGOs, regional and local authorities, countries, International organizations, development banks, foundations, etc.) are supporting projects around the "4 per 1000" Initiative.

The "4 per 1000" Initiative comprises two themes:

- **A scientific part** led by the Scientific and Technical Committee with:
  - Guidelines for an international programme of research and scientific cooperation
  - Reference criteria & indicators for projects assessment

- **A development part** based on field activities:
  - A collaborative platform open to partners and members and online communication tools with public
  - A digital resource centre on soil organic carbon management.

"This international Initiative can reconcile the aims of food security and the combat against climate change, and therefore engage every concerned country in COP21."

Stéphane Le Foll,
Vice Chair of the "4 per 1000" Initiative Consortium and former French Minister of Agriculture, Agrifood and Forestry

4 PER 1000
SOILS FOR FOOD SECURITY AND CLIMATE

THE "4 PER 1000" INITIATIVE
SOILS FOR FOOD SECURITY AND CLIMATE

This "4 per 1000" Initiative,
launched by France on December 1st, 2015 at the COP 21,
is part of the **Global Agenda for Action.**

Partners of:

UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION 2021-2030

GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP

https://4p1000.org

SOILS FOR FOOD SECURITY AND CLIMATE

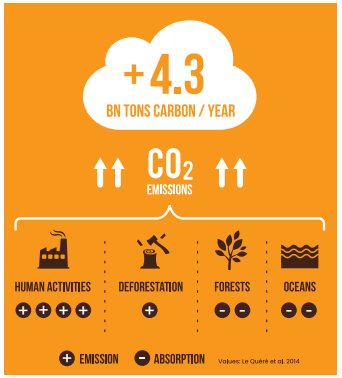
4 PER 1000
SOILS FOR FOOD SECURITY AND CLIMATE

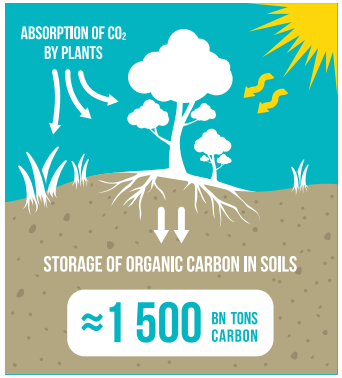
The international "4 PER 1000" INITIATIVE

aims to show that agriculture, forestry, and in particular agricultural and forest soils, can play a crucial role in **food security** and **climate change**.

Human activities emit huge amounts of carbon dioxide **(CO^2)** into the atmosphere, which **enhances the greenhouse effect and accelerates climate change**.

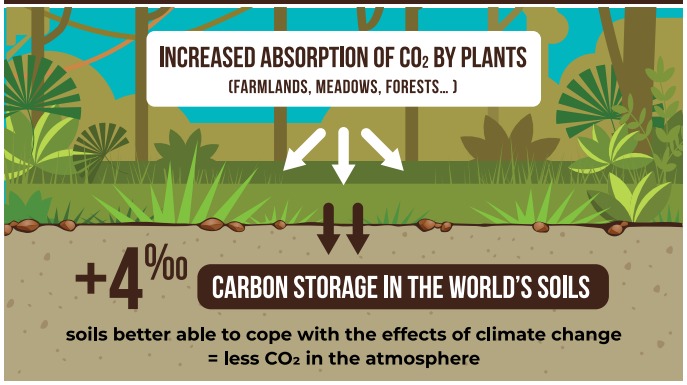
In the same time, **30%** of this CO^2 is recovered by plants **through photosynthesis** each year. Then, when the plants die and decompose, living organisms in the soil, such as bacteria, fungi or earthworms, transform them into organic matter. This **organic matter** – rich in carbon – which comes back to soil.





Organic matter contained in soil also represents an enormous potential for carbon storage: the world's soils contain **2 to 3 times more carbon than the atmosphere**. If the level of carbon stored by soils in the top 30 to 40 centimetres of soil increased by 0.4% (or 4‰) per year, the annual increase of CO^2 in the atmosphere would be significantly reduced. This is the origin of the title "4 per 1000" of the international Initiative.

This growth rate of **4‰** per year in soil carbon stocks is not a normative target for each country, but **a direction to follow.**



Soil Health, whose main indicator is the level of organic matter, is closely linked to agricultural production. By being **alive, preserved and regenerated,** soils can play a crucial role in feeding us, ensuring the diversity of life on Earth and storing carbon to help offset our greenhouse gas emissions.

Farmers have soil in their hands*

HOW CAN SOILS STORE MORE CARBON?

The more soil is covered, the richer it will be in organic material and therefore in carbon. Until now, the combat against global warming has largely focused on the protection and restoration of forests. In addition to forests, we must encourage more plant cover in all its forms.

- Never leave soil bare and work it less, for example by using no-till methods
- Introduce more intermediate crops, more row intercropping and more grass strips
- Add to the hedges at field boundaries and develop agroforestry
- Optimize pasture management with adapted grazing periods and rotations
- Restore land in poor condition e.g. the world's arid and semi-arid regions
- Improve water and fertilizers management and use organic fertilizers and compost

*From the eponym book of the international Initiative "4 per 1000" published in July 2022

VISION 2050

Worldwide healthy and carbon-rich soils to combat climate change and end hunger.

MISSION 2030

Provide a supportive framework and action plan to conceptualize, implement, promote and follow up actions on soil health and soil organic carbon, through an enhanced collaboration between stakeholders in the agriculture, forestry and other land use sector, in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

We need you !

Everyone's commitment is needed NOW

- **To help fight...**
  climate change while strengthening food security.
- **To encourage actors and research...**
  on carbon storage in soils.
- **To change the agricultural and forestry practices...**
  in the world.

For further information on how to participate:
https://4p1000.org/act-together/?lang=en

The international "4 per 1000" Initiative has more than **739 partners****, including more than **326 members** (not-for-profit organisations) involved in the decision-making process.

** Data as of Sept. 2022, for updated figures see www.4p1000.org/la-gouvernance/