



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

(January 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 soils, can provide concrete solutions to the challenge of climate change while at the same time meeting the challenge of food security by implementing agricultural practices adapted to local conditions: agroecology, agroforestry, regenerative agriculture, conservation agriculture, landscape management, etc.

The international "4 per 1000" Initiative promotes the natural sequestration of organic carbon in soils and brings the vision of healthy, carbon-rich soils to fight climate change and eradicate world hunger.

Based on solid scientific documentation, the international "4 per 1000" Initiative encourages all voluntary actors around the world to engage in a transition towards a regenerative, productive, highly resilient agriculture, based on appropriate management of land and soil, which creates jobs and incomes and thus leads to sustainable development.

### 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 CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere, from human activities.**

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 improve soil fertility and agricultural production and 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. 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 its objectives.

With 811 Partners, including 356 Members\* (as of January 2024), **the international "4 per 1000" Initiative has a global reach.** It is a **unique Initiative** composed of different "colleges" or stakeholder groups (signatory 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.

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, an official supporting partner of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, and a partner of the FAO Global Soil Partnership (hosted by FAO).**

The international "4 per 1000" Initiative is part of the Global Climate Action Plan (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 Executive Secretariat of the "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.

To learn more: [Home - 4 per 1000 \(4p1000.org\)](https://4p1000.org)

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

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