

4 per 1000 - Strategic Plan

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 carbon, through an enhanced collaboration between stakeholders of the "Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU)" sector, in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Ambition

- Accelerate Climate Change MITIGATION
- Intensify the ADAPTATION of Agriculture to Climate Change
- Improve FOOD SECURITY

The ambition of the "4 per 1000" initiative is to encourage land users to move towards a diversified, productive, resource-efficient and highly resilient agriculture and forestry based on appropriate management of natural resources, in particular land, soils and water, strengthening farming activities and the global economy ensuring sustainable development.

This initiative invites all stakeholders (producers, scientific community, private sector, NGOs, regional and local authorities, countries, international organizations, development banks, foundations, etc.) to promote and implement science-based practical actions to maintain and manage soils to be healthy and living, and thus fertile, and be a carbon sink and not a source, based on successful experiences and support of science and rational methodology.

The Initiative wants to involve stakeholders to contribute to develop a global monitoring platform to better quantify soil carbon stocks and establish adequate public policies encouraging farmers and foresters to adopt agricultural practices that conserve and increase soil carbon stocks.

Guiding principles

We believe in:

- **Soil health is at the center** of actions
- **Farmers/foresters are key actors at the center and managers of their farming/forestry systems.**
- A territorial approach that respects **land rights** and holders, adjusts to local conditions, follows the **subsidiarity principle and strengthens local ownership of action.**
- A **science-based and result-oriented approach**, with the help of an international multidisciplinary "4 per 1000" Initiative **Scientific and Technical Committee (STC).**
- A "4 per 1000" Initiative **Executive Secretariat that facilitates and organizes**, and Members and Partners who voluntary act and implement.
- A focus on **strengthening inter-institutional collaboration.**
- A **multi-stakeholder approach** and a **public-private cooperation** that promote **mutual support between actors, open access and open data** and **optimal allocation of resources** including to **farmers/foresters.**
- The **ability to learn, agility, willingness** and **team spirit** at all levels provide the **flexibility** and **drive** needed to meet the complex challenges ahead.
- **Gender equality** and the **empowerment of women and young people in agriculture.**
- The **inclusion of ethnic minority groups.**

Goals

Goals are broad long-term aims that define accomplishment of the vision.

A. Inception & Conceptualization	facilitate the emergence and ensure the feasibility of methodologies, tools and recommendations that foster stakeholders' ability to implement the Initiative on the ground
B. Implementation	foster enabling environment and/or framework (business model, trustworthy third-party, tutoring, mentoring, amplify impact, scaling up) for implementation on the ground
C. Promotion	raise awareness and advocacy, build trust, encourage partnerships, engagements and commitments of all stakeholders
D. Collaboration	implement an online collaborative platform that facilitates and supports interaction between partners, with powerful tool box, business plan and knowledge management strategy
E. Follow up	establish an international science based framework recognized by all stakeholders for the assessment of impact through Monitoring, Reporting & Verification
F. Crosscutting actions	highlight the pertinence of the "4 per 1000" Initiative by initiating and supporting concrete and result-oriented actions on the ground and increase resource mobilization to ensure the long-term viability of the Initiative.

Objectives

Each objective is defined by its number, description, baseline 2020 (present status), 2030 and 2050.

A - INCEPTION & CONCEPTUALIZATION

#	Objective	Baseline 2020	2030	2050
A1	Ensure that the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of all UNFCCC country Parties contain references to soil health and Soil Organic Carbon (SOC), and that they are taken into account in their sustainable agriculture development programs.	In 2019, out of 196 countries' NDCs, only 13 refer to SOC in relation to agricultural mitigation targets or adaptation actions, and 20 refer to peatlands or wetlands in relation to such targets. A further 3 NDCs refer to soil carbon without clear linkages to targets.	Enlist 100 % of country parties at the UNFCCC, members or partners of the "4 per 1000" Initiative.	In 2050, ensure that, globally, 100% of all UNFCCC country Parties include Soil Health and SOC in their NDCs and development programs.
A2	Foster the emergence of innovative projects centered on soil health and in line with "4 per 1000" ambition and with the help of the set of indicators and criteria for formative project assessment elaborated by the STC.	A call-for-project 2020 introduced with a wider base of contacts and a targeted timing. 5 to 10 high quality projects selected	10 to 20 high quality impact based projects selected and implemented on the ground.	50 high quality impact based projects selected and implemented on the ground.
A3	Share relevant emerging ideas, innovations and success stories from all stakeholders (bottom-up and top-down approaches)	1 study/review per year.	5 studies/reviews per year.	10 studies/reviews per year.
A4	Enhance the interfaces "science and practice" (R&D) for policy makers, scientists and producers	1 global (online) meeting a year 1 periodical note a year.	5 regional (online) meetings a year 2 to 3 periodical notes a year.	5 regional (online) meetings a year 5 periodical notes a year.

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A5	Screen, compile and share the best Carbon market mechanisms and compensation schemes on C sequestration	The 3 to 5 best compensation schemes, available in 2020, summarized and presented to members and partners of the Initiative.	Selection of the "4 per 1000" "certified" compensation scheme for adoption and implementation in the 5 regional levels, for agricultural lands and forests.	Global use of the "4 per 1000" "certified" compensation scheme by farmers and foresters.
A6	Develop a scientific reference framework including socio-economic aspects (research programs, international scientific cooperation and STC) that shows the potential of soil health contributing to carbon sequestration resulting in a positive carbon balance in AFOLU systems.	Start a multi-stakeholder discussion. Contribution to CIRCASA project and inception of the IRC.	A scientific reference framework and used.	A scientific reference framework updated and used.

B - IMPLEMENTATION

#	Objective	Baseline 2020	2030	2050
B1	Encourage the development and implementation of national and/or supranational strategies (including incentive and regulatory mechanisms) and responsible investment plans for soil health derived from the NDCs' targets.	Inventory of strategies and investments plans existing as of 2020.	50% of the UNFCCC country Parties = 98 countries.	100% of the UNFCCC country Parties = 196 countries.
B2	Facilitate access to information and capacity development for land managers, in particular women, on how to improve soil health and increase SOC content for all agro-pedo-climatic regions.	Database of good practices on SOC management and capacity development delivered to one region and its sub-regions, as of 2021. Ex: Africa could be the 1st targeted area. Development of the basis of the database with some major partners.	Database of good practices on SOC management and capacity development delivered in 2 additional regions like Asia and South America. Reviews and assessments conducted every year.	Database of good practices on SOC management and capacity development delivered globally.
B3	Develop and implement science-based regional helpdesks for: (a) the planning of local actions on good AFOLU management practices (b) the establishment and use of compensation schemes for carbon sequestration (c) provision of ecosystem services at appropriate levels (principle of subsidiarity)	Help-desk active in one region as of 2021.	Help-desk active in 5 regions.	Help-desk active globally with more countries and sub-regions involved.
B4	Develop a user-friendly online toolkit (including verified	Collection of existing tools and experts.	Actors in 40 countries use 20% of the tools of the box.	Actors in all countries use 40%

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	assessment and monitoring tools) on soil health and soil organic carbon.	Compile and launch an online tool-box that will be improved continuously.		of the tools of the box.

C - PROMOTION

#	Objective	Baseline 2020	2030	2050
C1	Advocate for soil health and the importance of soils for climate and food security and raise the general awareness on the central role of the "4 per 1000" Initiative	In 2020, no measurement of the assisted-awareness of the "4 per 1000" brand is available. Measurement to be conducted.	100% of assisted awareness-notoriety for the "4 per 1000" brand.	100% of spontaneous awareness-notoriety for the "4 per 1000" brand.
C2	Promote the paradigm shift from "soil exploitation" to "soil regeneration" through agroecology and sustainable land management practices at the level of producers and businesses along value chains.	Globally, contact 10% to 15% of farmer associations / federations per region. Contact the Top 20 global Food businesses involved in Ag. and or Forestry.	Contact 100% of farmer associations per region. Contact the Top 50 global Food businesses involved in Ag. and or Forestry. Contact the Top 20 regionally.	Reach regionally, 100% of smallholder farmers and family-held farms. Contact the Top 100 global Food businesses involved in Ag. and or Forestry.
C3	Convince policy makers and funders to increase commitments and investments in AFOLU in favor of soil health and carbon sequestration.	The Top 20* institutions contacted end of 2020. <i>* Referring to the 2018 study about potential funders</i>	In 2030, the Top 80* institutions have been reached.	In 2050, every single policy maker or funder have been contacted.
C4	Develop and implement "4 per 1000" branding mechanisms (seals, certification, awards, etc), as a benchmark for soil health and SOC build-up	Study on interests and conditions to develop "4 per 1000" branding mechanisms. Decision upon the branding mechanisms to select to improve the "4 per 1000" branding (target / audience / tools & purpose to be further defined). Put the tools to be developed, on a timeline.	"4 per 1000" branding mechanisms fully operational.	"4 per 1000" branding mechanisms assessed, updated and fully operational.

D - COLLABORATION

#	Objective	Baseline 2020	2030	2050
D1	Facilitate, encourage, enhance and strengthen collaborations and exchanges among stakeholders within and around the Initiative	Collaborative platform 2.0 fully operational for the Secretariat, the STC and the Bureau.	Collaborative platform 2.0 fully operational for all members and partners of the "4 per 1000" Initiative.	Collaborative platform fully operational.

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		End of 2021/22, platform fully operational for all members and partners.		
D2	Contribute to the inception, development and outreach of regional networks	1 to 2 "4 per 1000" regional meetings organized every year	5 regional meetings organized every year or every two years	5 regional meetings organized every year
D3	Mobilize youth & senior networks on agriculture and forestry that support producers and local action groups in their transition to agro-ecology, including sustainable land management practices.	Define the most active youth & senior networks in each of the 5 regions. Contact the most active ones, globally.	Active partnership with regional youth & senior networks in the 5 "4 per 1000" regions.	Active partnership with regional youth & senior networks in the 5 "4 per 1000" regions.
D4	Develop strategic partnerships and coalitions with relevant global networks and Initiatives.	Refer to the 2018 study about potential funders. Reach 20% of the most relevant global networks, Initiatives.	Sign a partnership with 10 to 20 of them.	Partnership with 50 of the most relevant and global networks, Initiatives.

E - FOLLOW UP

#	Objective	Baseline 2020	2030	2050
E1	Screen and evaluate monitoring tools (remote sensing, database, sensors, etc) and methodologies that estimate state and change of soil organic carbon content at various scales	Identification of the 5 major players.	Complete overview of the 20 major players and their methods of screen monitoring tools.	"4 per 1000" catalog about all the methods of screen monitoring tools.
E2	Monitor independently, and in near real time, SOC and soil health at the global, regional and national levels	Identification of the 5 major players. Inception of the real-time SOC monitoring dashboard.	Real-time SOC monitoring dashboard operational.	Real-time SOC monitoring dashboard adopted at regional and sub-regional scales.
E3	Contribute to the improvement of impact assessment tools (EX-ACT (Ex-Ante Carbon-balance Tool); CBP (Carbon Benefits Project) tool, etc) in line with the ambition of the "4 per 1000" Initiative, including socio-economic dimensions.	Contact and explore possible collaboration with the developers of existing tools.	Collaboration with 2 developers of the impact assessment tools.	Collaboration with 4 developers of impact assessment tools.

F - CROSSCUTTING ACTIONS

#	Objective	Baseline 2020	2030	2050
F1	Launch a pilot project based on "Twin-Regions" concept for large scale climate actions	Launch a twin pilot project that verifies the relevance of the "Twin-Regions" concept for large scale climate actions in 24 municipalities in 3 distinct regions in Europe	Adoption of twin-regions concept in municipalities of 20 countries.	Adoption of twin-regions concept in municipalities in all countries.

#	Objective	Baseline 2020	2030	2050
		(Germany, France and Spain) and Africa (DRC, Benin, Mali).		
F2	Enhance Resource Mobilization to ensure the long term viability of the Initiative	Total annual budget 2020: 961 K Euros (including core budget of 721 K Euros)	Manage a 2 to 5 million Euros budget.	Manage a 10 to 20 million Euros budget.
F3	Provide a " 4 per 1000 " dashboard delivering near real time quantitative information on progress of the Initiative, taking into account partners and members and their actions	Develop Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) as a baseline.	By the end of 2021 the dashbord will be operational and regularly updated. In 2025 the dashboard will be recognized as an international standard.	Dashboard is generally and internationally used as a reference by the community of practitioners.