



« 4 per 1000 Initiative: Soils for food security and climate »

Document Forum 4-1 – Report from Forum n°3 – Katowice (13th December 2018)

4th Meeting of the Forum

Wednesday 11th December 2019

08:00 to 14:00

Ministry of agriculture, fisheries and food – Madrid (Spain)



The **High-Level Segment of the Forum meeting** was opened by a welcoming address of the Representative **Mr. Ryszard Zarudzki**, Under Secretary of State of the Minister of agriculture Poland, and by a welcome speech of **Mr Ryszard Koziol**, ProRector University of Silesia and a video of **Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki**, Chairman of the “4 per 1000” Initiative and CEO of NEPAD.

Dr. Deborah Bossio from The Nature Conservancy, a scientist based organization, delivered an inspirational key presentation: “Soil as the climate solution”. She strengthen the point that for the future it is required to reach zero carbon emission but also to remove the carbon from the atmosphere. The land sector and especially the soil provide the solution. Stabilizing and increasing soil organic carbon can mitigate 5.5 Gt CO₂ eq yr⁻¹. However, she denounced that even though the high potential of soil as a climate solution is well known, there is less implementation. Therefore, The Nature Conservancy conducted a study and assessed the state and prospects of carbon finance for soil carbon. The key findings of the study were: i) soil carbon market projects are rare, ii) technical issues less problem than commonly perceived, iii) many barriers are now balanced with opportunities, iv) size and scalability are consistent challenges and v) triggering scale requires policy action.

The following personalities took the floor during the High-Level Segment:

- **Mr. Samir Taïeb**, Minister of Agriculture, Hydraulic Resources and Fisheries of Tunisia
- **Mr. Didier Guillaume**, Minister of Agriculture and Food of France (video)
- **Mr. Luis Maria Urriza**, Under- Secretary for Agriculture of the Secretariat of State for the Agro-Industry of Argentina
- **Mrs. Naoko Ishii**, CEO of the GEF
- **Mr. Jean-Luc Chotte**, UNCCD SPI
- **Mr. Martien Van Nieuwkoop**, Director Agriculture Global Practice of World Bank
- **Mrs. Jenny Kim**, Global Green Institute
- **Mr. Sandeep Sengupta**, General Coordinator Climate Change UICN
- **Mr. Michel Eddi**, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of CIRAD
- **Mrs. Maria-José Marques**, Member of the Steering Committee of DesertNet International
- **Mrs. Jennifer Chang**, Vice-President of IFOAM-Organics International
- **Mr. Ricardo Ralisch**, Founding Member of GCAN
- **Mr. Bernard Giraud**, President Livelihoods Fonds
- **Mr. Ashish Domah**, Director SDG Company
- **Mr. Eric Soubeiran**, Global Nature, Human Rights & Water Cycle Director, Danone

Meeting of the Forum

- Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted by the Forum

- Approval of the report of Forum n°2 – Bonn 16th November 2017

The report was adopted by the Forum.

- Annual activities report for 2017 & 2018

The annual activities report for 2017 and 2018 was presented to the Forum by Mr. **Paul Luu**, Executive Secretary. The Forum took note of all the work done during the last years. The main achievements since the COP 23 in Bonn were the organization of statutory meetings (2nd Partner Forum, 3rd Consortium, 4th and 5th STC meeting, Regional Symposium “4 per 1000 in Africa”), Participation in international meetings, Collaboration and extension with other initiatives and partnerships, work on the website and the collaborative platform and work on the communication strategy (e.g., newsletter).

- Activity report of the Scientific and Technical Committee

Dr. **Cornelia Rumpel**, Chair of the STC, presented the main activities of the STC from the last year. Two opinion papers were written by the STC and submitted to *Ambio* and published in *nature*. The members of the STC had participated in many international scientific conferences, like 5th International Rice Congress or 21st World Congress of Soil Science and promote the initiative within the scientific community. The Consortium had requested the STC to develop “4 per 1000 reference criteria and indicators” for the formative assessment of projects which meets the principles and goals of the initiative as defined in the Paris Declaration and the UN SDG (SDG2, SDG3, SDG13, SDG15). The STC has developed the reference criteria and had reviewed the criteria by assessing projects. The developed reference criteria were tested by assessing projects and being adjusted and improved. Additionally, a multi-stakeholder working group (Task force group) was formed to evaluate the criteria and the assessment process. In total seven projects were assessed in the trial run. The informative assessment of projects with the “4 per 1000 reference criteria” was approved by the Consortium. The STC encourages all partners to establish and implement actions to maintain or increase soil organic carbon and to make use of the STC indicators to review these actions. Dr. Rumpel also addresses the upcoming Koronivia process and encouraged the partners to convey soil carbon goals in submission to the Koronivia process.

- CIRCASA (Coordination of International Research Cooperation on soil carbon sequestration in agriculture) progress report with 1st Survey results

Dr. **Jean-François Soussana** explained that “4 per 1000” Initiative is one of the 22 partners of European funded project CIRCASA. CIRCASA has the goal to develop international research synergies concerning research and knowledge transfer on agricultural soil carbon sequestration at European Union and global levels. One work package is about co-designing a strategic research agenda with stakeholders. An online survey about stakeholder’s perceptions on the role of soil organic carbon was implemented to estimate the options, barriers and knowledge gaps in terms of soil organic carbon in agriculture. The survey is open until January 2019 and further inputs from 4 per 1000 stakeholders (non-scientists) were welcomed. In the future CIRCASA would like to collaborate more with 4 per 1000. CIRCASA would like the STC to review the output of the work package 1 about state of the art and the developed strategic research agenda. Additionally, to link the CIRCASA scientific platform with the 4 per 1000 collaborative platform.

- Presentation of the winners of the 2018 Future Policy Awards “Agroecology” by Mr. **Rob van Riet**, Climate Director of World Future Council.

This year the Future Policy Award were about the topic “Scaling up agroecology”. 51 policies from 25 countries were nominated. The Gold award has gained the government of Sikkim and Sikkim Organic Mission. The Vision award, which last year “4 per1000” has gained, was this year hand over to TEEBAgriFood - The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for Agriculture and Food Initiative (2018).

- Presentation of a first version of the movie on the “4 per 1000” Initiative by Kiss the Ground

Thematic workshops (90 min parallel sessions)

1. Soil organic carbon good management practices: innovation and scaling up

Keynote speeches from Julien Demenois (CIRAD, Climate KIC) and Marcelo Marzola (Rizoma Regenerative Agriculture)

Scope of the workshop group 1:

Although much knowledge is available on agricultural management practices that are beneficial for soil carbon, large-scale adoption is an on-going topic of discussion. Despite manifold success stories of effective soil carbon management, up-scaling is often hampered by the fact that the benefits for land users become tangible only over the long-term. During the workshop challenges and pathways to increase adoption of innovative solutions were discussed.

The key messages developed during the workshop were:

- Innovation emerges from the farmers themselves
- Efforts from farmers can be showcased through video storytelling or/and workshops
- Open source sharing should include both success and failure
- Training of the trainers
- Funding is the main barrier to scaling up successful soil organic carbon methods
- 4 per 1000 could focus on raising funding for regional farmer trainings and capacity building

Remarks from the audience:

The remarks from the audience were already included within the key messages.

2. Monitoring and Reporting of soil organic carbon for climate change mitigation and adaptation benefits at multiple levels

Keynote speech from Tim Tennigkeit (UNIQUE forestry and land use) and Eleanor Milne (Carbon Benefits Project).

Scope of the workshop group 2:

The workshop aims to present and discuss the purpose of cost-effective methods for monitoring and reporting related to soil organic carbon, how it can help to increase global transparency of climate change actions and trigger targeted financing. The outstanding issues were: i) Following the Paris Agreement, there is increasing interest in cost-effective methods for monitoring and reporting of soil organic carbon for mitigation and adaptation benefits, ii) Stakeholders at different levels prioritize different functions of monitoring and reporting (MRV and M&E) and have different information needs, iii) Innovative, cost-effective systems for data collection and sharing exist, and can expedite incentives for

collective action for adopting sustainable land management (SLM) at scale and iv) Meeting diverse stakeholders' information needs and aligning monitoring and reporting systems with existing institutions requires a participatory process for an integrated system design

The key messages developed during the workshop were:

- Gain further input of how 4per1000 can support countries in increasing their action-targeted ambition in NDCs in terms of soil carbon
- Feed for submission to the UNFCCC
- Policy action:
 - a) Alignment of targets and monitoring frameworks:
 - Networks: INOFO-Network, calculating the Carbon Sequestration by all organic farms
 - National M&E systems: support ministries to align targets and develop integrated national M&E systems
 - International M&E: Common sets of indicators and reporting period; standardized global reporting and accounting system
 - b) Scaling successful projects:
 - Communication and Awareness: coming from benefits for farmers lives
 - Capacity development: field days and demonstration, champion farmers, multi stakeholder dialogues
 - Finance: use multi-purpose monitoring approaches to link existing climate-related finance
 - c) Breaking silos:
 - International Policy Platform
 - Constant participatory processes with multiple stakeholders
 - Study tours
- Research action:
 - a) Gaps and Opportunities:
 - Infrared& remote sensing
 - On-farm assessment
 - Inadequate field measurement and standardization
 - Improved understanding of landscape variability
 - Background data
 - Scales should be relevant for implementers
 - Global data platform
 - Real time LUC MRV outside forests
 - b) Which requirement should MRV tools have for governments?:
 - Simple, reliable and cheap
 - Used for justifying payments for farmers
 - Harmonized with national Inventory
 - Applicable for NDC and LDN monitoring
- Workshop with donors to understand current uses and prevalent needs

Remarks from the audience:

Remarks from the audience did to fit to the subject of the workshop

3. Management of organic matter in urban context and its link with rural areas

Keynote speech from Dr.Cornelia Rumpel (4 per 1000 Scientific and Technical Committee)

Scope of the workshop group 3:

Because today around 55% of the global population lives in urban areas, most food produced in rural areas is transported to cities resulting in large amounts of organic waste, which is not returned to the soil. At the same time, soil carbon build up is often constrained by missing organic matter resources as inputs. This session will discuss the linkages between rural and urban areas in term of organic matter cycling and recycling, related business options and discuss opportunities of engagement of cities to the “4 per 1000” initiative.

The key messages developed during the workshop were:

- Organic waste in urban areas could be transformed in organic amendments through composting
- Organic matter management should rely on ecological concepts
- No policies for composting organic waste
- Country cases: i) in Germany, Netherlands, Spain etc. waste is selectively sorted, ii) in Paris administration works with local company for composting organic waste, iii) in Brazil there are extensive programs for production of compost in pre-scholar schools
- Main benefits of using compost: reduce waste, circular economy, income generation (through packing and selling), job creation, capacity building,
- Trade offs of using compost: use of polluted water with consequences for food security

Remarks from the audience:

Remarks from the audience did to fit to the subject of the workshop

4. Involvement of the private sector in the storage of soil organic carbon and offsetting emissions

Keynote speeches from Eric Soubeiran (DANONE) and Marion Verles (Gold Standard).

Scope of the workshop group 4:

As part of the strategy development toward climate neutrality, some companies have included ensuring sustainable soil management in their supply chain vision. Practical issues including farmers’ engagement and perception to implement this successfully shall be discussed with the example from DANONE. The role of Standards to facilitate implementation will be part of the discussions.

The key messages developed during the workshop were:

- Business investors and farmers area all risk averse. There are two ways to reduce risk: i) Guarantee results (insurance companies could play a role) ii) Provide a stable framework and guidelines
- Gold Standard addresses the need for businesses to have a simple, financially viable and credible means to quantify impacts
- Challenges were: i) Monitoring is costly, ii) Transition is costly, iii) Questionable financial return of investment, iv) 7-8% maximum of financial return of investment in agriculture

- Possible solutions: i) New approaches to monitoring such as outsourcing and using digital tools like remote sensing, ii) have public policy reflect social component of agriculture and how it is not only a financial issue, iii) Governments could subsidize five year of transition period for big farms, iv) Governments could also support technical assistance for smallholder farmers

Remarks from the audience:

- There are a lot of labels from the private industry for sustainable agricultural production; for the consumer it is hard to understand and differentiate the labels
- Possibility of developing new business models between food industry and farmers with long-term contracts
- Developing labels should be supported by the states and included the consumers
- In the USA big food companies demonstrate the origin of their products and the ways it is produced via social media in direct contact with the consumer

Conclusion and closing of the 3rd Forum at 16:00 pm by **Mr. Stéphane LE FOLL**.

All relevant presentation, documents and videos can be found here:

<https://4per1000day2018.sciencesconf.org/>