Compatibility of Agricultural Management Practices and Types of Farming in the EU to enhance Climate Change Mitigation and Soil Health

Fact Sheet

Project Information

CATCH-C
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Closed project
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Coordinated by
STICHTING WAGENINGEN RESEARCH
Netherlands

Objective

The Catch-C project assesses the farm-compatibility of ‘Best Management Practices’ (BMPs) that aim to promote productivity, climate change mitigation, and soil quality. These are the three overall goals of sustainable soil management. Catch-C will first (WP2) set up a typology of the main farm types and agro-ecological zones across Europe. This frame, coupled to a pan-European database of socio-economic and biophysical data, will be used for spatially organising the information collected on current management; and for up-scaling the impacts expected from changes in management. Biophysical impacts of management practices will be assessed (WP3) primarily from a large set of current field experiments, executed by the participants. BMPs will be formulated, along with their trade-offs and synergies between.
BMPs will be formulated, along with their trade-offs and synergies between productivity, climate change mitigation, and soil quality. Farmers, however, often do not adopt BMPs. Identifying the barriers against adoption, and formulating ways to remove these, are core activities of the project (WP4). Catch-C will survey farmer views on BMPs in all participant countries, assess costs and benefits of implementation, identify technical and ecological bottlenecks preventing adoption, develop a decision support tool, and prioritize innovation requirements to address bottlenecks. Policy measures can promote adoption in various ways, such as voluntary measures, regulation, and economic incentives. In interaction with policy makers, Catch-C will develop (WP5) guidelines for policies that will support the adoption of BMPs; and that are consistent with regional agro-ecological and farming contexts. Dissemination (WP6) includes scientific publication; discussing project results with farmers and policy makers; making information about BMPs and their adoption available to a wider audience; and stimulating awareness about the pros and cons of BMPs for different farm types and environments in participant countries.
Participants (11)

OSTERREICHISCHE AGENTUR FUR GESUNDHEIT UND ERNAHRUNGSSICHERHEIT GMBH
Austria
EU contribution
€ 371 006
Address
Spargelfeldstrasse 191
1220 Wien
Activity type
Research Organisations
Website Contact the organisation
Administrative Contact
Andreas Baumgarten (Dr.)

INSTITUT NATIONAL DE RECHERCHE EN SCIENCES ET TECHNOLOGIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET L'AGRICULTURE
France
EU contribution
€ 189 271
Address
Rue Pierre Gilles De Gennes 1
92761 Antony Cedex
Activity type
Research Organisations
Website Contact the organisation
Administrative Contact
Anne Rizand (Dr.)

UNIVERSIDAD DE CORDOBA
Spain
EU contribution
€ 132 471
Address
Avenida De Medina Azahara 5
Activity type
Higher or Secondary
LEIBNIZ-INSTITUT FUR GEMUSE- UND ZIERPFLANZENBAU
GROSSEBEREN/ERFURT EV

Germany
EU contribution
€ 170 515

Address
Theodor Echtermeyer Weg 1
14979 Grossbeeren

Activity type
Research Organisations

Administrative Contact
Wolfgang Nehls (Mr.)

VLAAMSE GEWEST

Belgium
EU contribution
€ 312 955

Address
Avenue Du Port 88
1000 Brussel

Activity type
Public bodies (excluding Research Organisations and Secondary or Higher Education Establishments)

Administrative Contact
Erik Van Bockstaele (Prof.)

INSTYTUT UPRAWY NAWOZENIA I GLEBOZNAWSTWA, PANSTWOWY INSTYTUT BADAWCZY

Poland
EU contribution
€ 190 875

Administrative Contact
Carmen Tarradas Iglesias (Prof.)
Czartoryskich 8
24 100 Pulawy

Website
Contact the organisation

Administrative Contact
Joanna Wiacek (Ms.)

UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI TORINO
Italy
EU contribution
€ 190 254

Address
Activity type
Via Giuseppe Verdi 8
10124 Torino
Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

Website
Contact the organisation

Administrative Contact
Carlo Grignani (Prof.)

WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY
Netherlands
EU contribution
€ 372 140

Address
Activity type
Droevendaalsesteeg 4
6708 PB Wageningen
Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

Website
Contact the organisation

Administrative Contact
Lenie, H.W. Kooijman

GEORG-AUGUST-UNIVERSITAT GOTTINGENSTIFTUNG OFFENTLICHEN RECHTS
Germany
EU contribution
€ 286 721

Address
Activity type
UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO
Italy
EU contribution
€ 106 259

Address
Via Festa Del Perdono 7
20122 Milano

Activity type
Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

Website
Contact the organisation

Administrative Contact
Elena Arioni (Ms.)

INSTITUTO ANDALUZ DE INVESTIGACIONY FORMACION AGRARIA
PESQUERA ALIMENTARIA Y DE LA PRODUCCION ECOLOGICA
Spain
EU contribution
€ 129 401

Address
Avenida Grecia S/n Edf Atvo
Los Bermejales
41012 Sevilla

Activity type
Research Organisations

Website
Contact the organisation

Administrative Contact
Emilio Carmona (Mr.)

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