

Description - Soils4EU Workshop no.3:

“IMPACTS OF AND IMPLEMENTATION BARRIERS FOR ARABLE SOIL PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT ACROSS THE EU”

(FAO Headquarters, Rome, 29th March 2019)

Soils4EU project is a 3-year service contract (no. 07.0201/2016/742739/SERIENV.D) aiming to provide support to the DG Environment of the European Commission in relation to the implementation of the EU Soil Thematic Strategy. Soils4EU is coordinated by Deltares (the Netherlands), with four partners from Germany (UFZ – Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research Germany), Poland (IUNG – Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation) and Spain (IAMZ-CIHEAM – Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza and CSIC-EEAD – Spanish National Research Council-Estación Experimental de Aula Dei).

Soils4EU has elaborated the report entitled **“Review of economic, social and environmental impacts of and implementation barriers for soil protection and sustainable management measures for arable land across the EU”** and will organise a workshop for presenting and discussing this report with experts working in this field, with the triple aim of disseminating this work, providing information of the state of implementation of the FAO “Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management” in the EU countries and gathering feedback on the topic from the workshop participants. The Soils4EU partner responsible for this report is UFZ and the organisation of the workshop is led by IAMZ-CIHEAM.

The topic of the mentioned report is in line with the interests of the ESP and especially Pillar 1, which focuses on the implementation of Soil Sustainable Management (SSM). For this reason, organising the presentation of the draft report as a side event of the next ESP meeting (FAO Headquarters, Rome, 28-29 March 2019) would benefit the ESP community by pushing forward the Pillar 1 activities, as well as the Soils4EU project and, ultimately, the DG ENV as promoter of the project. The input of additional invited participants, e.g. NGOs, farmers’ representatives and Administration officers, can contribute to the work of Pillar 1 through their knowledge and specific examples about implementation barriers.

Two and a half weeks prior to the workshop (by 12 March) we will send the report to the workshop participants and ask them to answer the following questions (by 22 March):

- Which of the impacts of Soil Sustainable Management (SSM) mentioned in the report are most relevant in your country?
- Which of the barriers to implementing SSM identified in the report are most relevant in your country?
- Do you have any examples of additional barriers?
- Do you have any additional comments on the report?

These results will be analysed by the workshop organisers prior to the workshop and will provide the basis for the introduction to the workshop. The workshop is planned for 3 hours, including a coffee break. It will open with a summary of the report feedbacks from ESP members and the discussion of any missing aspects. In working groups the question “How could measures at EU level help to overcome the identified barriers to SSM implementation in European countries?” will be discussed. Key messages and recommendations will be formulated. Another point to discuss is how to spread the SSM awareness at EU level and how to overcome the barriers that hinder the implementation of SSM. The working group results and the main ideas and conclusions of the workshop will be summed up in a wrap-up session. After the close of the workshop participants are invited to a cocktail at the FAO premises.

Programme

Date: 29th March 2019 (14:00-18:00)

Workshop (14:00 – 17:00)

Duration	Session	
10' (14:00-14:10)	Welcome by DG ENV. introduction to workshop and introduction of participants	Chair: N. Hagemann (UFZ) and J. Masson (DG-ENV)
20' (14:10-14:30)	Presentation of “Implementation barriers for arable soil protection and sustainable management across the EU” (plenary)	N. Hagemann (UFZ)
20' (14:30-14:50)	Presentation of the feedback on the report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which of the impacts of SSM mentioned in the report are most relevant in your country? • Which of the barriers to implementing SSM identified in the report are most relevant in your country? • Do you have any examples of additional barriers? • Other comments? 	Chair: N. Hagemann (UFZ)
15' (14:50-15: 05)	Plenary discussion on the feedback	Chair: N. Hagemann (UFZ)
45' (15:05-15:50)	How could measures at EU level help to overcome the identified barriers for implementation SSMs in European countries? Do you know any best practice examples for specific barriers? What are the key messages and recommendations? (2-3 groups of 10 persons)	Facilitators: N. Hagemann, S. Bartke (UFZ) C, Castañeda (CSIC) A. López-Francos, L. López (IAMZ-CIHEAM) Representative of EC-DGENV
25' (15:50-16:15)	Coffee break	
15' (16:15-16:30)	Feedback from groups: What are the 3 key messages / recommendations for the report?	Chair: Discussion facilitators
15' (16:30-16:45)	How could the awareness about the barriers to implementing SSM be spread at EU level (assuming that ESP members do it at member states level)?	Chair: N. Hagemann
15' (16:45-17:00)	Wrap-up and outlook, including concluding remarks by DG Env.	Chair: N. Hagemann and J. Masson

Cocktail offered to participants (17:00 – 18:00)