



« 4 per 1000 Initiative: Soils for Food Security and the Climate »



Document Consortium 4-1: Report 3rd Consortium - Bonn

4th Meeting of the Consortium

Thursday 13 December 2018

16:30 to 18:30

University of Silesia – Katowice - Poland

Opening

The consortium meeting was officially opened by the President Dr MAYAKI.

The **agenda** * has been approved (see document *Consortium 3-0 - provisional agenda - 16 November 2017*).

The **report of the second meeting of the Consortium** * in Montpellier on 29 and 30 June 2017 was also approved (see document *Consortium 3-1 - Report of the 2nd Consortium - Montpellier - 29-30 June 2017*).

Formal welcome of new partners and members of the Initiative since the last Consortium meeting *:

The list of new members and partners who have applied to join the initiative since the last meeting of the Consortium (29-30 June 2017) has been presented by the Executive Secretary (see document *Consortium 3-2 - List of new partners and members*).

Discussion

Several members expressed reservations about some organizations: Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN) and Coalition on Agriculture Greenhouse Gas (C-AGG) due to the lack of accurate information on their status.

Following the proposal of the President, the members of the Consortium decide to maintain these two organizations as partners in the expectation of receiving more information. The rest of the list is approved.

The Executive Secretary also presented the request of the AVRIL Foundation, currently a partner, to change its status following the publication in the Official Journal of the French Republic recognizing the AVRIL Foundation of Public Utility. On the basis of this document, the AVRIL Foundation wishes to no longer be classified as a for-profit organization but as a foundation.

Discussion

Some members request the same treatment for this request as the two previous organizations (GODAN and C-AGG).

The members of the Consortium therefore keep the AVRIL Foundation in the "for-profit organization" category while reviewing information about the new status of the applicant.

Activity Report for 2017 *

The Executive Secretary presented the activities carried out in 2017 (see document *Forum 2-1 - Report Forum 1 Marrakech*). The Consortium has validated this report.

New results of the survey of partners on projects and research developed in the environment "4 per 1000" in the world:

The Executive Secretary presented the update of the results of the survey on projects and research developed by the partners.

Discussion

This survey is a first glimpse of what is happening in the "4 per 1000" environment, but it will have to be deepened, particularly with financial institutions and research organizations. The posters presented in Montpellier and Bonn and available on the conference website also complete this survey.

A proposal to carry out a global census of research and field actions on the improvement of carbon stocks in soils was made. This could be one of the possible deliverables of the initiative.

Proposals of the Scientific and Technical Committee:

- **Orientations of the International Program for Research and Scientific Cooperation ***

Dr. David WHITEHEAD, member of the STC, presented the proposed orientations to the Consortium by the STC (see document *Consortium 3-4 - "4 per 1000" Research Priorities (STC)*)

The "4 per 1000" research program aims to provide evidence-based options to countries, stakeholders and the private sector and to support the multi-stakeholder initiative. It will also address high-level political issues (development and implementation of national policies).

This research program will therefore be action-oriented and policy-relevant.

It includes 4 main themes:

- estimate carbon sequestration potential and associated benefits;
- develop adapted practices;
- define and strengthen the enabling environment;
- develop monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) of soil carbon.

Dr WHITEHEAD then gave examples of international research projects within the framework of the "4per 1000" research program such as CIRCASA (Coordination of International Research Cooperation on Soil Sequestration in Agriculture), SOCA (Soil Carbon in the Service of tropical agricultural family) or the GRA Soil Carbon Sequestration (SCS) Flagship.

Discussion

One member pointed out that farmers' place should be more taken into account in research projects.

The representative of CIRAD informs that the European public / private partnership Climate-KIC has signed an agreement with IRD, INRA and AgroParistech for a research fund to identify the constraints in the implementation of the "4 per 1000" in the field.

- Set of criteria and indicators for project assessment *

Dr. Liny Wollenberg, member of the STC, presented the project evaluation framework and a project review procedure (see document *Consortium 3-3 - "4 per 1000". Set of indicators for the project assessment (STC)*)

As a reminder, the STC was mandated by the Consortium for the development of a draft of a set of indicators and criteria in 2016. The STC presents here the results of its work for comments and Consortium decision.

The criteria and indicators provided are based in particular on the sustainable development indicators and are classified into 4 categories. The examination of each category will correspond to one stage of the evaluation procedure:

- 1st stage: safeguarding criteria (human rights, land rights, poverty reduction)
- 2nd stage: direct criteria (soil organic carbon stocks, land degradation neutrality, adaptation to climate change, mitigation, food security)
- 3rd stage: indirect criteria (well-being, biodiversity and eco-systemic services, water and nutrient cycles)
- 4th stage: cross-cutting criteria (training and capacity building, participatory and socially inclusive approaches)

Following this assessment, the STC will provide recommendations to improve the quality of projects before and during implementation. The safeguard criteria will all have to be fulfilled, the organic carbon stock criterion too. The other criteria must then be verified.

Discussion

One participant suggested that there is the possibility of proposing alternative criteria as long as certain mandatory criteria are met. In response, the STC emphasizes that for MRV issues the question of alternative is relevant. The set of indicators and criteria is, however, designed with mandatory criteria that, if not met, result in a negative assessment. The STC does not issue a decision authorizing or not the project but recommendations to guide the project to meet the objectives of the "4 per 1000".

When asked about the use of the results of the evaluation, it is answered that 3 cases can occur:

- help with project development,
- support for the development of public policies,
- a guarantee for the project funders that the project corresponds to the objectives it claims on "4 per 1000".

One idea could be to organize multi-stakeholder regional workshops around pilot projects on which the benchmark would be applied to explain how it works.

The question of labeling is raised.

At the end of this discussion, the set of indicators and criteria is adopted by the members of the Consortium.

A working group will be formed with representatives of different colleges, including donors and project leaders (NGOs, producer groups, etc ...) to refine and adapt the standard.

A test work will also be done by the STC on 3 to 5 projects in order to refine it and make it operational. The selection of the tested projects will have to be based on a varied geographical, climatic and agro-ecological representation, on different sizes of projects and on a mixture of public / private projects and on current projects as well as envisaged projects.

STC will report this test evaluation to the Consortium.

The ITPS Chair reported the preparation of the technical manual on soil management best practices to be approved by the FAO GA and therefore proposed to join the working group.

The Consortium validates the directions and indicators proposed by the STC.

Demonstration of progress on the Initiative's new website including the collaborative platform and the digital resource center:

The collaborative platform architecture is ready but must now be tested and its modules must be completed. Work must continue in 2018.

Proposed procedure for the Initiative to support an event *

At the June 2017 meeting of the Consortium in Montpellier, some members wanted to clarify the process of validating the official support of the "4 per 1000" Initiative for an event, an initiative, a book or a publication, not-directly organized by the Initiative. The secretariat therefore proposes a formalized procedure to allow such support, including the use of the Initiative logo. (See document *Consortium 3-5 - Support Procedure Validation*)

Applications must come from partners or members of the initiative. There are two scenarios: either a request for support for an event (with the support of the "4 per 1000" initiative) or a partnership request ("in partnership with the" 4 per 1000 ").

The procedure is adopted.

Program of work for 2018: road map and budget

- **Approval of the 2018 roadmap ***

The Executive Secretary presented the roadmap proposal for the year 2018 (CF document *Consortium 3-6 - Roadmap 2018*).

It provides among other things:

- for the STC:
 - a precise inventory of current research activities in the field of carbon sequestration in soils,
 - thematic and geographical mapping of scientific cooperation partnerships on this issue,
 - the establishment of a multi-stakeholder working group on the project evaluation framework,
 - the development of a guide of procedures for the evaluation of projects,
- monitoring the work related to the collaborative platform and its operation,
- specific work to be carried out with public and private donors: inventory of existing funds compatible with the objectives of the initiative, development of a donor awareness campaign, reflection on the taking into account of the initiative in the carbon markets, seeking funding for the Executive Secretariat.
- the establishment of regional echelons of the initiative,
- contributing to international debates on carbon sequestration in soils.

The 2018 roadmap is adopted.

- **Exchange of views on upcoming meetings of the Initiative in 2018 ***

The Executive Secretary presented the schedule of meetings for 2018 (see document *Consortium 3-7 - Meetings "4 per 1000" for 2018*) adopted by the Consortium.

- **Status of the Initiative in terms of financial and human resources ***

The Executive Secretary presents the balance sheet for the year 2017 and the projected budget for 2018 (see document *Consortium 3-8 - Human Resources and Budget in 2018*) that the Consortium validates. The budget is lower than last year: 650 k €

Discussion

The issue of fees related to the provision of human resources has been raised.

The answer given: when staff is made available, the original structure continues to pay for it and gives it the means to work.

On the other hand, the fixed costs are taken by the CGIAR which hosts the secretariat.

The working time of the STC members and their provision of the initiative by their structure is also an important contribution.

The Executive Secretary reports that for the Bonn meeting the president's travel costs were taken on his personal expenses.

- **2018 Initiative Communications Strategy ***

The Executive Secretary presents the elements of this strategy for 2018 (see document Consortium 3-9 - Communication Strategy Elements for 2018) that the Consortium validates.

- **Presentations for information**

- Report of COP 13 UNCCD Ordos (Inner Mongolia - China) by Professor **Barron ORR** of the UNCCD and Future Policy Awards 2017 - September 2017 by Ms **Ingrid HEINDORF** of the World Future Council
- Symposium Report "Living Soils" in Montreal (Canada) October 13 to 15, 2017 by Ms. **Gabrielle BASTIEN** (Regeneration Canada)
- Contribution of the Initiative to the preparation of a technical manual on soil organic carbon management at regional and sub-regional scales (GSP-FAO) by Mr. **Luca MONTANARELLA**, ITPS President

Consortium conclusions

At 18:00, the agenda having been finished, the meeting is closed by the President.