



## Soil organic matter content in Mediterranean regions

Update: 29 October 2019

<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/focus-groups/soil-organic-matter-content-mediterranean-regions>

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### How can we improve soil organic matter content in the Mediterranean region in a cost-effective way? What new solutions for securing soil functionality and soil fertility can be proposed in this regard?

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The [final report \[1\]](#) of this Focus Group has been published.

Get all the information at a glance in the [Soil Organic Matter factsheet \[2\]](#).

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#### Tasks:

- **Comparing** cost effective methods to build up soils naturally (chipped wood, bio char, mulching, direct sowing under cover crops, etc.) / compare different farming sources of carbon that improve soil organic matter content and identify practical factors (e.g. frequency, period and amount of application or the nature of organic matter);
  - **Identifying** and **exploring** cost effective factors that improve the benefits of applying exogenous sources of organic matter (e.g. frequency, period and amount of application or the nature of organic matter).
  - **Assessing** different cost effective crop rotation systems that lead to build up Soil Organic Matter content;
  - **Comparing** different methods to enhance Soil Organic Matter in arable crops and in permanent crops;
  - **Listing** factors or bottlenecks that may limit the use of the identified techniques / systems by farmers and summarise how to address these limiting factors.
  - **Carrying out** a gap analysis indicating where new solutions need to be found
  - **Selecting** priorities for further research actions.
  - **Suggesting** potential projects of practical operational groups and other project formats to test new methods for improving soil organic matter content.
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#### Results:

- [Starting paper \[3\]](#)
- [Final report \[1\]](#)
- [Factsheet \(EN, ES, FR, PT\) \[4\]](#)
- [Brochure \[5\]](#)

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**Other information:**

- [Minipaper: Data collection](#) [6]
  - [Minipaper: Conservation agriculture](#) [7]
  - [Minipaper: Composting in Mediterranean soils](#) [8]
  - [Minipaper: Animal residues](#) [9]
  - [Minipaper: Irrigation aspects](#) [10]
  - [Minipaper: Microbial communities](#) [11]
  - [Minipaper: Green mulching](#) [12]
  - [Minipaper: Organic matter efficiency](#) [13]
  - [Minipaper: Organic matter decision tree](#) [14]
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**Focus Group members:**

Surname, first name	Profession	Country
Anastasiou, Dimos <a href="#">Contact this member</a> [15]	Farmer; scientist	Greece
Aran, Miquel	Farm adviser	Spain
Balesdent, Jérôme	Scientist	France
Basch, Gottlieb	NGO; scientist	Germany
Biro, Borbala	Scientist	Hungary
Cardoso Gonsalves Mourão, Isabel de Maria	Scientist	Portugal
Costantini, Edoardo <a href="#">Contact this member</a> [16]	Farmer; scientist	Italy
Dell'Abate, Maria Teresa	Scientist	Italy
Follain, Stéphane	Scientist; other	France
Gómez Macpherson, Helena	Scientist	Spain
Konsten, Carola	Farmer	Netherlands
Lloveras, Jaume	Scientist	Spain
Marques, Filipe	Farmer	Portugal
Martínez Gaitán, Carolina Clara	Scientist; agriculture organisation, industry or manufacturing	Spain
Mavridis, Avraam	Scientist	Greece
Neeteson, Jacques	Scientist	Netherlands
Perdigão, Antonio	Farmer	Portugal
Sarno, Giampaolo <a href="#">Contact this member</a> [17]	Farm adviser; other	Italy
Theocharopoulos, Sideris	Scientist	Greece
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Hinsinger, Philippe	Coordinating expert	France
Blanco, Jorge	Task manager	Spain
Ambar, Margarida <a href="#">Contact this member</a> [18]	Backup	Portugal

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[Access the collaborative area](#) [19] (*only for member*)

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## Resources from the Focus Group members:

- [Testimonial video by Focus Group expert Gottlieb Basch on Soil organic matter in Mediterranean regions](#) [20]

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## EIP-AGRI related videos:

- Gottlieb Basch - presentation at [EIP-AGRI seminar 'Healthy soils for Europe'](#) [21] Video of Gottlieb Basch - presentation at EIP-AGRI seminar &#039;Healthy soils for Europe&#039;;
- Ana Fonseca - presentation on the Operational Group 'ECOMONTADO XXI - agro-ecology applied to the design of the new cork-oak forest' at [EIP-AGRI seminar 'Healthy soils for Europe'](#) [21] Video of Ana Fonseca - presentation at EIP-AGRI seminar &#039;Healthy soils for Europe&#039;;

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## Links

- [1]  
<http://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/content/eip-agri-focus-group-soil-organic-matter-content-mediterranean-regions-final-report>
- [2] <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/publications/eip-agri-factsheet-soil-organic-matter>
- [3]  
[https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/default/files/fg5\\_soil\\_organic\\_matter\\_starting\\_paper\\_2014\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/default/files/fg5_soil_organic_matter_starting_paper_2014_en.pdf)
- [4] <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/content/eip-agri-factsheet-soil-organic-matter>
- [5] <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/publications/eip-agri-brochure-soil-organic-matter-matters>
- [6] [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/default/files/fg5\\_mp\\_om\\_datacollecting\\_2015\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/default/files/fg5_mp_om_datacollecting_2015_en.pdf)
- [7]  
[https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/default/files/fg5\\_mp\\_om\\_conservationagriculture\\_2015\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/default/files/fg5_mp_om_conservationagriculture_2015_en.pdf)
- [8]  
[https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/default/files/fg5\\_mp\\_om\\_composting\\_in\\_med\\_soils\\_2015\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/default/files/fg5_mp_om_composting_in_med_soils_2015_en.pdf)
- [9] [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/default/files/fg5\\_mp\\_om\\_animalresidues\\_2015\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/default/files/fg5_mp_om_animalresidues_2015_en.pdf)
- [10] [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/default/files/fg5\\_mp\\_om\\_waterissues\\_2015\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/default/files/fg5_mp_om_waterissues_2015_en.pdf)
- [11] [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/default/files/fg5\\_mp\\_om\\_microbial\\_comm\\_2015\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/default/files/fg5_mp_om_microbial_comm_2015_en.pdf)
- [12] [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/default/files/fg5\\_mp\\_om\\_green\\_mulching\\_2015\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/default/files/fg5_mp_om_green_mulching_2015_en.pdf)
- [13] [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/default/files/fg5\\_mp\\_om\\_efficiency\\_2015\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/default/files/fg5_mp_om_efficiency_2015_en.pdf)
- [14] [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/default/files/fg5\\_mp\\_om\\_decisiontree\\_2015\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/default/files/fg5_mp_om_decisiontree_2015_en.pdf)
- [15] <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/user/8374/contact>
- [16] <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/user/5545/contact>
- [17] <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/user/5524/contact>
- [18] <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/user/8525/contact>
- [19]

<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/content/collaborative-area-focus-group-soil-organic-matter-content-mediterranean-regions>

[20] <https://youtu.be/2SW-EBjCHRQ>

[21] <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/event/eip-agri-seminar-healthy-soils-europe-sustainable>