

eip-agri
AGRICULTURE & INNOVATION



EIP-AGRI WORKSHOP SHAPING THE EU MISSION 'CARING FOR SOIL IS CARING FOR LIFE' 20-21 OCTOBER 2020 - ONLINE EVENT

PROGRAMME

EIP-AGRI online workshop: Shaping the EU mission 'Caring for soil is caring for life'

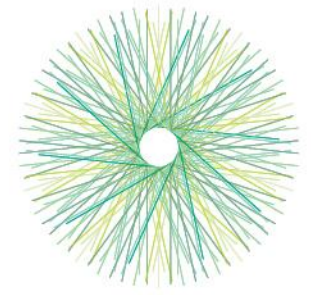
Tuesday 20 – Wednesday 21 October 2020

Soil is a key component in nutrient and water cycles. It can serve as a large carbon sink and provide shelter for a very rich biodiversity out of which only 1% is known. Healthy soils are crucially important to produce healthy food and maintain agricultural productivity in the future. However, soils are under pressure, mostly from unsustainable farming practices, contamination from industries, and indirect effects caused by climate change. As a result, up to 60-70% of European soils are currently unhealthy. This is a problem that needs urgent action.

To restore soil health in the EU and beyond, the European Commission (EC) has established the 'Mission area' for Soil health and food. The Mission Board, which consists of high-level experts who advise the European Commission on specific missions, has proposed the mission 'Caring for Soil is Caring for Life', with a clear mandate to support sustainable soil use and management throughout the Union. Moreover, soils are an integral part of the Green Deal for Europe and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to ensure a healthy environment and productive farming systems. The Mission has set a number of clear targets and objectives. Among these, the main goal is to have at least 75% of healthy soils that can provide essential ecosystem services in each Member State by 2030. This is a very ambitious goal that must ensure clean, productive and resilient soils for future generations. However, this goal can only be achieved through common efforts that engage different stakeholders from all over Europe.

The Mission Board has set the main goals, designed a work plan, and defined research and innovation tools, which will provide the framework for the Mission's activities. These can all be found in the [recently published report "Caring for Soil is Caring for Life"](#). **The successful implementation of the Mission's objectives will require a supportive environment that includes public policies, incentives, investments, information, society and the endorsement of a multi-stakeholder bottom-up approach in each phase of the Mission.**

The EC and EIP-AGRI Service Point have joined forces to organise an online workshop with the aim of introducing the Mission: 'Caring for Soil is Caring for Life'. The event also aims to consult primarily farmers and foresters, along with advisers and other stakeholders from different regions of Europe on the goals proposed by the Mission Board. The event will consist of larger plenary sessions and interactive discussions in smaller groups where participants can have more in-depth discussions. This will provide the opportunity to learn more about the proposed Work Plan of the Mission as well as about some of its major building blocks, such as the living labs and lighthouse farms. The discussion sessions will enable participants to exchange ideas on the most urgent research and innovation needs from practice, and to express the practical needs for implementation of the proposed actions.



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Monday 19 October 2020

10:00 – 12:00 Technical troubleshooting

Day 1: Tuesday 20 October 2020

All timings are in CET (Brussels time)

Part I: Introduction to the online workshop and introducing the EU mission 'Caring for soil is caring for life'

08:30 - 09:00 Checking in

09:00 – 09:20 Opening of the workshop

- **Kerstin Rosenow**, Head of Unit B2 – Research and Innovation, DG AGRI
- **Pacôme Elouna Eyenga**, Team leader, EIP-AGRI Service Point
- **Pandi Zdruli**, EIP-AGRI Service Point

09:20 – 09:45 Getting to know each other

09:45 – 10:30 **Introduction to the EU mission 'Caring for soil is caring for life'**

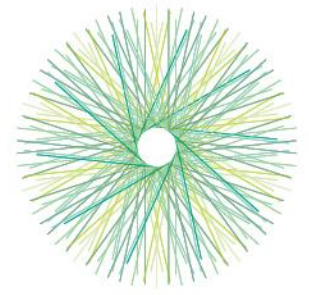
- **Prof. Bridget Emmett** – Head of Soils and Land Use at the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, EU Mission Board on Soil Health and Food, UK
- Q&A session

10:30 – 10:45 **Coffee break**

10:45 – 11:45 **Interactive breakout session 1**
Feedback to the mission goals and implementation

11:45 – 12:00 Summary of interactive session 1

12:00 – 14:00 Lunch break



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Part II: Research and innovation needs

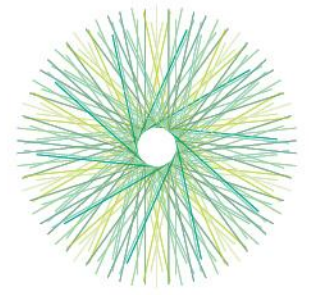
- 14:00 – 14:30 **Introduction to the research and innovation needs proposed in the mission – from field scale to global level**
- **Alfred Grand** – Organic farmer, Vermigrand, Grand Farm, EU Mission Board on Soil Health and Food, Austria
 - Q&A session
- 14:30 – 15:50 **Interactive breakout session 2
Finding knowledge gaps and prioritising research needs according to the needs from practice**
- 15:50 – 16:00 **Coffee break**
- 16:00 – 16:45 Summary of day 1 and preview on day 2

Day 2: Wednesday 21 October 2020

All timings are in CET (Brussels time)

Part III: Living labs and lighthouse farms

- 08:30 – 09:00 Checking in
- 09:00 – 09:15 Welcome and review of day 1
- 09:15 – 09:45 **Introduction of the important role of living labs and lighthouse farms in the EU mission 'Caring for soil is caring for life'**
- **Alfred Grand** Organic farmer, Vermigrand, Grand Farm, EU Mission Board on Soil Health and Food, Austria
 - Q&A session
- 09:45 – 10:30 **Getting inspiration from existing living labs and lighthouse farms**
- **Agrilink** – Herman Schoorlemmer, Wageningen Plant Research, the Netherlands
 - **La Junquera** – Yanniek Schoonhoven, Regeneration Academy, Spain
 - **Lands at Dowth** – Dr. John Gilliland, Devenish, Ireland
- 10:30 – 10:45 **Coffee break**



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- 10:45 – 11:45 **Interactive breakout session 3**
Shaping the living labs and lighthouse farms – **finding key components for successful living labs and lighthouse farms**
- 11:45 – 12:00 Summary of interactive session 3
- 12:00 – 14:00 Lunch break**

Part IV: Creating a supportive environment for the soil mission

- 14:00 – 14:20 **Introducing main priorities for action to support the goals of the mission**
- **Prof. Bridget Emmett** – Head of Soils and Land Use at the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, EU Mission Board on Soil Health and Food, UK
 - Q&A session
- 14:20 – 15:45 **Interactive breakout session 4**
Creating a supportive environment for the soil mission – **prioritising needs for the successful implementation of the mission**
- 15:45 – 15:50 **Coffee break**
- 15:50 – 16:00 Inspirational highlights
- 16:00 – 16:15 Summary and closing of the workshop
- **Annette Schneegans**, Senior expert, Unit B2 – Research and Innovation, DG AGRI