

European Joint Programme





#### REDUCED OR NO-TILLAGE FARMING IS NOT THE HOLY GRAIL ANSWER

Reducing soil compaction does have clear positive effects. Rather than installing tillage bans, we might want to evolve more to less, well-timed and lighter machining on the land in general – and to a restoration of compacted soils in the process..



### ADDING, RETURNING OR KEEPING ORGANIC MATERIAL

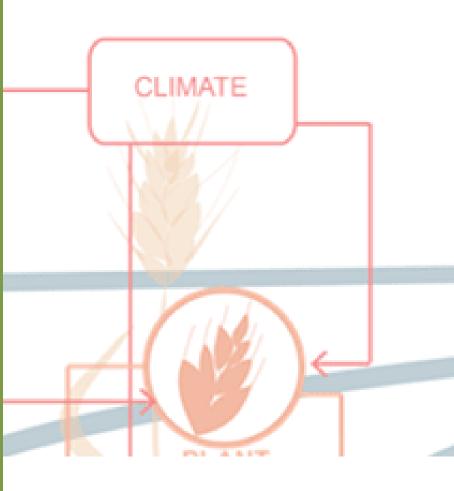
Organic carbon is like the mortar in the house of soil. It holds soil particles together and improves soil structure. The benefits of organic additions such as plant residues, compost, manure, wood chips and biochar cannot be denied.





**AUTHORS** Guillaume Blanchy, Gilberto Bragato,... Sarah Garré (2023)

## ADOPTION OF CLIMATE-SMART SOIL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND WATER REGULATION FUNCTIONS IN EUROPE



## Covering the land with living plants works

Keeping the soil continuously covered with living plants stimulates soil life and carbon storage. Essential in developing a good soil structure.

# EJP SOIL INNOVATION HIGHLIGHTS

### GOOD SOIL STRUCTURE ENSURES GOOD WATER INFILTRATION AND STORAGE.

MESC

This soil cover can be achieved in different ways: catch crops such as rapeseed or phacelia can offer solace in wintertime, grass can be sown under in corn fields and grass strips planted between rows of fruit trees.

All agricultural practices come with their own advantages and disadvantages. These plants will take up water as well, which can be a problem in regions that struggle with yearround drought.

### EJP SOIL FUNDED PROJECT CLIMASOMA

The results of over 10,000 observations on soil management and crop system practices Year-round soil cover, organic matter additions and a reduction of traffic on agricultural land. No single management practice can be the one solution for all soils and climates: context is key!

**PROJECT COORDINATOR:** Sarah Garre sarah.garre@ilvo.vlaanderen.be

### TARGET EJP SOIL EXPECTED IMPACT AND MISSION SOIL OBJECTIVES

Fostering understanding of soil management and its influence on climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable agricultural production and environment. Mission Soil: Conserve soil organic carbon and improve soil structure

**HIGHLIGHT FACTS FROM:** 

EJP SOIL funded project: CLIMASOMA



EJP SOIL has received funding from the Europe Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme: Grant agreement No 862695

