



# INITIATIVE 4 POUR 1000

## SOILS FOR FOOD SECURITY AND CLIMATE

### Adoption of a governance structure and work programme PRESENTATION OF FUTURE STEPS

#### **The “4 per 1000: soils for food security and climate”: status as of 28 April 2016**

The starting point for the 4 per 1000 Initiative is the factual observation that a limited increase, using suitable methods, in the organic carbon content of soil would be of positive benefit for three global issues:

- Improved food security through improved soil fertility,
- Adaptation of agriculture to climate change through increased soil resistance to erosion and increased capacity to retain moisture,
- Mitigation of climate change through carbon sequestration in soils.

The Initiative is aimed at developing practical actions to combat land degradation and improve the organic matter content of soil, which will benefit farmers and more generally the global population as a whole.

At the instigation of the French Minister of Agriculture, Stephane Le Foll, the “4 per 1000” Initiative was launched on 1 December at Le Bourget on the margins of COP21. It has been recognised as one of the six initiatives for the agriculture focus of the Lima-Paris Action Agenda (LPAA or “Agenda of Solutions”), thus acknowledging the positive role that agriculture can play in action for the climate.

To date, over 160 organisations have expressed their support for the Declaration of Intention laying down the principles of the Initiative and the goals pursued. Those organisations have undertaken collectively to put in place a governance structure that is fit for purpose, inclusive and transparent.

#### **The “Agriculture and food security in the run-up to COP22” meeting in Meknes (Morocco) on 28 April 2016**

The partners of the “4 per 1000: soils for food security and climate” Initiative gathered for the “Agriculture and food security in the run-up to COP22” meeting on 28 April in Meknes in Morocco on the margins of the Moroccan International Agricultural Show.

The meeting, organised jointly by the French and Moroccan authorities midway between COP21 and COP22, highlighted the crucial role of agriculture with regard to climate issues. The French and Moroccan agriculture ministers were joined by ministers from Spain and a number of African countries, along with representatives of international organisations (FAO, development banks, etc.), research bodies, sector and civil society organisations, together totalling over 150 participants.

Following on from the Paris Agreement, the imperative of guaranteeing food security in the context of climate disruption was reaffirmed. Many participants testified to their commitment to improving the adaptation of agriculture to climate change and its contribution to the mitigation of the human footprint on the climate. The Moroccan authorities notably described their goal of implementing an initiative for the adaptation of agriculture in Africa (Initiative 3A).

## Concretising the implementation of the 4 per 1000 Initiative: What governance, what roadmap for the Initiative?

It was recalled at the Meknes meeting that the aim of the 4 per 1000 Initiative is to strengthen collaborative relationships between scientific actors and actors in agricultural policy and international development and to promote internationally the advantages for food security and climate of sustainable soil management, including through the raising of funding. The Initiative must concretise these objectives notably by developing the following actions:

*For the “Actions” component:*

- Implementation of a collaborative platform to reinforce exchanges of information, partnerships, and capitalisation on experience between actors, organised around the execution of concrete actions;
- The creation of a set of reference criteria for the evaluation of projects;
- The facilitation of project funding.

*For the scientific component:*

- Driving an international programme of research and scientific cooperation under the heading “carbon in soils: a question of food security”;
- The creation of a digital resource centre on questions and issues related to carbon in soils.

In order to take the performance of these actions forward, the **French authorities proposed at Meknes the creation of a consortium to build the Initiative**. The Consortium would be created and organised by a “Declaration of Intention for the formation of 4 % Consortium”. The Consortium would be the Initiative’s driver and decision-making body, backed by a Forum, a scientific committee and a Secretariat.

The **Forum** would bring together all the partners of the Initiative to encourage exchanges of information and stronger collaborative relationships between the actors. The Forum would comprise five colleges: national governments and international organisations, research and training bodies, organisations of agricultural producers, civil society organisations and foundations, and commercial or for-profit organisations. In addition to “physical” meetings, the Forum could be organised as a digital community.

Decisions would be taken by consensus among **Consortium members**. Non-commercial, non-profit organisations that have signed the Declaration of Intention for the formation of 4 % Consortium (or formally expressed their support) would be eligible for membership. The decisions to be taken would relate essentially to the Initiative’s focuses and work programme, in addition to a set of reference criteria for project evaluation.

A **Scientific and Technical Committee (STC)** would give scientific weight to actions undertaken under the Initiative. It will put forward the reference criteria for evaluation, formulate opinions and advice on projects proposed by members and act as an interface between the research and scientific cooperation programme and actions developed under the Initiative.

An **international Secretariat** with three to five staff will coordinate actions and drive the Initiative to support Consortium members, the Forum and the Scientific Committee. Its staff and operating resources will be provided by Consortium members on a voluntary basis. France and Morocco have announced their intention to set up the Secretariat without delay.

## And now? It is up to all of us!

All partners are called upon to contribute to implementation of the Initiative:

### 1. by building the Initiative's system of governance and roadmap:

→ You can make comments or remarks on the two draft documents opened for consultation until 1 July 2016:

- The proposal for the Declaration of Intention for the formation of the 4% Consortium
- The proposal for the 2016 roadmap

### 2. by setting up the Secretariat:

→ You can make human or financial resources available.

To do so, contact us at: [4p1000.dgpe@agriculture.gouv.fr](mailto:4p1000.dgpe@agriculture.gouv.fr)

On completion of the governance consultation process, a final version of the document will be drawn up by France. This will then be circulated widely and willing partners will be able to subscribe to it to become members of the Consortium.

The governance structure will then be put in place in September, notably including the installation of the international Secretariat at the instigation of France and Morocco.

A meeting of the Forum of partners of the Initiative will be organised on the margins of COP22 (7–18 November 2016 in Marrakech).