



The States General for Soil Health

R&I in agriculture: best practices and challenges

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Soil management in organic farming

- Organic agriculture is a production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems and people
 - Creating and sustaining a 'living' soil was the objective of one of the first organic associations, the Soil Association
 - No use of synthetic fertiliser and pesticides in organic farming
 - Key practices to improve soil health include cover crops, use of legumes, organic amendments, long and diverse crop rotations, and reduced tillage
- Multiple studies have shown that organically managed soils tend to score higher in soil health than conventionally managed soils
 - Higher soil organic matter levels
 - Less nutrient losses through high organic matter content and soil cover
 - Higher water-holding capacity, porosity, and aggregate stability
 - Higher below-ground diversity
 - Higher resilience against extreme weather events such as droughts and flooding
 - Organic agriculture helps farmers to fight against and adapt to climate change

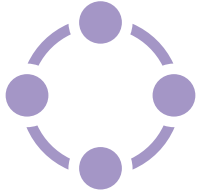
Research needs for the EU Mission “Soil Deal for Europe”

- Nutrient supply in organic farming and integration of recycled materials
- Diversification of crop rotations in specialised organic systems
- Conservation tillage in organic farming
- Soil biology, biodiversity and carbon sequestration under organic management
- Strong AKIS for organic soil management: encouraging learning and experimentation
- Full TP Organics Position Paper: <https://tporganics.eu/publications/>



ORGANIC
LIVING LABS
&
LIGHTHOUSE
FARMS IN
EUROPE

Recommendations



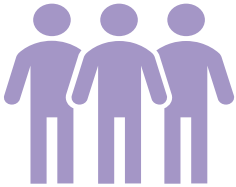
- **Support peer to peer learning**

- peer-to-peer rural hubs that knowledge sharing about local problems
- online and offline events



- **Invest in online platforms**

- social media, video and podcast
- build a communication and dissemination network



- **Bring organic and conventional farmers together**

- organic farmers do not work in isolation from conventional farmers



- **Courses and trainings for farmers**

- imaginative thinking techniques, co-creation or co-innovation methods

Recommendations



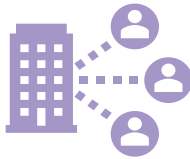
- **Raise awareness about the living lab and lighthouse farm concepts**

- strengthening real-life experimentation or demonstration networks



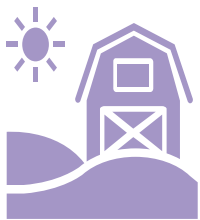
- **Better connect and integrate organics in national AKIS**

- organic practices innovation is not disseminated through national AKIS



- **Set up a sub-network for organics in the Soil Mission**

- and integrate it in the Agroecology Partnership network



- **Set up an EU network of organic advisory services**

- strong connections across borders

- strongly embedded in national or regional AKIS



Thank you for your attention

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