

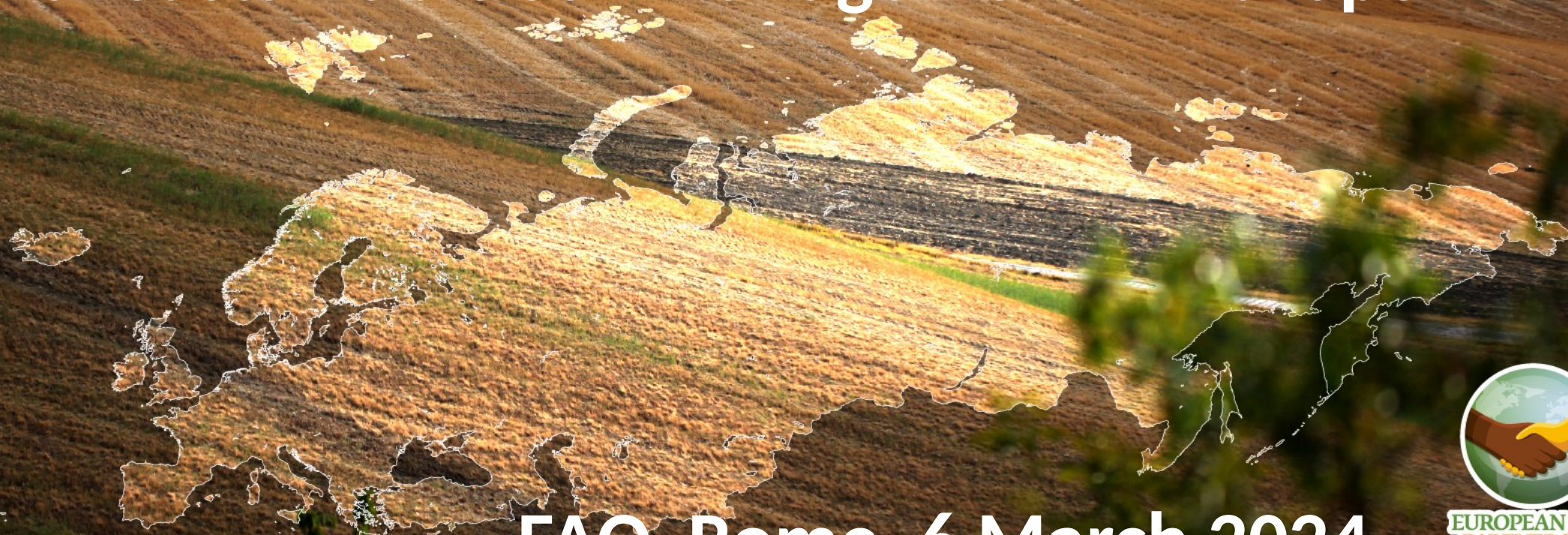


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Pre ESP Plenary Meeting Workshop

Strengthening bridges between science, policy & practice for sustainable soil management in Europe



FAO, Rome, 6 March 2024





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Welcome

Wifi: FAO Guest
Password: FAOunited2024



- GSP/ESP: FAO governance, multi-stakeholder partnership to promote the protection of soils and the sustainable management of soils
- Today's workshop: open to a large variety of stakeholders, invitation to embark in a joint process
- Today's facilitator: Charlotte Dufour (CoFSA, UNDP)
- GSP secretariat: Thorunn Wolfram Petursdottir (GSP Secretary), Natalia Rodriguez-Eugenio, Isabelle Verbeke and colleagues
- ESP Secretariat: Julia von Guilleaume, Nicole Wellbrock (ESP Secretary)
- Format: inclusive, participatory approach

Objective of the meeting

- Scope the challenge for sustainable soil management in Europe
- Build a common understanding of the challenges, opportunities (&solutions) and obstacles to SSM
- Catalyse joint action and networking (towards a “European Voluntary Guideline for Sustainable Soil Management”)



Pre ESP Meeting Workshop

- 14.00 Welcome/Introduction Meeting format (ESP chair)
- 14.15 Welcome (GSP Secretary)
- 14.20 Who is in the room and online
- 14.30 Scoping (Rainer Baritz, Mirco Barbero, Claire Chenu)

GROUP WORK

- 14.45 Group Set up
- 14.55 Group work discussions on:
Challenges – Opportunities - Obstacles
- 15.45 Break (coffee available starting 15:30)

CLOSING PLENARY

- 16.00 Facilitators debrief - 3mins/facilitator
- 16.30 Open discussion: what do we make out of this picture?
Where do we go from here?
- 16.50 Closing remarks/next steps (ESP Chair)
- 17.00 End

Groups

Claire Chenu (FR), supported by
Tiina Törmänen (FI)
Elena Havlicek, supported by
Irene Criscuoli (IT)
Mirco Barbero (EU), supported
by Raja Murugan (AT)

Dragana Vidojević (RS)
Antonio Bispo (FR)
Hakki Emrah Erdogan (JRC)
Tiina Köster (EIP Agri.eu)
Lydie Sombré (BE)
Linda Maring (NL)

Assistances online: Arwyn
Jones (JRC), GSP Secretariat





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Scoping presentations

Rainer Baritz, Mirco Barbero, Claire Chenu



EUROPEAN SOIL
PARTNERSHIP

Introducing the GSP voluntary guidelines – global context

Land degradation due to the erosion, salinization, compaction, and chemical pollution of soils (FAO and ITPS 2015):

- 25% of land is highly degraded
- 44% is slightly or moderately degraded

Soils across the global have suffered from
unsustainable management

Introducing the European context (...)

Member States' reporting on ecosystem condition

81% of **habitat** degraded

EEA 2020 State of nature in the EU

60% of **surface waters** degraded

EEA 2024 Europe's State of Water

Status of **soils**

Convergence of evidence^{*)} (19 Indicators)

JRC 2024 Soil health portal

62 % of all soils are not healthy

Agricultural soils: 89 %

^{*)} = area likely to be affected by soil degradation processes



Introducing the GSP voluntary guidelines – global context

VGSSM (COAG 2016, FAO Council 2016) provides context and guidance for voluntary (non-binding) actions related to the major threats to soil functioning:

- minimize soil erosion;
- enhance soil organic matter;
- foster soil nutrient balances and cycles;
- prevent, minimize, and mitigate soil salinization and alkalization;
- prevent and minimize soil contamination;
- prevent and minimize soil acidification;
- preserve and enhance soil biodiversity;
- minimize soil sealing;
- prevent and mitigate soil compaction;
- improve soil water management.

Introducing the European context (...)

(...) today (...)



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Group work



Challenges

Scope; only agriculture?

Knowledge available: deeper level what kind of erosion

Knowledge gaps

Holistic: balance of ES, break silos

Common policy? Long term action needed

Short term needs/long term issues

Land tenure policies

Young farmers

Everybody wants different things from soils

Understand the potential of soil, do managers understand the value of soils

Education needed: emotional attachment to the soil needed

Climate change challenging

Soils in Europe are not the same (also in culture), no one-size-fits-all

Soil has a third dimension: understand the system (e.g. sealing, loss of ES)



Opportunities

Knowledge developments

Policy process, EU legislation

Data bases maps: comparibiuity of data; harmioniziton needed

Awareness raising: show cases; talk about solutions (demonstrate that solutions are compettivies)

Missed opportunities: CAP, carbon farming (too narrow focus)

Subsidencies need re-direction

Food security (geo politics)

EU as a motor outside of the EU (to apply more sustainable practies)

Is a policy needed? not everything in one document; policy to share deinitions, measurements

Guidelines are exizting, but farm advisors need to skill development, LLL



Barriers

Sharing between disciplines

Ownership

Economics to change practices

Social cluster, resistance to change

Winners: communication (not just awareness raising, dialogues needed)

Policies

Funding

Direction for solution:

1. share best practices
2. Market chain (from EU level to municipal level)

Barriers

Knowledge developments

Policy process, EU legislation

Data bases maps

Awareness raising

Missed opportunities: CAP, carbon farming (too narrow focus)

Subsidencies need re-direction

Food security (geo politics)

Conclusions

Knowledge needs further detailed (all land uses, spatially)

We can be precise about which knowledge is available however, further detail is needed: ongoing research, improve to connect locally

Ongoing activities are rich, including LLLs, data bases, apps

Local answers needed, incentivize inclusion and participation

Communication: talk about solutions (demonstrate that solutions are competitive)

Case studies: WOCAT (local level)

Farmers as teachers (soil doctors) Portugal

Opportunities in the ESP region is policy driven (national and EU)

Management?



Conclusions

In Europe: much region/local specific conditions

Next steps:

Summarize: overlaps

Identify main topics



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Thank you



Introducing the GSP voluntary guidelines – global context

2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD): FAO launches the Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) program (2002–2007)

SARD is followed by followed by various subsector programs, such as

- framework program for sustainable crop production intensification
- Sustainable Forest Management
- **Global Soil Partnership** (2012...): revised World Soil Charter (COAG 2014, FAO Council 2015, **VGSSM** (COAG 2016, FAO Council 2016)
- Climate-Smart Agriculture
- Others

FAO's integrated approach: Sustainable land and soil management must minimize negative impacts on the environment while optimizing production by protecting, conserving, and enhancing natural resources and using them efficiently

8 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (2000-2015)

17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (2016 – 2030)