



Call for Applications for the Scientific and Technical Committee of the “4 per 1000 Initiative: Soils for Food Security and Climate”

Deadline for submitting the application: 15th of September 2016 (17:00)

Background

The “4 per 1000: soils for food security and the climate” Initiative (hereinafter the “Initiative”) was launched on 1st. December 2015 at COP21.

The Initiative has set itself the goal of helping address the following three issues:

- Improvement of food security by enhancing soil fertility and combating land degradation.
- Adaptation of agriculture to climate disruption.
- Mitigation of climate change.

On the basis of the following facts :

- There is 2 - 3 times more carbon in soil organic matter than in atmospheric CO₂ [IPCC, 2013] ;
- 1.4 billion metric tons of Carbon could be stored annually in agricultural soils, equivalent to a storage rate of 0.48 % / year in top soil [IPCC, 2007 – 2014]
- Half of the agricultural soils are estimated to be degraded [FAO, 2006] and the annual cost of fertilizer to replace nutrients lost to erosion is US \$ 110 to US\$ 200 billion [ITPS, 2016]
- Emissions of 0.3 to 1.0 Gt C / year through erosion of agricultural land [Chappell & Al., 2015]
- 24 to 40 million metric tons additional grains per ton C stored in soils organic matter in developing countries [Lal, 2006]
- Reduced yield variability after soil restoration leading to increased soil organic matter [Pa, & Al., 2009]

The aim of the Initiative is to improve levels of organic matter and foster carbon sequestration in soils through the implementation of land management (agriculture, forestry, soil restoration, etc...) methods appropriate to local environmental, social and economic conditions. The initiative will develop both an action plan and an international research program, and will promote international (i.e. trans-regional and trans-continental) exchanges of experiences and learnings.

The Initiative reflects a common will to reinforce existing synergies and points of coherence between the three Rio Conventions, the Sustainable Development Goals adopted on 25 September 2015, the Committee on World Food Security and the Global Soil Partnership.

Recognition of the Initiative as one of the six initiatives of the agricultural component of the **Lima Paris Agenda for Action** (<http://newsroom.unfccc.int/lpaa/>) testifies to the priority assigned to the setting of ambitious targets for climate and food security. Its inclusion encourages a continuation of the mobilisation of state and non-state partners for implementation and follow-up of programmes generating practical impacts in terms of food security, climate change adaptation and mitigation.

By signing the **declaration of intention** in support of the Initiative (<http://4p1000.org/page/3>) over 160 organisations have agreed to “put in place a formal governance structure through an inclusive and transparent process, guaranteeing fair participation by the various stakeholders and taking into consideration the need to collaborate with existing, relevant initiatives by seeking synergies with them on soil health issues, wherever possible.”

Scientific and Technical Committee

The governance of the initiative will be set up at COP22 in Marrakech. It is foreseen that the Initiative will operate through four bodies:

- The **Consortium**, where decisions will be taken,
- The **Forum**, where multi-stakeholder collaborations will be fostered,
- The **Scientific and Technical Committee** (STC) where scientific and technical expertise will be provided,
- The **International Executive Secretariat** will provide assistance and support to the 3 other bodies.

The STC will comprise no more than 14 scientists or practitioners, all recognised for their scientific or technical competence on topics relevant to the 4 per 1000 Initiative. STC members shall notably be competent in the following disciplines: soil sciences, the carbon cycle, agronomics, land tenures, livestock farming, forestry, economics, political sciences and sociology, with the following areas of application: food security, adaptation or mitigation to climate change, and development. The composition of the STC shall assign a significant role to expertise in the field. It shall take into account the world's various regions and shall ensure a male-female balance.

STC members will be appointed for a two-year term renewable once by decision of the members of the Consortium according to the process that will be put in place later on.

Specifically, the STC shall be able to:

- **propose** to Consortium members **a set of reference criteria for the evaluation of projects and actions** founded on the principles and goals of the Initiative as defined in the Paris Declaration, as well as on the Sustainable Development Goals;
- **formulate advices on projects, actions and programmes** at the request of the Executive Secretariat;
- **formulate proposals for the orientations of the international scientific research and cooperation programme** and for any cross-cutting issue submitted by the Executive Secretariat;
- **define and produce**, in conjunction with the Executive Secretariat, **the documents published in the resource centre and**, when asked to do so by the Executive Secretariat, **validate the posting of documents on line.**

The STC shall carry out its assigned tasks by means of physical and virtual meetings with support from the Executive Secretariat. The members of the STC may appoint from among their members a STC chair and deputy chair. The STC chair and deputy chair may take part in meetings of Consortium members and Forum meetings.

Statements of interest shall be produced by each STC member and updated every year. STC members may provide advice for the development of activities and public policies only if they have demonstrated the absence of any conflict of interest.

The STC may consult as and when necessary any expert or actor it considers relevant to its proceedings. The Committee members will serve in a voluntary capacity and will be able to claim travel expenses.

International research and scientific collaboration program

The initiative includes an **international research and scientific collaboration program** which has four themes:

- Improve estimates of the baseline and of the potential of soil carbon sequestration (or loss) according to a large range of land management practices;
- Design and co-construction of agronomic strategies and practices for soil carbon sequestration, including an assessment of their performances and of trade-offs and synergies across multiple objectives;
- Metrics and methods for monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) of soil carbon sequestration (farm, landscape, region, country);
- Institutional arrangements and public policies, including financial mechanisms, that aim at promoting and rewarding relevant practices.

This research program will be largely nested in existing international programs (e.g. the Global Research Alliance on agricultural greenhouse gases, the CGIAR programs on Climate Change Agriculture and Food Security and on Land Water and Ecosystems, the Global Soil Partnership, etc..). It aims to find synergies with existing initiatives as well as an added value by providing knowledge and tools from the local to the global scale.

The STC will closely collaborate with the international research program of the initiative and with other relevant international expert panels.

STC member profiles

Applicants are internationally acknowledged high level scientific and technical experts in fields directly related to the societal challenges of the 4 per mil initiative. Researchers from private sector may apply on their own merits.

Application

Applicants are requested to send by mail the following elements:

- a **cover letter of motivation**,
- a **CV** no less than one page but **showing all experience**,
- a **list of most relevant scientific publications**,
- the **application form filled** (see file attached)

All files in PDF format will be sent to the following addresses: 4p1000.dgpe@agriculture.gouv.fr and se.4p1000@cgiar.org no later than 17:00 on Thursday 15th September 2016.