

INFORMATION SHEET

Policy brief: “How soil biodiversity can strengthen resilience and ecosystem services in agricultural landscapes”

Earthwatch Europe was contracted on behalf of BiodivERsA by the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS)/Belgian Science Policy Office (BELSPO) to produce a policy brief based on the results of the [SoilMan](#), [Digging-Deeper](#), and [SOILCLIM](#) projects by the BiodivERsA call 2015-16 (co-funded by the European Commission), with the national funders ANR (France), BMBF (Germany), DFG (Germany), Estonian Research Council (Estonia), FORMAS (Sweden), AIE (Spain), SNF (Switzerland), UEFISCDI (Romania), and FCT (Portugal).

Knowledge and methodology used

The Policy Brief “How soil biodiversity can strengthen resilience and ecosystem services in agricultural landscapes” is based on the scientific results of the named projects. The Brief extracts and summarises some key results of the projects and provides a list of relevant policy recommendations linked to current EU policy processes. The Brief was drafted by Earthwatch Europe, in consultation with the BiodivERsA Policy Briefs Working Group, and with researchers from the respective projects. The topic of the brief was proposed bottom-up by the SoilMan, Digging-Deeper, and SOILCLIM researchers through a call for topics launched in the second half of 2019, and ultimately selected based on feedbacks from the BiodivERsA Advisory Board and Policy Briefs Working Group. Initial scoping of content and possible messages was done during a virtual meeting with the project partners in September 2020, facilitated by the BiodivERsA science-policy/science-society officer. Earthwatch Europe consulted all relevant SoilMan, Digging-Deeper and SOILCLIM outcomes as supplied by the BiodivERsA secretariat. All sources used are listed below.

Quality control

An initial and advanced draft of the brief was reviewed by the Policy Briefs Working Group and the research partners; and comments and suggestions made were addressed.

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Sources of information consulted for key research findings

Peer-reviewed scientific publications used:

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Relevant EU policy instruments and their websites:

- EU Farm to Fork Strategy: our food, our health, our planet, our future. https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/actions-being-taken-eu/farm-fork_en
- EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030: Bringing nature back into our lives (COM/2020/380) - https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/strategy/index_en.htm
- The European Green Deal (COM(2019) 640) - https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en
- EU strategy: Adapting to climate change - <https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12381-EU-Strategy-on->
- Common agricultural policy (CAP) income support - https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/income-support_en
- Common agricultural policy (CAP) monitoring and evaluation framework - https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/cmef_en
- Common agricultural policy (CAP) Future of the CAP - https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/future-cap_en
- Healthy Soils – New EU Soil Strategy - <https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12634-Healthy-soils-new-EU-soil-strategy>
- Caring for soil is caring for life: report of the EU mission board for soil health and food - https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/caring-soil-caring-life_en