



Carbon farming and Organics

Synergies between climate action and biodiversity protection

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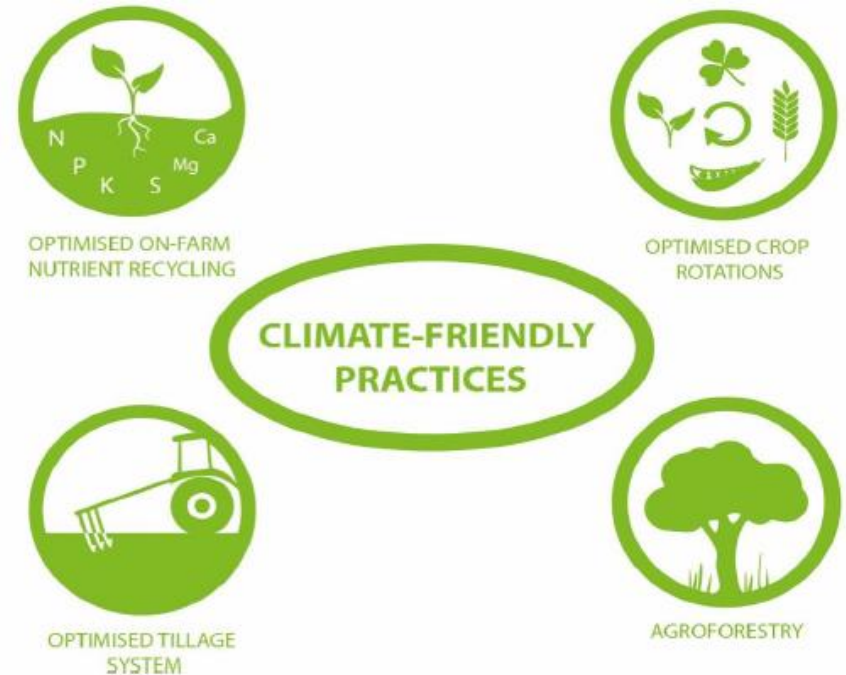
Organic farming and soil

- Soil health is a corner stone of organic farming
- Many core organic practices **support fertility and quality** of soils
- Organically managed soils show **increased soil organic carbon content** compared to conventional management (Gattinger et al, 2012)



Benefits of organic farming

- Organic farms sustain 30% more biodiversity
- Increased resilience and adaptation
 - Higher resistance to pests and diseases
 - Resilience against extreme weather conditions
- No use of synthetic fertilizer
- Protection of environmental resources



SOLMACC Project

Carbon farming and organic

8.5% → 25% EU agricultural land under organic farming by 2030 will positively impact carbon stocks in soil

Carbon farming and climate mitigation:

- Focus on emission reductions
- Realistic potential of soil carbon sequestration
- Holistic approach: carbon, biodiversity and other environmental objectives
- Acknowledge multiple benefits of agroecological approaches



Systemic approach is needed

“Ignoring the inseparable nature of climate, biodiversity, and human quality of life will result in non-optimal solutions to either crisis.” (IPBES-IPCC)

- The **biodiversity and climate crises** are interlinked and need to be addressed together
- **Biodiversity and environmental safeguards** to prevent trade-offs (e.g. use of glyphosate or synthetic fertilizer, conversion of land with high biodiversity)
- **Adaptation and resilience** of farming systems.
- Food system approach is needed



How can carbon farming benefit organic farmers?

- Farmers should be rewarded for their contributions to climate action and the protection of biodiversity and environmental resources
- Benefits of agroecology should be acknowledged and recognized
- The focus should not lie on technological solutions and favour intensive approaches

Do farmers actually benefit from carbon markets?

- High MRV costs
- Long term management of soil carbon stocks has to be ensured
- Past efforts have to be acknowledged
- Sequestration potential varies and is site specific



Rewarding organic farmers for the benefits they provide

- Remuneration should not only happen through the market and the consumer
- Public money for public goods
 - CAP: remuneration proportional to benefits
 - Shifting to agroecological practices needs knowledge building and transfer
 - Maintenance of carbon stocks needs to be ensured



Thank you!

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