SOILCRATES Announces First Wave of Selected Pilot Projects within €1.6 Million Soil Health Funding Call Across Europe

PRESS RELEASE
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Paris, France — The SOILCRATES project announces the selection of the first wave of farm-based pilot projects funded under its Financial Support to Third Parties (or FSTP) Request for Applications. Following the evaluation process, projects have been selected across France, Ireland, the Netherlands and Spain, and will be implemented within the framework of the four SOILCRATES Living Labs.

The FSTP call is designed to support practice-based, locally driven experiments addressing soil health challenges in agricultural and rural contexts. Selected pilot projects will receive financial support ranging from €20,000 to €60,000, enabling them to test, adapt and monitor soil health practices in real-life conditions over a period of 12 to 24 months.

Selected Pilot Projects

The selected pilots reflect a wide range of soil management approaches, crops and territorial contexts.

- In Spain, pilot projects located in the province of Granada focus on sustainable soil management for woody crops and Mediterranean viticulture.
- In Ireland, pilots are being implemented across Tipperary, Limerick and Clare, addressing topics such as organic living mulches, cover crops, soil fertility enhancement, microbial bio-stimulants, biochar applications and grassland soil health.
- In the Netherlands, selected projects are located in Fryslân, Drenthe and Groningen, exploring pasture cropping systems, soil compaction in grassland, cover cropping strategies, soil biodiversity and nutrient quality indicators.
- In France, pilot projects based in the Landes department focus on regenerative farming practices, soil structure improvement, crop diversification and optimisation of intercrop cover crops.

A detailed list of selected projects includes the project name, implementing entity, country and province of experimentation. In some cases, the name of individual farmers appears in lieu of the project or entity name, reflecting the operational and practice-oriented nature of the selected pilots.

Project Name	Entity	Country	Province of the experiment
COMPIGRA - Co-creating sustainable Management Practices for Integrated soil and ecosystem health for woody crops in GRAnada province	IFAPA	Spain	Granada
SOIL-VITIS - Sustainable Soil Management in Mediterranean Vineyards: Cover Crops, Pruning Residues, and Microbial Biostimulation.	BODEGAS SEÑORÍO DE NEVADA S.L.	Spain	Granada
MESIAS - Mejora de la Estructura del Suelo y de la Infiltracion en Agroecosistemas Sostenibles	Francisco Javier Roman Marin	Spain	Granada

Evaluating Organic Living Mulches	John Kavanagh	Ireland	Tipperary
CoverChar2627	Ballyhoura Rural Services CLG	Ireland	Limerick
Intercropping with Field Margins proposal	Eleanor Glesson Cussen	Ireland	Tipperary
Crawford's Farm	Crawford's Farm	Ireland	Tipperary
Maximizing Organic Potential	James M O Donnell Trading	Ireland	Limerick
Biochar & Deep Rooted plant for Decompostion	Joe Bonfil	Ireland	Clare
Local Soil Fertility Solutions	Sean O'Farrell	Ireland	Tipperary
Soil Enhancement through Microbial Biostimulants Gypsum	Soil Improvement with Gypsum Optimisation (SoilGo)	Ireland	Tipperary
Doonaha Fort Soil Health	Pat Liddane	Ireland	Clare
Groenbedekking in pompoenen	Mts S. en C. Anema	The Netherlands	Fryslân
Pasture cropping NL - CropsInGrass Meer uit Grasland, meer voor de Bodem	KAIROS Regenerative Agri & Food Systems B.V.	The Netherlands	Drenthe
SPNA Ebelsheerd als Light House Soilcrates & Experiment Waterbergend vermogen irt groenbemesters	SPNA Agroresearch	The Netherlands	Groningen
Veerkracht van de bodem en het effect van mechanische bodemverdichting in grasland	Melkveehouderij Dekker	The Netherlands	Drenthe

Effecten van Kopros toepassing in rundveemest op bodem- en gewaskwaliteit	van de Lageweg CV	The Netherlands	Fryslân
Identificatie van indicatoren voor mestkwaliteit	Maatschap Aalbers	The Netherlands	Groningen
Ferme La Gelouze	Ferme La Gelouze	France	Landes
Améliorer la qualité des sols : Etude de cas sur 3 fermes en maraichage biologique	Ferme Solidaire de l'Ecolieu Lacoste	France	Landes
AGRA-CEC	Rivoire Jérémie	France	Landes
Travail Extra-réduit / Régénération / Agronomie - 3D Décompacter / Désherber / Diversifier (TERA-3D)	EARL LAHUQUE	France	Landes
Optimisation du Cycle de Vie des Couverts Végétaux d'Interculture en sol sableux dégradé (OCVCVI)	Entreprise Individuelle MOULY Romain	France	Landes
Pâturage de couverts végétaux d'intercultures (PCVI)	GAEC Ferme de Libat	France	Landes

Next Steps

Selected pilot projects will be formally notified ahead of the public announcement and will begin implementation in early 2026. Throughout the project duration, pilots will benefit from technical support and coordination within their respective Living Labs and will contribute to collective learning and knowledge exchange across regions.

It should be noted that this first selection round does not represent the full allocation of the €1.6 million FSTP budget, as additional selection rounds are foreseen under the SOILCRATES project.

Further communication activities related to the selected pilots, including dedicated features in the SOILCRATES newsletter and online tools, will follow in the coming weeks.

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About SOILCRATES

SOILCRATES is a Horizon Europe project committed to promoting sustainable soil management practices that enhance soil health, biodiversity, and carbon storage, while supporting farmers and land managers in adapting to climate change.

For more information, visit SOILCRATES.EU.

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