

Save Organics in Soil –



Biological Cycle and Sustainable Agriculture

13th October 2020 | 09:00 am to 10:30 am (CET)

Live webinar

hosted by

MEP Franc Bogovič and MEP Ensi Katainen



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Save Organics in Soil – Biological Cycle and Sustainable Agriculture

Sustainable agriculture relies on **healthy soils** and **nutrient recycling**.

- 12 million hectares of agricultural land suffer from severe erosion
- Annual costs €1.25 billion, equivalent to a loss of crop productivity of around 0.43% every year.¹

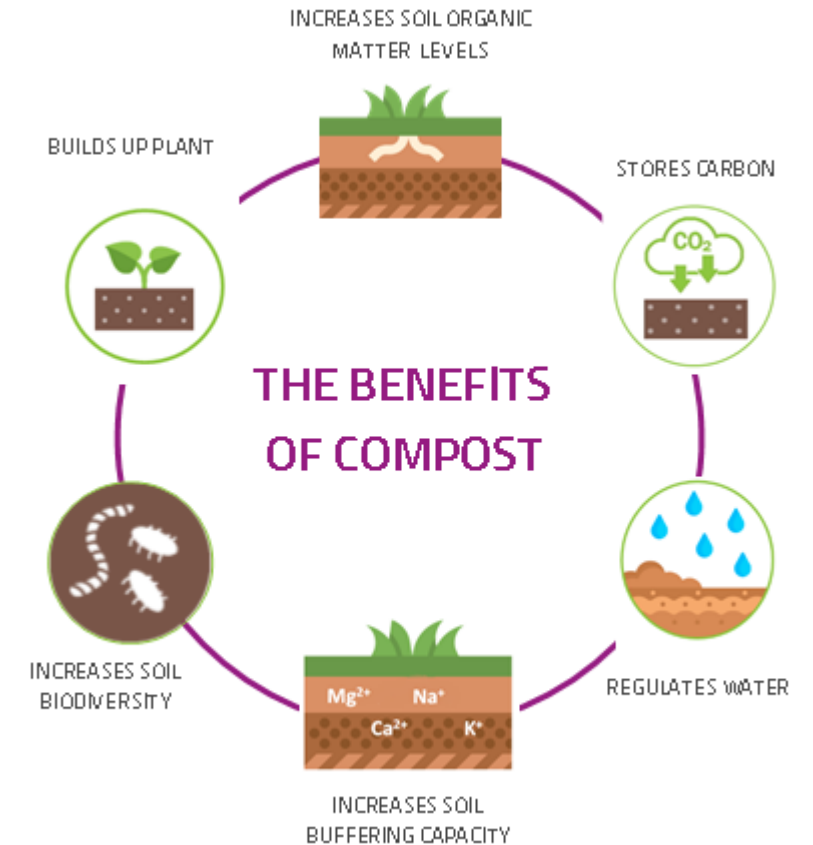
Saving organic carbon in soil plays a key role for

- keeping our soils healthy and productive
- combating against desertification, and
- mitigating climate change.



AGRICULTURAL IMPACT ON SOIL ORGANIC MATTER

- Due to intensive agricultural practices the organic matter content of most Europe's arable soils is decreasing. This has important implications, as these soils:
 - Are less productive;
 - Hold onto less water;
 - Store less carbon and nutrients.
- Sustainable and productive agriculture is therefore dependent upon both adequate levels of soil organic matter and the supply of plant nutrients.
- Recycling of carbon from bio-waste by applying high-quality compost and digestate plays a key role in improving soils and for keeping soils healthy and productive.





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EU Policy Approach

- With the aim of the **European Green Deal** to transform the EU's economy for a sustainable future and the **Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP)** with the goal to reduce resource consumption and to increase the consumption of recycled materials the way is paved for respecting the biological cycle in farming systems.
- The new Commission's **Farm-to-Fork and Biodiversity Strategy** are promising strategies, where the right measures and indicators for healthy soils have to be set.
- The purpose of the event today is to stress the importance to **keep soils healthy** and to show how we can contribute to a more sustainable agriculture.

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moderated by

Kristel Vandebroek

Chair of European Compost Network

09:10 – 09:20 Keynote – MEP Ensi Katainen, AGRI Committee Vice-Chair

09:20 – 09:30 Keynote – MEP Franc Bogovič, AGRI Committee Member



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09:30 – 09:40 Bio-waste and Compost Status Update

Marco Giacomazzi, European Compost Network, Policy Officer

09:40 – 09:55 Outlook of Agricultural Land in Europe

Luca Montanarella, European Commission, Joint Research Center, Senior Expert

09:55 – 10:10 Benefits of Compost and Carbon on Soils

Jane Gilbert, International Solid Waste Association, Senior Expert

10:10 – 10:15 Best Practices from Agriculture in Germany

Farm Peter Zilligens in Bornheim and Reterra Service GmbH, Germany

10:15-10:20 Best Practices from the Winery Sector in Portugal

João Vaconcellos Porto, SOGRAPE VINHOS, Viticulture Director



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10:20 – 10:30 Keynote – Final Comments

Mirco Barbero, European Commission , DG Environment, Head of the Soil Team in Unit ‘Land Use’

10:30 Concluding Remarks of Agricultural Land in Europe

Kristel Vandebroek, European Compost Network, Chair



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Scientific evidence about soil health:

- Soil is a natural carbon sink whose conservation is crucial to mitigate climate change. Unfortunately soil is at risk: **more than 60 %** of European soil is **unhealthy** and **25 % of land** is at High or Very High risk to **desertification**. Challenges and opportunities arise for the next 10 years.

Circular economy can mitigate climate change:

- **Separate collection of bio-waste** will become mandatory in 2023. Separate collection will increase the **quality of up 32 Million tonnes of compost** which can be used to recover soil health, quality and carbon.
- Soil can store up to **3.5 million tonnes a year of CO₂** when compost is regularly applied and other soil management practices are implemented – we have heard about good practices from Portugal and from Germany

What politics could do:

- Politics could set ambitious targets and goals for 2030;
- Politics could recognize good and best practices already applied in Europe and boost their scalability and replicability

Save Organics in Soil – Main Priority Goals



Please sign the
Manifesto here:

<https://www.saveorganicsinsoil.org/>

Encourage policy makers to develop instruments to move Europe towards implementing sustainable, climate-proof land management practices:

- INCREASING **Soil Organic Matter** in arable soils
- ENCOURAGING The use of **recycled nutrients** and a **more efficient management of nutrients on agricultural land.**
- ENSURING That the European Commission adopts a **Soil Framework Directive**
- PROTECTING The existing **stock of carbon in soils**
- MAINTAINING A high level of **organic fertility in soil** by applying **stable organic matter** (e.g. compost) **from biomass** (e.g. bio-waste)
- MINIMIZING **Further losses of carbon from cultivated carbon rich soils**