BOOKLET DESIGNED BY ILVO
Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

SoilValues

TESTING GROUNDS

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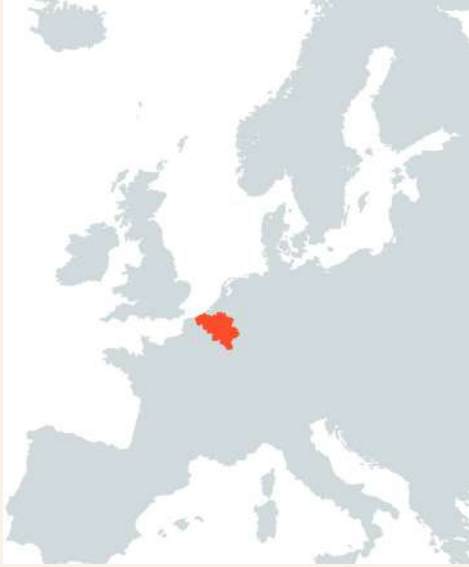
BELGIUM

Composting at regional level in the Groot Saeftinghe area (NL/BE)

This TG aims to create a composting project at regional level which offers farmers an economically and ecologically interesting alternative fertilisation strategy. The TG aims, through the composting project, at a transition towards a more sustainable agriculture, and soil care in particular.



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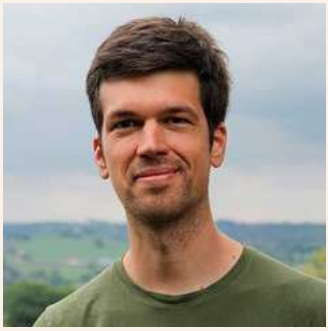


Relevance

Interesting (regional) scale to work with, very clear soil practices and focus on ESS delivered, strong farmer involvement, indirect financial reward, engagement of public institutions through biomass streams and access to public land, actors involved are themselves requesting the development of a business model

Actors

Some organic farmers (ongoing experiments) and the province of Zeeland, regional process facilitators

Farmer involvement

A small number of organic farmers participating in ongoing experiments as well as a handful of conventional farmers within the region who are engaged in conversation on next steps.

Who is rewarded?

Compost application may reduce fertiliser needs and hence the cost of current inputs for regional farmers. It also contributes to soil fertility, structure, water retention capacity... and hence productivity. However, the biomass inputs, composting activities and logistics will involve costs.

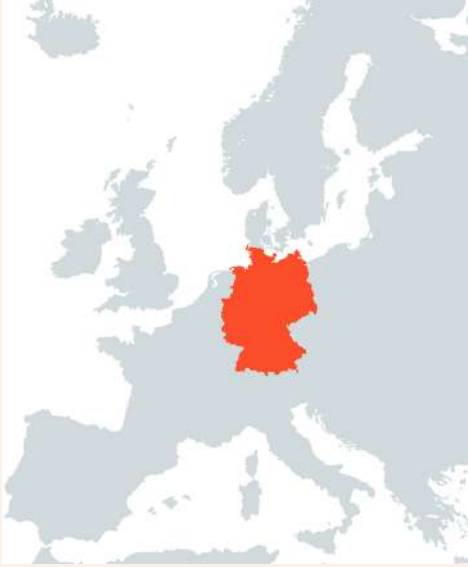
Resources

The composting company involved mobilises own resources for rolling out the necessary infrastructure and for process management. Public institutions are involved for process management, but also for producing, harvesting and storing biomass flows (e.g. through public management of green areas, public land).

GERMANY

Socially accepted value chain for healthy soil management on arable land

The main purpose of this TG is to further develop and analyse a business model with value chain actors and stakeholders that provides a fair and socially accepted price premium for soil health benefits. The purpose of the case(s) initially identified for the testing ground is to provide farmers with a price premium for fulfilling a set of criteria reflecting product quality and sustainability (healthy) soil management.



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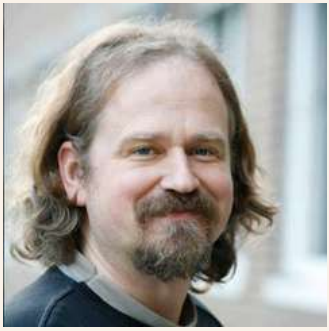


Relevance

High motivation of local actors for engagement in the testing groung with complementary roles and expertise. Embedded in local / regional relevance of sustainable value chains addressing soil management issues, proximity to metropolitan region provides context and opportunities to further analyse social acceptability of business model(s).

Actors

The working group includes a range of value chain stakeholders from farmers to mills. Further stakeholders involved in the initiatives are the Chamber of Agriculture with its local offices and advisory services, farmers union, Raiffeisen-Cooperative, local associations such as the Climate Protection Agency Mittelweser, local authorities and research organisations.

Farmer involvement

Collaboration of farmers with other stakeholders in working group, contractually engaged in contract farming

Who is rewarded?

Price premium paid to farmers, business model must also be economically viable for other value chain actors such as mills.

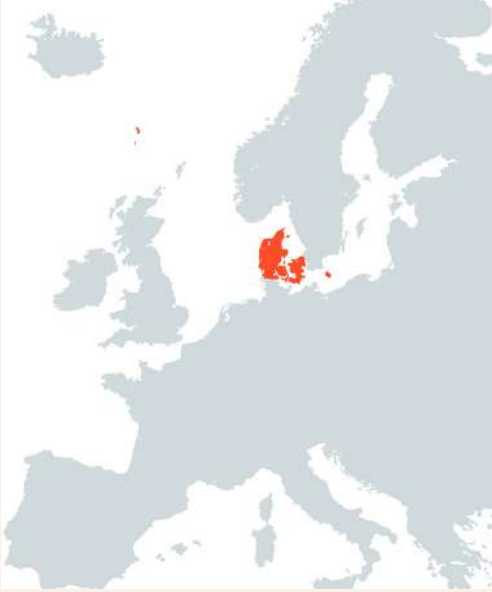
Resources

Farmers are paid through higher price (e.g. through contract farming), society mobilises its members to buy products, mills and other value chain actors.

DENMARK

Mariendal

This TG is based around an initiative near Aarhus that does regenerative farming and has a local communal direct customer-farmer relation. 100 members pay on a yearly basis, to either pick up or harvest vegetables or herbs themselves. The owners of this initiative do the sowing and maintenance (no-till, organic) to prepare for the costumers harvest. Additionally, they sell courses in regenerative farming and host summer events.



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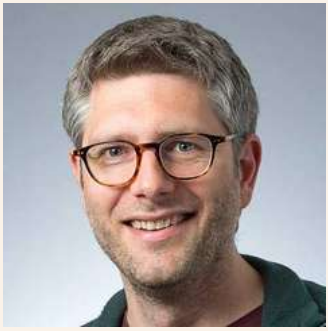

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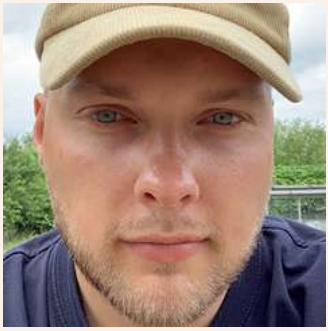


Relevance

The case is relevant, because its main actors, are very much interested in a continous discussion and cooperation with the SV-project. They are good example of a soil-health initiative, that is already exploring business- and marketing models, while still being curious on developing further, so that main actors can live of their practice itself without working two jobs.

Actors

PT (farmer, initiator, owner), PL (marketing driving force, lawyer, Aarhus Business School employee) & a community association supporting the development of Grønne Mariendal-Peters Gartneri.

Farmer involvement

Farmer PT (farming, crop rotation planning, harvesting, teaching course participants)

Who is rewarded?

The FØJS-association and PL are non-paid actors in the initiative, where only PT is involved financially. All the current actors, but especially PT, would profit from a MRV-cooperation with SoilValues, so that he could prove his regenerative practice as beneficial to outsiders, such as funds, customers, public authorities.

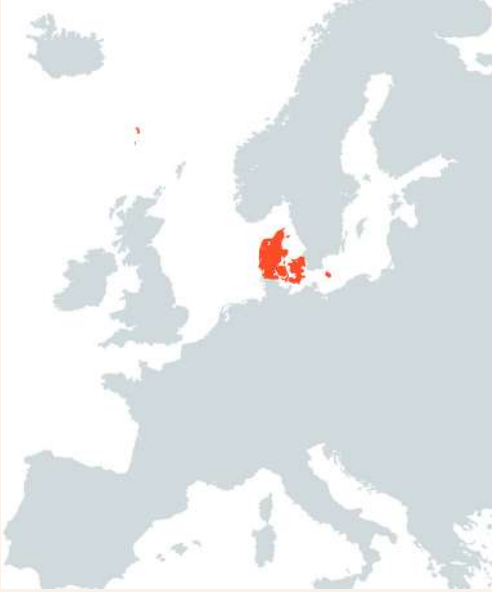
Resources

Partly unpaid labor by PT, who has a part time job on the side. The land is owned by the commune, and is rented on a 10 year basis at the moment.

DENMARK

Hedeskov

This TG originates from the heart of Hedeskov on Djursland where the activities of HCLS (a Danish knowledge and research centre) take place in the organisation's own 150 ha. forest, bog and meadow. The organisation is interested in applying regenerative practices in a broader sense.



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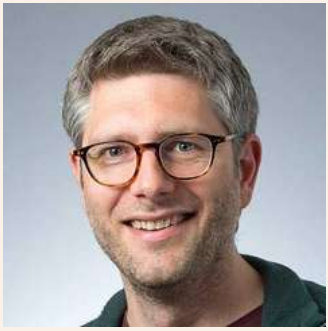

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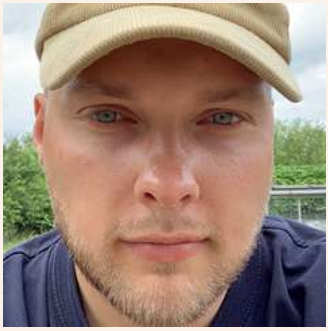


Relevance

To explore value chain actors, it would be a great asset for the project to involve non-farming actors, that are interested in developing and supporting soil care-practices

Actors

Three co-owners and co-founders of the Center. Two of them are partners and have loads of business experience within other sorts of industries.

Farmer involvement

There are currently no farmers involved because the planned regenerative activities do not pertain to agriculture, but rather nature management activities.

Who is rewarded?

Owners are still working and rethinking their business idea

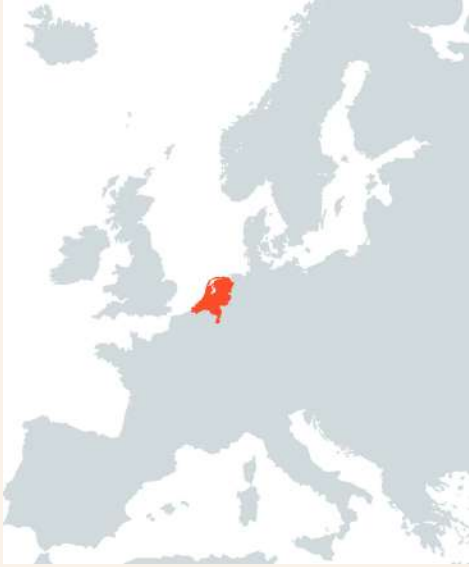
Resources

Investment funds and courses on development of regenerative business ideas

THE NETHERLANDS

Citizens for healthy soils and farms

The purpose of this TG is transforming conventional agricultural land and practices into regenerative farming practices, developing healthy soils and new business models for farmers. Showcasing that social, ecological and economic sustainabililty can be integrated.



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Relevance

It is a holistic approach; inspiring case due to active partcipation of citizen NGO's and challenging to discover whether the regenerative holistic approach is also economically sustainable

Actors

Two NGO's, Several farmers families (more than one family on the Biesterhof), researchers, citizens, conventional farmers in the region, municipalities, city of Nijmegen and city of Apeldoorn and network of regenerative farmers

Farmer involvement

Farmers are the core: they have been selected by the NGO's to run the farm in line with regenerative practices.

Who is rewarded?

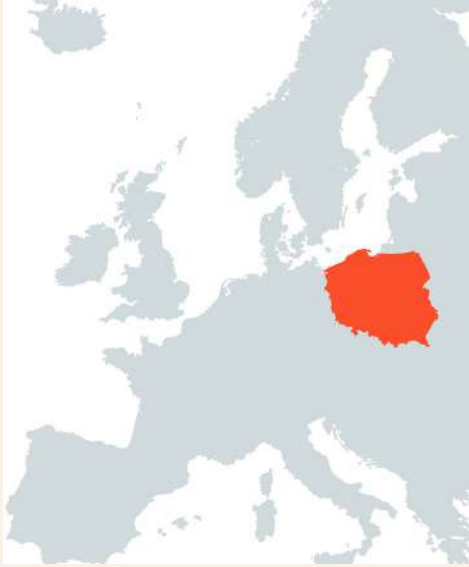
The farmers are supported by the NGO's and their members financially (especially during the first years of tranformation of the farm) and also the community around the farm (volunteers)

Resources

Private money from citizens through NGO's, access to land (NGO buys the land and farm), Also direct financial nvestment of citizens possible

POLAND

Sugar beet farming system



The purpose of this TG is the development of an insetting business model aimed at increasing incentives for regenerative farming practices focusing on improvement of soil quality and achievement of optimal benefits for involved actors in the value chain (e.g., remuneration for farmers, lower costs and positive image for processors).

The common purpose of the stakeholders for further development of the case is improvement of soil quality, quality of products cultivated on such soil, environmental protection (i.e., reducing GHG emissions in sugar beet production).

IRWIR PAN

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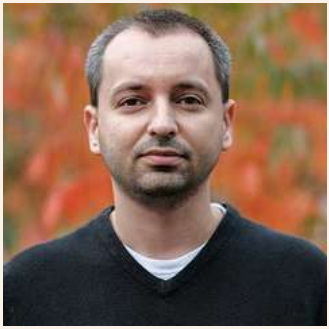

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Relevance

Currently there is no successful soil quality business model established in Poland. However, the case is supported by significant bottom-up model interest from various stakeholders (farmers, private advisory firms, processors) and will help determine how to improve soil-based ecosystem services (SES) generated in Poland.

Actors

The National Union of Sugar Beet Growers (KZPBC) of 20,000 sugar beet producers (about 40 farms designated by the KZPBC union), 4 farmers, 4 sugar corporations, carbon certification company, research institutions

Farmer involvement

Farmers who are part of the KZPBC union are informed about the project and are encouraged to participate.

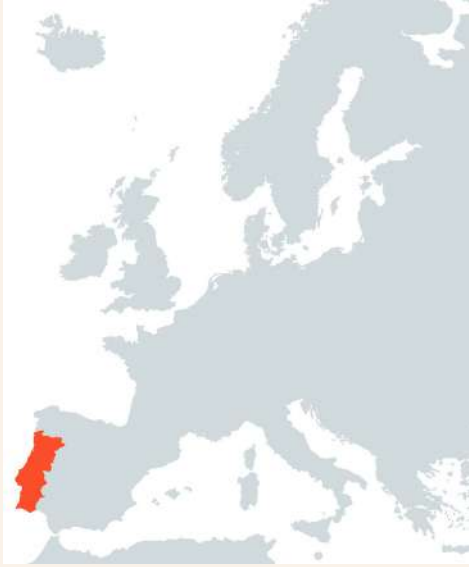
Who is rewarded?

Farmers are rewarded.

Resources

For farms: CAP, own resources, knowledge. Sugar processors: knowledge, know-how. KZPBC union: image-building, price negotiations, agricultural advisory. Farmers will receive money from carbon certificates and will have lower costs and higher profit in the future.

PORTUGAL



Montado system

Development of a model for regenerative soil farming practices, with the option to provide incentives according to objectives, with positive effects not only for the farmer but also for the image of the Montado.

Initially, the focus will be on increasing land cover through grassland management.

The common purpose of the stakeholders for further development of the case is improvement of soil quality, health of the Montado system and environmental protection (i.e., to balance the GHG emissions with grasslands rich in legumes).

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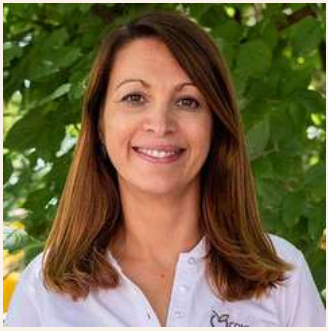

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Relevance

Case study will help to improve the overall condition of the Montado agroforestry system, and diversify the ecosystem services it delivers. It can further lead to establishing a model of regenerative agronomic practices to improve the soil, particularly with the management of grasslands

Actors

Farmer and a company with expertise in grassland management.

Farmer involvement

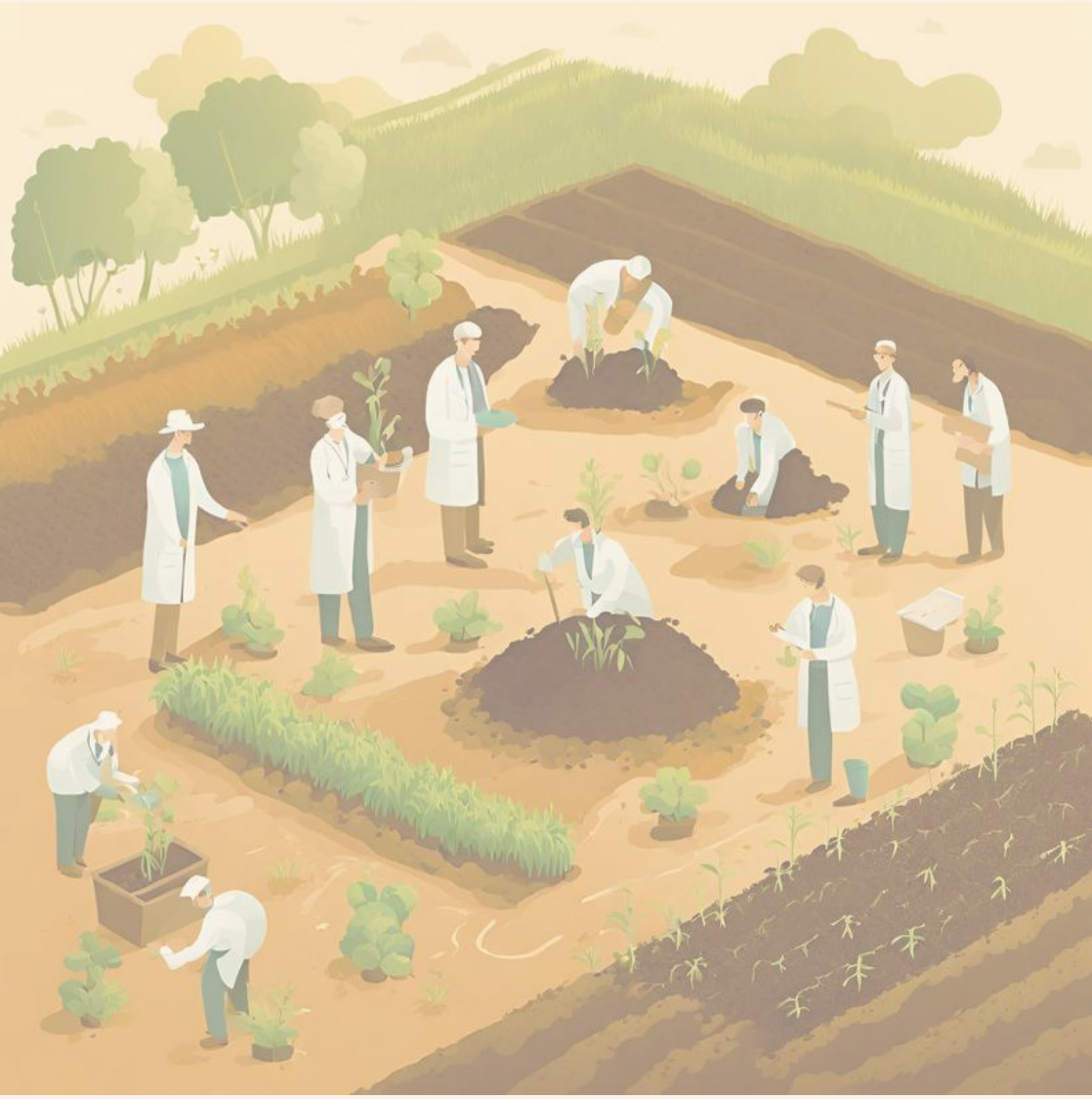
Farmers are involved in all aspects.

Who is rewarded?

Farmer

Resources

Farm: own resources, subsidies, know-how
Grassland management consultants: Know-how



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