

SUMMARY ABOUT THE COST 634 WORKSHOP ON FARM LEVEL ADOPTION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS IN EUROPE

The workshop was organized by Erosion and Soil and Water Conservation Group of Wageningen University at Wageningen International Conference Centre (WICC), Wageningen (The Netherlands), in October 1–3, 2006.

The aim of the workshop was to discuss research methodologies and results on farm level adoption of Soil and Water Conservation (SWC) measures and best practices. The workshop had built upon the outcome of earlier COST 634 conferences, and in particular the one in Mont Saint Aignan on “Soil conservation management, perception and policy”.

The present conference concerned two COST 634 working groups:

- WG 1: Policy issues in the implementation of sustainable land use, and
- WG 2: Sustainable farm-scale management.

The workshop focused on four issues in European agriculture. Under WG2 “Farmer’s perception and adoption behavior with regard to SWC” and “Socio-economic (and physical) factors, affecting adoption of SWC measures”; under WG1 “On- and offsite impact of soil erosion and SWC measures” and “Effects of policy measures (CAP, etc.) on adoption of SWC measures” were discussed.

2nd of October program

Keynote speaker: Lahmar: Adoption of conservation agriculture in Europe

Session 1: Stakeholders perceptions, influencing adoption

1. Ingram: Revealing knowledge of scientists and farmers
2. Schneider: Farmers’ perceptions and reasoning
3. Heitz: Stakeholders’ risk perception muddy flows
4. Sattler: Factors in farmers’ acceptance of SC measures
5. Fry: Social learning processes for SWC

Session 2: Adoption of SWC (Preben Olsen)

6. Wauters: Adoption SWC; Theory planned behaviour
7. Mathieu: Toward the notion of social functioning
8. Meerkerk: Adoption of cover crops
9. Lundekvam: Effects econ. factors on adoption of SWC
10. Spaan: Adoption of SWC measures in Limburg

Poster session

De Lima: Physical factors in adoption

Van Lynden: Mapping the unknown?

Ramos: SWC measures in vineyards & EU policies

Wisniowska: Estimation of fertilizer elements losses

Ronfort: Towards a time and space runoff assessment

Centeri: Reasons for nutrient losses and possible solutions

Jakubiková: Impact of seasonal vegetation development

Bechmann: Estimating uncertainty mitigation phosphorus

3rd of October program – Policies for SWC (WG1)

Keynote speaker: Swerts: SWC Policies in Belgium

Session 3: Impact assessment & tools for SWC policies (John Boardman)

11. Evrard & Liégeois: Integrated management muddy floods
12. Posthumus: CAP reform & runoff from farmland in UK/Wales
13. Ledermann: Ecological, economic & social impacts of SWC
14. Kuhlman: Costs and benefits of soil conservation
15. Martinez Casasnovas: Changes in vineyard cultivation & EU policies

Session 4: EU Policies on SWC (Leo Stroosnijder)

- 16. Schuler: Effects policies on soil erosion, MODAM
- 17. Stolte: Implications EU Soil Strategy for Dutch policy
- 18. Barkarsan & Arnalds: Farmers' role in SC and policies
- 19. de Graaff: Cross-compliance for erosion in olive orchards

At the end of the workshop there were discussions in four groups on:

- a. Research on (increased) adoption of SWC
- b. European Soil Strategy
- c. CAP, Agro-environmental measures and cross-compliance
- d. Reducing off-site effects of erosion

The summary wishes to give an overview of the COST 634 workshop in Wageningen. The titles of the presentations give a good idea about the main scopes of the discussed themes. Altogether 50 participants from 17 countries (Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Poland, The Netherlands, United Kingdom) took part (see example on Figure 1. in the Hungarian summary!) in the work of the workshop.

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