

Initiating agro-ecological transitions: Taking steps toward sustainable resource management to increase economic viability in mid-sized arable grain-protein-oil cropping farms in Hungary

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Authors:

Katalin Balázs, *Geonardo Ltd*

Alfréd Szilágyi, *Geonardo Ltd.*

László Podmaniczky, *Geonardo Ltd.*

Abstract

Biophysical conditions for crop production in Hungary are generally considered to be good. However, extreme weather events, water shortage during the growing season, climate adaptation and, in particular, deterioration of soils poses increasing environmental challenges to farmers.

In Hungary the deterioration of soils is an outstanding environmental challenge, therefore adopting soil conservation farming practices are considered as a first step for market oriented arable farming systems towards transition to agro-ecological farming systems.

We mapped stakeholders and assessed the context of information, material- and knowledge flows, as well as the practice and policy aspects of soil conservation farming. As a result of the multi-actor platform stakeholder engagements first steps have been taken in collecting views on the barriers and needs for change to promote the transition of soil conservation farming practices.

Innovative design changes to existing rural development measures have the potential to successfully promote transitions to soil conservation farming if accompanied by measures of research and advisory development, raising public awareness and demand for crops produced this way.

The EU the environmental and climatic expectations are expected to increase in the next cycle of the CAP, therefore the topic of soil conservation farming is justified to be a priority and requires to get prepared for the development of appropriate interventions in the national CAP Strategic Plan.

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