

Intervenção 4 per 1000 MA 4 dezembro

- Soil is the basis for the production of food, for the conservation of biodiversity and for the regulation of the many the ecosystem services. These functions depend on its fertility, physical, chemical and biological well being.
- The health of the soil makes a huge impact on the health of plants, animals and humans. Mostly through the food we ingest, but also much more. In the context of the pandemic we live in today, further attention has been afforded to a healthy, balanced and sustainable food supply.
- Portugal, atlantic by nature, mediterranean in climate, agriculture and culture, has very reduced medium levels of organic carbon in the soil.
- We are especially prone to factors that affect land productivity, soil vulnerability to erosion and desertification, as well as water availability, mainly during the warm and dry summer.
- These factors will aggravate strongly with climate change, and are a challenge to our agricultural goals, be it in the reduction on foreign dependency on cereals or the recovery of soils and mitigation of the effects of global warming.
- Portugal has made a strong effort in improving irrigation, investing in mediterranean cultures like wine, olives, fruits and vegetables, modernizing and implementing more sustainable means of production and more efficient and ecological practices, thus improving our agrifood trade balance.
- Portugal has committed to achieving carbon neutrality in the next thirty years, and the fight against climate change is one of the pillars of our Government's program.
- The challenge to agriculture is immense, but we have a clear and defined path, to implement actions conducing to the increase of soil organic matter.
- This path is well expressed in our Agenda for Innovation in Agriculture twenty thirty, which we have called Future Earth.
- Future Earth has a great focus in soil organic matter and the questions related to food and nutritional safety, mitigation and adaptation to climate change and land sustainability.
- The future we are building is challenging, demanding in knowledge and governance and it is going face strong resistance. But this is an imperative. Not only for future generations, but as well as our collective well being as a society.