

International Federation
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EU Regional Group

PRESS RELEASE

CLIMATE-FRIENDLY FARMING DEMONSTRATES ITS BENEFITS FOR FARMERS AND FOR THE ENVIRONMENT– END OF FIVE-YEAR LONG SOLMACC PROJECT

BRUSSELS, 31 AUGUST 2018 – Agriculture can tackle climate change, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and remain economically viable, conclude organic farmers involved in a five year European project. The SOLMACC project’s demonstration farms in Sweden, Germany and Italy showed that many different options exist to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on the farm-level, while at the same time contributing to farmers’ adaptation capacity and economic stability. Tereza Maarova, SOLMACC project coordinator, added that “the practices available depend on the farm structure, but also on the production system, soil type, climatic context and on the financial capacity of each farmer. The future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has a key role to play in supporting farmers to tackle climate change and provide public goods, such as clean water, with the help of public money.”

“Agriculture must be part of the effort to meet the Paris Agreement objectives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and it urgently needs to transition to more resilient farming systems to adapt to the rapidly changing climatic conditions. SOLMACC showed the wealth of technical knowledge and good will that exist among farmers and advisors and that can be put to good use to bring the food and farming sector up to the challenge of climate change, provided farmers are made aware of the benefits for their farms and the right policy incentives are in place”, concluded Tereza Maarova, SOLMACC project coordinator.

The five year European project funded through the EU LIFE programme, SOLMACC comes to an end after successfully demonstrating that climate-friendly farming can bring a myriad of benefits while being economically viable to the farmer. The climate-friendly farming practices implemented within SOLMACC fell under four main categories: nutrient management, crop rotation, tillage management, and agroforestry. These practices are already quite common within organic farming but the project aimed to spread them wider and developed a [practical manual](#) detailing the implementation of the practices and [videos](#) showcasing farmers themselves. By engaging a variety of farmers working on various production types in different climatic conditions, but also students and advisors, through the project’s activities, it was possible to inspire a greater uptake of climate-friendly farming, which will contribute to achieving the EU’s long-term objectives on climate change.

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Notes for editors:

IFOAM EU is the day-to-day coordinator of the project SOLMACC (Strategies for Organic and Low-Input Farming to Mitigate and Adapt to Climate Change) and involves 7 other partners from Sweden, Germany and Italy. SOLMACC started in September 2013 and has been running until 31st August 2018.

The project is co-financed by LIFE financial instrument of the European Union that supports environmental, nature conservation and climate action projects throughout the EU. The project also received funding from the Ekhaga foundation based in Sweden and the Mercator Foundation based in Switzerland. The remaining funding came from the partners.

SOLMACC partners include: IFOAM EU (Belgium), Ekologiska Lantbrukarna (Sweden), FiBL DE (Germany), AIAB (Italy), Bioland Beratung (Germany), Bioland Landesverband Nordrhein-Westfalen (Germany), Bioland e.V. (Germany) and Bioland Erzeugerring Bayern (Germany).

Links:

SOLMACC website: www.solmacc.eu



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IFOAM EU represents more than 190 member organisations in the EU-28, the EU accession countries and EFTA. Member organisations span the entire organic food chain and beyond: from farmers and processors organisations, retailers, certifiers, consultants, traders and researchers to environmental and consumer advocacy bodies.