

Welcome to this new edition of ECAF's newsletter. In this opportunity, we share a brief overview of the recent activities carried out by our member organizations throughout 2024 and the first quarter of 2025. From field demonstrations to scientific contributions, our network continues promoting Conservation Agriculture across Europe. Thank you for being part of this shared commitment to sustainable land management!

ECAF ACTIVITIES  
RELEVANT NEWS FROM Q1 2025



Country	Location	Date
Italy	Manfredonia	6/05/2025
Greece	Larisa	22/05/2025
Portugal	Golega	17/06/2025



LIFE INNOCEREAL PROJECT

The Life Innocereal Project continues to develop its activities. The ECAF Team and members of the University of Cordoba have visited the European replication farm network to monitor the participating fields and exchange impressions with the farmers to ensure the proper implementation of project activities.

In the framework of the Project activities, a field day will be held in each of the countries during May and June 2025, to promote sustainable cereal production based on the principles of Conservation Agriculture, among the involved actors in the cereal production chain (farmers, policy makers, industry, etc).

C-FARMING  
CARBON FARMING ALLIANCE PROJECT

As coordinator of the C-Farming project, ECAF has led its launch. In March, the first transnational meeting of the project took place in Thessaloniki (Greece), where the foundations were laid to ensure the proper functioning of the project.



CREDIBLE  
EU carbon farming  
CREDIBLE PROJECT

During the first week of March, the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Carbon Farming Summit took place in Dublin. ECAF led one of the sessions to highlight the most appropriate practices for carbon sequestration and the reduction of GHG emissions, and to ensure their long-term sustainability.



TRAILS4SOIL

The TRAILS4SOIL project, coordinated by ETSIAM-University of Cordoba (Spain) with four members of the European Conservation Agriculture Federation (ECAF) and ECAF itself as partners, has been granted by the European Commission under the 2025 Soil Mission call. It aims to drive the transition towards resilient, sustainable, and climate-smart agricultural systems by co-creating and scaling regenerative and conservation agriculture practices (ReCAP) across five Living Labs in diverse European agroecosystems. Through a multi-actor, participatory approach, TRAILS4SOIL will engage stakeholders to identify barriers to sustainable soil management (SSM) adoption and develop pathways that integrate economic, policy, technical, and social measures, ultimately advancing the EU Soil Mission's objectives.



FORENINGEN FOR  
REDUCERET  
JORDBEARBEJDNIN  
G I DANMARK  
(FRDK) DENMARK



SUMMARY OF 2024 ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2024, FRDK celebrated its 25th anniversary with a special event attended by 350 guests. We also held two field meetings for members and interested farmers, featuring demonstrations on cover crops and biostimulants, with over 600 participants.

FRDK was present at multiple farm shows and maintained high visibility in the media, appearing in agricultural outlets almost every other day. We also concluded the eight-year Carbon Farm project, which explored various farming systems, including Conservation Agriculture.

On the policy side, FRDK participated in a Danish government expert committee on reducing agriculture's carbon and nitrogen footprints and contributed to a think tank workshop helping define regenerative agriculture nationally.

RELEVANT NEWS FROM Q1 2025

In 2025, FRDK established a new test centre for regenerative agriculture in partnership with Carlsberg. We also launched the project "Towards Less Input of Pesticides and Fertilisers," which includes testing a new multi-species crop and creating a farmer group to exchange knowledge and experiences on regenerative practices.

At our Annual General Assembly, we were honoured to host Professor Stuart Smyth from the University of Saskatchewan as the keynote speaker, who delivered a thought-provoking talk on agricultural sustainability. He also met with FRDK and Aarhus University during his visit to foster further collaboration.





2024



SUMMARY OF 2024 ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2024, Conservation Agriculture (CA) strengthened its role within the CAP eco-schemes, with 2.34 million hectares of woody crops under cover crops and 1.4 million hectares under no-tillage, representing approximately €751.3 million in subsidies.

Through our agreement with the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, we held 3 webinars, 4 training courses and 4 field days, gathering a total of 1,470 participants. These sessions helped capture farmers' and advisors' perceptions, highlighting the early benefits of CA, the need for training, tailored guidance, and appropriate tools.

The LIFE Agromitiga project concluded this year, confirming the role of CA as a carbon sink in both herbaceous and woody crops. The project provides valuable data for positioning CA in emerging EU carbon markets. It was awarded the 2024 Sustainability Award by the Andalusian Regional Government and the Best R&D&I Agri-food Project Award by Fundación Caja Rural del Sur.

We also took part in the 9th World Congress on Conservation Agriculture, held in Johannesburg (South Africa), contributing with two oral presentations and several scientific posters, reinforcing our international presence.

We continued our involvement in the LIFE Innocereal project, monitoring the third agricultural season of its demonstration farm network, and led two operational groups: Girasoil and Sembrando Biodiversidad.



ASOCIACIÓN  
ESPAÑOLA DE  
AGRICULTURA DE  
CONSERVACIÓN.  
SUELOS VIVOS  
(AEAC.SV) SPAIN



2025



RELEVANT NEWS FROM Q1 2025

In 2025, we continue implementing activities under our agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, with 3 new training courses and the launch of an online course on cover crops via our web platform. We are currently in discussions for a second phase of the agreement, which will include additional training actions and the development of a mobile app using artificial intelligence to support farmers in adopting Conservation Agriculture practices.

A major achievement this year is the selection of the TRAIL4SOIL project—where AEACSV is a core partner—for funding under the Horizon Europe programme.



NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION: HACA –  
HELLENIC  
ASSOCIATION FOR  
THE PROMOTION OF  
CONSERVATION  
AGRICULTURE – HACA



SUMMARY OF 2024 ACHIEVEMENTS

Promoting Conservation Agriculture (CA) in Greece through HACA during 2024 was intensive and continuous. HACA was invited to an event on Conservation Agriculture organised by the “ELGO Dimitra” Research Institute during the “Agrotica” exhibition in Thessaloniki, the largest agricultural fair in the Balkans. Dr Chris Cavalaris delivered a speech on the costs and benefits of CA for Greek farmers, generating strong interest among a wide audience of farmers, stakeholders, and invited policymakers.

Dr Cavalaris was also invited to participate in a live Web TV agricultural show to discuss farmers' perspectives on adopting CA. Additionally, HACA members met with the Hellenic Crop Protection Association to share information on plant protection within CA practices.

An article by Dr Cavalaris was published in the agricultural newspaper “Ypaithros Hora,” offering guidance on fertiliser application in CA cereal production. HACA also participated in a panel discussion on regenerative agriculture and climate change during the AgoWN conference in western Greece.

These actions helped raise general awareness and led four new farmers to invest in no-till seeders. HACA also participated in two projects: LIFE InnoCereal (via ECAF) and PreConAgri, a national initiative promoting the combined benefits of Precision and Conservation Agriculture.

RELEVANT NEWS FROM Q1 2025

In 2025 we have established a new test center for regenerative agriculture with Carlsberg. We have also started the regenerative project “Towards less input of pesticides and fertilizers”. We test a new crop with multiple species and we have established a group of farmers, who will share knowledge and information on the subject. At our annual general assembly we had professor Stuart Smyth as key note speaker from University of Saskatchewan to talk about sustainability in agriculture. Stuart Smyth and FRDK also visited Aarhus University.



2024



SUMMARY OF 2024 ACHIEVEMENTS

During 2024, several events were held for the dissemination of Conservation Agriculture in Italy in the context of the measures envisaged by the CAP 2023-2027, including the refresher seminar on Ecoschemes at the International Agricultural Fair in Verona on 31 January; the report at the APIMA assembly in Recanati on 11 May; participation in the Round Table entitled "Scientific and political perspectives for Carbon Farming" within the 53rd Annual Conference of the Italian Society of Agronomy, Matera, 11 September; the report at the International Conference Regenerative agriculture. An innovative approach towards mitigation of climate change through multi-tier learning (REGINA) Győr, Egyetem tér 1, 9026 Hungary, 3rd October.



ASSOCIAZIONE ITALIANA PER  
LA GESTIONE AGRONOMICA E  
CONSERVATIVA DEL SUOLO  
(A.I.G.A.CO.S.) ITALY



2025



RELEVANT NEWS FROM Q1 2025

The activities planned in two demonstration farms in the framework of the Project Life Innocereal, in preparation for the field day that will take place in Q2 2025.





NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION: APOSOLO



SUMMARY OF 2024 ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2024, APOSOLO – the Portuguese Association for Soil Conservation Tillage – actively promoted Conservation Agriculture (CA) in Portugal by organising or co-organising several key initiatives. As part of the CAMA Project (Research-based participatory approaches for adopting Conservation Agriculture in the Mediterranean Area), APOSOLO hosted the final workshop in collaboration with INIAV (National Institute of Agricultural and Veterinary Research) and a participating farmer, who shared firsthand experiences of implementing CA practices on their farm.

Within the framework of the CONSOLO Project (Soil Conservation), APOSOLO facilitated a Focus Group on Conservation Agriculture in Annual Crops and a dedicated Conference on CA, which featured sessions on Expedited Soil Evaluation and Experimental Projects. Gottlieb Basch and Julio Román Vásquez from ECAF contributed as keynote speakers at the conference.

In addition, as part of the TomAC Project (Conservation Agriculture in Processing Tomato Cultivation), APOSOLO organised a field day to demonstrate the potential of CA approaches in tomato crops for the processing industry.

Throughout the year, APOSOLO also published and distributed six newsletters via email, sharing relevant updates and developments in Conservation Agriculture with its network.



RELEVANT NEWS FROM Q1 2025

The CONSOLO – Soil Conservation Project – was successfully concluded in early 2025 by producing three technical manuals on key aspects of Conservation Agriculture. The manuals cover the following topics: Groundcovers and Cover Crops in Permanent Crops; Permanent and Temporary Pastures, including pastures under forest cover; and Machinery and Equipment for Conservation Agriculture in Annual Crops.

These publications aim to support the wider adoption of CA practices in Portugal by providing practical, research-based guidance to farmers and technicians.




SUMMARY OF 2024 ACHIEVEMENTS

**Resource Project "Relay Cropping" (Staffelkulturen – StaK)**  
SWISS NO-TILL is pleased to lead the Resource Project "Relay Cropping" (StaK), which aims to experiment with an innovative agricultural technique that optimizes the use of natural resources and improves farm profitability. This approach involves cultivating two main crops on the same plot with staggered sowing and harvesting periods, enhancing nutrient and water efficiency while reducing the use of plant protection products. After the successful autumn sowings in 2024, despite challenging weather conditions, the focus is now on spring sowing to continue large-scale trials on 30 farms across Switzerland.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION:  
SWISS NO-TILL





RELEVANT NEWS FROM Q1 2025

**Event: Soil Evolution 2026**  
Furthermore, we are actively preparing for the Soil Evolution 2026 event, which will take place from June 2 to 4, 2026, in Gurten, Switzerland. This major international gathering will bring together farmers, scientists, and experts to discuss the challenges of soil fertility and conservation. Through conferences, hands-on workshops, and interactions with specialized exhibitors, Soil Evolution 2026 will provide a unique opportunity to deepen knowledge of conservation agriculture and explore innovative solutions for sustainable soil management.

Finally, this year marks the 30th anniversary of SWISS NO-TILL! To celebrate this milestone, a special event will be held on September 5, 2025.



NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION: PRO  
COOPERARE  
REGIONALA  
(PROCORE) MOLDOVA



SUMMARY OF 2024 ACHIEVEMENTS

Main initiatives in Moldova have focused on improving agricultural practices, strengthening community engagement, and building farmers' capacities. Through the distribution of inputs and establishing Farmer Field School (FFS) groups, the intervention has contributed to increased productivity, resilience, and food security.

Key achievements include creating five FFS groups for livestock producers, organising 50 activities and 5 field experiments, and developing one informational guide. A total of 78 farmers participated in FFS activities, and 9 exchange visits were facilitated among group members.

To promote Conservation Agriculture (CA), a study tour was organised for farmers from Edineț to observe long-term CA implementation on two local farms. Participants saw firsthand the benefits of CA—such as improved soil structure, water retention, and reduced erosion—by comparing CA-managed plots with conventionally tilled fields. Practices like minimal soil disturbance, permanent soil cover, and crop rotation were demonstrated as key to maintaining soil fertility, lowering input costs, and enhancing resilience to climate change.

In addition, a workshop at the National Centre for Seed Research and Production "Selectia" provided participants with expert insights from Dr. Boris Boincean on how CA can support dairy farming. He explained how sustainable soil management leads to better forage quality, improved milk yields, and stronger herd health, aligning CA with climate-smart agricultural practices.

RELEVANT NEWS FROM Q1 2025

Between January and March, a series of activities were implemented with the following results: Small equipment was provided to selected farmers to support the demonstration of solutions to identified challenges and opportunities. ProCoRe staff managed all logistical arrangements, coordinated meetings with farmers, and facilitated the delivery of the equipment.

Two Farmer Field School (FFS) exchange visits were organised, involving 15 participants. These included a study tour to the National Centre for Seed Production and Research to learn about Conservation Agriculture principles, and a visit to the didactic dairy farm of the Technical University of Chisinau for practical insights into sustainable livestock farming.







2024



2025



SUMMARY OF 2024 ACHIEVEMENTS

In July, BASE Ireland held its second successful Soil Dependence event, where the Soil Farmer of the Year award was presented to the well-deserving Tommy Tierney from County Tipperary. Throughout the year, BASE members contributed to several events, including BioFarm, the Dairygold Annual Tillage Conference, and the SECAD Partnership.

Membership continued to grow in 2024, expanding both geographically and across farming sectors. Notably, five out of twelve participating farmers were partners in the DANU EIP project over the past five years, which published its final results in 2024. BASE Ireland also submitted its own EIP application and was successfully accepted into Phase 1 in December.

In addition, BASE member Peter Murphy completed a three-year research project focused on reducing the carbon and ammonia footprints of loCAM dairy farms, in partnership with PhD student Emma Buckley and Teagasc Signpost.

RELEVANT NEWS FROM Q1 2025

2025 began with our Annual General Meeting, featuring guest speaker Andy Howard. January and February were primarily dedicated to preparing and submitting Phase 2 of our EIP proposal. In parallel, we hosted several Zoom meetings with guest speakers, continuing our efforts to share knowledge and engage members.

Looking ahead, we are now focused on delivering a bigger and better Soil Dependence event in 2025. Additionally, the EIP submission process has helped us establish valuable new connections, opening up opportunities for future research collaborations and partnerships.



CONSERVATION  
AGRICULTURE  
IRELAND  
(CA-IRELAND)



SUMMARY OF 2024 ACHIEVEMENTS

During the winter of 2024/25, ten webinars were organised for members, covering diverse topics related to soil health and Conservation Agriculture. Among the key projects presented was Soil Evolution, along with Boden.Pioniere, a project aligned with the TRAILS4SOIL concept, focused on soil innovation and farmer engagement. The Vielfaltsaaten project, led by BOKU, explored the impact of companion crops in wheat and other cereals.

The EIP Boden.Biodiversität project concluded with compelling findings: no-till and Conservation Agriculture practices foster greater soil biodiversity, including bacteria, fungi, and earthworms, compared to conventional tillage. Year three of the no-till trials brought some challenges, including increased snail activity, low soil temperatures, and disruptions in the nitrogen cycle, which led to around 40% lower yields in sugar beets under no-till conditions.

New initiatives launched during this period include MetaSoil, which applies DNA screening to compare microbial diversity in no-till and tilled soils, and FlowerPower, which investigates the effects of flower strips on biodiversity in arable regions. Additionally, two long-term trials have been established to assess the performance of no-till versus tillage systems under both wet and dry conditions.

RELEVANT NEWS FROM Q1 2025

In 2025 we have established a new test center for regenerative agriculture with Carlsberg. We have also started the regenerative project "Towards less input of pesticides and fertilizers". Ee test a new crop with multiple species and we have established a group of farmes, who will share knowledge and information on the subject. At our annual general assembly we had professor Stuart Smyth as key note speaker from University of Saskatchewan to talk about sustainability in agriculture. Stuart Smyth and FRDK also visited Aarhus University.



NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION:  
BODEN, LEBEN –  
VEREIN FÜR  
KLIMAANGEPASSTE  
UND AUFBAUENDE  
LANDWIRTSCHAFT



2024



2025



SUMMARY OF 2024 ACHIEVEMENTS

In addition to our field activities (Conservation Agriculture in sugar beets, cover crop management, intercropping, etc.), Greenotec organized around twenty field tours and took part in 21 conferences aimed at farmers. The team also participated in about ten film debate evenings to raise public awareness about agroecology.

Our proudest achievement in 2024 is without a doubt the Festival of Agroecology and Conservation Agriculture (FA°C), which took place on June 19 and 20 in Fexhe-le-Haut-Clocher. We look forward to seeing you at the next edition in June 2026!

RELEVANT NEWS FROM Q1 2025

On February 20th, Greenotec held its General Assembly. We invited Damien Brun and Jérôme Labreuche from the Arvalis Institute to talk about alternatives to glyphosate. Videos of their presentation are available on our [YouTube channel](#).



NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION:  
GREENOTEC (BELGIUM  
FRENCH SPEAKING)



ASSOCIATION OF  
BULGARIAN NO-  
TILLERS



SUMMARY OF 2024 ACHIEVEMENTS

In March, ABNT hosted ECAF's General Assembly in Plovdiv, welcoming delegates from six European countries and organising field visits to no-till farms in southern Bulgaria. That same month, a two-day training on no-till, conservation, and regenerative farming was held in Plovdiv, including a field visit to Dolnoslav (Asenovgrad), as part of the "Scale-Up Regenerative Agriculture" programme (EIT Food, 2022–2024). ABNT continues to support farmers through on-farm advisory services and personalised consultancy throughout the year.

In October, ABNT presented field-proven results of soil restoration during an event at the National Agricultural Advisory Service (NAAS) in Sofia, attended by farmers, researchers, and public institutions.

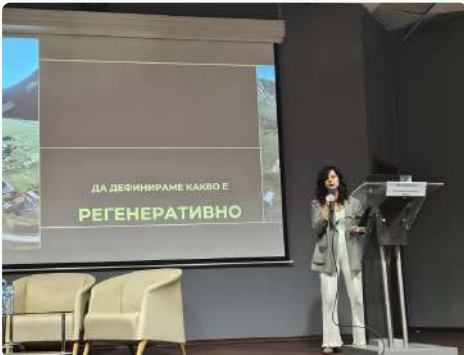
In November, ABNT organised a field day for students from the Agricultural High School "Kl. Ark. Timiryazev" in Kavarna, held at a no-till farm in Durankulak. That month, ABNT chairman A. Kitev also lectured at a farmers' training in Novi Sad, Serbia, hosted by Danube Soya under the same EIT Food programme.

On December 5th, World Soil Day, ABNT held a public event in Sofia to promote the benefits of conservation and regenerative agriculture for soil health, water management, and food quality. The event brought together farmers, NGOs, institutions, media, and the general public.

RELEVANT NEWS FROM Q1 2025

In the first quarter of 2025, ABNT focused on the upcoming National Programme for project funding and successfully developed three large-scale national projects involving multiple stakeholders. These initiatives aim to test and validate systems of Conservation and Regenerative Agriculture, with a special focus on soil moisture, pest and disease management, and weed control in no-till systems. The projects will strengthen collaboration between science and practice and support disseminating effective agricultural practices.

Additionally, ABNT was selected as a winner of the 2025 "Scale-Up Regenerative Agriculture" open call by EIT Food for Central and Eastern Europe. The application received the highest possible score from three independent external evaluators. As part of this programme, ABNT will continue delivering farmer training, advisory services, and public outreach activities throughout 2025.



Nurturing soil,  
sustaining life for 25 years

