

Nurturing Soil, Sustaining Life for 25 Years



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Dear Friends and

January 30, 2025

N. 2025 - I

As we embark on a new year filled with opportunities and challenges, we are excited to share our 2024 main activities and achievements. At ECAF, we remain committed

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Partners...

to promoting Conservation Agriculture across Europe and beyond, ensuring sustainable farming practices for a healthier planet. **FUNDRAISING**

2024 marked ECAF's

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF ECAF



On February 24, participation in the

25th anniversary! We have reached a milestone

Highlights include:

of 25 years serving farmers, enhancing agricultural soil health, ecosystems, and ecosystem services.

25th anniversary event of GKB, where a talk was delivered on "Soil Protection from a European Point of View: What Has Happened Over the Past 25 Years."

achievements of ECAF over the last 25 years were remembered.

the Soil Evolution Event held in Austria, where key

On June 4th, a special session took place at



INTERNATIONAL EVENT PARTICIPATION ECAF's active engagement in global *fora* underscores our leadership in Conservation Agriculture:

If we unite in seeking funding sources for our network, we can

achieve a greater impact in advancing sustainable agriculture and soil health across Europe.

ECAF has participated in the development of seven proposals for various calls: Soil Mission (3), Farm2Fork (1), Governance (1), Erasmus Plus (1), and Life (1). Out of these proposals, two has been approved, four have been rejected and one is still under evaluation. Additionally, three National Associations are part of the projects' consortia: GKB (2), SZOK (2), and AEAC (1).

Soil Mission



Conservation Agriculture Across Europe. Life Life Mitiga Model: New Local

governance models

CarbonSense Approved and harmonized frameworks to bridge the gap between carbon

farming and climate action. Farm2Fork



regenerative practices in Living Labs. Governance OASIS:

Erasmus C-Farming: Carbon

for climate change Bio-Digital Integrations to mitigation through Minimise Environmental extensive livestock Impacts of Food Waste farming. from Farm to Table.

Approved evaluation

FEPASIDIA Direct Seeding National Meeting -2nd World Meeting on Direct Seeding System July 31 - August 2, Caaguazú, Paraguay

in Europe.

and Latin America in advancing Conservation Agriculture. ECAF showcased

facilitating knowledge exchange with stakeholders across both regions.

European experiences, promoting best practices in sustainable farming while

including visual soil

analysis, aggregate

highlighting their

soil health.

stability tests, and water

infiltration assessments,

significance in enhancing

Rejected

ECAF, represented by Gottlieb Basch, actively contributed to

discussions on key aspects of carbon removals, including methodologies for certification, verification protocols, registry These significant events underscored the shared commitment between Europe

Cape Town, South Africa, July 22-26 Members of the Congress Secretariat

It Take to Embrace Conservation Agriculture? by Gottlieb Basch. • Conservation Agriculture: The Universal Paradigm of Sustainable Agriculture by Gottlieb Basch on behalf of Amir Kassam.

Lectures:

- Participation in panel discussions: crop/livestock Conservation Agriculture systems session and
- moderated the Examples of successful Conservation Agriculture adoption and scaling out/up panel. • Gottlieb Basch participated in *The future of Conservation* Agriculture panel discussion and moderated the Mainstreaming of Conservation Agriculture Posters:

Mainstreaming of Conservation Agriculture panel and

- Woman and Conservation Agriculture: A Win-Win Relationship by Beatriz Agüera.



the creation of new operational groups. Detailed publications and resources can be accessed at: EU CAP Network.

STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

ECAF continues to expand its global network through meaningful partnerships:

Eco0Waste: Transforming Food Supply Chains and Logistics Ecosystems through Thematic network on oilseeds setting the

Farming stepping stone for Alliance. farmers' lighthouses

32nd AAPRESID Annual Congress

August 7-9, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Agricultural Machinery Industry), had the pleasure of organizing our Annual Farm Experience at Beenshoeve Farm in Tienen,

Down to Earth Event (second edition)

September 26, Brussels, Belgium

On September 26, ECAF, in

Bayer and CEMA (European

Belgium. This year's theme,

collaboration with our partners

"Down to Earth! Getting the Facts Straight on Soil Health in Agriculture," sparked meaningful discussions about how sustainable soil management practices can lead to a more resilient agricultural future. The ECAF station featured practical demonstrations of soil assessment techniques,

> understand soil health

Bologna, Italy, November 9

Málaga, Spain, November 26-28

From November 26-28, 2024, ECAF

participated in Expoagritech 4.0, a

Expoagritech 4.0

Signing Memoranda of Understanding (MoU)

with CAAPAS (American Confederation of

Associations in Sustainable Agriculture), strengthening transatlantic cooperation to promote Conservation Agriculture and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and practices between Europe and the Americas.

Gottlieb Basch's participation in the session on "Biodiversity and regenerative" agriculture: impact and relevance for farming" with the lecture "Moving towards the

preservation and improvement of biodiversity in agricultural ecosystems".



Julio Román represented ECAF in the inaugural session, delivering a keynote on "Carbon Farming and Carbon

Markets." Additionally, he conducted a workshop-presentation focusing on

On November 11, ECAF and the Food and

Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

premier agriculture fair in Málaga, Spain.

practical soil health improvement practices, engaging a wide audience of stakeholders and practitioners.



Food and Agriculture

Organization of the

United Nations

(FAO) signed a Memoranda of Understanding Today, @FAO strengthened its collaboration w/ the European (MoU) to join forces to advance Conservation Conservation Agriculture Federation - @ecaf_ca. Agriculture worldwide. This MoU signifies a Through this agreement we'll join forces to: commitment to collaborate for the next 5 years. scale up sustainable agriculture practices



- boost soil health

- reduce carbon emissions

enhance agricultural productivity

Hosting a Moldovan Delegation in Córdoba,



The workshop brought together 32 participants representing 8 projects from diverse European programmes (LIFE, PRIMA, Horizon). Presentations highlighted each project's key outcomes, followed by working sessions addressing future research needs and

challenges in the agricultural sector. This initiative

contributing to more impactful actions to combat climate

The Smart Carbon Farming Conference convoked farmers, policymakers, universities, research centres, and various stakeholders to exchange valuable insights and experiences in carbon farming. Under the theme "Boosting Sustainable" Climate Agriculture in Europe," the conference focused on addressing the pressing challenges of European agriculture,

strengthened cooperation among stakeholders,

change and enhance agricultural sustainability.

Smart Carbon Farming Conference. Organized in Brussels. February 1.

particularly in Mediterranean regions.

event provided a platform to disseminate results from various projects and foster discussions on exchanging experiences and knowledge.

ECAF is actively engaged in multiple projects that are shaping the future of sustainable agriculture across Europe. Below are some of the key activities: Virtual Workshop: Addressing Agricultural Climate Challenges through R&I. January 16.

FAO and ECAF aim to promote sustainable agricultural practices that enhance soil

health, water conservation, biodiversity, and climate resilience to ensure food

security, working together to build a more sustainable future for agriculture.

pathways towards climate change mitigation, fostering practices across Europe. 2024 Sustainability Award. Córdoba. November 26. remios 2024 AGRICULTURA, PESCA, AGUA Y DESARROLLO RURAL

Life Innocereal Project. Knowledge transfer and replication among European countries. InnoCereal



Notably, the LIFE Agromitiga project received

Development of climate change mitigation

strategies through carbon-smart agriculture

the 2024 Sustainability Award from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water, and Rural Development of the Andalusian Regional Government (edition 18th) for its outstanding contributions to the agricultural sector, enhancing competitiveness, promoting sustainable growth, and supporting the economic and social development of that Autonomous Community. This project officially concluded on February 29, 2024. Visit: LIFE Agromitiga.

> On September 23-24, 2024, the LILAS4SOIL project held its launch meeting in Bilbao, Spain. This initiative addresses the climate challenges affecting agricultural soils in southern Europe, particularly in the rapidly warming Mediterranean region. The project

Practices (CFP) to enhance climate adaptation and mitigation efforts.

focuses on implementing Carbon Farming

More information is available at: LILAS4SOIL.

events such as the 25th Anniversary celebrations. The assembly underscored ECAF's commitment to advancing CA practices and fostering meaningful dialogue across



Europe. This year, the programme included, for the first time, a team-building exercise to define the "Attributes of a Winner Project" and brainstorm ideas for a new largescale initiative. Participants reflected on responsibilities, roles, and strategies, fostering a shared vision for future collaborations across National Associations.

TOGETHER. LET'S CONTINUE

B-Ferst Project IAB meeting Workshop & preparation Huelva, Spain, January 30 Farmers as a centrepiece in the use of waste and bio-based fertilizers round table speaking and moderation by Gottlieb Basch. **Expert Group on Carbon Removals meetings**

April 15-17, and October 21-23, Brussels

systems, permanent removals, and long-term storage in products, reinforcing the importance of robust frameworks to scale up sustainable carbon sequestration practices. **9th World CA Congress**

• European Agricultural Policy (CAP); What Does

• Worldwide trends in Conservation Agriculture and climate change scientific production by Emilio González. The role of Conservation Agriculture in enhancing biodiversity in agricultural ecosystems by Julio Román-Vázquez. • Emilio González was part of the Farmers' panel in *Crops and*

WORLD CONGRESS ON OTH

• Sustainable Systems Based on Conservation Agriculture for Cost Savings in Western Europe by Miguel Ángel Repullo.



September 12. Spain, March. x1 ... Beth Bechdol 🐡

agromitiga Life Agromitiga Project. As part of the LIFE Agromitiga project and its networking activities, ECAF organised a workshop in collaboration with the PRIMA 4CE-Med project. The

Attendees engaged in meaningful discussions to explore practical solutions that enhance the resilience of the agricultural sector amidst evolving climate scenarios. This dynamic event played a crucial role in shaping alternative collaboration, and advancing the adoption of sustainable

The LIFE Innocereal project aims to achieve carbonneutral cereal production and value chains in Europe by applying best practices rooted in the principles of Conservation Agriculture. ECAF is leading the project's transfer and replication efforts in collaboration with National Associations from Greece (HACA), Italy (AIGACoS), and Portugal





increasing awareness of Conservation Agriculture (CA), and preparing for major

European Carbon Farming Summit. Hosted in Valencia, Spain. March 5-7. Julio Román-Vázquez presented the progress of the ECAF activities in the project during the plenary session, sharing the table with Christian Holzleitner, Head of Unit for Land Economy and Carbon Removals at the European Commission's Directorate-general for Climate Action, and Willem Ferwerda, among others. In addition, ECAF led the break session "Helping farmers to identify the most suitable carbon farming practices," where Julio Román-Vázquez and Miguel Ángel Repullo addressed the sparse scientific literature and field-level complexities that hinder the collection of robust evidence on practices with the highest climate mitigation impact. Drawing from pioneer farmers' experiences, participants explored the best options for carbon removal and emission reduction tailored to each pedoclimatic context. Additionally, strategies to effectively engage and communicate with the primary sector were discussed.

More information is available at: European Carbon Farming Summit 2024 edition. **ECAF 2024 GENERAL ASSEMBLY** The ECAF General Assembly 2024 was held on March 7 in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. As every year, the event brought together representatives from National Associations and international partners both in person and online. The session highlighted key achievements, including the ongoing development of ECAF's Strategic Framework and Gender Equality Plan, and the launch of a new membership fee proposal to





ensure the sustainability of the organisation. Participants also engaged in collaborative discussions to shape ECAF's strategic priorities for the next five years. Key outcomes included strengthening partnerships,

With a new year full of challenges and

opportunities, ECAF invites you to stay

united in driving impactful change and in

pursuing new synergies and opportunities.

the project consortium are implemented. These sites are closely monitored for carbon emissions and sequestration to establish effective models for replication. More information is available at: LIFE Innocereal.

(APOSOLO). A European farm network is being developed, featuring six fields—two in each of these countries—where the best practices identified by During 2024, visits were conducted in each of these countries to observe the farms, collect samples, meet with farmers, and discuss the project's development and planned actions with the leaders of the National Associations. AS4SOILS Horizon Europe Soil Mission LILAS4SOIL Project Kick-off meeting. Bilbao, Spain. September 23-24.



