

# POLICY INCENTIVES FOR CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AGRICULTURAL TECHNIQUES (PICCMAT)

## A brief overview

### Context

Agriculture is estimated to be responsible for 9% of total greenhouse gases emissions (Eurostat). For example, farming practices have an important impact on soil carbon content. In the Kyoto protocol context, there is a potential for carbon sequestration as well as for a reduction of greenhouse gases emissions from soils.

### Demand



One of the priorities of the Rural Development Strategy 2007-2013 is to support actions to mitigate climate change. This includes actions favouring major changes in land use, such as a switch to growing biomass crops, afforestation or significant changes in livestock production approaches. However, also less substantial changes to existing agricultural practices towards optimised land management can have a positive climate change mitigating effect, while also being beneficial towards a good soil condition. This include for example zero- or reduced-tillage techniques, use of deep-rooting crops, different types of set-aside, conversion of arable to grassland including field strips, improved rotations, winter cover, maintenance of terraces etc.

PICCMAT is a FP6 project (6th framework programme of the Research DG) co-financed by the European Commission. This Specific Support Action (SSA) is part of the Scientific Support to Policies priority aiming to:

- ☞ Assess the effectiveness (feasibility and cost efficiency) for climate change mitigation of a range of possible changes to land management practices;
- ☞ Make recommendations on possible RDR funding or cross-compliance to Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions;
- ☞ Disseminate this information to Policy makers, research community, stakeholders and the general public.

### Project outlook

**Duration:** 2 years, starting in January 2007.






**Team:** ten specialised organisations covering 10 European countries:

- 🇪🇺 Baastel sprl
- 🇪🇺 University of Aberdeen (Department of Plant and Soil Science)
- 🇪🇺 Alterra
- 🇪🇺 Ecologic (Institute for international and European Environmental Policy)
- 🇪🇺 University of Copenhagen (Department of agricultural sciences)
- 🇪🇺 University of Warsaw (Departement of environmental protection)
- 🇪🇺 Nikola Poushkarov Institute of Soil Science
- 🇪🇺 University of Florence (Department of Agronomy and Land Management)
- 🇪🇺 Universidad politecnica de Madrid (Department of Agricultural Economics and Social Sciences)
- 🇪🇺 Danish Institute of Agricultural Sciences (Department of Agroecology).



**Budget:** total budget is 480 000€ over the two years

## Workpackages:

-  **WP1 Data collection and qualitative analysis**
  - ☞ To synthesise the existing GHG mitigation techniques in agriculture from the abundant scientific literature and on-going research teams results;
  - ☞ To select, describe and analyse the most relevant mitigation techniques for further field testing, considering their technical advantages, their applicability into relevant agricultural production systems, their potential acceptance by farmers and their cost-efficiency.
  
-  **WP2 Feasibility and cost efficiency assessment**
  - ☞ To evaluate the cost-effectiveness and feasibility of selected agricultural practices through case-studies;
  - ☞ To analyse the market penetration potential of selected techniques;
  - ☞ To quantify the global impact on EU-25 territory.
  
-  **WP3 Policy recommendations**
  - ☞ To study the possible incentives and funding under the CAP including the agri-environmental part of the Rural Development Regulation for 2007-2013 and the Cross Compliance requirements under the Regulation (EC) No. 1782/2003;
  - ☞ To provide recommendations and background information for policy makers.
  
-  **WP4 Dissemination of results and symposium**
  - ☞ To disseminate the project results to policy makers, scientific community, stakeholders and the general public within the EU-27.
  
-  **WP5 Project management**
  - ☞ To ensure that support activities are well coordinated (no overlapping of work), and well done (deliverables provided on time, and with a sufficient quality),
  - ☞ To ensure that EC financial & administrative procedures are respected and that cost statements are provided on time;
  - ☞ To analyse synergies that can be done with other projects;
  - ☞ To ensure the link between the partners, and between the EC and the project consortium.

## Deliverables

D1	Annotated bibliography
D2	Related research teams consultation report
D3	Practices description and analysis report
D4	Technical meeting results
D5	6 case-studies reports
D6	Synthesis report
D7	European quantification results
D8	Report on draft policy recommendations
D9	1-day consultation workshop
D10	Adaptation VS mitigation strategy report
D11	Report on final policy recommendations
D12	Project website
D13	Press releases
D14	Information package
D15	Symposium information package
D16	1-day International Symposium
D17	Symposium summary
D18	Interim and final management reports
D19	Two interim and final activity reports
D20	Project presentation
D21	Dissemination plan

For more information please contact:  
Baastel sprl - Olivier Beucher  
Rue des colonies 11 – B-1000 Brussels  
[olivier.beucher@baastel.be](mailto:olivier.beucher@baastel.be)