

SoilCare

for profitable and sustainable crop production in Europe

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Why SoilCare?

Concerns about European crop production (2015):

- Competitiveness of EU farmers
- Profitability of crop production
- Massive use of expensive external inputs
- Environmental sustainability of agricultural systems
- Decreasing soil quality



Aim

Identify and evaluate promising cropping systems that increase profitability and sustainability of agriculture across Europe

Objectives

Identify *soil-improving cropping systems* (SICS) with positive impacts on profitability and sustainability in Europe

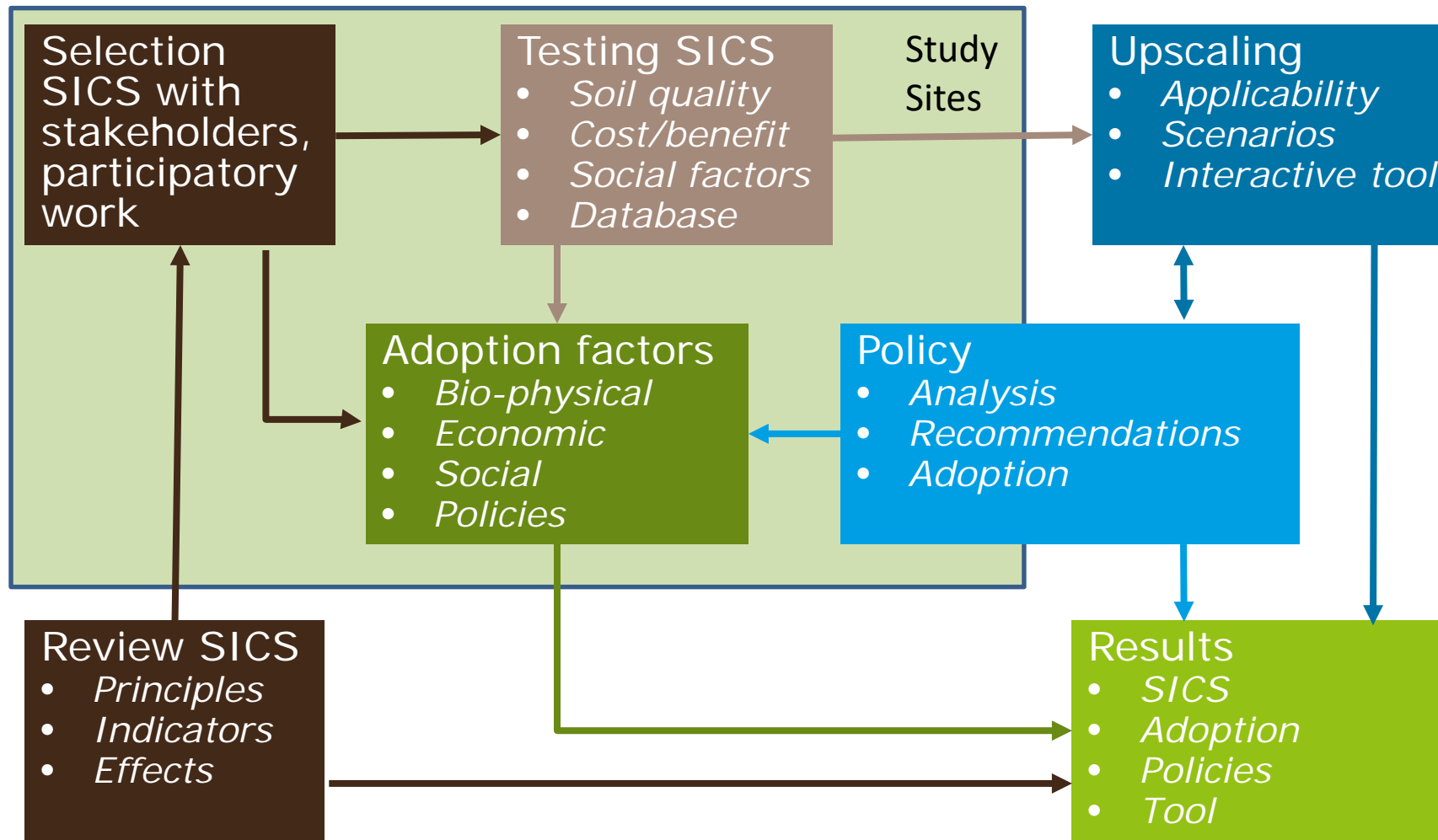
Assess the potential of SICS in 16 sites in Europe

Facilitate adoption and implementation of SICS

Analyse policies affecting adoption

Develop an interactive tool for the selection of SICS

SoilCare – simplified flowchart



Set-up

- 16 Study Sites in Europe, covering different pedo-climatic, socio-cultural, economic and policy conditions.
- Three scales covered: farm scale, Study Site scale, and European scale.
- Participatory approach at farm scale (interviews, monitoring), SS scale (3-5 workshops) & EU level (2 workshops)
- Different conditions require different CS. Applicability, profitability and environmental impacts of the SICS will therefore vary across Europe



Clusters of SICS

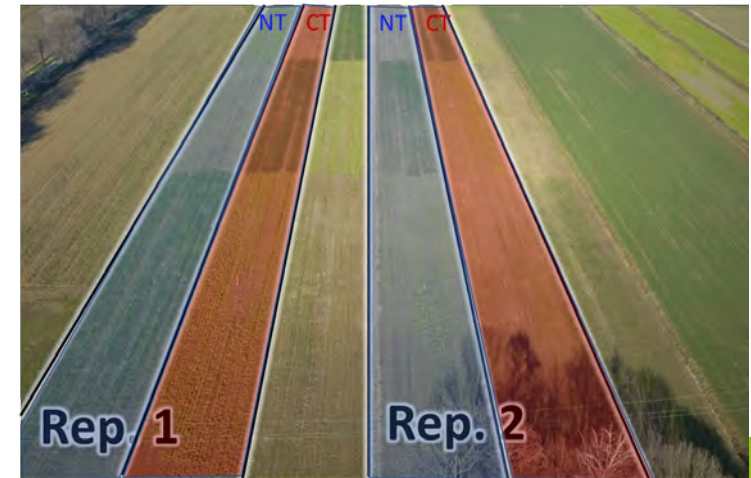
Alleviation of compaction
(4)

Soil improving crops (10)

Fertilization/
Amendments (7)

Soil cultivation (7)

- Slightly different monitoring for different clusters
- In analysis, importance of different indicators varies between clusters
- Allowed for closer collaboration between study sites within same cluster
 - Similar issues
 - Joint publications

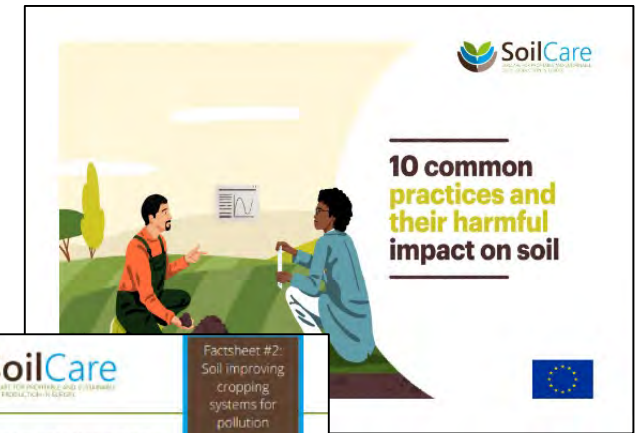


Some results

Available on website (<https://www.soilcare-project.eu/resources>):

- Review of SICS
- Report on soil advice
- Assessment Methodology SICS
- Monitoring of 135 CS in 27 experiments
- 31 Demonstration events, ~ 950 participants
- Report on social factors influencing adoption
- Database with monitoring data from all study sites
- Dissemination products for different audiences

& all the things that will be presented today!



Summary

Focus on soil-improving cropping systems (SICS) that are profitable and sustainable

Trans-disciplinary approach looking at bio-physical conditions, policies, socio-cultural & economic issues and adoption

Multiple study sites covering range of conditions in Europe

Basic questions: Which SICS can be applied where in Europe to best effect? What (policy) actions are required to facilitate their uptake?

THANK YOU!

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