



List of Cropping Systems Selected for Testing (Deliverable 3.2 Non-Technical Summary)

Mark Reed and Liz Oughton in cooperation with the study site partners

August 2017

Soil-improving cropping systems (SICs) have been short-listed for testing in the 16 SoilCare study sites. SICs were selected in workshops with stakeholders identified through a stakeholder analysis (Deliverable 3.1). Stakeholders chose from a long-list of SICs identified in an earlier stakeholder workshop in each site and a review of SICs from WP2, and were able to suggest additional options. The workshop was designed to ensure all participants fully understood each option, could critically discuss and enhance options where relevant, and identify reasons why they might want to prioritise or de-prioritise the cropping system. Participants agreed criteria against which cropping systems could be prioritized, including the profitability and sustainability of the cropping system. Both SoilCare researchers and other stakeholders then prioritised SICs, discussing the results to shortlist options that could be implemented in trials. All study sites successfully evaluated a range of soil-improving cropping systems, and reached a short-list of interventions for field trials which include: application of different types of organic material e.g. farmyard manure, urban sludge, woodchip, crop residues; cover crops, green manures, catch crops; leguminous crops; tillage systems (no-tillage, minimum tillage, strip tillage); sub-soil loosening with straw incorporation; precision farming; row (alley) cropping systems; undersowing with grass fertilizers and cover crops; controlled traffic; amendments e.g. lime; novel crops e.g. perennial cereals, soya; new rotation systems; grass ley management; deficit irrigation strategies; terracing; and contour ridging.