The SOILCARE project is a 5 year project aimed at identifying and evaluating promising soil improving cropping systems and agronomic techniques increasing profitability and sustainability across scales in Europe.

The SOILCARE project consortium consists of 28 partner institutes from 10 European countries. The SOILCARE project is coordinated by ALTERRA, Wageningen UR, The Netherlands.

- Starting date: March 1st 2016.
- Ending date: February 28th 2020.
- EU contract number: 677407.

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This project is funded by the European Commission under the H2020 program.

Test plot 1: Hagenwil bei Amriswil, Bio – grass verge & artificial meadow

Primary soil threat: compaction

Crop rotation: Grain maize + millet + soy + winter wheat 1 + potatoes + winter wheat 2

SICS: crop rotation + grass verge + artificial meadow + «control traffic» + soil loosening machines + minimum tillage + green manure

Control field: crop rotation + soil loosening machines + minimum tillage + green manure

Main crop considered in 2018: Potatoes (with grass verge in 2nd year)

Test plot 2: Felben-Wollhausen, IP

Primary soil threat: Nutrient leaching, humus decrease

Crop rotation: Meadow + silage maize + grain maize / Rye

SICS: CULTAN-procedure + minimum tillage

Control field: Green manure and liquid manure with drag house

Main crop considered in 2018: Silage maize

Test plot 3: Ellikon an der Thur, IP

Primary soil threat: Nutrient leaching, humus decrease + compaction

Crop rotation: Sugar beets + winter wheat + rape + potatoes + winter wheat / winter barley

SICS: Green manure + liquid manure + minimum tillage + «control traffic» + crop rotation

Control field: Glyphosate usage + conventional green manure + minimum tillage + control traffic + crop rotation

Main crop considered in 2018: Winter wheat

Assessment of SICS

References:
2. TASC: Tyres/tracks and soil compaction: TASC V3.0 – A practical tool to prevent soil compaction and soil failure damage in farming and forestry, E. Diserens, Agroscope, Switzerland.