

## SoildiverAgro project

Adoption of new management practices to increase crop production and quality



### THE WHAT AND WHY

#### Attitude of Galician farmers´ towards crop rotation

Healthy soil is crucial for food production, yet over 60% of EU soils are in poor condition due to farming, pollution, and climate change. The SoildiverAgro project seeks to understand farmers' decisions on sustainable soil management and promote practices that improve soil health, boost crop yields, and benefit the environment. Farmers who believe in sustainable soil practices are more likely to try them, especially if they see support from their community, neighbors, and agricultural groups. Success stories, expert advice, and financial help can give them the confidence to make lasting changes. But overall, it is important to understand how farmers define good soil, how they assess it, and how much they believe their actions can help solve soil problems.

In Galicia, the Atlantic region of Spain, the study focused on crop diversification—growing different species (e.g., potatoes

and vegetables) either together or in rotation—to enhance soil quality. It gathered data from 62 completed questionnaires, with consent, through collaboration with research centers, farmers' associations, local groups, agricultural newspapers, and social media accounts of participating organizations.

Galician farmers´ had a more positive outlook on improving soil quality than those in other regions. Many showed interest in diversifying crops in potato farming, with 66% planning to adopt this practice in the future. The main reasons for this interest were the positive impacts on soil quality and harvests. Farmers with prior experience using these methods were more likely to continue applying them, demonstrating that their attitudes were shaped by past practices.



1. Wheat field assay carried out in the SoildiverAgro project.

### KEYWORDS

Soil health, sustainable soil management, crop diversification, farmers' perception, practical experience

### AUTHORSHIP

**Paul Swagemakers**, Universidade de Vigo, Spain  
**Marina Gómez Rodríguez**, Universidade de Vigo, Spain  
**Miguel Enrique Rodríguez Mendez**, Universidade de Vigo, Spain  
**Eija Pouta**, LUKE, Finland  
**David Fernández-Calviño**, Universidade de Vigo, Spain



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 817819

This factsheet is produced as part of the SoildiverAgro project. Although the author has worked on the best information available, neither the author nor the EU shall in any event be liable for any loss, damage or injury incurred directly or indirectly in relation to the project.