Geophysical Research Abstracts Vol. 19, EGU2017-98, 2017 EGU General Assembly 2017 © Author(s) 2016. CC Attribution 3.0 License.



Using soils to tackle climate change – policy needs to make soil sequestration a reality

Pete Smith (1), Martial Bernoux (2), Luca Montanarella (3), and Saskia Keesstra (4)

(1) University of Aberdeen, Institute of Biological & Environmental Sciences, School of Biological Sciences, Aberdeen, United Kingdom (pete.smith@abdn.ac.uk), (2) FAO Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153 Rome, Italy, (3) European Commission - DG JRC, Via E. Fermi, 2749, I-21027 Ispra (VA), Italy, (4) Wageningen University, Department of Soil Physics and Land Management, P.O. Box 47, 6700 AA Wageningen, The Netherlands

The 4/1000 initiative arising from the Paris Climate Agreement, as a voluntary plan under the Lima-Paris Action Agenda, now the Global Climate Action Agenda, aims to increase global levels of soil carbon by 4 parts per thousand, in an attempt to sequester significant quantities of carbon in the soil. A number of countries have signed up to the initiative. A range of management options are available in managed land to increase soil carbon levels. Whilst many of these techniques have been understood for many years, little progress has been made before 2015 on implementing soil carbon sequestration measures. In this presentation, we examine the policy context in which the 4/1000 initiative, or other efforts to increase soil carbon stocks, could make a substantial contribution to global soil carbon stocks, and thereby be to be used as a climate change mitigation option.