

IEEP – Science4Policy briefing

## From soil health to farm resilience: Policy, finance and risk-sharing for scaling regenerative and conservation agriculture practices



Date: 9 June 2026

Time: 11:00–13:00 CET (in person only)

Location: European Parliament (Brussels) - Room 4F384



*The event is open to all interested MEPs, APAs and policy advisors.*

*A light lunch will be served.*

As the leading Brussels-based think tank dedicated to EU environmental policy with 50 years of experience, **IEEP – Institute for European Environmental Policy** offers independent, evidence-informed policy solutions to all actors involved in Europe's transition. With a [series of Science4Policy briefings at the European Parliament](#) addressed to policymakers, civil society organisations, industry representatives, and policy experts, IEEP provides a platform for dialogue on timely environmental topics to foster closer collaboration between science and policy.

**Co-organised by the [TRAILS4SOIL](#) consortium, which IEEP is part of, and the [MEP Group on "Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development"](#), we invite you to a discussion to explore how soil health policies can contribute simultaneously to farm income resilience, climate adaptation, and long-term budget efficiency.**

This event is organised within the context of [TRAILS4SOIL](#), an EU-funded Horizon Europe project that aims to accelerate the transition towards regenerative and conservation agriculture by generating robust, context-specific evidence on soil health outcomes. The project is building a network of Living Labs across nine European countries, bringing together farmers, researchers, advisors, value-chain actors and public authorities to co-create, test and evaluate regenerative and conservation agriculture practices under real farming conditions.

Co-organised by:



**MEP Group on Climate Change,  
Biodiversity & Sustainable Development**

## Agenda

Time	Session	Speakers
11:00 – 11:10	<b>Welcome &amp; objectives</b>	<b>Melanie Muro</b> <i>Director for Nature and Food Systems, Institute for European environmental policy (IEEP) &amp; TRAILS4SOIL Lead Policy &amp; Capacity-Building</i>
11:10 – 11:15	<b>Opening Remarks</b>	<b>Ilias Grampas</b> <i>Deputy Director of the MEP Group on 'Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development'</i>
11:15 – 11:25	<b>Introductory remarks</b>	<b>Host MEP Cristina Guarda</b>
11:25 – 11:35	<b>Setting the scene: regenerative &amp; conservation agriculture</b>	<b>Emilio González-Sánchez</b> <i>University of Cordoba &amp; Coordinator of TRAILS4SOIL</i>
11:35 – 11:50	<b>What blocks scale-up? Key barriers and enablers identified by TRAILS4SOIL Living Lab stakeholders</b>	<b>Jane Mills</b> <i>University of Gloucestershire &amp; TRAILS4SOIL lead for Communication, Dissemination &amp; Stakeholder engagement</i> <b>Tim Schmid</b> <i>Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FIBL) &amp; Contributor to Living Lab 2 'Organic farming'</i>
11:50 – 12:45	<b>Designing an enabling environment: policy, finance, and risk</b>	<b>Round table discussion, followed by Q&amp;A</b> Moderated by Melanie Muro, IEEP Participants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Christian Hofstätter</b>, <i>Organic farmer from Austria &amp; TRAILS4SOIL Contributor to LivingLab 2: 'Organic Farming'</i></li> <li>• <b>MEPs</b></li> <li>• <b>Emmanuel Petel</b>, <i>Policy Officer, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI), European Commission</i></li> <li>• <b>Jan de Keyser</b>, <i>Head of Agriculture, BNP Paribas Fortis, Belgium</i></li> </ul>
12:45 – 13:00	<b>Closing remarks</b>	<b>Co-host MEPs</b>
13:00	<b>End of the meeting</b>	

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*For more information about the event, please contact IEEP officer, Carla de Cristofaro at [cdcrisofaro@ieep.eu](mailto:cdcrisofaro@ieep.eu)*

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## About the event

Healthy soils are a foundation of food security, climate resilience, and thriving rural economies. Yet more than 60% of agricultural soils in the EU remain degraded, undermining farm productivity, increasing exposure to climate risks, and driving long-term public costs through disaster relief, yield losses, and ecosystem degradation.

Regenerative and Conservation Agriculture Practices (ReCAP) offer clear environmental benefits, but their large-scale adoption is slow. Evidence from across Europe shows that the key obstacles are no longer a lack of agronomic solutions alone, but **economic risk, social lock-in, and an insufficiently supportive policy and financial environment**.

This Science4Policy briefing takes place at a critical moment in EU policymaking. Discussions on the **post-2027 Common Agricultural Policy**, the **Multiannual Financial Framework**, the **Common Market Organisation, National and Regional Partnership Plans** and the implementation of the **Soil Monitoring Law** and **Nature Restoration Law** are converging with a growing debate on **farm income stability, risk management, insurance schemes, and performance-based payment systems**.

Drawing on early findings from the **TRAILS4SOIL** project, this event focuses on **how to design an enabling environment that makes soil health practices economically viable, socially acceptable, and scalable across diverse farming systems**. TRAILS4SOIL brings together evidence from multiple EU projects and Living Labs to identify:

- the main **financial, technical, policy and socio-cultural barriers** facing farmers during the transition;
- the **enablers** that reduce risk, build trust, and lower costs;
- the implications for **CAP design, transition support, insurance and risk-sharing instruments**, and **sustainability benchmarking tools**.

The event offers policymakers **actionable insights for ongoing legislative and budgetary debates**: how EU policy can better reward outcomes, de-risk transitions, and ensure that public spending on soil health delivers social, economic, and environmental returns.

This event aims to:

- Present policy-relevant evidence on why scaling soil health practices requires more than voluntary uptake and technical advice
- Discuss farmers' perspectives on economic risk, income stability, and social feasibility during transition phases
- Explore how current and emerging EU instruments (CAP, post-2027 transition tools, insurance schemes, benchmarking frameworks, MFF investments) can reduce barriers and strengthen enablers

[Click here to register](#)

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