

Using deliberative multi-criteria techniques with stakeholders to select soil improving cropping systems (SICS)

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Demand-driven innovation through the genuine and sufficient involvement of various actors all along the project: from the participation in the planning of work and experiments, their execution up until the dissemination of results and the possible demonstration phase.

Participatory selection of cropping systems:

Workshop 1: Multi-stakeholder advisory panel establishment

- Introduce members of the panel to each other and the project
- Scope shared goals and SICS that can be reviewed alongside systems identified from scientific literature for later selection in field trials
- Check and (if necessary) supplement the membership of multi-stakeholder advisory panels

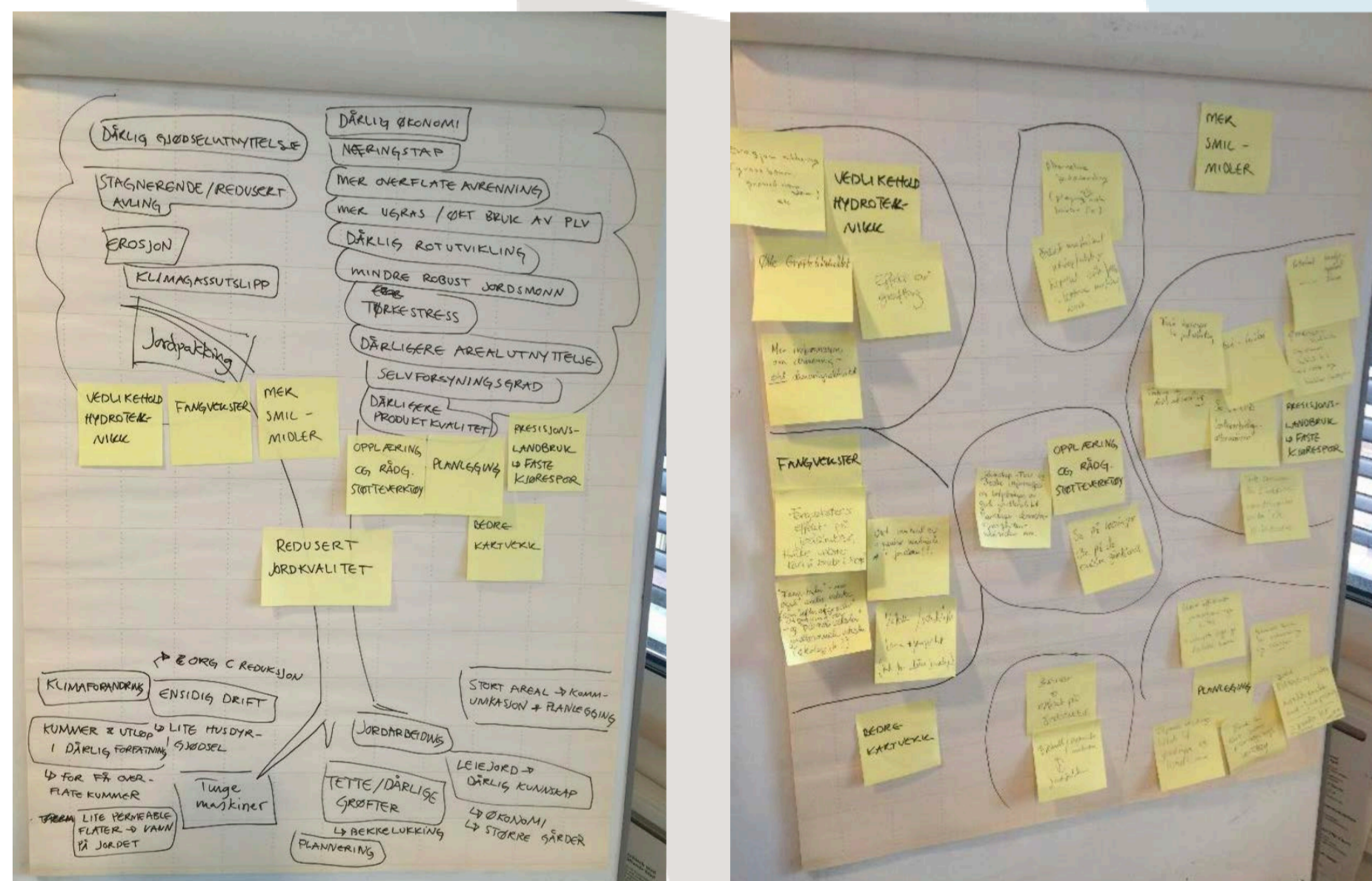


Figure 1. Problem tree analysis for reduced soil quality (left) and metaplan analysis with SICS suggested by the stakeholders (right).

Workshop 3: Selection of SICS for trial

- Critically discuss SICS that could be trialed in the study site
- Rank and short-list SICS
- Identify key influencers and preferred modes of communication that will enable effective dissemination of research findings
- Evaluate the extent to which participants learned from the workshop

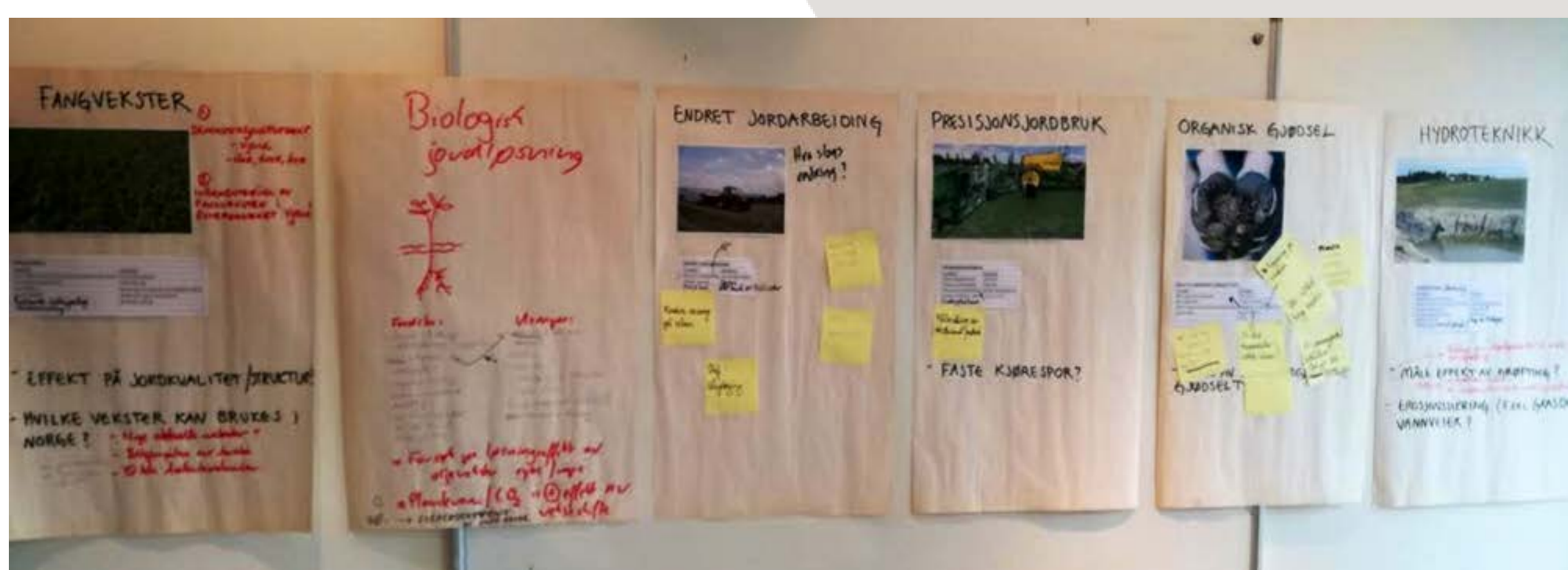


Figure 3. Information about SICS that was discussed by the stakeholders.

Workshop 5: Stakeholder feedback on preliminary findings

- Provide feedback on research findings from field trials of SICS to stakeholders
- Seek feedback and discuss the stakeholders' interpretation of the results

“Who has the power to enable us to do our research and achieve impacts, and who has the power to block our work?”

Workshop 2: Stakeholder analysis



High	Context setters - highly influential, but have little interest. Try and work closely as they could have a significant impact	Key players – must work closely with these to affect change
Influence		
Low	Crowd – little interest or influence so may not be worth prioritising, but be aware their interest or influence may change with time	Subjects – may be affected but lack power. Can become influential by forming alliances with others. Often includes marginalised groups you may wish to empower
	← Level of Interest →	High

Figure 2. Example of stakeholder analysis matrix being completed during a workshop (left) and Interest-influence matrix used to identify stakeholders with differing levels of interest in and influence over your research (right).

- Identifying who has a stake in your work;
- Categorising and prioritizing stakeholders you need to invest most time with; and
- Identifying (and preparing you for) relationships between stakeholders (whether conflicts or alliances)

Workshop 4: Adoption of SICS

- Identify and describe key barriers/enablers facilitating the adoption of SICS, ad a change towards agricultural practices beneficial to soil in general, and;
- To identify actions at national and/or (sub) regional level which have potential to promote change



Figure 4. The enablers and barriers identified by stakeholders (above) and group of stakeholders identifying benefits and impacts of SICS (right).



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 consist of 28 partner institutes from 18 European countries. The SOILCARE project is coordinated by ALTERNIA, 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