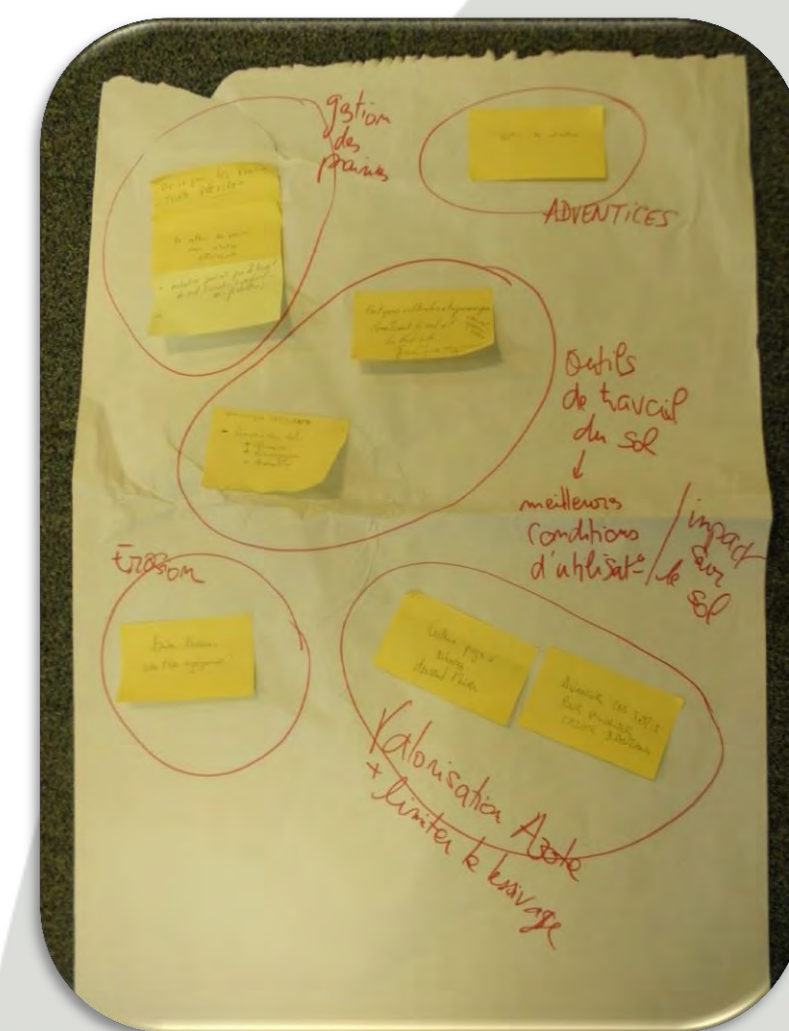


Semnon water catchment area

495 km², 26. 000 ha of total cultivated area, 434 farms / 18 organic farms

Crop systems : mainly wheat, maize and grassland.

Economic context : traditionnal dairy area, with large dairy companies. For the last 10 years, organic farming and alternative growing methods show a strong growth, driven by social demand.



o WP3

- 3 stakeholders meetings since the beginning of SoilCare (06/06/16, 11/07/17, 20/04/18), gathering 17 persons : 8 farmers, 6 representatives of public authorities, 2 researchers, 1 "soil expert"
- Stakeholders show great interest with WP8 action "soil highlight" at FRAB organic trade fare, as it is an opportunity for a mutual work on a didactic presentation about soil challenges for visitors
- SICS implementation and assessment : process is still to be stimulated -> open farm day ?

o WP4/5: Assessment methodology

- Analysis of monitoring plan done
- Translated into a work plan (what measures should be implemented, by who and when) for the SICS implementation
- FRAB is not used to several measures : we choose to delegate some of them ; for the others, difficulty to estimate measures duration

o WP5: monitoring - 3 SICS implemented :

- SICS 1 : early sowing of mixed cropping of wheat or rapeseed - 3 sowing dates (august, september, end of october) on 1 site, lighter protocols on 2 others farms
- SICS 2 : use of different cover-crops
- SICS 3 : mechanical weeding on cabbage (control) VS cabbage cover with straw

o WP7: policy analysis

- Interview with 5 actors : chief of agro-environmental policies for Regional Council of Brittany + 4 people of the Regional Direction for Agriculture, Food and Forests
- The 2 authorities agree with : main threats on soils in Brittany (erosion and short rotations); assessment of policy impacts and strategy for coming policies (= focus on incentive polices rather than regulation policies); conflict between farm modernization incetives and the new agro-ecological orientations.
- Soil quality is a major issue for both, even if there are a very few specific policies dedicated to it.

o WP8: Dissemination

- "Soil highlight" during FRAB organic trade fare (September 26 and 27) : a soil dedicated area with posters, machinery, animations... 8 000 visitors expected : mainly farmers (from all over France) but also students, technical experts... SoilCare partners are welcomed !
- Open farm days on farms hosting SICS trials ?
- Producing a leaflet for farmers about « how to evaluate soil quality by themselves » ? (when they try a new SICS for example)



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 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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