A very dynamic event with plenty of opportunities to network and build positive solutions

The programme is being constantly updated. The current version is displayed below.

DAY 1
Tuesday 5th of March, 2024

20:00h **- Icebreaker event in Valencia city.**

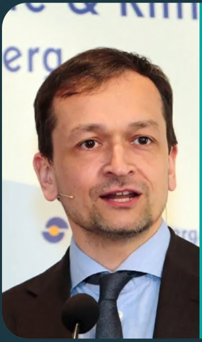
DAY 2

Wednesday 6th of March, 2024

8:30 **Registration open.**

9:00 **Welcome and introduction to the Summit from the Credible project team.**

9:20 **Opening keynote speech:** the Carbon Removal Certification Framework. **Christian Holzleitner** (European Commission, see short bio).



Christian Holzleitner, the Head of Unit for Land Economy and Carbon Removals at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Climate Action, shapes EU and international climate policies. With a background in economics and a Ph.D. from the University of Linz, he brings extensive expertise, having previously worked on finance for innovation and land use.

9:40 **Keynote speech.** Carbon farming as an act of transformation. Speaker: **Willem Ferwerda,** (see short bio).

Specialized in ecosystems, biodiversity, agriculture, and forestry he focuses on mainstreaming ecology in governments, business, and farmers' agendas. Former IUCN director. Founded Commonland in 2013, developed a landscape restoration framework bringing farmers, business, nature

DAY 3

Thursday 7th of March, 2024

9:00 **Keynote speech.** robust methodologies for Carbon Farming. **Edouard Lanckriet** (Head of Low Carbon Agriculture Division at Agrosolutions, see short bio).

Pioneering the agricultural transition, he leads +45 expert agronomists accelerate the low-carbon shift. He created digital tools to measure and enhance environmental performance in agriculture, advising decision-makers on strategic transformations. Central to climate and environmental challenges, our innovations turn regulatory changes into economic opportunities, shaping sustainable agricultural futures.

9:20 **Keynote speech:** the role of the EU in carbon pricing and scheme validation. **Valeria Forlin** (European Commission, see short bio).

Working in DG Clima Unit for Land Economy and Carbon Removals, she is specialized in the land sector's pivotal role in combating climate change. Valeria Forlin focuses on reducing agricultural emissions, enhancing carbon sinks in soils and forests. With a background in environmental economics, she previously contributed to European space policies at UCLouvain and worked extensively in microeconomics, industrial organization, and public economics.

organisations, governments, and investors together. Now active in 23 countries.

10:00 **Plenary presentations from 4 related Focus Groups on agronomic practices (10' each):**

1. Helping farmers to identify the most suitable carbon farming practices.
2. Assessing the economic impact of the co-benefits of increasing soil organic matter.
3. Carbon farming that safeguards food security and biodiversity.
4. Regional living labs in support of carbon farming.

10:40 **Panel discussion between the presenters + Q&A with the audience.**

11:10-11:40 **Coffee break.**

11:40-13:40 **Breakout sessions 1-4.**

Breakout session 1: **Helping farmers to identify the most suitable carbon farming practices.**

Sparse scientific literature and field-level complexities are hindering the collection of robust evidence on which practices can have a higher impact in terms of climate mitigation. In this session, participants will contribute to foster a scientific consensus on which practices should be prioritised in the EU. In parallel, the group will fine-tune a visually appealing fact sheet focused on carbon farming, and that could complement the EIP-AGRI practice abstract. Our intention is to propose a farmer-oriented, practice description framework, enabling land managers to take informed decisions toward sustainable soil management.

Breakout session 2: **How to measure the economic returns linked to the co-benefits of increasing soil organic matter.**

For every ton of carbon sequestered in the soil there is almost 2 tons of soil organic matter (SOM) that are built-up. SOM supports the farm's profitability through various co-benefits, including storing water, replacing fertilisers, increasing soil workability and reducing fuel consumption. Providing clear economic data on these co-benefits can help farmers to assess the return of investment for the adoption of carbon farming. In this session we will craft a blueprint for a common accounting approach that speaks the language of carbon farmers.

Breakout session 3: **Carbon farming that safeguards food security and biodiversity.**

Focusing on soil carbon sequestration might cause unintended consequences, and there is a lively debate on its dynamic interactions with biodiversity and food security. This session will explore these nuanced relationships and contribute to evidence-based insights. Our intention is to draft a conceptual map highlighting synergies and potential conflicts in the adoption of carbon farming in different pedoclimatic regions. Outputs from this conversation will help shape policy recommendations for sustainable scale up of practices.

9:40 **Plenary presentations from 3 related Focus Groups (10' each):**

9. Exploring requirements for the QU.A.L.ITY criteria to deliver on sustainability.
10. Pathways towards an harmonised European certification framework.
11. An effective policy mix for a conducive environment.

10:10 **Panel discussion between the presenters + Q&A with the audience.**

10:40-11:10 **Coffee.**

11:10-12:40 **Breakout sessions 9-11.**

Breakout session 9: **Minimum standards to ensure that carbon farming delivers sustainability benefits**

The proposed EU Carbon Removal Certification Framework (CRCF) establishes four QU.A.L.ITY criteria for certification, one of which is sustainability. However, it is not yet determined how this will be operationalised. During this session, participants will share best practices, open issues, and state-of-the-art options. The desired output is a recommendation to the Commission for standards to ensure that sustainability outcomes can be achieved when promoting carbon farming.

Breakout session 10: **Europe-wide vs regional certification frameworks: pros and cons.**

A centralised European carbon farming certification framework can provide greater clarity for funders, reduce transaction costs and ensure the same level of requirements for everyone. Conversely, a decentralised approach can be better tailored to local circumstances and easier to use for local operators. This session will focus on sharing experiences from stakeholders involved in international, national, and local certification frameworks, to reveal the strengths and weaknesses of the different scales and predict potential interaction of overlapping schemes at different levels.

Breakout session 11: **An effective policy mix for an environment conducive to carbon farming.**

The large-scale uptake of carbon farming in the EU will require significant changes in practices and investment by land managers, which must be supported by a conducive policy environment and appropriate economic signals. The upcoming CRCF and the CAP are obvious regulatory options, but other EU Policies have the potential to play an important role too. This session aims to bring together key stakeholders to explore how the CRCF will interact with other policy priorities and instruments within the EU, such as mandatory requirements, financial incentives for carbon farming, and climate targets.

12:40-13:50 **2nd Engagement session with poster display and catering.**

13:50-14:15 **Summit closing speech:** bridging farmer needs to policy and market options. **Giulia Stellari** (Director at Fall Line Capital, see short bio).

Breakout session 4: Developing a fit-for-region approach to carbon farming.

The scaleup of sustainable carbon farming, adapted to the underlying agricultural and forestry system, requires site-specific adaptation and supportive structures, including advisory services, monitoring systems, value chain relationships etc. Collaborations within regional clusters are therefore key to uncover opportunities for scalable solutions in practices, policy, MRV and business models. This session will advance a blueprint for the development of regional schemes that applies the living lab concept for creating synergies and fostering climate actions.

13:40-15:10 Lunch.

15:10 Keynote speech. Modelling and monitoring soil organic carbon in the EU. Speaker: **Panos Panagos** (see short bio).

With over 20 years as a senior scientist at JRC, European Commission, he specializes in environmental modeling and policy development. He leads the Soil Health Assessments which contribute to support the Agro-environmental policies in the EU. Recognized as one of the main figures at the EU Soil Observatory, he has been honored as one of the most influential scientists globally for 5 years by Web of Science.

15:30 Plenary presentations from 4 related Focus Groups on MRV and data management (10' each):

5. Harmonising public and private data for monitoring soil carbon dynamics.
6. Proximal sensing and digitalization in carbon farming.
7. Earth Observation applications for monitoring carbon removals.
8. Using long-term monitoring sites for benchmarking carbon projects.

16:10 Panel discussion between the presenters + Q&A with the audience.

16:40 Coffee

17:10-18:40 Breakout sessions 5-8

Breakout session 5: Harmonising public and private data for monitoring soil carbon dynamics.

A robust system for carbon farming Monitoring Reporting and Verification (MRV) is required to attract investments in this field. Private companies use different approaches in terms of modelling, analytical/estimation methods, and sampling protocols. Furthermore, these data are usually not accounted for in the national reporting, due to the lack of data quality & standardisation, data harmonisation and good practices for data sharing. A EU-wide harmonisation is needed towards a EU-wide system of harmonised national reporting, with JRC-LUCAS soil monitoring as the central

With her experience in sustainable farmland management, she spearheads global sustainable procurement programs, impacting farms in +30 countries. Giulia's expertise includes digital agriculture strategy, supplier GHG reduction, and renewable electricity commitments. With a Ph.D. in Plant Molecular Biology, she also founded AgSquared, a farmer-centric technology company. Serving on the Cool Farm Alliance board, Giulia drives GHG emission reduction initiatives in agriculture.

reference. This session gives an opportunity to present experiences on the topic of transnational data harmonisation options.

Breakout session 6: Proximal sensing and digitalization in carbon farming.

The continuous development of digital technologies brings interesting opportunities for carbon farming, but also challenges related to protocols standardisation and data harmonisation. This session will give particular attention to proximal sensing and related digital monitoring techniques where near surface or contact sensors are used to capture soil properties. However, the wider ecosystem of digital technologies for MRV systems will also be explored to uncover the challenges and barriers to their interactions, including digital farmbooks, IoT, drones, digital soil mapping, artificial intelligence and FAIR principles.

Breakout session 7: Earth Observation applications for monitoring carbon removals.

Satellite-derived data from public or privately available missions and infrastructures can play an important role in supporting carbon removal certification methodologies. This information is critical in determining the effectiveness of carbon removal efforts and can help guide future strategies to improve their efficiency and achieve climate targets. This session will collect and share technical evidence on the role of EO applications in supporting the implementation of the new carbon removals policy approach and portfolio development.

Breakout session 8: Using data from long-term monitoring sites in the context of carbon farming.

MRV systems should be able to access soil carbon data and the connected experimental data and metadata to calibrate and validate models. However, useful data is scattered and seldom accessible. This session will build on the experiences of coordinators of existing networks of long-term monitoring sites (LTM) to come up with a set of guidelines and considerations to set-up and manage LTMs. Besides, attention will be given to make both experimental and metadata findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable (FAIR) so that they can be of use in supporting regional carbon schemes.

18:40 1st Engagement session with poster display and catering.

21:00 Conference dinner in Valencia (place to be confirmed).