PLOUTOS

Data driven sustainable agri-food value chains

Practice Abstract

Author: ZLTO

Carbon Farming compensates farmers for climate friendly soil management

Soil management influences carbon sequestration – The Netherlands

Ploutos' Sustainable Innovation Pilot 8 (SIP 8) aims at realizing carbon removal by providing incentives to farmers who apply sustainable agricultural practices. Overall, this pilot helps farmers to become service providers via the development of a new value chain (i.e. carbon credit). Besides mapping all the actors involved in the supply chain and optimizing carbon sequestration, SIP8 intends to foster a relational approach (instead of a transactional one), to empower communication that builds trust, respect and cooperation. This way, farmers and companies are better connected with each other, valuing proximity and immediacy.

- **Outcomes**One of the main outcomes is the creation of a group of farmers who collaborate with UDEA (a leading organic trader in the Netherlands) with the aim to conclude a compensation agreement regarding carbon sequestration. Moreover, the development of a carbon prototype tool helped to ensure that soil carbon is quantified.

- **Practical Recommendations:** It is suggested that farmers should be engaged early on in the co-design process of the compensation system and that the IT solutions are matching their needs. Moreover, it's essential to communicate to the stakeholders that data integration constitutes an iterative process, therefore time and patience are required.

- **Problems:** A problem that was reported was the complexity of the verification and certification process and the need for specialized expertise and/or training.

- **Outlook:** As regards the future sustainability of SIP8, it's important to engage a wide range of stakeholders (multi-actor strategy) and foster partnerships that share a common vision for the agri-food sector.

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Description of project activities

The Ploutos project will develop a Sustainable Innovation Framework that follows a systemic approach to the agri-food sector, building on three pillars: Behavioural Innovation, Sustainable Collaborative Business Model Innovation and Data-Driven Technology Innovation. The project will deploy 11 Sustainable Innovation Pilots, where using a Multi-Actor Approach, new innovative solutions and methodologies will be implemented, tested, assessed and derive practical lessons learned. A Ploutos Innovation Academy will be established as a vehicle for integrating the know-how, best practices and assessments developed across the project and derived from the Sustainable Innovation Pilots.

Objective of the project

The main objective of Ploutos project is to help rebalance the agri-food value chain and enhance its sustainability (economic, environmental and social) by establishing a Sustainable Innovation Framework that is powered by an innovative combination of behavioral change, collaborative business model innovation and data-driven technological services.

PLOUTOS CONSORTIUM

33 Partners

11 Pilots

10 Countries

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