

ACHIEVING THE SDGs – WHAT DO WE NEED TO KNOW AND WHY REGARDING SOIL USE AND LAND MANAGEMENT?

Delivering the SDGs will be helped by research & innovation in multiple land use, water cycle and demand, and managing land use transitions

Why we need to act?

In 2015, the United Nations adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a means of addressing and overcoming major societal challenges around the world. The European Commission and several European countries seek to put the SDGs at the heart of their policy frameworks, priorities and budgets. Notably, the Commission “commits to mainstreaming the SDGs into EU policies and initiatives ... and into the Commission’s everyday work”. The stakeholder-driven research demands presented in the INSPIRATION SRA map on to the SDGs and will enable the Commission and individual countries achieve these goals.

What we will gain?

Sustainable land-use needs to be environmentally friendly, socially acceptable and economically affordable. The soil-sediment-water system has a role to play in achieving many of the SDGs. Coordinated and strategic research will provide a better understanding on the specific role of sustainable land use issues in the entire SDG framework. INSPIRATION’s research needs have a particularly strong contribution to make to SDG 6: Clean Water & Sanitation; SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities; SDG 13: Climate action; SDG 14: Life under water and SDG 15: Life on land. Research will help to inform indicators monitoring progress in achieving SDGs. Moreover, conflicts and synergies of targeting several societal challenges and SDGs need to be addressed.

Key research areas

Our bottom up approach revealed pressing research and innovation needs related to SDGs, e.g.:

- How can rural land be developed for multiple uses? SDG 15: “Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss”
- What difference would an economic appraisal of the water cycle make on managing demand for water? SDG 6: Ensure water and sanitation for all.
- How can we transition to a circular and biologically based economy? Multiple SDGs: End poverty (1) and hunger (2), access to energy for all (7), promote economic growth (8), ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns (12), combat climate change (13), and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems (15).
- Given urbanisation and shrinking cities how will urban – rural interactions support sustained progress while managing land use transitions and preserving soil quality? SDG 11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

How to become active?

Contact your INSPIRATION national contact at www.inspiration-agenda.eu for further information.

