ALL YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW (BUT NEVER DARED TO ASK) ABOUT SOIL CARBON CERTIFICATION

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Online webinar – Nov 5th 2020 || Cirad
Soil Carbon Certification
PLAN

Definitions

✓ Literature review
DEFINITIONS

Soil Carbon Certification
Soil carbon - cycle

- Reversibility: no permanence
- Reporting and verifying: quantify the amount of carbon sequester

Source: FAO
Soil carbon – enhancing practices

- A "well-managed" agroecosystem:
  - Agroforestry
  - Conservation agriculture: permanent soil cover, minimum tillage, crop rotation/intercropping
  - Grazing and pasture management
  - …
  - avoiding conversion and degradation of native ecosystem

Conservation agriculture: mechanical destruction of plant cover - Photo: Pierre Yves Roussel

Not only C sequester!
Certification

- Certification: control process based on an audit and possibly product testing.
  - Standard = norm or certification schemes
  - List of specific practices implemented voluntary
Certification

Figure 1. – *Les marchés imbriqués du régime tripartite de standardisation*

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**Marché de la certification**

**Marché des produits certifiés**

**Marché des standards volontaires**

**Marché de l'accréditation**

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Fouilleux & Loconto 2017
Soil Carbon Certification – what issues?

- No permanence of carbon
- Quantify carbon sequester
- Practices
- Process to be certified
- Standard organism: governance
- Verification
- Valorisation of this certification
LITERATURE REVIEW

Aim: characterized existing soil carbon certification
2 types of certification

"Carbon offset" certification
Certifying carbon sequestration projects and delivering carbon units

"Practices" certification
Certifying soil enhancing practices
Different objectives => 2 analysis grid

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• Governance
• Monitoring
• Scope and eligibility
• Economical aspects
• And for Carbon Offset certification: additionality, study of co-benefits, credits deliverance and traceability.
List of reviewed schemes

16 "carbon offset" certifications

Alberta Offset System, American Carbon Registry (ACR), Clean Development Mechanism, Climate Action Reserve, Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF), Gold Standard, Green Deal, Label Bas Carbone, MoorFuture, Nori, Okoregion Kaindorf, Peatland Code, Plan Vivo, Registro de huella de carbono, VCS Program, Woodland carbon code

5 "practices" certifications

- Au Coeur des Sols
- Carne Baixo Carbono
- Demain La Terre
- Ecological Outcome Verified (EOV)
- Rainforest standard

Much more offer
Difficult to make a typology

- For "carbon offset practices": ACM with FactoMineR on qualitative data, 22 variables, 16 individuals
- How are they different?
"Carbon offset" certifications

- Governance:
  - ≠ levels
  - ≠ nature

- Scope and eligibility:
  - Same projects type
  - ≠ length of crediting period
  - Additionality yes, but ≠ types
  - Co-benefits yes
  - Group certification: no? → size?
"Carbon offset" certifications

- **MRV:**
  - Always verification(s)
  - Traceability: on project and credits
  - Credits delivery

- **General questions:**
  - Double-counting: lot of discussion
  - No permanence: buffer

- **Economical aspects:**
  - Yes fees but how much?
"Practices" certifications

- Multi-criterial
- Governance:
  - Recent
  - Private
- Scope and eligibility:
  - Agriculture and livestock
  - Group certification
"Practices" certifications

• MRV:
  • Internal verification
  • Evaluation on means and results
  • Technical support

• Economical aspects:
  • Membership
  • Label on the product
  • Access to new market
Conclusion

- 2 certifications type -> analysis grid
- Difficult to make a typology
- "4 per 1000" Certification : still a lot of question remain...

Thank you!
References


• Claudine Foucherot (I4CE), Cyril Brûlez (I4CE), Valentin Bellassen (INRA). 2019. Création d’un cadre de certification carbone pour le secteur agricole. 44 pages.

• Gabriella Cevallos, Julia Grimault, Valentin Bellassen, 2019, Domestic carbon standards in Europe - Overview and perspectives, l4CE