AGROECOLOGY PARTNERSHIP: Summer School

"Agroecology: Conservation Agriculture in Mediterranean Systems"

Presentation of APOSOLO - Portuguese Association for Conservation Tillage

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Elvas, 28th of April 2026

Gabriela Cruz (APOSOLO, Portugal)

APOSOLO - Portuguese Association for Soil Conservation Tillage

Foundation	• 1999
Members	• farmers, academics, companies, students and others (total 22 members)
Scope of activity	• Conservation Agriculture (CA) in Portugal: development, transference of knowledge and experience
Main goals and experience	• to promote knowledge transfer to stakeholders • to raise awareness on CA as well as BPA (best practices) to National and International Administration • to provide information about soil and National and European legislation for Agriculture • to promote research on soil conservation issues • to encourage teaching of soil conservation practices
Main activity | data collection, analysis and dissemination on CA	• National and International field days and workshops organization • newsletters • website Facebook & Linkedin page • partnership on Research Projects and with Institutions • develops a close work with Farmers´ Organizations and Public Administration to Policies and Legislation definition

CAMA Project (2020-2024) - Research-based participatory approaches for adopting Conservation Agriculture in the Mediterranean Area

Italy, Spain, Greece, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Portugal (INIAV + APOSOLO)

CONSOLO Project (2023-2025) - Conservation Agriculture Colloquium - Practices and Benefits -2023

CONSOLO Project (2023-2025) - CA Colloquium - Expedited Soil Evaluation and Experimental Projects -2024 Coruche

Farmers, associations, consultants, companies, public administration, researchers

Site, Animations & Farmers testimony video

www.aposolo.pt

Animation: Soil Threatens

Animation:
Practices of CA

3 farmers´
testimony

TomAC Project (2022-2024) - Conservation Agriculture approaches in processing tomato growing

Publications

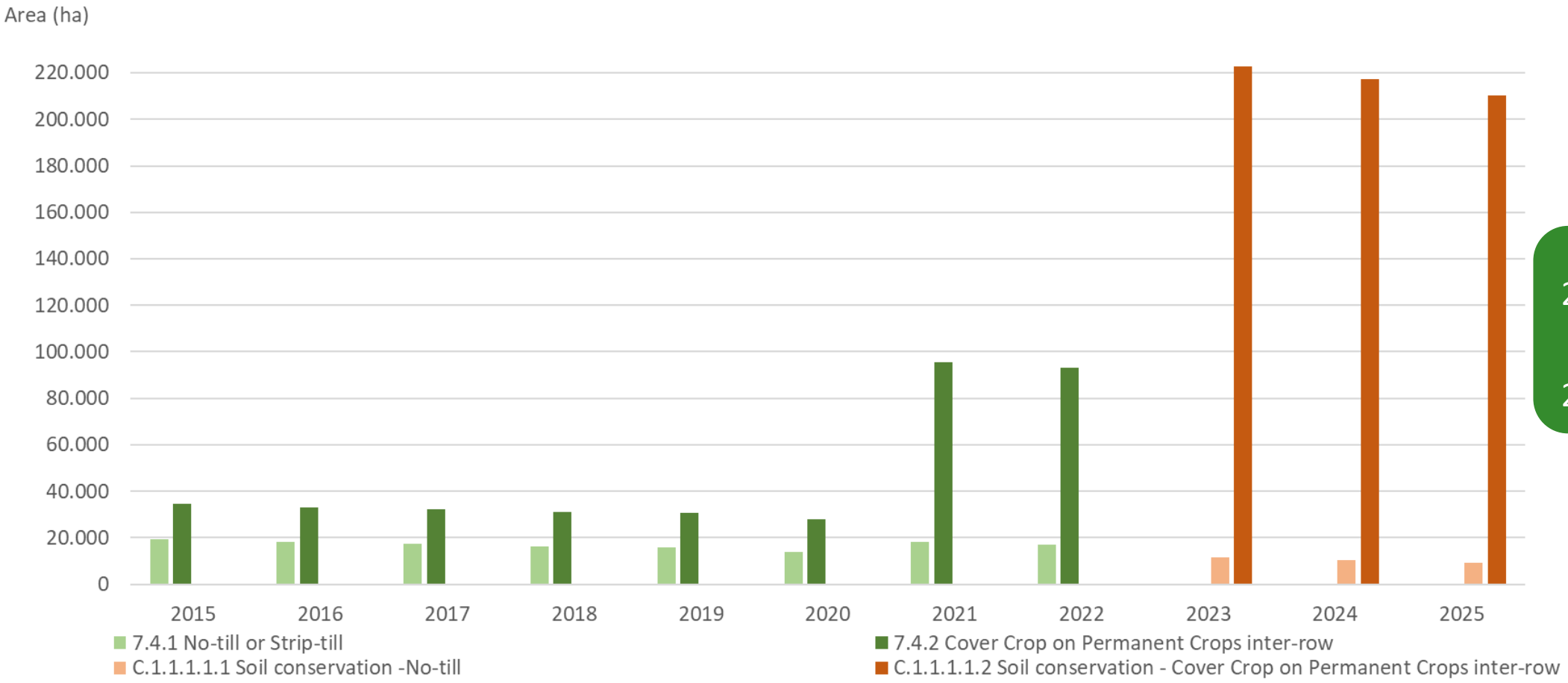
Newsletter - to + 2 000 contacts, national & international

Technical Guide: AC_Cover crops in permanente crops

Technical Guide: AC_Permanent pastures

Conservation Agriculture (CA) in Portugal

Area



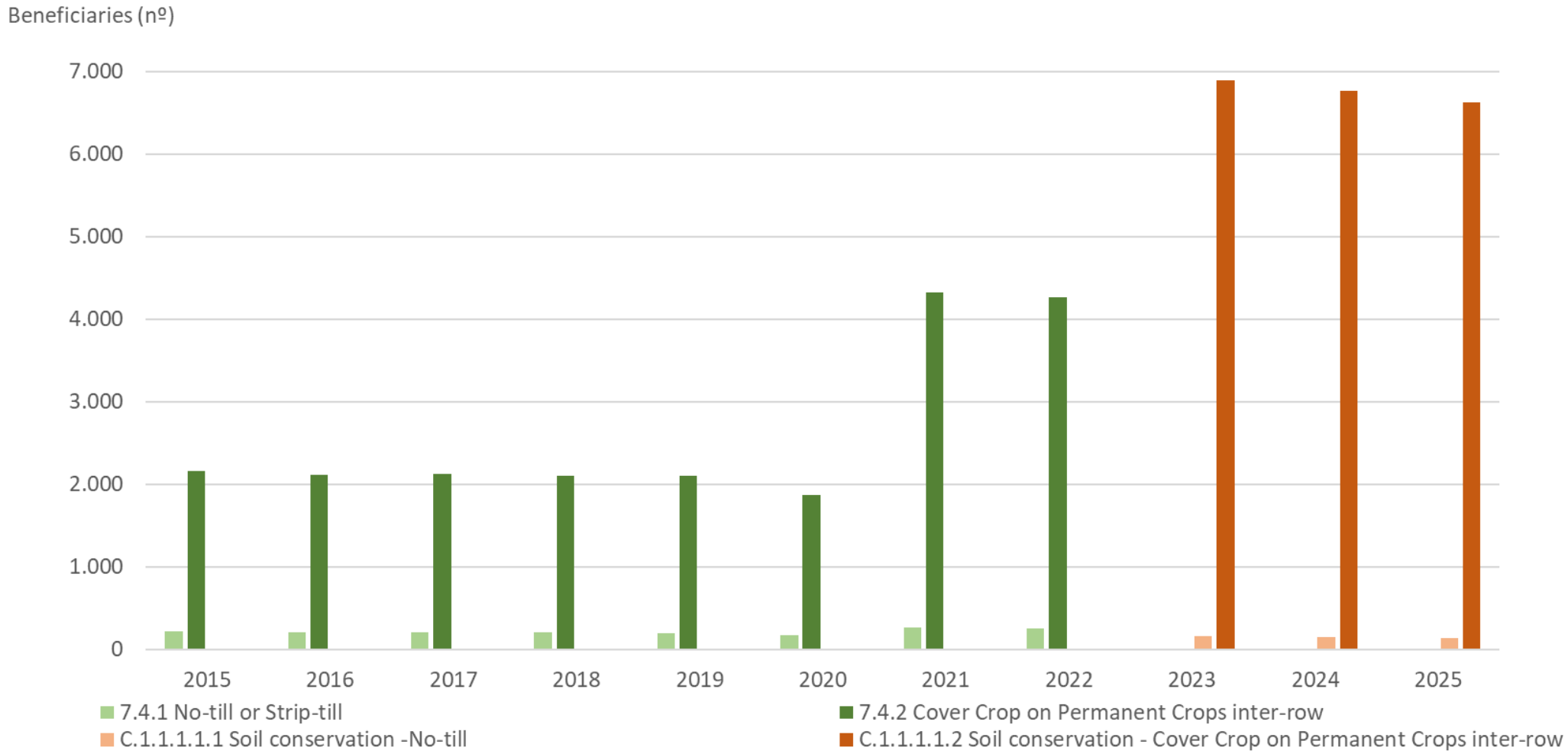
2024 CA 5,9% UAA

2025 CA 5,7% UAA

Source: IFAP Agriculture and Fisheries Financing Institute

Conservation Agriculture (CA) in Portugal

Beneficiaries



Source: IFAP Agriculture and Fisheries Financing Institute

Conservation Agriculture (CA) in Portugal
Barriers & challenges

- **Socio-economic conditions**
  - farm size*; access to contractors; price of machinery; profit-orientation; fear of income reduction - no-tillage may lead to reduced yields/lower performing; …
- **Knowledge/research**
  - CA is knowledge-intensive & a complex system to learn and implement; lack of knowledge (know how) & experiential knowledge for different conditions & crops; nº of demo projects & and networks of long-term experiments should be increased; …
- **Technical factors**
  - adaptation of the technologies to farmers' conditions; machinery and weed control constraints; excessive topsoil compaction; …

* PT mainland 2019 14,4 ha UAA/agricultural holdings

Conservation Agriculture (CA) in Portugal

Barriers & challenges

- **Policy**
  - inadequate policies; unattractive; strict rules; …
- **Culture/mind-set**
  - tradition/heritage; local farmer knowledge

Conservation Agriculture (CA) in Portugal

Barriers & challenges

- **average age** of the single producer 64 years in Portugal
- respect the **pace** of individual adoption
- existence of **crops** in Portugal for which it is not possible to adopt CA or for which there is no consolidated experience in Portugal and/or in the world
- fear of taking **risks**
- lack of **human and financial resources** to disseminate CA practices

Living examples of No-till

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=rm&ogbl#search/fotografias/FMfcgzQbfBscpqtntZqZzhrBCvRrtZMM?projector=1

Thank you for your attention!

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