



Carbon Action platform: examples and lessons in co-creation for regenerative agriculture

Kaj Granholm, project manager, Baltic Sea Action Group

Webinar: A Roadmap for carbon farming, 30 March 2023



Healthy soil
as basis
-
**TOWARDS
MULTI-BENEFIT
AGRICULTURE**

CARBON ACTION – a matured collaboration platform

- Started in 2017 with pilot grant 500 000 €
- BSAG and Finnish Meteorological Institute as initiators
- Today some 20+ different projects / 30+ M€ funding
- Stakeholder and example in EU 'Carbon Farming' and collaboration with 4/1000 Initiative since 2019

"I'm really impressed on how you have developed Carbon Action platform. ...very pragmatic way, linking farmers and scientists into a living lab where you are working together and learning from each other. This is something we would like to promote in other countries."

– Dr. Jean-François Soussana
INRAE & 4/1000 Initiative



CARBON ACTION PLATFORM

FARMERS

100 pilot farms,
20 intensive farms,
1700 in peer club
and e-course,
advisors

DECISION- MAKERS

CAP, climate policy
carbon market,
water quality
programs

SCIENTISTS

20+ projects
Soil science,
agronomy,
meteorology & GHG,
economics

COMPANIES

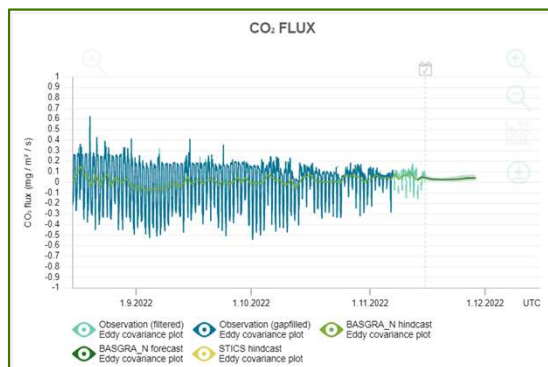
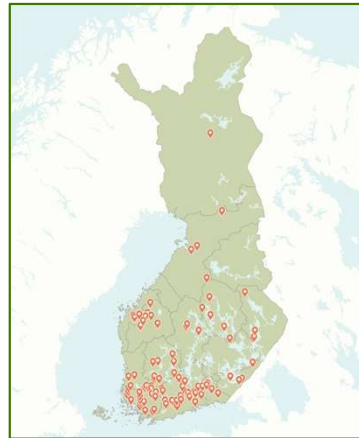
10+ companies
training,
sourcing criteria,
ESG,
products

Communication & Media

International networking:

Nordic co-op
4/1000 Initiative
Horizon Europe
Soil Mission

Carbon sequestration MRV, soil study farms, company platform, experimentation, training, learning



<https://www.fieldobservatory.org/en/online-field-data/>
<https://zenodo.org/communities/carbonaction>

<https://www.uudistavaviljely.fi/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-0-KrVlz5k>

Funders

SITRA



ILMATIETEEN LAITOS



Svenska
kulturfonden



LOUISE &
GÖRAN EHRNROOTH
SÄÄTIÖ



Ympäristöministeriö
Miljöministeriet
Ministry of the Environment



Maa- ja metsätalous-
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MAJ JA TOR NESSLINGIN SÄÄTIÖ



STIFTELSEN
FINLANDSSVENSKA
JORDFONDEN

Partners, *i.a.*



S Y K E

Finnish Environment Institute



LUONNONVARAKESKUS



UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

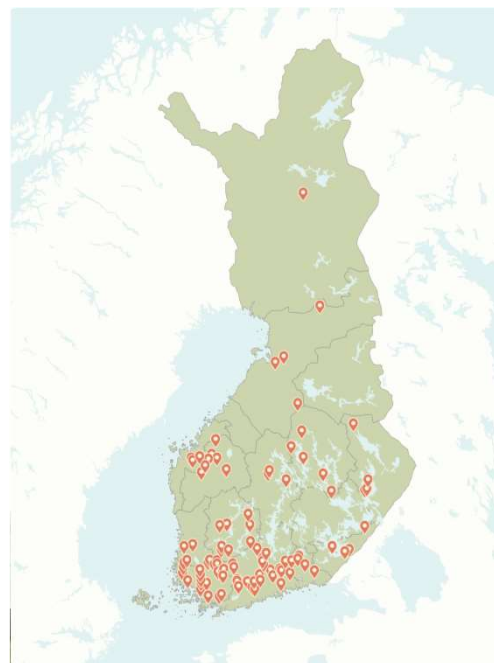
HAMK
HÄMEEN AMMATTIKORKEAKOULU
HAME UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

Steering group

- Ministries
- EU Commission
- Universities
- Research institutes
- Producer organisations
- Advisory organisation
- Farms and other businesses

“Carbon farming” path

- 100 pilot farms engaged at start
- Tailored carbon farming path, with designated practice(s) on 3 ha plots
 - Vegetation cover, diverse crop rotation
 - Soil structure, health, reduced tillage
 - Recycled organic soil amendments and fertilizers
 - Adapted grazing
- 5-year study with top and deep soil sampling
- CO₂ flux measurement at intensive sites, modelled results, sensor etc. data on advanced sites



Farmers' experiences: restored motivation and peer support

"Regenerative farming has helped me save 1/3 in mineral fertilizers and thus mitigate the rising costs" – Jari Eerola

"Soils were degraded after decades of monoculture. Regenerative farming has improved soil structure and fertility in less than 5 years" – N.N.

"It feels great to be a pioneer and have a positive impact by example" – N.N.

"Carbon Action helped me find my farmer identity and make the decision to take over the management of our family farm – without Carbon Action I would not be a farmer today" – Maria Oesch



Examples of food chain approaches to carbon farming incentives for farmers



+ 8 (and counting...) other corporate commitments related to Carbon Action objectives



Examples of food chain approaches to carbon farming incentives for farmers



- Dairy company owned by 4700 Finnish milk producers
- Carbon neutral milk chain 2035
- Trained 600 milk producers with BSAG to apply c.f. practises
- **Criteria and sustainability premium** (e.g. multi-species lay, cutting height, catch crops/undersown crops, cattle manure, cons. till.)

Examples of food chain approaches to carbon farming incentives for farmers



Nestlé global targets:

20% regeneratively produced key ingredients by 2025

50% by 2030

Pilot in Finland with BSAG:

Training in and applying regenerative farming for vegetable production (potatoes, carrots) for Piltti baby food products.

Examples of food chain approaches to carbon farming incentives for farmers

ANORA



Regeneratively farmed barley

From 1 farm 2020-22 to 50+ farms

Koskenkorva Vodka Climate Action

Training of all contract farmers

Examples of food chain approaches to carbon farming incentives for farmers



Regenerative agriculture investment fund

Tackling disincentives to invest in and transition to regenerative farming

Joint ventures by fund and farm manager

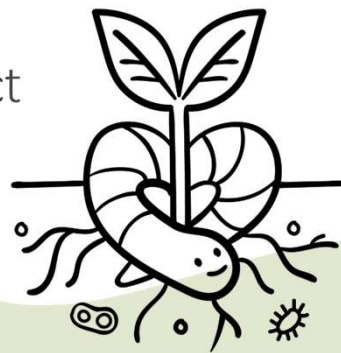
Potential carbon removal credits as additional income

Data, transparency and data-sharing protocols are key building blocks in carbon farming & regenerative farming transition.

<https://www.bsag.fi/en/projects/digi4csa/>

Lessons for participatory research and “living lab” operations

- Platforms help attract and align research funding – but research funding steers action
- Thematic platforms/groups help serve stakeholder needs
- Farmer-to-farmer exchange and peer groups highly valued
- Combination of different funding gives flexibility and increases impact
- Communication and synthesizing research is a growing need
- Keeping farmers committed to and engaged over a multi-year research study is a challenge
- Data practises and management need special attention in co-creative research



**Our approach to *carbon farming*
is that of multi-benefit
regenerative farming which
strengthens food security,
resilience and climate action.**

<https://www.st1.com/st1-life/news-and-updates>

<https://www.bsag.fi/en/news/could-voluntary-carbon-markets-boost-climate-action-in-agriculture-2/>

<https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/164732> - Guide to good practices for voluntary carbon markets, 2023

AHEAD ON CARBON ACTION PLATFORM 2023-2024



- Complete soil study and the 6-year research project STN MULTA by 2025
- More focus on biodiversity 2023->
- Short e-course on RegAg for decision-makers (company and political)
- Nordic and EU cooperation
 - HEU Soil Mission 2022 call projects
 - 4 per 1000 Northern Europe Regional Meeting June 2023
- Policy dialogue and advocacy
 - Climate policy and role and governance of nature-based carbon removals
 - CAP 2028-2034



1st Northern Europe “4 per 1000” Regional Meeting
6–8 JUNE, 2023 IN HELSINKI

www.bsag.fi/en/4p1000-2023/



MORE CARBON IN THE SOIL FOR MULTIPLE BENEFITS



CARBON
ACTION



THANK YOU

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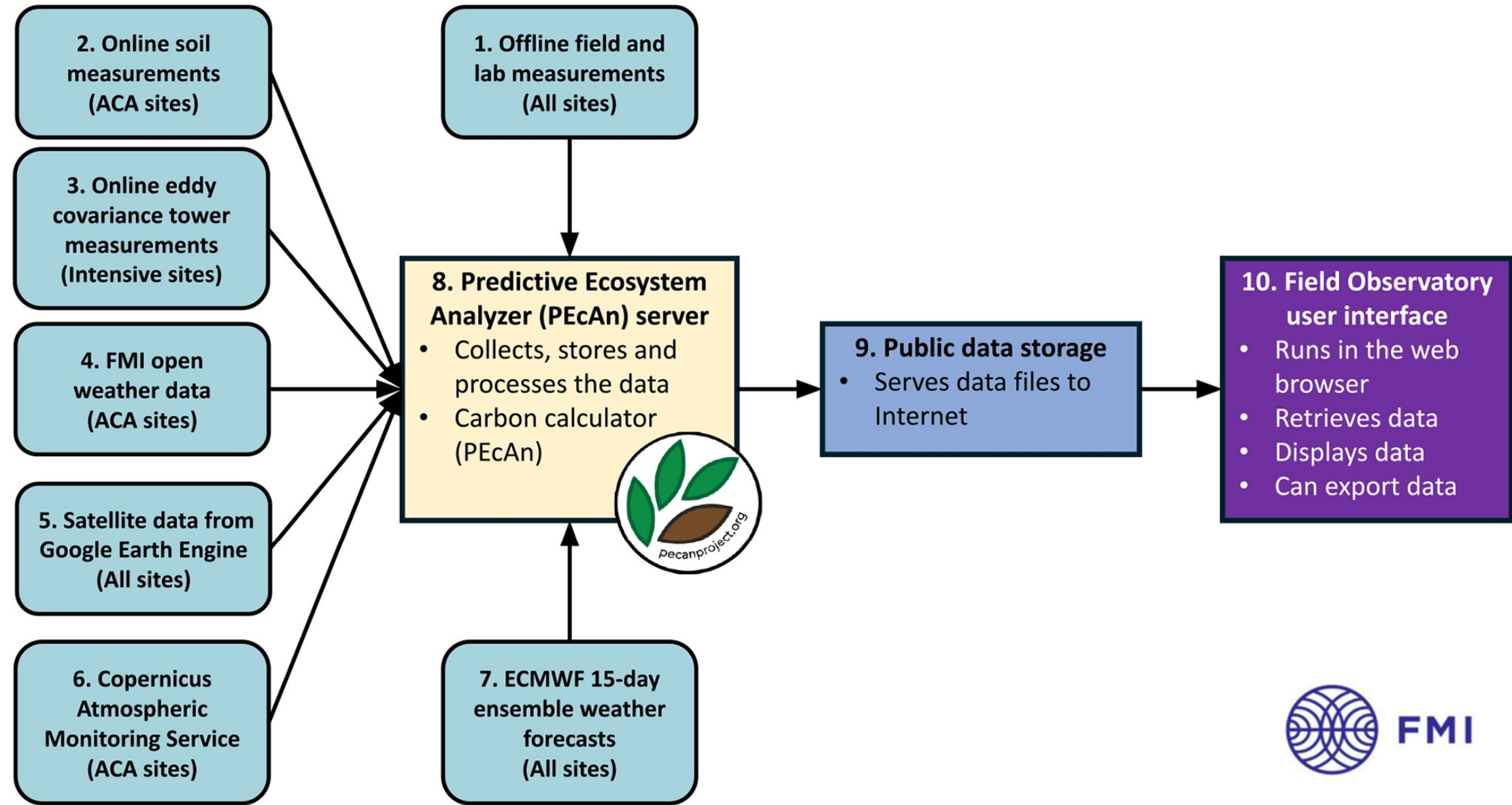
#CarbonAction

www.carbonaction.org



**CARBON
ACTION**

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5. Ten key considerations for the future carbon farming framework	30
5.1. Public subsidies are needed to pave the way and enhance collaboration	30
5.2. Knowledge and advice must be extended to accelerate adoption	31
5.3. Carbon farming practices and how they are implemented needs more precision	31
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5.5. Data and information are fundamental	33
5.6. Pilots with different methodologies help design carbon contract models	35
5.7. Risk of land consolidation at the expense of decentralised agriculture	36
5.8. Open dialogue and coordination at the national level	37
5.9. More practical awareness and coordination needed at strategic levels	37
5.10. The carbon market calls for careful attention to the role of the capital market	38

LIFE CarbonFarmingScheme report (2022):

https://content.st1.fi/sites/default/files/2022-08/Key%20Considerations%20for%20the%20future%20carbon%20farming%20incentive%20scheme%20based%20on%20stakeholders%20perspectives%20.pdf?_gl=1*f41er0*_ga*MTE4ODczMTcxOC4xNjE5MDE0OTA0*_ga_76166H0SHQ*MTY4MDE3Mzk3Ny4zNC4wLjE2ODAxNzM5NzcuMC4wLjA