

LANDMARK: FAST FACTS 2016

LAND MANAGEMENT: ASSESSMENT, RESEARCH, KNOWLEDGE BASE

The challenge

In an expanding global economy, how can we manage the competing societal demands on land? These demands include: i) food production, ii) carbon storage iii) the provision of clean water, iv) habitats for biodiversity and v) nutrient cycling.

The plan

LANDMARK will provide guidelines on land management, aimed at meeting the multiple demands we place on soil resources.

The consortium

LANDMARK is a consortium that brings together a diverse community of scientists, advisors and policy makers from Europe, Brazil and China.

A LANDMARK way of working together

LANDMARK uses a new participatory approach to addressing the research requirements of **stakeholders** such as land managers and advisors, policy makers, scientific and educational communities and the private sector.

Throughout 2016, a series of **workshops** are taking place in Ireland, France, Austria, Germany, Belgium and Denmark. These bring together land managers at local level and diverse stakeholders groups at **regional, national** and **European** level. The workshops have a two-way flow of information.

Existing stakeholder knowledge on the perception of soil quality and land management will be harvested, while at the same time our new framework for understanding the functionality of land will be shared. This inclusion of end-users from the start will have multiple benefits:

- a) It facilitates a process of **co-innovation** by combining both scientific and practical knowledge;
- b) This will create **ownership** by end-users of the research outcomes;
- c) This will in turn augment the **impact** of the research in the form of practice change.

The promise

LANDMARK will deliver:

1. An agricultural **Decision Support Tool** (DST) for soil management that optimises soil functions;
2. A **monitoring scheme** for Soil Functions applicable at regional scale, for a range of soil types, land uses and pedo-climatic zones;
3. A **policy framework** for 'Functional Land Management' at EU scale that aims to optimize the sustainable use of soil across major land uses.

Funding

Landmark is funded by the European Union's **Horizon 2020** research and innovation programme.



Read our first **open access paper**: Making the most of our land: managing soil functions from local to continental scale. *Frontiers in Environmental Science*, 3, 00081. [DOI 10.3389/fenvs.2015.00081](https://doi.org/10.3389/fenvs.2015.00081)



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