

Solvi'Terra

Southeast France

The Solvi'Terra Living Lab (Des sols vivants en Val de Drôme) brings together actors in the Drôme River valley southeastern France. It spans an area of 600 km², with 22,000 ha of agricultural land. This area already forms part of the Biovallée initiative, a bioregion that for the last 30 years has united local stakeholders in efforts to pursue an ecological transition.

The Val de Drôme region is home to a mix of agricultural systems such as field crops (arable crops, seeds, garlic), aromatic plants, viticulture, livestock, and woody crops. Intensive soil exploitation has contributed to the loss of organic matter, soil erosion and groundwater contamination in the region.

Although there is a strong commitment towards an agroecological transition (around 30% of farms in the area are organic), a projected increase in evapotranspiration combined with reduced rainfall and increased droughts pose challenges to the future sustainability in the sector.



Compost



Reduced tillage



Cover cropping



Rotations/
Intercrops



Core Objectives

- Relocation of organic matter within the territory for agricultural purposes
- Improve soil health and organic matter within agricultural soils
- Improve water retention



The Living Lab

In 2021, Biovallée's stakeholders led by local public institution Communauté de Communes du Val de Drôme (CCVD), co-participated in the definition of an agricultural and food vision for 2050, involving a shift toward organic farming, biodiversity and circular economy. Additionally, challenges related to water resources and climate change are significant and integral to the project objective.

They will be addressed in the development of solutions and innovations to improve water retention capacity in agricultural soils.

Living Lab Contact

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Practices such as cover crop, green manure, agroforestry, and topographic elements will also be integrated.

Project partners will lay out a network of test farms, advisors, agricultural research centres, and rural development agencies to support such a plan and increase the likelihood of such a community-driven process resulting in better soil and water management in line with the EU's Soil Mission.



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