

## 1. SolACE project presented to the Conservation Agriculture French consortium

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<p><b>Teaser (ca. 300 characters)</b></p>	<p>During the Conservation Agriculture consortium organised by Arvalis at the end of December 2019, the participants were introduced with the SolACE project. They also participated to individual interviews on the agricultural policies' barriers and enablers. Their contribution will help the European project to give policy recommendations for enhancing sustainable agricultural practices.</p>
<p><b>Article (max.3000 characters)</b></p>	<p>Sustainable solutions for farmers to cope with climate change is the aim of the H2020 SolACE project, which started in 2017. Many areas are under study to reduce water and nutrient stress in wheat and potato crops without having to use more water or add more nutrients.</p> <p>Techniques and tools such as decision support systems, microbial inoculants, cover crops, genotype mixtures, crop breeding, are being reviewed for this purpose.</p> <p>An agricultural system, conservation agriculture, is already running with less more water and inputs than conventional farming. The main idea is to develop a system where the soil is as less disrupted as possible to maintain maximal bioactivity in the ground. Therefore, bacteria, worms, and undersoil living activity are storing a more significant amount of carbon in the soil, increasing nutrients availability to plants. It also contributes to structure the soil in a way that it is storing much more water and for a longer period. Conservation agriculture is a very technical and fascinating agricultural system.</p> <p>Every year, Arvalis organises a national seminar with conservation agriculture delegates in which feedbacks on the last results are given as well as new priorities to be addressed in the coming year trials. The Scientific Director and the General Secretary of Arvalis were part of this meeting to interact with farmers and share their vision on the upcoming challenges. Climate change was central, and the roadmap amended to gain a better knowledge of this system. Many studies are ongoing such as the estimation of carbon storage over a hundred years with the decision support tool AMG, the analysis of nitrogen absorption in this system in comparison with others: N<sub>2</sub>O with legumes, N<sub>2</sub> caught with gas trap chamber, NH<sub>4</sub> analysed with sensors, etc. Without forgetting data collection made on cover crops through experiments, and the addition this year of living mulches on the Arvalis decision support tool on the choice of cover crops.</p> <p>On the occasion of this event, we interviewed some of the delegates for SolACE to get their opinions on policy barriers and enablers. Their view of agricultural policies at the national and European levels will help us offering concrete solutions to influence farmers to use more sustainable agricultural practices. The interviews will be available soon on the SolACE website: <a href="http://www.solace-eu.net">www.solace-eu.net</a>.</p>

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