



factsheet



Managing Soil Organic Matter (SOM)

Soil Organic Matter is the fraction of the soil that includes plant and animal residues at various stages of decomposition, cells and tissues of soil organisms, and substances synthesized by the soil population. Organic matter is largely made up of organic carbon, oxygen, hydrogen, and nitrogen.

The maintenance and enhancement of Soil Organic Matter (SOM) is pivotal to the sustainable management of soils. SOM is a major determinant of soil fertility, water holding capacity and biological activity and is highly correlated to levels of above and below ground biodiversity. A loss of SOM can lead to soil erosion, loss of fertility, compaction and general land degradation. In addition changes in the use and management of soils that result in a decline in SOM can lead to a release of CO₂ to the atmosphere, with practices that increase SOM leading to sequestration of C from the atmosphere to soils. The management of SOM is therefore important at the field, regional and global scale.

Nutri-bio can help you maintain levels of SOM. SOM is especially important for light soils and clay soils, but building levels of SOM you help improve the Soils structure, which enhances root growth, leading to a healthier plant and improved yields.

Under the CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) Single Payment Schemes farmers are required to manage their agricultural soils, which means managing

- Soil Erosion
- Maintenance of Soil Organic matter
- Maintenance of Soil Structure
- Soil Moisture retention

By maintaining SOM you helping to manage all these categories