

Vegetable cross visit

Fertilization and soil fertility in vegetable production

How to be more resilient and self-sufficient?

Lille, North of France

16 -18 SEPTEMBER 2026



The **OrganicAdviceNetwork** project aims at building a strong network of advisors with organic competences across Europe. As part of this mission, the project organizes cross visits for agricultural advisors to meet, exchange and share their innovative organic farming practices.

Join us for this OrganicAdviceNetwork Cross Visit about soil fertility management in organic vegetable production!

A comprehensive 3-day visit combining field visits and indoor sessions around Lille to exchange on soil fertility management including cover crops, green manures, soil organic matter management strategies, and advisory tools. Gain first-hand insights into farmers' and advisors' perspectives, contrasting approaches to autonomy and external inputs, and the realities shaping organic vegetable systems today.

What to expect from this cross visit

This cross visit offers participants an in-depth look into soil fertility management practices in organic vegetable production in the Hauts-de-France region. By the end of the visit, you will:

- Understand the main challenges to manage soil fertility in organic vegetable cropping, as well as the opportunities and limits of green manures, cover crops, and organic fertilizers or amendments
- Get familiar with different strategies and advisory approaches to address fertility issues: self-sufficiency, use of diagnosis and budgeting tools.
- Gain insights into the management options and technical and economic performance of contrasting organic vegetable farms (farm type and supply chain routes);

DAY 1 – 16 September 2026

TIME	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
13:30	Coffee	
14:00-15:00	Kick-off meeting of the cross-visit	Round table to get to know each other Introduction to the overall cross-visit theme and program Introduction to the French and local (Hauts-de-France) organic agriculture context
16:00-17:20	Presentation by Bio Hauts de France	Field trial results conducted by Bio Haut de France, a local organic advice association, about cover crops, to enhance market garden autonomy and soil fertility
17:20-17:30	Coffee break	
17:30-18:30	Collaborative workshop	Exchanges about advisory approaches to fertility in France and respective countries of cross-visit participants
18:30	Conclusion of the day	
19:00	Social dinner	

DAY 2 – 17 September 2026

TIME	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
9:00-12:00	Visit 1: Romuald Bot farm	Smart soil management practices and integration of broiler hens to be more self-sufficient on soil-fertility as a small-scale vegetable grower
12:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-16:30	Visit 2: Thierry Beaucarne farm	Fertility management in large outdoor vegetable production A diagnosis tool to enhance fertility, the Herody approach
19:00	Social diner	

DAY 3 – 18 September 2026

TIME	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
9:00-11:00	Presentation + Workshop	Overview of existing French tools to manage soil fertility and organic matter: their approaches, advantages and complementarities? Beyond nitrogen, how to integrate other elements in advice? Participants will be invited to share about the specific tools they are using. Collective intelligence will bring a European perspective and inspire solutions.
11:00-11:15	Coffee break	
11:15-11:45	Lessons learned	Exchange of lessons learned from the visits and take-home messages
11:45-12:30	Closing session	Feedback from participants and follow-up information

Practical information

Requirements

Participation to the entire cross-visit program is required. There is no possibility to arrive later or leave earlier, except for local participants.

Participants

Agricultural advisor supporting organic farmers or farmers in conversion, as well as advisors or young graduates willing to gain competence in organic advice, are welcome to join this cross-visit. Maximum 18 participants.

Registration

You will be asked to provide some personal information, a brief description of your interest in joining the visit and your capacity in covering your travel costs. However, registration does not assure participation. Only participants receiving a confirmation message will be able to take part in the visit.

First-round registration deadline: 3 July 2026. Confirmation of application by 17 July 2026.

Registration deadline might be extended in case of undersubscription.

Link to register: [Cross Visit: Fertilization and soil fertility in vegetable production, France, 16-18 Sept – Fill out form](#)

Travel costs

In case you do not have budget to cover your travel costs, the project advisory partner in your respective country can reimburse part of your travel costs. Eligible countries for cost reimbursement are FR, BE, DE, IT, BG, EE, DK, AT, CH, HU, ES, PT, HR, RO, IE, NL, SE, FI, CZ, PL, GR, SI, RS.

Eligible costs for reimbursement are transport (train, flight), accommodation (2-3 nights), social lunches and dinners, max reimbursement per participant varies according to countries.

Once your participation to the cross-visit is confirmed, you will receive more detailed information by the advisory project partner in your country about the conditions for reimbursement.

Costs during the cross-visit are estimated at 350 EUR including accommodation and breakfast for 2 nights. Lunches are offered by the OrganicAdviceNetwork project. This estimation does not include social dinners nor the food and transport expenses to reach Lille, France.

Contact information

For any additional information, please contact:

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