



Farmer-driven Organic Resource Management to build Soil fertility (ORM4Soil)

Research objectives

Improving soil fertility by increasing adoption and scaling up of soil fertility management (SFM) techniques through:

- › Identifying the reasons for poor adoption of SFM practices and understanding the socio-cultural context,
- › assessing the effects of new organic resource management techniques designed by farmers and researchers,
- › designing the communication with and amongst farmers, and evaluating the socio-economic settings for the adoption of SFM,
- › recommendations to extension services, farmer organizations, and private sector actors, for a better adoption of SFM practices, and
- › to community representatives, policy makers and donors to adapt regulations and communication strategies.

Expected scientific contributions

- › New methods for participatory on-farm and community related research.
- › New comprehensive ways of interdisciplinary cooperation.
- › Peer reviewed publications.
- › Insights on the interplay of agronomy, social context and communication on soil fertility.
- › Cross country exchange of knowledge and experiences.

Two selected project areas per country

Mali:

- › **Maféya:** arid, sudanian mixed crops, livestock (irrigated rice)
- › **Zoumana Diassa:** sub-humid sudano guinean mixed crops, cotton

Ghana:

- › **Kade:** humid, semi deciduous forest mixed permanent – annual crops
- › **Sege:** arid coastal savannah mixed crops, livestock

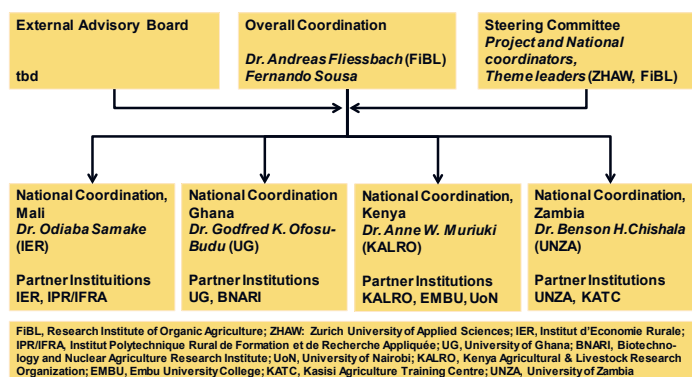
Kenya:

- › **Chuka:** sub-humid bimodal, mixed crops
- › **Thika:** semi-humid bimodal, mixed crops

Zambia:

- › **Kasama:** humid subtropical, acid soils cassava, maize, mixed crops
- › **Chipata:** tropical wet and dry maize, mixed crops, livestock

Project organisation and team



Development relevance

- › Enhanced adoption of SFM improves yields and food security.
- › Collaboration with community, extension services, radio stations and mass media on targeted radio programs based on research results.
- › Adaptation of regulations impeding soil fertility management.
- › Information to the donor community to adapt their approach.