

Terms of Reference – International Soil Carbon Industry Alliance (ISCIA)

Introduction:

The International Soil Carbon Industry Alliance (ISCIA) is being established to provide a platform for experts, stakeholders and industry professionals to collaborate and share knowledge on soil carbon and agricultural decarbonisation projects. The group will aim to identify and overcome barriers that hinder the success of soil carbon projects, develop best practices and provide recommendations for policy development that support soil carbon sequestration.

Scope:

ISCIA focuses on overcoming barriers and accelerating best practices and recommendations for policy development in areas of:

- carbon accounting methods
- carbon credit markets
- soil carbon measurement technology
- soil carbon modelling technology
- soil carbon method development
- soil carbon credit integrity
- soil carbon finance and investment
- related co-benefit opportunities, especially biodiversity, water quality and productivity, improved food security
- benefit-sharing with local communities.

Objectives:

- **identify barriers** to the success of soil carbon and agricultural decarbonisation projects and develop solutions to overcome them, with a particular focus on the topics listed in the scope section
- **provide recommendations** for policy development that support soil carbon sequestration, considering national and international regulatory frameworks, and addressing the topics listed in the scope section
- **promote the adoption** of soil carbon sequestration as a climate solution and identify co-benefits that can result from such initiatives, particularly in the areas of biodiversity, water quality, and productivity
- **enable coordination and collaboration** to support frameworks and knowledge sharing to enable technical discussions and the promotion of expertise and priorities across international and national levels, with a focus on the topics listed in the scope section.
- **foster global investment** into soil carbon projects to ensure that these initiatives have the necessary resources to be implemented effectively and widely.

Activities:

ISCIA participants are encouraged to engage in the below activities:

- an annual high-level meeting to reaffirm political commitments to soil carbon and agricultural decarbonisation priorities, particularly in the areas listed in the scope section.

- quarterly virtual workshops on top priorities for global soil carbon's material impact on climate, with a particular focus on the topics listed in the scope section.
- annual discussions of top priorities for global soil carbon sequestration.
- identification of innovation sprints for co-creation and coordinated funding initiatives between interested participants, with a focus on the topics listed in the scope section.
- coordination with other relevant initiatives to avoid duplication and to promote the objectives of ISCIA for climate change, with a particular focus on the topics listed in the scope section.
- joint communications (e.g., editorials and social media)

Membership:

Membership of ISCIA will be open to individuals and organizations with relevant experience, expertise, and interest in soil carbon and agricultural decarbonisation projects, particularly in the areas listed in the scope section. Membership will be determined based on the applicant's relevant qualifications, experience, and interest in the group's objectives.

Diversity, gender equity, and inclusion are critical to the success of ISCIA. ISCIA recognizes the wide range of participants necessary to achieve the organization's goals. Each participant adds value, and ISCIA draws on all knowledge, experiences, and cultures, and embraces inclusive excellence. Participation in ISCIA is voluntary.

By joining ISCIA, participants intend to:

- Increase and accelerate investment in agriculture and food systems innovation in support of climate action, particularly in the areas listed in the scope section.
- Acknowledge and amplify the ISCIA objectives, particularly in the areas listed in the scope section.
- identify opportunities and/or other support that will enable ISCIA to achieve its objectives, particularly in the areas listed in the scope section.
- acknowledge and amplify the importance of enabling science-based and data-driven decision and policy-making, particularly in the areas listed in the scope section.
- acknowledge the importance of cooperation and partnership on soil carbon and agricultural decarbonisation projects, particularly in the areas listed in the scope section.
- participate in future ISCIA-convened activities to enable a framework to discuss and promote priorities across international and national levels, particularly in the areas listed in the scope section.

Observer status:

In addition to membership, there is the option of being an observing entity to ISCIA. Observers take part in ISCIA meetings, workshops, and events as well as the asynchronous communication channels but take no agency to drive ISCIA's development, agreements, publications or actions.