



Short final report on the Pilot Project 301

“Prevention and minimization of soil threats within Valky community in Kharkiv region of Ukraine” (PREMISOIL-UA)

Publishable summary

The Pilot Project 301 PREMISOIL-UA has been focused on the increasing of soil literacy within the Valky community in Kharkiv region of Ukraine and engagement of different social layers into public soil management on the municipality territory using soil conservation technics and novelties. The community is located on the northern-east part of country, and its area is 1018 km². The total number of stakeholders directly involved in the participatory process and events was 31 persons, including 5 public entities from municipality, 10 academia, 16 farmers, 2 citizens, and 2 NGOs. The project team carried out the soil survey of 20 farms with taking and analysis of more than 170 soil samples that allow to define the main soil problems of the community.

The project team held 2 workshops in the local municipality 30th of August 2024 and 15th of March 2025 where presented the soil survey results regarding organic carbon content, general agrochemical characteristics (pH, available NPKS content, micronutrients), as well as a few examples of erosion modelling on the agricultural plots. All farmers received targeted consultations from scientific experts and printed recommendations on problematic issues of soil health on individual farms during the workshop.

The special Guidelines for sustainable soil health management of the Valky territorial community (ISBN 978-617-8688-26-4) were developed and distributed among project stakeholders. The Guidelines content information about the state of soils and tips for implementation of necessary soil protection measures, i.e. prevention of erosion, organic matter (humus) and nutrients losses, soil overcompaction, soil pollution with pesticide residues, and overcoming the consequences of soil cover disruption due to military actions.

The Agreement on territorial management of soil health of the Valky community within the framework of cooperation and partnership has been signed by the Valky Territorial Community, NSC Institute for Soil Science and Agrochemistry Research, and the NGO Association of Farmers and Private Landowners of Kharkiv Region.

Based on the project implementation, the regional government of the Kharkiv region has decided to support this activity by including it into the Action Plan for 2025-2027 for the implementation of the Kharkiv region Development Strategy for 2021 - 2027, approved by the decision of the regional council dated 04/24/2025 No. 1150 – VIII.

All the advantages of the best practice of sustainable soil health management of municipalities are described in detail in an article entitled "Prospective directions of state support for agricultural enterprises" published on July 21, 2025 in the all-Ukrainian popular science magazine for farmers "Proposition".