



Field located in the forest-steppe zone under Organic Agriculture with Reduced Tillage (Yurii Z)

## Organic Agriculture with Reduced Tillage (Ukraine)

### Organic Agriculture

#### DESCRIPTION

This organic agriculture technology combines reduced tillage with organic farming practices to enhance soil health, increase carbon sequestration, and maintain sustainable agricultural productivity.

This example of organic agriculture is applied primarily in the central Poltava region of Ukraine, which is characterized by undulating plains within the Poltava Plateau. The region's fertile chernozem soils provide an ideal environment for sustainable farming practices. These soils are predominantly deep, medium-humus, medium-loam chernozems, known for their agronomically favourable physical and chemical properties, including high organic carbon content (around 3% in the upper layer) and excellent water retention capacity. The natural fertility of these soils, combined with their relatively high nitrogen and exchangeable potassium content, underpins their suitability for organic farming.

Organic agriculture in this context combines two land management technologies (LMTs): reduced tillage and organic farming. Reduced tillage minimizes soil disturbance, which preserves soil structure and reduces erosion, while organic farming eliminates synthetic inputs and relies on crop rotations, organic fertilizers, and biological pest control to maintain soil health and ecosystem balance. The purpose of these practices is to enhance soil carbon sequestration, mitigate climate change impacts, and support sustainable agricultural productivity.

Farming is certified as a producer of organic plant products in accordance with the standards equivalent to Council Resolutions (EU) 834/2007 and 889/2008.

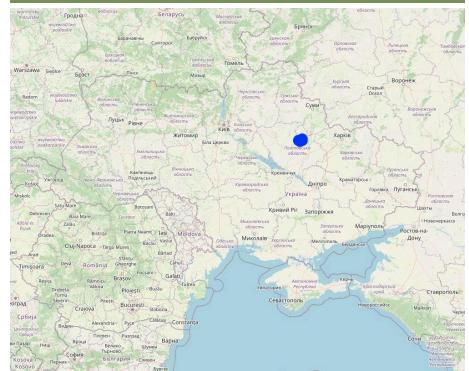
Under this system, shallow tillage is carried out to a depth of 4–6 cm, which helps preserve the natural structure and capillarity of the soil. It employs Horsch cultivators of the "Agrosoyuz," "Scorpion," and "Quant" models. The enterprise also extensively uses disc harrows from the French manufacturer Grégoire Besson, such as the DXRV and DXRV-HD models, which are employed for green manure incorporation. These tools operate at a precisely determined depth, regardless of the micro-relief of the field. Thus, PE "Agroecology" does not use ploughs for inversion tillage but instead prioritizes shallow tillage with cultivators and disc harrows.

The main crops grown include winter wheat, soy, corn, sunflower, and perennial herbs such as sainfoin. The combination of these crops supports soil fertility and biodiversity while maintaining agricultural productivity. Land Mitigation Technology (LMT) refers to practices and technologies designed to reduce or offset the environmental impact of land use activities. It includes strategies for restoring degraded ecosystems, preventing soil erosion, conserving biodiversity, and managing resources sustainably. LMT is often applied in agriculture, construction, and land development to balance development needs with environmental protection.

Key activities to establish and maintain the technology include transitioning from conventional to organic farming practices, adapting tillage methods to reduced-intensity operations, and maintaining organic soil fertility through natural inputs. These activities require significant initial effort and investment, including soil testing for nutrient content and organic carbon stocks, stakeholder engagement for field planning, and long-term monitoring of soil health indicators. The establishment process also involves collaboration with scientific institutions, such as ISSAR and Bioclear Earth, to ensure effective implementation and validation of the technology.

The primary benefits of this technology include improved soil structure, increased biodiversity, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and enhanced carbon sequestration. The technology has demonstrated the potential to sequester up to  $0.4 \text{ t C ha}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ , with minimal yield trade-offs. Additionally, the resilience of the chernozem soils supports similar crop yields in both organic and conventional systems, thanks to their natural fertility and lower input rates in conventional agriculture. Farmers particularly value the long-term sustainability and ecological benefits of organic farming.

#### LIEU



**Lieu:** Poltava region on the left bank of the river Psyl, in 20 km from urban-type settlement Shishaky and in 80 km to the regional center Poltava, Poltava region, Shishaky area, Ukraine

**Nbr de sites de la Technologie analysés:** 10-100 sites

#### Géo-référence des sites sélectionnés

- 34.12557, 49.9612
- 34.30712, 49.97015
- 34.29459, 49.9979
- 34.20021, 49.97118
- 34.29868, 49.98303
- 34.1899, 49.93198
- 34.1798, 49.9468
- 34.2986, 49.95903
- 34.21989, 49.95832
- 34.15289, 49.95454

**Diffusion de la Technologie:** répartie uniformément sur une zone (approx. 1 000-10 000 km<sup>2</sup>)

**Dans des zones protégées en permanence ?:** Non

**Date de mise en oeuvre:** il y a entre 10-50 ans

#### Type d'introduction

grâce à l'innovation d'exploitants des terres

Land users face challenges with this technology. Transitioning to organic farming can result in temporary yield reductions, requiring adaptation in farm management practices. Furthermore, reduced tillage demands specific equipment and techniques, which may present a financial barrier for some farmers. The implementation of organic farming also requires significant effort in pest and weed management due to the absence of chemical inputs.

Overall, this form of organic agriculture represents a promising approach to sustainable farming in Ukraine, particularly in the fertile Chernozem region. Its ability to enhance carbon sequestration while maintaining comparable yields to conventional systems highlights its potential to contribute to climate mitigation and soil restoration goals. Further research and field validation are needed to refine the understanding of its impacts and optimize its implementation.

- dans le cadre d'un système traditionnel (> 50 ans)
- au cours d'expérimentations / de recherches
- par le biais de projets/ d'interventions extérieures



Undulating plains, maize plot (Yuri Zalavsky)



Maize plot and the field border (Yuri Zalavsky)

## CLASSIFICATION DE LA TECHNOLOGIE

### Principal objectif

- améliorer la production
- réduire, prévenir, restaurer les terres dégradées
- préserver l'écosystème
- protéger un bassin versant/ des zones situées en aval - en combinaison avec d'autres technologies
- conserver/ améliorer la biodiversité
- réduire les risques de catastrophes
- s'adapter au changement et aux extrêmes climatiques et à leurs impacts
- atténuer le changement climatique et ses impacts
- créer un impact économique positif
- créer un impact social positif
- chernozem productivity assessment between conventional and traditional agriculture

### But relatif à la dégradation des terres

- prévenir la dégradation des terres
- réduire la dégradation des terres
- restaurer/ réhabiliter des terres sévèrement dégradées
- s'adapter à la dégradation des terres
- non applicable

### Groupe de GDT

- Amélioration de la couverture végétale/ du sol
- gestion intégrée de la fertilité des sols

## DESSIN TECHNIQUE

### Spécifications techniques

## MISE EN ŒUVRE ET ENTRETIEN : ACTIVITÉS, INTRANTS ET COÛTS

### Calcul des intrants et des coûts

### Facteurs les plus importants affectant les coûts

- Les coûts sont calculés : par superficie de la Technologie (taille et unité de surface : **7000 ha, it represents a large typical farm in Ukraine. It's also a convenient size for scaling up agricultural solutions or technologies.**)
- Monnaie utilisée pour le calcul des coûts : **dollars américains**
- Taux de change (en dollars américains - USD) : 1 USD = n.d.
- Coût salarial moyen de la main-d'oeuvre par jour : depending on local conditions and the type of labor required (e.g., general farm work vs. skilled machinery operation)

The costs of implementing and maintaining organic agriculture combined with reduced tillage as a land management technology are influenced by a combination of local factors, including labor, equipment, inputs, land conditions, certification, environmental factors, and scale of operation. Understanding these factors helps in estimating costs more accurately and planning for efficient resource use.

- 1. Initial Soil Testing and Amendments:** Costs are influenced by the condition of Chernozem soils and the need for specific amendments to support organic farming practices.
- Labor for Establishment and Maintenance:** Seasonal labor demand for planting cover crops, applying organic fertilizers, and managing pests affects overall costs.
- 2. Specialized Equipment:** Upgrading or accessing reduced tillage equipment tailored to this technology adds to establishment expenses.
- 3. Certification Requirements:** Transitioning to certified organic farming involves costs for documentation, inspections, and compliance with standards.
- 4. Material Inputs:** Price and availability of cover crop seeds, compost, and organic pest control products impact both establishment and recurrent costs.
- 5. Weather-Driven Costs:** Unpredictable weather can lead to increased use of inputs like organic pest management and irrigation.
- 6. External Support:** Grants, subsidies, or cost-sharing arrangements can reduce the burden on land users but are variable depending on donor or government programs.

#### Activités de mise en place/ d'établissement

1. Soil testing (chemical & biological) (Calendrier/ fréquence: Pre-season)
2. Transition planning (certification) (Calendrier/ fréquence: Pre-season (2-3 months before planting))
3. Cover crop seeds (e.g. clover, vetch) (Calendrier/ fréquence: Pre-season (1-2 months before planting))
4. Compost/organic amendments (Calendrier/ fréquence: Pre-planting (2-3 weeks before planting))
5. Reduced tillage equipment upgrade (Calendrier/ fréquence: Pre-season (1 month before planting))
6. Labor for initial setup (e.g., planting cover crops) (Calendrier/ fréquence: Pre-season (1-2 weeks before planting))
7. Miscellaneous inputs (mulches, fencing, etc.) (Calendrier/ fréquence: Pre-season (1-2 weeks before planting))
8. Organic fertilizers (compost/manure) (Calendrier/ fréquence: Annual (pre-planting))
9. Cover crop replanting (Calendrier/ fréquence: Annual (during planting season))
10. Reduced tillage operations (Calendrier/ fréquence: Annual (during planting season))
11. Organic pest and weed management (Calendrier/ fréquence: Annual (growing season))
12. Labor for maintenance activities (Calendrier/ fréquence: Annual (during planting season))
13. Miscellaneous (repairs, small inputs) (Calendrier/ fréquence: Annual (as needed throughout the year))

Intrants et coûts de mise en place (per 7000 ha, it represents a large typical farm in Ukraine. It's also a convenient size for scaling up agricultural solutions or technologies.)

Spécifiez les intrants	Unité	Quantité	Coûts par unité (dollars américains)	Coût total par intrant (dollars américains)	% des coûts supporté par les exploitants des terres
<b>Main d'œuvre</b>					
Consulting fees, planning materials	session	10,0	2500,0	25000,0	50,0
Labor for planting cover crops	Day	4200,0	50,0	210000,0	20,0
Labor for weeding, pest management, maintenance	Day	4200,0	50,0	210000,0	15,0
<b>Equipements</b>					
Equipment rental or purchase	machine	1,0	25000,0	25000,0	
Reduced tillage equipment use	ha	7000,0	150,0	1050000,0	
<b>Matériel végétal</b>					
Cover Crop Seeds (e.g., clover, vetch)	kg	175000,0	1,6	280000,0	25,0
Replanting of cover crops	kg	175000,0	1,6	280000,0	20,0
<b>Engrais et biocides</b>					
Compost/Organic Amendments	ton	7000,0	100,0	700000,0	35,0
Organic fertilizers	ton	7000,0	100,0	700000,0	25,0
Organic pest control (biocontrols, organic pesticides)	liter	35000,0	30,0	1050000,0	25,0
<b>Matériaux de construction</b>					
Mulches, fencing	unit	7000,0	2,5	17500,0	15,0
<b>Autre</b>					
Soil Testing (chemical & biological)	test	7000,0	20,0	140000,0	30,0
Small repairs, inputs like mulches	unit	7000,0	2,5	17500,0	10,0
<b>Coût total de mise en place de la Technologie</b>					
Coût total de mise en place de la Technologie en dollars américains (USD)					4'705'000,0
					4'705'000,0

#### Activités récurrentes d'entretien

1. Cover crop replanting (Calendrier/ fréquence: Annually (during planting season))
2. Reduced tillage operations (Calendrier/ fréquence: Annually (during planting season))
3. Organic pest and weed management (Calendrier/ fréquence: Annually (growing season))

4. Labor for maintenance activities (Calendrier/ fréquence: Annually (during planting season))
5. Miscellaneous repairs and small inputs (Calendrier/ fréquence: As needed throughout the year)
6. Organic fertilizers (compost/manure) (Calendrier/ fréquence: Annually (pre-planting))
7. Soil health monitoring (e.g., soil testing) (Calendrier/ fréquence: Every 2-3 years (or as needed))

Intrants et coûts de l'entretien (per 7000 ha, it represents a large typical farm in Ukraine. It's also a convenient size for scaling up agricultural solutions or technologies.)

Spécifiez les intrants	Unité	Quantité	Coûts par unité (dollars américains)	Coût total par intrant (dollars américains)	% des coûts supporté par les exploitants des terres
<b>Main d'œuvre</b>					
Organic pest and weed management	ha	1000,0	50,0	50000,0	100,0
Labor for maintenance activities	day	7000,0	50,0	350000,0	80,0
<b>Equipements</b>					
Reduced tillage operations	Equipment	1,0	200000,0	200000,0	100,0
<b>Matériel végétal</b>					
Cover crop replanting	kg	175000,0	1,6	280000,0	100,0
<b>Engrais et biocides</b>					
Organic fertilizers (compost/manure)	ton	7000,0	100,0	700000,0	100,0
<b>Autre</b>					
Miscellaneous repairs & small inputs	Unit	70000,0	2,5	175000,0	100,0
Soil health monitoring (soil testing)	test	7000,0	20,0	140000,0	100,0
<b>Coût total d'entretien de la Technologie</b>					
Coût total d'entretien de la Technologie en dollars américains (USD)					
1'895'000,0					
1'895'000,0					

## ENVIRONNEMENT NATUREL

<b>Précipitations annuelles</b>	<b>Zones agro-climatiques</b>	<b>Spécifications sur le climat</b>
< 250 mm	humide	Précipitations moyennes annuelles en mm : 500.0
251-500 mm	subhumide	Selyaninov's Hydro-Thermal Coefficient 0.81-1.05, precipitation XI-III 140-150
501-750 mm	semi-aride	Cold period 120-133 days, assimilation of precipitation in the cold period 47%
751-1000 mm	aride	
1001-1500 mm		
1501-2000 mm		
2001-3000 mm		
3001-4000 mm		
> 4000 mm		
<b>Pentes moyennes</b>	<b>Reliefs</b>	<b>Zones altitudinales</b>
plat (0-2 %)	plateaux/ plaines	0-100 m
faible (3-5%)	crêtes	101-500 m
modéré (6-10%)	flancs/ pentes de montagne	501-1000 m
onduleux (11-15%)	flancs/ pentes de colline	1001-1500 m
vallonné (16-30%)	piémonts/ glaciis (bas de pente)	1501-2000 m
raide (31-60%)	fonds de vallée/bas-fonds	2001-2500 m
très raide (>60%)		2501-3000 m
		3001-4000 m
		> 4000 m
<b>Profondeurs moyennes du sol</b>	<b>Textures du sol (de la couche arable)</b>	<b>La Technologie est appliquée dans</b>
très superficiel (0-20 cm)	grossier/ léger (sablonneux)	situations convexes
superficiel (21-50 cm)	moyen (limoneux)	situations concaves
modérément profond (51-80 cm)	fin/ lourd (argile)	non pertinent
profond (81-120 cm)		
très profond (>120 cm)		
<b>Profondeur estimée de l'eau dans le sol</b>	<b>Textures du sol (&gt; 20 cm sous la surface)</b>	<b>Matière organique de la couche arable</b>
en surface	grossier/ léger (sablonneux)	abondant (>3%)
< 5 m	moyen (limoneux)	moyen (1-3%)
5-50 m	fin/ lourd (argile)	faible (<1%)
> 50 m		
<b>Diversité des espèces</b>	<b>Disponibilité de l'eau de surface</b>	<b>La salinité de l'eau est-elle un problème ?</b>
élevé	excès	Oui
moyenne	bonne	Non
faible	moyenne	
	faible/ absente	
<b>Diversité des habitats</b>	<b>Qualité de l'eau (non traitée)</b>	<b>Présence d'inondations</b>
élevé	eau potable	Oui
moyenne	faiblement potable (traitement nécessaire)	Non
faible	uniquement pour usage agricole (irrigation)	
	eau inutilisable	
	<i>La qualité de l'eau fait référence à: à la fois les eaux souterraines et de surface</i>	

## CARACTÉRISTIQUES DES EXPLOITANTS DES TERRES APPLIQUANT LA TECHNOLOGIE

<b>Orientation du système de production</b>	<b>Revenus hors exploitation</b>	<b>Niveau relatif de richesse</b>	<b>Niveau de mécanisation</b>
subsistance (auto-approvisionnement) exploitation mixte (de subsistance/ commerciale) commercial/ de marché	moins de 10% de tous les revenus 10-50% de tous les revenus > 50% de tous les revenus	très pauvre pauvre <b>moyen</b> riche très riche	travail manuel traction animale mécanisé/ motorisé
<b>Sédentaire ou nomade</b>	<b>Individus ou groupes</b>	<b>Genre</b>	<b>Âge</b>
Sédentaire Semi-nomade Nomade	individu/ ménage groupe/ communauté coopérative employé (entreprise, gouvernement)	femmes <b>hommes</b>	enfants jeunes <b>personnes d'âge moyen</b> personnes âgées
<b>Superficie utilisée par ménage</b>	<b>Échelle</b>	<b>Propriété foncière</b>	<b>Droits d'utilisation des terres</b>
< 0,5 ha 0,5-1 ha 1-2 ha 2-5 ha 5-15 ha 15-50 ha 50-100 ha 100-500 ha 500-1 000 ha <b>1 000-10 000 ha</b> > 10 000 ha	petite dimension moyenne dimension <b>grande dimension</b>	état <b>entreprise</b> communauté/ village groupe individu, sans titre de propriété individu, avec titre de propriété	accès libre (non organisé) communautaire (organisé) loué individuel
<b>Accès aux services et aux infrastructures</b>			<b>Droits d'utilisation de l'eau</b>
santé éducation assistance technique emploi (par ex. hors exploitation) marchés énergie routes et transports eau potable et assainissement services financiers	pauvre ✓ <span style="background-color: #d9ead3; color: green;">bonne</span> pauvre ✓ <span style="background-color: #d9ead3; color: green;">bonne</span>		accès libre (non organisé) communautaire (organisé) loué individuel

## IMPACT

<b>Impacts socio-économiques</b>			
Production agricole		en baisse	en augmentation
gestion des terres Enhanced marketability of products due to organic certification		entravé	simplifié
<b>Impacts socioculturels</b>			
connaissances sur la GDT/ dégradation des terres		réduit	amélioré
		Increased awareness and adoption of sustainable practices in the local community.	
<b>Impacts écologiques</b>			
matière organique du sol/ au dessous du sol C		en baisse	en augmentation
émissions de carbone et de gaz à effet de serre		en augmentation	en baisse
		Improved organic matter content (+50%) and reduced soil compaction. Carbon sequestration potential of $0.4 \text{ t C ha}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ observed	
<b>Impacts hors site</b>			
dommages sur les champs voisins		en augmentation	réduit
impact des gaz à effet de serre		en augmentation	réduit
		Reduced erosion and runoff benefit adjacent landowners Net GHG reduction due to carbon sequestration and reduced fertilizer use ( $0.4 \text{ t C ha}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ )	

## ANALYSE COÛTS-BÉNÉFICES

### Bénéfices par rapport aux coûts de mise en place

Rentabilité à court terme	très négative					✓	très positive
Rentabilité à long terme	très négative					✓	très positive

### Bénéfices par rapport aux coûts d'entretien

Rentabilité à court terme	très négative					✓	très positive
Rentabilité à long terme	très négative					✓	très positive

## CHANGEMENT CLIMATIQUE

### Changements climatiques progressifs

températures annuelles augmentent pas bien du tout très bien

### Autres conséquences liées au climat

Soil degradation pas bien du tout très bien

## ADOPTION ET ADAPTATION DE LA TECHNOLOGIE

### Pourcentage d'exploitants des terres ayant adopté la Technologie dans la région



### Parmi tous ceux qui ont adopté la Technologie, combien d'entre eux l'ont fait spontanément, à savoir sans recevoir aucune incitation matérielle ou aucun paiement ?



### La Technologie a-t-elle été récemment modifiée pour s'adapter à l'évolution des conditions ?

- Oui
- Non

### A quel changement ?

- changements/ extrêmes climatiques
- évolution des marchés
- la disponibilité de la main-d'œuvre (par ex., en raison de migrations)

## CONCLUSIONS ET ENSEIGNEMENTS TIRÉS

### Points forts: point de vue de l'exploitant des terres

- Land users see the technology as a sustainable solution that improves soil health, reduces input costs in the long term, and offers potential market advantages through organic certification, leading to higher-value crops and improved land productivity.

### Points forts: point de vue du compilateur ou d'une autre personne-reessource clé

- From the key resource person's perspective, the technology promotes long-term environmental sustainability, increases resilience to climate change, and contributes to carbon sequestration, while aligning with broader policy goals for sustainable agriculture and reduced environmental impact.

### Faiblesses/ inconvenients/ risques: point de vue de l'exploitant des terrescomment surmonter

- Initial high costs: The transition to organic agriculture and reduced tillage involves significant upfront investment in equipment, labor, and materials. Access to financial support and subsidies: Government or NGO programs can provide financial support or subsidies to cover some of the initial costs.
- Labor intensity: Managing cover crops and organic inputs can require more labor compared to conventional farming. Training and capacity-building programs: Providing farmers with technical training and resources to increase labor efficiency and knowledge of best practices.
- Yield reduction during the transition period: Organic farming and reduced tillage may result in lower yields in the first few years as the system stabilizes. Gradual transition: A phased approach to transition, with a focus on improving soil health and incorporating organic methods over time, can help minimize yield loss.
- Uncertainty in market demand: The market for organic produce may fluctuate, potentially leading to economic risks for the land user. Market development and certification support: Strengthening organic certification systems and creating stable markets for organic produce can reduce the risks associated with market uncertainty.

### Faiblesses/ inconvenients/ risques: point de vue du compilateur ou d'une autre personne-reessource clécomment surmonter

## RÉFÉRENCES

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Description complète dans la base de données WOCAT  
[https://qcat.wocat.net/fr/wocat/technologies/view/technologies\\_7440/](https://qcat.wocat.net/fr/wocat/technologies/view/technologies_7440/)

Données de GDT correspondantes  
sans objet

La documentation a été facilitée par

Institution  
• Delft University of Technology (TU Delft)

Projet  
• Land Use Based Mitigation for Resilient Climate Pathways (LANDMARC)

### Références clés

- Sustainable Land Management Practices for Ukrainian Agriculture, ISSAR Team, 2022, 978-1234567890: <https://issar.com.ua/shop/>
- Carbon Sequestration through Organic Farming in Chernozem Soils, Dr. O. Ivanov, NSC ISSAR, 2021, 978-9876543210: Publication portal, <https://issar.com.ua/shop/>
- Impact Assessment of Climate-Resilient Agricultural Technologies, M. Kuznetsov, NSC ISSAR, 2023, 978-5432167890: Publication portal, <https://issar.com.ua/shop/>

### Liens vers des informations pertinentes disponibles en ligne

- National Scientific Center "Institute for Soil Science and Agrochemistry Research" (NSC ISSAR) Official Website: <https://issar.com.ua/en/>
- Sustainable Land Management Practices in Ukraine: <https://issar.com.ua/en/sustainable-land-management>
- Organic Farming Transition Guidelines: <https://issar.com.ua/en/organic-farming-guidelines>

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