

Effect or organic amendments on soil enzymatic activities. Results of the "Bioindicators" French program

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Effect of organic amendments on soil enzymatic activities. Results of the French "Bioindicator program"

Riah Wassila^{1*}, Cheviron Nathalie², Trap Jean¹, Criquet Steven³, Houot Sabine⁴, Bispo Antonio⁵, Grand Cécile⁵, Pérès Guénola⁶, Laval Karine¹, Trinsoutrot-Gattin Isabelle¹, Mougin Christian²



(1) ESITPA, Unité ARGI'TERR 76134 Mont Saint Aignan, FR

- (2) INRA, Unité PESSAC 78026 Versailles, FR
- (3) Aix-Marseille Université, IMBE UMR CNRS 7263 IRD 237, 13397 Marseille Cedex 20, FR

(4) INRA/AGROPARISTECH, UMR Environnement et Grandes Cultures, 78850 Thiverval-Grignon, FR

(5) ADEME, 49004 ANGERS cedex 01, FR

(6) Université de Rennes 1, UMR CNRS 6553 ECOBIO, Station Biologique, 35380 Paimpont, FR







Context



- Soil = a non-renewable resource
- Soil degradation = still accelerating

Soil must be protected

Available Tools ?

- Tools for soil quality assessment
- ➔ physical and chemical indicators commonly used
- ➔ indicators based on biological parameters are still rare However, soil biota is known to respond to multiple impacts and to react quickly to natural and anthropic

stresses



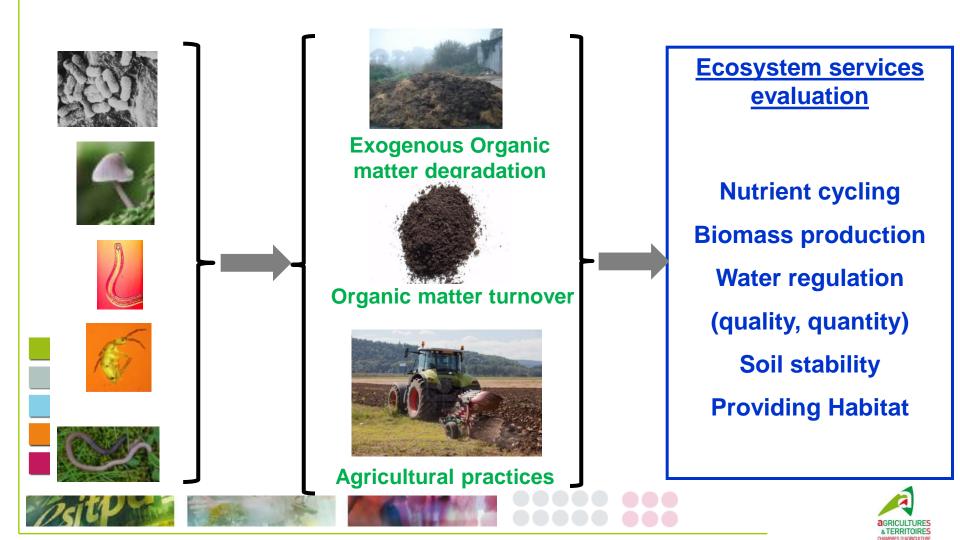








Tools to measure biological state and **soil functions** and at least to evaluate agricultural soil **ecosystem services**





ADEME (French Agency for Environment and Energy Management) initiated a national research program to develop such indicators : **"Bioindicator Program"** (2006-2012).

http://ecobiosoil.univ-rennes1.fr/ADEME-Bioindicateur

Objectives

- to calibrate the bioindicators on the basis of referential values in order to interpret the results

- to **provide relevant biological tools** (sensibility, accessibility, cost, ...) depending on the purpose :

- soil monitoring
- characterization
- risk assessment

- to transfer the tools to stakeholders (policy makers, farmers, technical advisers...)





Strenghts of Bioindicator program

5 Strenghts of Bioindicator program

- Test and comparison of 47 bioindicators (from microflora to fauna and flora)

- Study large number of situations 13 situations (47 plots)

- Homogeneity of procedures and protocoles
- Development of a data base to manage a large amount of data (~200.000)

-Development of a common data mining for data processing









47 biological parameters tested



1) Microorganisms

Parameters of quantity

- Global (MB, DNA)
- Non-global (Fungi, Bacteria)



Parameters of activity (examples) Enzymatic Activities (14)

-Metabolical Functions (mineralization)

Parameters of genetic structure



-PCR TTGE (Bacterial, Fungal) -PCR Empreinte ARISA (Bacterial)

3) Flora

Parameters -> individual effects

- Lipid Biomarkers (Oméga 3)
- Metal Bioaccumulation
- Free Amino acid content



2) Fauna

Global Parameter

- Total Macrofauna

Parameters -> Community level

- Earthworms
- Collembola
- Nematodes







Parameters -> Individual level

- Molecular earthworm biomarkers (metallothionein coding gene expression, Cd sensitivity)
- Metal Bioaccumulation (snail, micromammal)



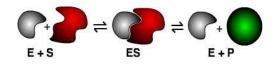


Soil Enzymes



What are soil enzymes?

Enzymes are proteins with specific catalytic properties



Origin of Soil Enzyme Activity

- 1. Soil microorganisms living and dead
- 2. Plant roots and crop residues
- 3. Soil animals

an integrative Indicator...

Why it is important?

 Soil enzymes play an important role in organic matter decomposition and nutrient cycling
 Enzymes are recognized as early indicators of soil functioning changes due to modifications of soil management or agricultural practices

- > 40 to 60% of enzyme activity can come from stabilized enzymes
- > not necessarily highly correlated with microbial biomass or respiration







Do enzyme activities reveal changes in the biological functioning of soils caused by organic amendment?

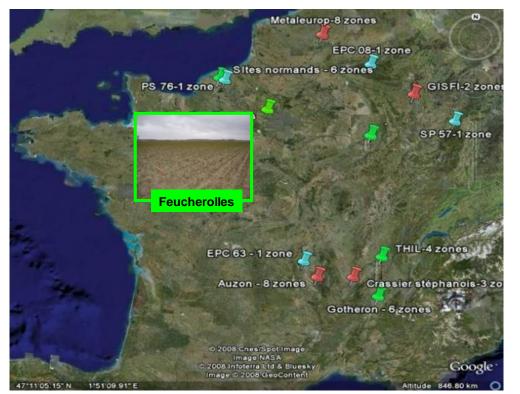
Could soil enzyme be indicators of soil organic matter quality or organic products stability ?





Study site







QualiAgro-Feucherolles site S. Houot (INRA Grignon)

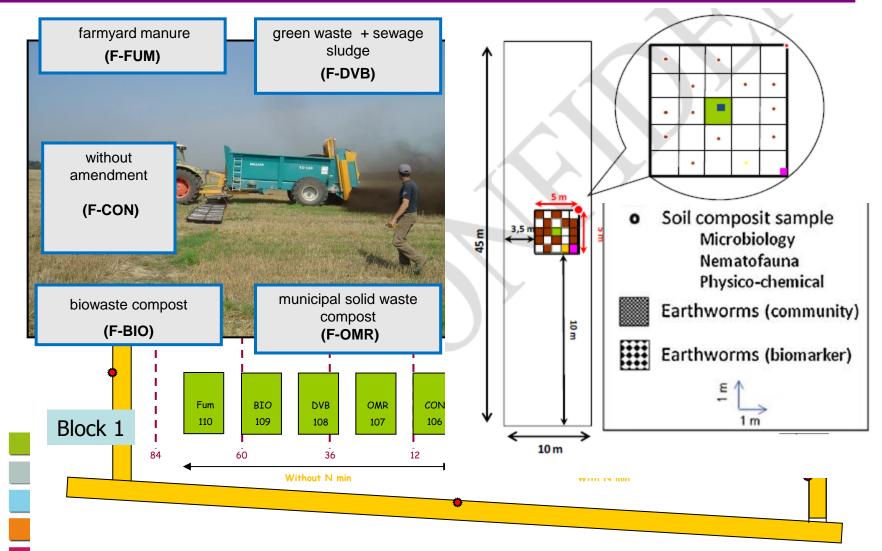
- Located at Feucherolles, in northwestern France (50 km west from Paris)

- The climate is oceanic
- -The soil is cultivated following a wheat-maize rotation
- -At the date of sampling soils were cultivated with wheat
- The last inputs have been made 18 months ago



Sampling Protocols and Procedures





The organic amendments have been applied every two years in September





Selected soil enzymatic activities



Fourteen enzyme activities involved in the different nutrient cycling were measured by the spectrophotometric methods

Table 1: E.C. numbers, specific substrates (concentrations and pH buffers), references of protocols used to measure enzyme activities

	Enzymes	Codes	E.C. number	Substrates (buffer pH and concentration)	References
<u>Global</u> activities					
activities	Dehydrogenase	DEH	1.1.1.1	2,3,5 triphenyltetrazolium chloride ((pH 7; 0.12M)	Schaefer et al, 963
	Fluorescein diacetate	FDA	209.877.6	Fluorescein diacetate (pH 7.6: 1000 ug.mL-1)	Adam & Duncan. 2001

NP: nitrophenyl

Soil enzymes assays are based mostly on the quantification of the product released after adding known amount of substrate to the soil





Enzyme assays



- 1. Homogenizing, sieving and weighing soil
- 2. Preparation of soil solution
- 3. Addition of a specific substrate and incubation
- 4. Stop the enzymatic reaction and measure absorbance with a spectrophotometer
- 5. Data analysis

Enzyme activity expression :

nmole of hydrolyzed or oxidazied substrate / min / g of dried soil



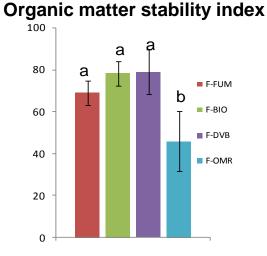








1.Organic matter stability index and organic carbon content in

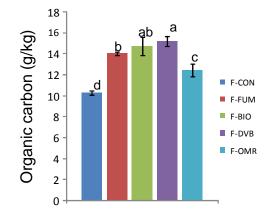


≻FUM. BIO and DVB exibited the same OMSI

➤The lowest OMSI was obtained for OMR

Feucherolle site

Organic carbon content



all organic amendments drive to an increase in soil organic carbon content by comparison with the control

FUM, BIO and DVB have the highest effect.

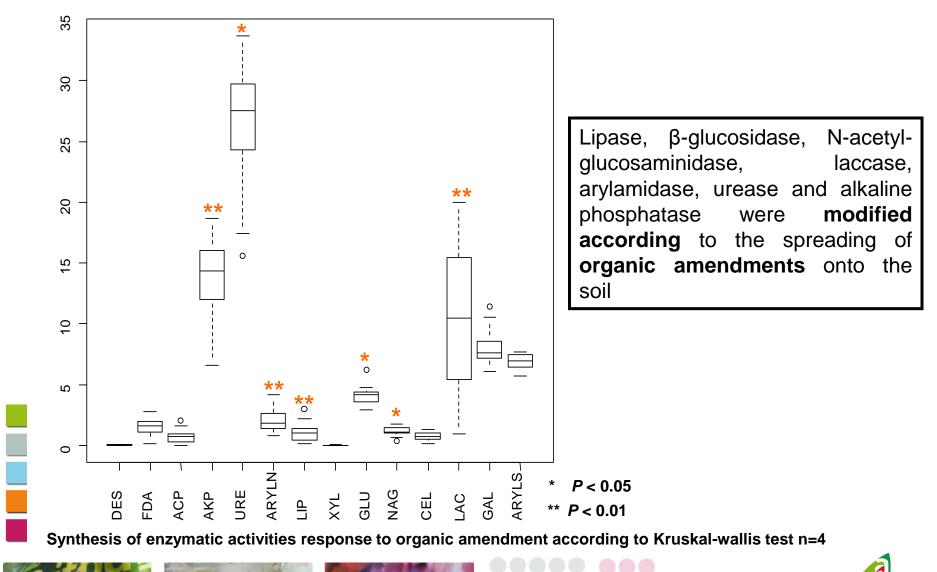
> OMR is intermediate between control and other organic treatments.

Organic amendments influence soil organic carbon, in relation to their initial stability



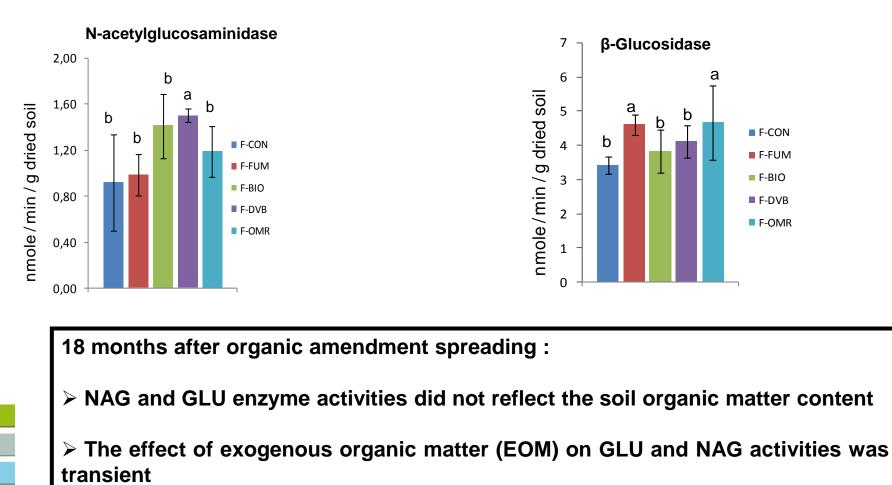


2.Variation of soil enzymatic activities in Feucherolle site





3. a Variation patterns of enzymatic activities affected by organic amendments

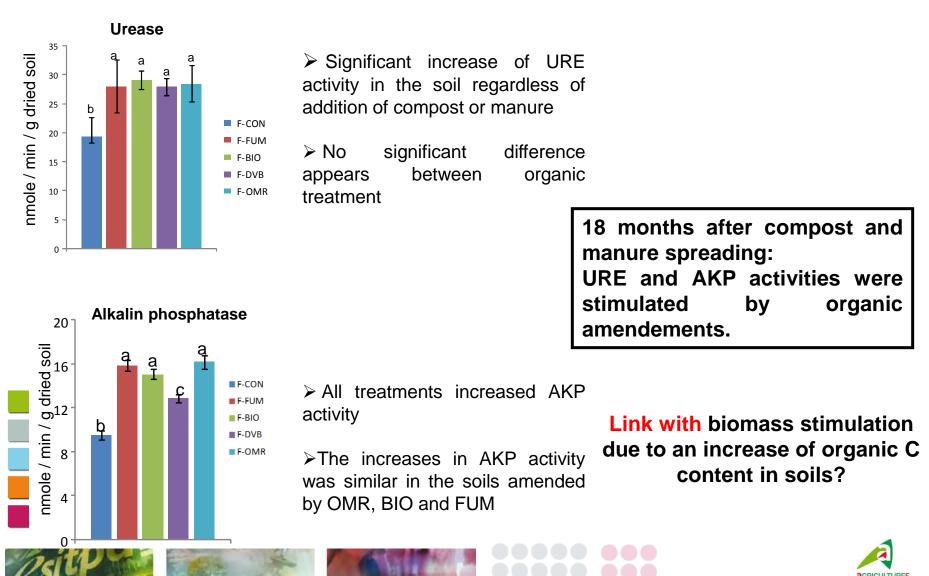


> These enzyme activities are less suitable for monitoring long-term effect of OM



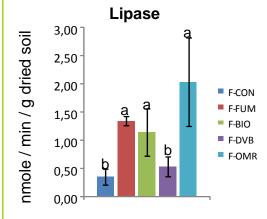


3. b Variation patterns of enzymatic activities affected by organic amendments



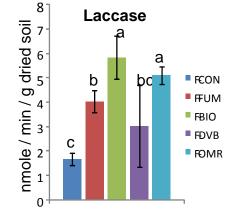
<u>Results</u>

3.c Variation patterns of enzymatic activities affected by organic amendments



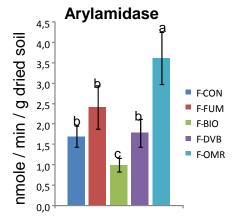
All treatments increased LIP activity

No significant difference between DVB compost and CON

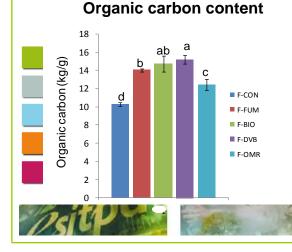


All treatments increased LAC activity

The largest increases in LAC activity was observed in BIO



- BIO exhibited the lowest ARYLN activity
- OMR exhibited the highest ARYLN activities
- No difference in ARYLN activity between FUM, DVB and CON



No relationship between levels of enzyme activities variation and organic C content patterns

More specific activities ?

Link to amendment chemical, physical and biochemical nature?

Link to soil organic carbon composition?



Conclusion



Effect of organic amendment on soil enzymatic activities

Organic amendments drive to an increase in soil organic carbon content, as exogenous organic matter added is stable.

> ACP, FDA, DEH, CEL, GAL, XYL and ARYLS activities were not affected by organic amendments, 18 months after the last input.

> Organic amendments seem to have transient effect on β -glucosidase, N-acetyl-glucosaminidase. These enzyme activities are less suitable for monitoring long-term effect of OM

Lipase, laccase, arylamidase, urease and alkalin phosphatase activities were modified according to the spreading of organic amendments into soil

Lipase, laccase, arylamidase activities may be linked to organic matter biochemical state or the composition of the soil organic carbon

➤The municipal solid waste compost (F-OMR) plot that have the lowest OMSI and organic carbon content exhibited in average the highest enzymatic activity values (AKP, LIP, GLU, URE and ARYLN)



Bioindicator program : A large research network





