The Grow Observatory

Would you consider becoming involved in the local end of a large European project that ultimately will help address **soil health, soil fertility, climate change and food security?**

Are you interested in growing healthier food, building better soil, learning more about sustainable practices and working together to validate the latest European Space Agency Satellites to help countries adapt to extreme climate events?

" The GROW Observatory (GROW) is a European-wide project engaging thousands of growers, scientists and others passionate about the land. We will discover together, using simple tools to better manage soil and grow food, while contributing to vital scientific environmental monitoring.

This can lead to more sustainable land use practices, better soil and land governance and policy, and a unique data repository for science. Through this, people gain a voice on local issues and tailored advice on which new crops to plant, when to water, sow and harvest. In turn, their insight will underpin better-informed decision-making and policy objectives, while improving soil, land use, climate change adaptation and our overall sustainability. GROW will realise our vision by enabling citizens to measure land and soil parameters at high spatial resolution over large geographical areas, using the Internet and mobile technologies combined with widely available consumer sensors and a simple soil test. Growers of all scales can contribute data, shape their own missions, and take part in citizen science experiments. "

The Grow Observatory (GROW) is 3 year EU project , with 17 organisations in 9 countries across Europe engaging in it. GROW is a consortium project and has 60 active project partners. The project is being led by **the University of Dundee.** The website growobservatory.org has a very good short film, articles and videos that explain the project and the various partners in more detail - plus an on line community and forum that you may like to use.

In essence the project consists of people on the ground like you and me taking readings from soil sensors (and sometimes other types of readings with soil test kits too) and uploading them to our smart phones. The data from the soil sensors across Europe are compared to satellite images and weather and rainfall data to validate climate change and also to help improve soil fertility.