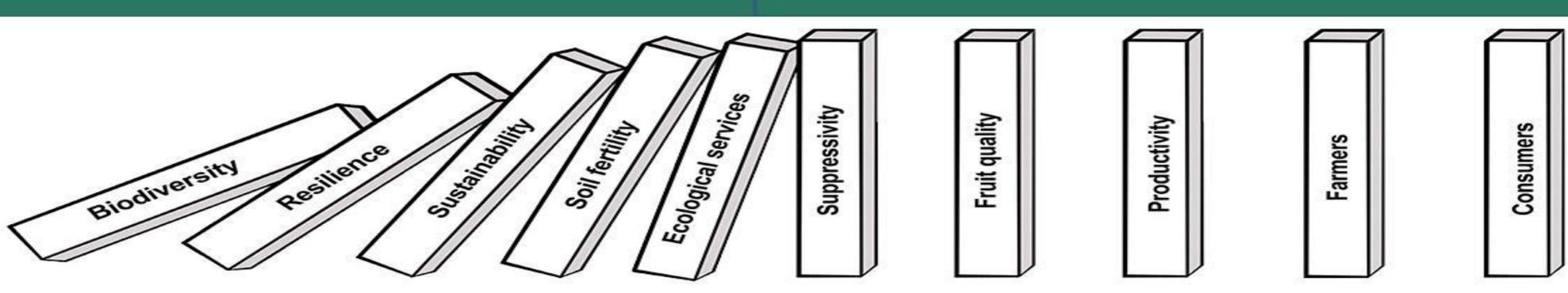
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"DOMINO" – project partner FGI, BG

"Dynamic sod mulching and use of recycled amendments to increase biodiversity, resilience and sustainability of intensive organic apple orchards and vineyards"

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The trial is in a private farm at Plovdiv region, close to the Perushtitsa town, situated 21 km South West from Plovdiv, in Thracian plate. Coordinates: 42°03' N and 24°32' E. 184 m on the sea level.

Climatic condition of the region

The mean annual temperature is 12.3° C. Absolute maximum +45 °C (July 5, 2000) and Absolute minimum -31.5 °C (January 21, 1942). Precipitation – 540 mm; maximum – during May-June (69 mm) and minimum in August (31 mm) Relative humidity – 73% (maximum in December – 86% and minimum in August - 62%).



Experimental apple orchard

The orchard was planted on 3.3 ha in 2016 on sandy luvisol with Golden Delicious B, Fuji and Granny Smith/M26 with spacing 3.50 x 1.25 m and spindle training system. Irrigation – drip system. The experimental plot is 0.5 ha. The orchard is covered with black anti - hail net with 7x4mm mesh size.

Intercropping and fertilization

In the tree rows are used the leguminous species - white clover (*Trifolium repens* L.) and early forage pea (*Pisum sativum* L.). For fertilization - liquid "Lumbreco", origin from red Californian worms and "Keratin" (Horngrit received from Germany) according to BBCH stage.

Soil analysis and parameters measured

The soil samples - 0-15 and 15-30 cm depth for macro and micronutrients-in the beginning and in the end of the season. Data collection: plant density and biomass production from white clover and pea, yield/per tree/ha/kg/cm2 and fruit quality. For measurement will be used 3 trees in 8 replicates per variant and cultivar.

Prediction of optimal picking dates

- ✓ Background color with the color chart
- ✓ Firmness Penetrometer
- ✓ TSC Brix
- ✓ Starch components scale 1-10 (Eurofru, Ctifl, France)









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