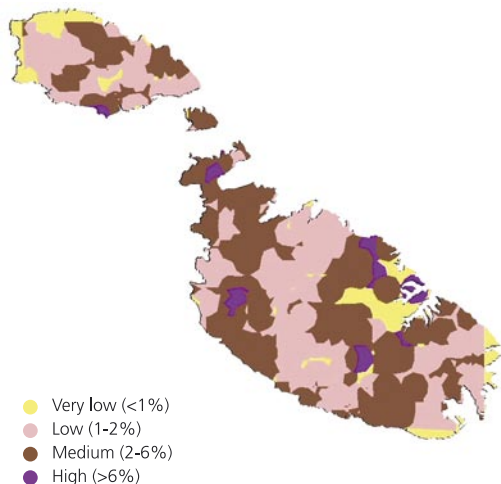


S1 SOIL ORGANIC MATTER

🗺️ Key policy question: How rich in organic matter are Maltese soils?



Source: MRAE

Almost half of Malta's soils have a low or very low level of organic matter, meaning that they do not have much degraded plant and animal material. Soil organic matter influences most soil functions, and is a key determinant of the soil's productivity. It is widely believed that a major threshold is 2% soil organic carbon, below which potentially serious decline in soil quality will occur. It has been estimated that 46% of the soils in Malta are low (1-2%) or very low (<1%) in organic carbon, and 50% have a medium content (2-6%).²³

23 MALSIS 2004.