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Novafert

International newsletter
December 2024



Novafert aims to demonstrate the technical, economic, and environmental feasibility and safe use of a wide portfolio of alternative fertilising products from different waste streams.

News on nutrient-related policy

Urban wastewater: Council adopts new rules for more efficient treatment



Recently, the European Council gave the final green light for a revised EU directive on urban wastewater treatment. The revised directive extends the scope to smaller agglomerations, covers more pollutants, including micropollutants, and contributes to energy neutrality.

The new rules are one of the key deliverables under the EU's zero-pollution action plan. EU member states will then have up to 31 months to adapt their national legislation.

Read more [here](#)

ESSC advocates maximising nutrient recovery from organic waste streams



The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) advocates for a circular approach to resource management, with a focus on the recovery of valuable nutrients from wastewater, sewage sludge, and other organic waste streams. By recovering these nutrients, the EU could significantly reduce environmental pollution caused by excessive nutrient runoff into water bodies, a major contributor to eutrophication and water quality issues. This approach could contribute to the EU's climate goals and help

ensure a more resource-efficient, sustainable future.

Read more [here](#)

News from the project

Raising end-users awareness: the NOVAFERT lighthouse demos



Novafert sees Lighthouse demonstrations as instruments to accelerate the creation and uptake of nutrient recycling solutions and reduce the dependence on chemical fertiliser for crop production. As part of WP1, seven lighthouse demos across the EU were selected by the Novafert consortium. The aim of the lighthouse demonstrations is to display exemplary performance in the field of nutrient recycling with locally available alternative fertilisers and crops relevant to the region.

Read more about it [here](#)



NOVAFERT survey on PEFCR for bio-based fertilisers



WE WANT TO HEAR
FROM YOU!



Novafert just launched the updated survey Novafert's Product Environmental Footprint Category Rules (PEFCR) for bio-based fertilizers.

After the successful stakeholder participation at the ESNI Conference in Brussels last September, we would like to hear from you all. From fertilizer manufacturers and farmers to research centers and LCA practitioners. Your opinion about this PEFCR draft matters!

We are designing and testing the most feasible and down-to-earth options within PEFCR to shape competitive solutions for the fertilizer industry in Europe. If you would like to make sure your experience is part of our PEFCR proposal, fill NOVAFERT's survey. It will take you less than 5 min!

[Forms survey about BBFs PEFCR methodological aspects](#)

**NOVAFERT leading the action of the ESNI Working Group
on Sustainability**



Working Group on Sustainability Assessment

The Working Group leads the effort in finding common approaches, scopes and methodological choices for developing coherent life cycle inventories.



www.biorefine.eu/esni-community

On 26 November, the ESNI Working Group on sustainability assessment, led by Novafert, held its planning meeting to discuss with other EU-funded projects methodologies, common approaches and scopes for the Life Cycle Assessment. Representatives of RELEAF, ReNU2Cycle, NENUPHAR and NOVAFERT met to talk about the findings, challenges and methodologies in the field of the sustainability assessment.

Read more [here](#)

Novafert and Fer-Play presenting their outcomes in an inspirational day on nutrient recycling in Flanders



**NUTRICYCLE
VLAANDEREN**

INSPIRATIEDAG

De toekomst van
nutriëntenrecuperatie
in Vlaanderen



NEW DATE
20 januari 2025
Drongen

In samenwerking met



On January 20, 2025, the Ferplay and Novafert projects will coordinate and participate in the NutriCycle Vlaanderen event (Flanders Regional Working Group) to present their outputs and engage with stakeholders. Both projects will use this platform to showcase their achievements and share insights with the industry and the public.

Read more about it [here](#)

Country news

BELGIUM

Engaging stakeholders: from field to practice

With the support of the NutriCycle Vlaanderen, acting as a Regional Working Group in Flanders, over the last 6 months, Novafert organised key moments for engaging stakeholders in the discussion on the benefits of alternative fertilisers. Jointly organised with EU-funded nutrient-oriented projects, Novafert showcased trial field results with circular fertilizers and discussed the latest state of affairs of the RENURE legislation.

Read more on the Novafert activities in Flanders [here](#)

IRELAND

The Irish lighthouse demo

Teagasc established a grassland sister trial to an arable trial and is in its 5th year. The purpose of the demonstration trial is to assess agronomic benefits of different bio-based recycled derived fertilisers at a field-scale level. The primary goal is to determine how these fertilisers can enhance soil fertility by increasing carbon and major nutrient levels in the soil. Progress is being monitored by analysing crop yield and quality.

Read the entire article [here](#)

SPAIN

The Royal Decree on water reuse has been approved last October

The Royal Decree 1620/2007, of December 7, which establishes the legal regime for the reuse of reclaimed water has been repealed by a new one, Royal Decree 1085/2024, of October 22, which approves the Regulations for water reuse and modifies various royal decrees that regulate water management.

Read more [here](#)

SPAIN

Kick off meeting of the Nutrient Platform

On December 17, the BETA Technology Center of the University of Vic - Central University of Catalonia is organising the the kick off meeting to promote the future Catalan Nutrient Platform. The Catalan Nutrient Platform aims to bring together experts from different disciplines to join forces, share knowledge and converge towards improving the management of nutrients generated in the Catalan region.

Check more [here](#)

POLAND

The Novafert webinar in Rzeszow, Poland

The workshop and study visit organised as part of the NOVAFERT project on August 27, 2024, in Rzeszów, Poland, demonstrated how collaboration between diverse groups of stakeholders can drive the development of alternative fertilisers. A key highlight of the programme was the presentation of Glebex+, an innovative product produced from sewage sludge. Participants had the opportunity to learn about both the technological details of the production process and the practical benefits of using Glebex+ in agriculture.

Read more [here](#)

CROATIA

Stakeholder engagement in Croatia

IPS Konzalting held a workshop in cooperation with the Lighthouse demo OPG Cenger. The workshop took place on October 22nd at Ecodig in Grubišno Polje, Croatia. This workshop gave participants a unique opportunity to learn first-hand how manure is transformed into a valuable resource digestate production technology.

Check more [here](#)

Synergies

FER-PLAY is getting to the finish line and they are ready to share results, lessons learned and recommendations. Don't miss the assessment of seven selected value chains for circular fertilisers in terms of regulatory framework, industrial upscale potential, social acceptance and socio-economic point of view. The FER-PLAY guidelines and recommendations for the uptake of circular fertilisers are ready-to-spread across farmers, agronomists, fertiliser producers and local policy makers. These documents outline key findings to support the uptake of circular fertiliser and are available in the project's [Resources](#) webpage.



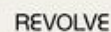
Save the date

The Potential of Circular Fertilisers Untapped

Opportunities and Challenges Ahead

18-19 February 2025

Silversquare Bailli, Brussels -
Av. Louise 231, 1050 Bruxelles



FER-PLAY's final event will take place 18-19 February at Silversquare Bailli in Brussels. Project partners will present all project outcomes, such as their [database](#), and gather fellow R&D projects to discuss results and recommendations. As sister project, Novafert will present its LCA methodological guidelines for assessment of alternative fertilisers and it will tackle the policy aspects on nutrient recycling.

Sign up to FER-PLAY's quarterly newsletter, [The Alternative](#), to receive further information about the conference and circular fertilisers.

Discover more on this project by following it on [LinkedIn](#) and stay tuned for more videos by following the [FER-PLAY](#) playlist.

Events



Forum for Agriculture

The Forum for the Future of Agriculture is the premiere meeting place in Europe to debate sustainable agriculture and environmental challenges. By bridging the conversation between different stakeholders across the food system, the Forum serves as a unique space for an open debate where each and every perspective can come together to provoke forward thinking solutions, and where content is freely shared entirely with civil society.

[Read more here](#)

Nutrient proposals for the new EU circular economy act and the CAP

The President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, plans an ambitious EU Circular Economy Act, to follow the second Circular Economy Action Plan, replacing this Commission document by a regulatory act. The Common Agricultural Policy represents over 40% of the EU budget. The current CAP runs from 2023 to 2027. An interim evaluation report is expected in 2025. Two day meeting to discuss these two important policies and to develop proposals to input to the European Commission.

[Read more about the event here](#)



IWA Resource Recovery Conference 2025

The 6th edition of the IWA Resource Recovery Conference, which will be hosted in Leeuwarden (the Netherlands), the capital of water technology. This event is organized by Wetsus in collaboration with Delft University of Technology and Wageningen University and

Research.

This conference want to showcase and celebrate the experiences, lessons and results of more than 15 years of experimenting and upscaling of resource recovery around the world.

Save the date and stay up to date [here](#)

Meet the team!



BIOAZUL is focused on the development of eco-innovative and sustainable solutions for the treatment and reuse of water resources.

BIOAZUL contributes to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, emphasizing three of them: guaranteeing clean water and sanitation for all, achieving sustainable cities and communities, and adopting measures to combat climate change and its effects.

Learn more about Bioazul [here](#)

The Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke) is a research organisation operating under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland. Luke's task is to promote competitive business based on the sustainable use of renewable natural resources, as well as wellbeing and the vitality of the rural areas.

Learn more about Luke [here](#)





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