Industry Overview

INDUSTRY

By 2050, world population is expected to reach 10 billion – a 30% increase from 2020. To ensure the necessary crop yields needed to feed our growing population, farmers look towards either conventional or circular fertilisers to improve crop yields.

In the EU, the use of conventional fertilisers prevails – they are used on <u>75% of EU agricultural lands and have a global increase</u> in their application rate of <u>2% per year</u>. Over the last 50 years, the use of conventional fertilisers has led to 60% of the increase in EU agricultural yield, highlighting their importance for the sector. These fertilisers generally contain higher nutrient concentrations and provide quick nutrient release, leading to fast yield increases. However, the cost of this high concentration and quick release is the leaching of excess nutrients into the surrounding ecosystems, threatening their integrity, wasting valuable, often imported, resources, and potentially jeopardising soil health and long term fertility.



RESOURCES



23% 23 US

23% of EU agricultural land uses circular fertiliser



71% of potassium oxide imported, mainly from outside EU borders



Conventional fertilisers production accounts for <u>1.2%</u> of the world's energy use



<u>Up to 80%</u> of Nitrogen from fertilisers releases to water bodies

- Fertilisers Europe. Facts and Figures
- Nutrient Recovery and Reuse (NRR) in European agriculture

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- <u>A Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair,</u> <u>healthy and environmentally-friendly</u> <u>food system</u>
- <u>Nutrient Enrichment and</u> eutrophication in Europe's seas

Project Overview



FER-PLAY is facilitating the uptake of circular fertilisers, to protect ecosystems, decrease EU dependence on fertiliser imports, foster circularity and improve soil health. The project will map and assess circular fertilisers made from secondary raw materials, such as manure, and highlight their multiple benefits in order to promote their wide-scale production and use on field.

Circular fertilisers, in particular those made from secondary raw materials can provide yield benefits while reducing environmental damage and improve EU resource independence. However, there is a lack of awareness and knowledge about what circular fertilises are and their potential benefits, as well as uncertainty both in terms of social acceptance and regulatory framework for their use.

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