

The RISE Foundation

Nutrient Recovery and Recycling in European Agriculture: a review of issues, opportunities, actions and policies.

A new study – to launch in 2015

What is RISE?

RISE is an independent foundation which strives to support a sustainable and internationally competitive rural economy across **Europe**, looking for ways to preserve the European countryside, its environment and biodiversity, and its cultural heritage and traditions. It brings together experts to address key environmental / agricultural challenges in Europe and develops high quality accessible research reports with clear recommendations for policy makers.

What is the aim of the study?

The intention is that by confronting this set of interrelated issues this can be a useful contribution to the process of steering EU agriculture to a path of sustainable intensification in the spirit of this phrase explained in the RISE report (2014) as part of Europe's contribution to global food security.

Why this study?

There are many issues of concern in the way agriculture uses two of its most critical plant nutrients: nitrogen and phosphorus and how these interact with soil organic matter and carbon. This includes the impact that their use has on pollution and climate change, the production challenges, the lost nutrients in the sheer volume of waste produced by food production and consumption and the desire to reverse the decline in organic matter in soil.

Nutrient recycling and reuse may contribute to reducing these challenges, provide opportunites by engaging with new industrial technology and 'smart' agriculture, and support the shift to a more circular economy.

The proposed study engages a multidisciplinary approach to bring together in a more integrated way knowledge and expertise on nutrient recycling and reuse which is found in the separate worlds of agricultural science and farming, the food industry, water and sewage treatment industries, environmental and waste regulation and renewable energy.

The project does not set out to discover new facts, but to bring together information on these issues in a framework conducive to leading towards new more positive ways of viewing and tacking these issues.

More specifically the objective is to discover the scope for greater nitrogen and phosphorus recovery and recycling in the EU and to identify the actions and policies necessary to realise more of this potential. This is seen as a part of the wider move towards the resource efficient circular economy for which there is some momentum in the EU.

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