

Organic farming: closing nutrient cycles and uptake of recycled fertilisers

Stakeholder exchange on potential and challenges uptake of recycled nutrient and recycled organic carbon products as a route to close cycles in organic farming

Brussels Tuesday 12th December, 9h30-16h30 + networking drinks 16h30-17h30

Manos Conference Centre, Brussels, chaussée de Charleroi 135

(10 mins walk from metro Hôtel des Monnaies, lines 2 & 6 between metros Midi and Arts-Loi)

Registration / cancellation:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/recycled-nutrients-and-organic-food-tickets-38702699817?aff=es2>

- 9h30 Opening: **ESPP President** - summary of ESPP General Assembly (11th December), key actions new Board
Nutrient cycles in organic farming – what place for recycled fertilising materials?
- 9h40 **Chris Atkinson, IFOAM EU Council Member and UK Soil Association** – why does organic farming need to close nutrient cycles, what are the potentials and limitations of new recycled fertilisers in helping to achieve this? See “A rock and a hard place. Peak phosphorus and the threat to our food security”
<https://www.biosolids.com.au/wp-content/uploads/A-Rock-and-a-Hard-Place.pdf>
- 9h50 Where are we today? - **Kurt Möller, IMPROVE-P project**
- 10h20 **Koen Desimpelaere, EIP-AGRI Service Point**, conclusions EIP-AGRI Focus Group on Recycled Nutrients
- 10h40 Discussion and questions
- 11h00 Break
- 11h30 **Contaminants: reality and perception of risk and safety for health, farmers, soil and the environment**
Else Bünemann-König, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), studies on organic farmer acceptance of recycled fertilisers, FiBL European Input List, and projects on recycled fertilisers
Hannah Rigby, Imperial College London – UK Food Standards Agency investigations of emerging contaminants, grazing animals and crop uptake
Marissa de Boer, University of Amsterdam and SusPhos - uptake of pharmaceuticals by certain recovered fertilisers and their bioaccumulation in a crop
Discussion and questions
- 12h45-13h45 – lunch
- 13h45 **Innovation for organic farming nutrient supply and for nutrient recycling**
- **Michel Raaphorst, TIMAC Agro**, precision fertilization with renewable phosphorus sources
- **Mike Daly, Ostara**, recovered struvite as an organic fertiliser
- **Violtje Lebuf, Fertikal**, organic fertilisers from local resources
- **Gerald Dunst, Sonnenerde Austria**, biochar criteria and use in organic farming
- **Irmgard Leifert, European Compost Network**, compost certification and use for organic farming
- 15h25 **Towards closing nutrient cycles in organic farming**
- **Carlotta Hoffmann, Bioland**, the farmer’s perspective: work in Germany already carried out into organic farmer acceptance and Nurec4org to take this forward
- **Sybillie Kyed, IFOAM EU Board and Organic Denmark**
Conclusions and possible actions – iFOAM and ESPP
- 16h30 17h30 Networking drinks**