



**Novafert**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**31 May 2023**

## **Enhancing the use of alternative fertilisers**

Over the next 3 years, 9 multidisciplinary actors from 6 European countries will join their forces to contribute to the transition to the circular economy by developing novel procedures and sustainable guidelines to enhance the use of alternative fertilisers. Kicked-off in September 2022 in Ghent (Belgium), the Novafert project will demonstrate the technical, economic, and environmental feasibility and safe use of a wide portfolio of at least 25 alternative fertilising products, containing recovered nutrients from all 6 different waste streams, with the goal of facilitating the replacement of synthetic and mineral fertilisers.

### **An increasing demand for bio-fertilisers**

The new Fertilising Product Regulation (FPR) increases the number of CE-marked alternative fertilising products on the EU's market, including organic, organo-mineral and mineral bio-based fertilisers by reducing dependency on imported mineral fertilisers. However, the acceptance of these novel alternative fertilising products requires knowledge sharing among farmers and citizens about their fertilising efficiency and safety.

In line with the Zero Pollution Action Plan and the Farm to Fork strategy, **NOVAFERT aims to orientate the production and the application of alternative fertilising products according to the best environmental performances**, by establishing methodological guidelines for the assessment of alternative fertilising products' production, storage, distribution and application.

A regional approach, covering 7 EU regions and different types of secondary raw materials, will also support the development of sustainable local value chains deploying alternative fertilising products. By mapping the existing alternative fertilising products across Europe, NOVAFERT will develop an Atlas of the nutrient-oriented living labs, and will also support the development of sustainable local value chains. Furthermore, NOVAFERT will foster the sustainable use and management of alternative fertilising products in Europe by regionally contextualizing and interlinking all main recovering technologies and products, and technically connecting all value chains and key relevant stakeholders in 7 regional working groups and 7-10 lighthouse demos.

**NOVAFERT aims to bring together the necessary information for the development of effective roadmaps which can help identifying site-specific targets and policies** stimulating collective actions by governments, businesses, farmers and other stakeholders towards sustainable, integrated, and tailored solutions to foster the update of alternative fertilising products.

These strategies will help developing specific action plans at local and regional scales to maintain nitrogen and phosphorus flows well within the EU safe ecological boundaries and, in the long term, will contribute to recommending directional guidelines for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

### **A pool of multi-disciplinary actors with strong expertise in nutrient recycling**

The consortium represents a synergistic balance of complementary skills, resources and European reach to constitute a complete value chain of actors with a strong expertise in national and European projects, which can accomplish NOVAFERT objectives. The consortium has secured a very solid participation of scientific and academic actors experts in the field of nutrient recovery and management together with agri-food innovation community, governmental body, agro-service provider and R&D&I SMEs.



Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or [name of the granting authority]. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.