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# Novafert

International newsletter  
March 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.

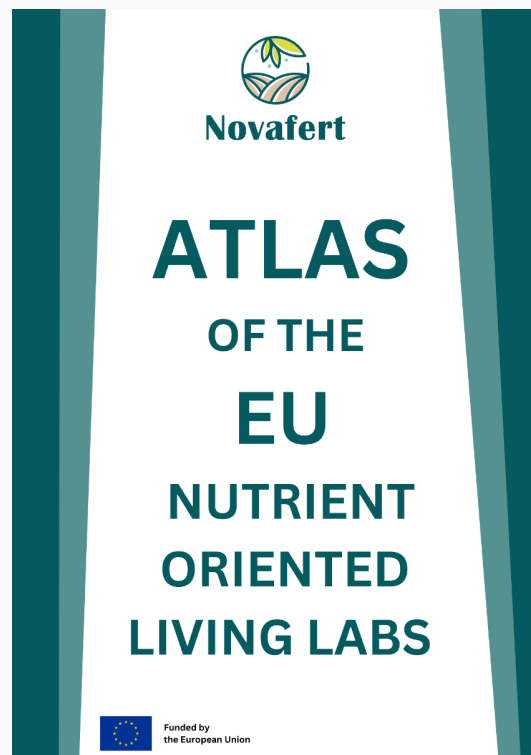
## NOVAFERT Enhancing the use of alternative fertilisers



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 6 different waste streams, with the goal of facilitating the replacement of synthetic and mineral fertilisers.

## News from the project

### NOVAFERT introduced its ATLAS of the EU Nutrient Oriented Living Labs!



Novafert takes an approach to develop a practical framework for action in the broader domain of nutrient recycling. How? Among others by setting requirements for Living Labs and lighthouses to enable experimenting solutions and co-design and co-creation by various factors.

The new NOVAFERT ATLAS represents 53 selected nutrient-oriented living labs (NoLL) with the potential and capacity to execute practical demonstration activities in the first stage of the process.

*Find the ATLAS [here](#)*

### NOVAFERT is conducting a survey to better understand the alternative fertilisers market!



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.

*You can find the survey [here](#)*

### Together with sister project FER-PLAY, NOVAFERT welcomed the proposal for a Soil Monitoring Law!

NOVAFERT, together with the sister project FER-PLAY, welcomed the proposal for a Soil Monitoring Law published on the 5th of July 2023 which is a first step towards achieving the goal of having all soils in healthy condition in Europe by 2050.

*Read more about it [here](#)*



### NOVAFERT & ESNI Community organised a webinar on

# Biogenic carbon accounting modelling

Webinar | 16/01/2024



The ESNI Working Group on Sustainability Assessment (part of the Biorefine Cluster Europe) and the NOVAFERT project organised a successful webinar on 'Biogenic Carbon Accounting Modelling'. This webinar took place on the 16th of January 2024.

You can find the agenda with the speakers and their presentations on the NOVAFERT website [here](#) as well as the recording of the session.

## The NOVAFERT database of 76 value chains derived from six secondary raw materials is now online!

The NOVAFERT database now includes data from 76 value chains sourced from six secondary raw materials. It covers technology maturity, output material, processing conditions, costs, legal status, and more. Explore various nutrient recovery methods easily and filter by product, technology, or raw material. This comprehensive overview highlights current fertiliser alternatives and identifies areas for improvement.

Check out the database [here](#)

Technology main category	Technology sub category	Product main category	Product sub category	Secondary raw material	Country	Input material	Technology maturity and readiness level	Processing capacity	Process description	CAPEX
Physical-chemical nutrient recovery	Bio drying	Compost, digestate & other bi...	Bio dried solid fraction	Treated manure	Spain	Pig slurry, solid fraction, pou...	7	6.5 - 8.5 t/year	The solid fraction of pig slurry...	
Physical-chemical nutrient recovery	Membrane systems (Microfiltrati...	Scrubber solution & mineral co...	Nutrient-rich concentrate	Treated manure	Spain	manure, Liquid fraction pig sl...	7	1-2 t/year	The reverse osmosis produces (...)	
Physical-chemical nutrient recovery	Membrane filtration	Scrubber solution & mineral co...	Mineral concentrate	Treated manure	Belgium	Pig manure, co product	9		Mineral concentrate is produced...	€ 680 000
Thermochemical nutrient recovery	Combustion	Biochar, Hydrochar & Ash	Ash	Treated manure	Spain, Finland	pig slurry, biodried solid fra...	9	0.6 - 1.5 t/year	Biothermal drying (composting)...	

## NOVAFERT submitted a position paper on the Nitrates Directive.



The NOVAFERT project submitted a position paper on the 8th of March into consultation on the Nitrates Directive.

Read more about it [here](#)

## Country news

### SPAIN

#### Regional working group at PRO-FEM

BETA is preparing a workshop for the NOVAFERT project at the PRO-FEM conference on the 17th of May 2024 in Vic

### BELGIUM

#### Nutricycle Vlaanderen workshop for regional working group

On 26 April 2024, Nutricycle Vlaanderen will organise a workshop to gather input

challenges and needs at regional level and some examples of successful business models.

[Read more here](#)

NUTRI-KNOW and ReNu2Cycle.

[More info soon!](#)

### POLAND

#### IPS Konzalting at the 59th Croatian & 19th International Symposium on Agriculture

On February 13 of this year, IPS Konzalting joined the 59th Croatian & 19th International Symposium on Agriculture in Dubrovnik. IPS Konzalting participated in the section "Agricultural Economics and Rural Development" and presented the NOVAFERT project, its goals, and current results of SWOT and PEST analysis of alternative fertilising products in Continental Croatia. The analysis was conducted at the regional level within the 7 target regions, based on the waste streams allocated according to their availability in the target region. The results of the SWOT and PEST analysis were presented in the form of a spider diagram, trying to answer the questions of economic profitability, environmental sustainability, and legal readiness. The results obtained will help to formulate an action plan that will pave the way for the use of alternative fertilisers.

[Read more here](#)

### IRELAND

#### Teagasc Johntown castle in Co. Wexford open day to the public

Teagasc Johnstown castle in Co. Wexford (Ireland) will have an open day to the public on the 16th of July 2024.

As part of this open day, Teagasc intends on displaying the work of Novafert and will give an insight into findings from the long term research lighthouse demonstration field facility. This research is focused on displacing the reliance on the use of chemical fertiliser in crop production and replacing nutrients with alternative sources from the local bioeconomy.

Teagasc are excited about welcoming all interested stakeholders to get up to speed with the latest research.

[More info soon!](#)

## Synergies

FER-PLAY is working to protect ecosystems, decrease EU dependence on fertiliser imports, and improve resource efficiency through the promotion of alternative fertilisers. The project already mapped and will assess alternative fertilisers made from secondary raw materials and highlight their multiple benefits to foster their wide-scale production and application.

[Subscribe to their newsletter](#), in which they share news from the project, including activities, outputs, and events, and learn more about FER-PLAY and the work they will be doing throughout the project [in this video](#).

[Read more here](#)



## Events



### ManuRESource

The sixth edition of the ManuREsource conference will be held from 20 - 21 of March. On 21 March, NOVAFERT together with the sister project FER-PLAY, will be represented at the conference with a parallel session on policy. The topics include: various regulatory incentives for recycled fertilisers, Nitrates Directive and Market tools to stimulate nutrient recycling. You can also join a facultative field trip with exclusive site visits to local manure processing installations, which will be organised on Friday 22 March 2024.

[Read more here](#)

The tagline of the conference is: 'towards closing nutrient cycles for a sustainable future, from R&D to implementation'.

On the 16th of April, NOVAFERT will give a presentation on EU available nutrient recovery technologies and derived products. In addition, a pre-event organised by FER-PLAY will be held on 15 April. This will be in the form of a workshop aimed at sharing results and exchanging knowledge with projects working along the same destination.

[Read more about NERM here](#) and [about the pre-event here](#)



## European Sustainable Nutrient Initiative

The European Sustainable Nutrient Initiative (ESNI) 2024 Conference will take place on Wednesday 18 and Thursday 19 September in Brussels. At ESNI 2024 the participants will have the opportunity to discuss the roadmap to the increased uptake of nutrient recovery and recycling and the application of bio based fertilisers. NOVAFERT will be represented at this conference!

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

## Meet the team!



IPS Konzalting is a Croatian Belgian consulting company that specializes in the agricultural sector. The company was established in 2013 when it partnered with four Belgian companies, namely DLV Group, United Experts, Pantarein Water, and Innolab, to open an office in Sisak, Croatia. IPS provides a wide range of services to its clients, including the preparation and implementation of EU projects, consulting on agricultural production, and the implementation of sustainable technologies in agriculture. In addition, IPS has a rich portfolio of scientific and research projects that focus on innovation in agriculture.

[Learn more about IPS Konzalting here](#)

Ghent University is located in Belgium, in the province of East-Flanders. It is one of the largest universities in the Dutch language area and presents itself as open, socially engaged and pluralistic. More specifically, The Faculty of Bioscience Engineering UGent is a European research leader in the field of applied biological and life sciences or bioengineering. They educate generations of scientists in leading edge research and high impact work with governments and communities, industry and NGOs, to support innovation and sustainability in life sciences while managing and protecting natural and man-made ecosystems.



[Learn more about Ghent University and the Faculty of Bioscience Engineering here](#)



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