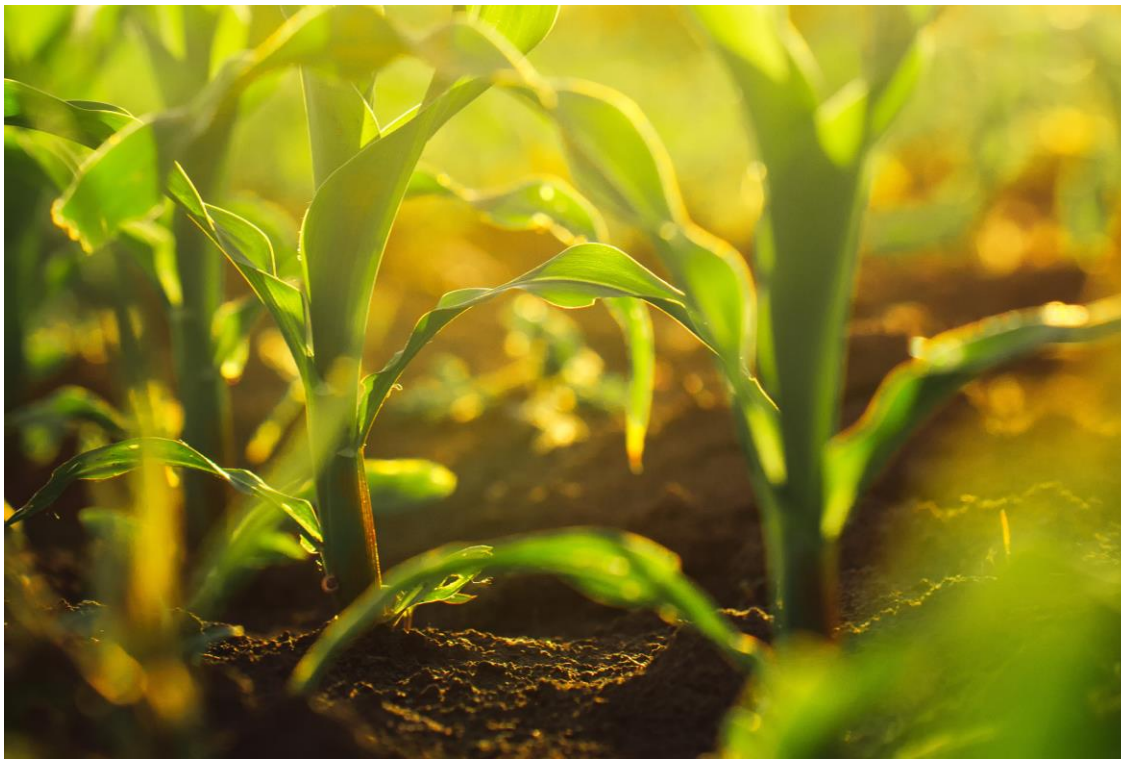
View this email in your browser

Novafert

International newsletter

August 2025



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: the final wrap up

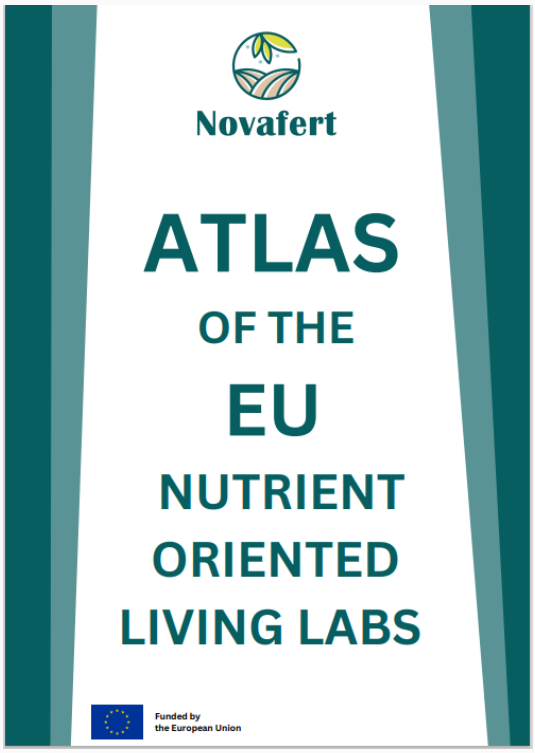
As the Novafert project reaches its conclusion, this marks our final newsletter. Over the past months, we have worked collaboratively across sectors and borders to promote more sustainable and efficient nutrient management practices.

In this last edition, we are proud to share the key results and outcomes that have emerged from our collective efforts. From innovative technologies to new policy recommendations and strengthened partnerships, Novafert has made significant strides toward fostering a circular economy for fertilizers and enhancing agricultural sustainability.

We would like to thank all partners, stakeholders, and readers who have followed our journey and contributed to the project success. While this is the end of the Novafert project, we hope the insights and tools developed will continue to support progress and inspire future initiatives in nutrient recycling and sustainable agriculture.

Key outcomes from the project

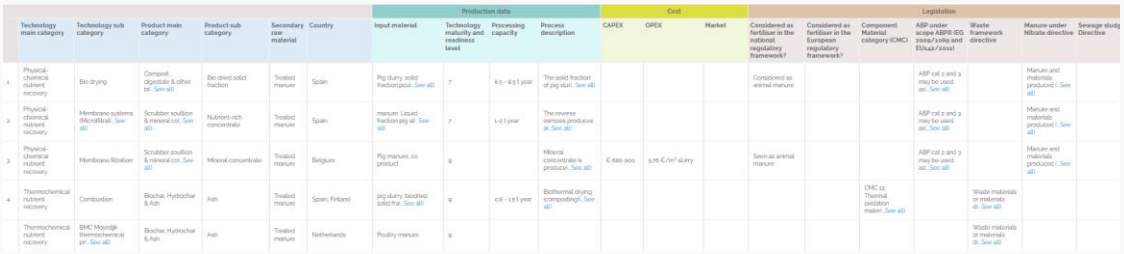
A spotlight on the ATLAS of the EU nutrient oriented living labs



As part of the NOVAFERT project's mission to advance sustainable fertiliser practices, the ATLAS provides a comprehensive overview of over 50 Nutrient-Oriented Living Labs across Europe. These Living Labs serve as innovation hubs for testing and demonstrating circular, safe, and efficient nutrient solutions. With selected "Lighthouse" sites leading the way, the ATLAS acts as both a strategic tool and a practical guide, supporting stakeholder collaboration, technology uptake, and the development of region-specific action plans and policy frameworks.

Read more here

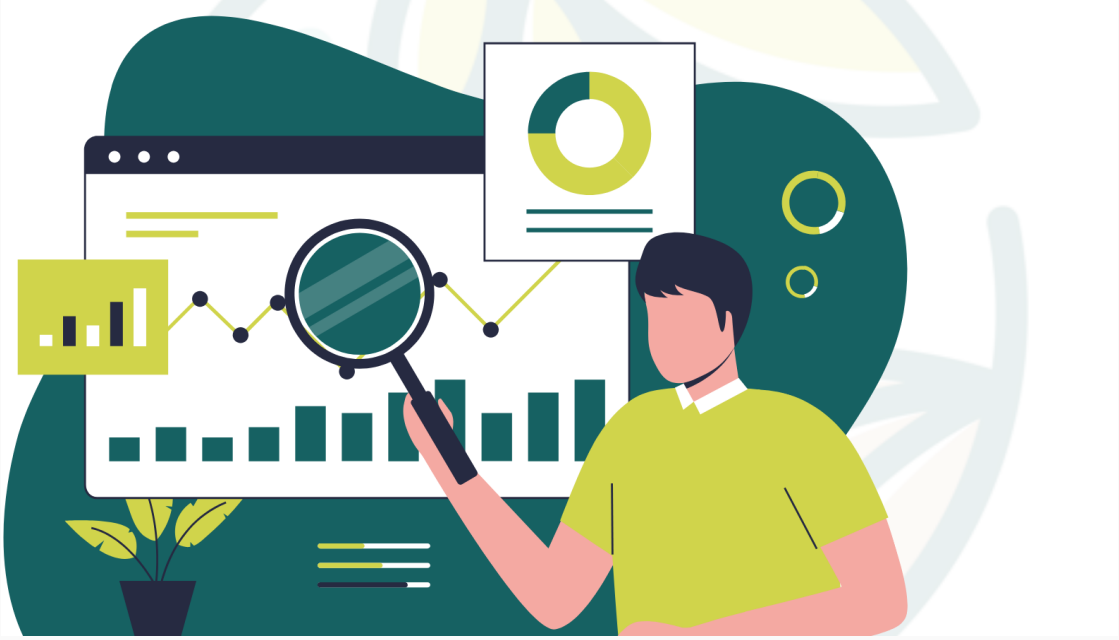
Explore the NOVAFERT database: a deep dive into alternative fertilisers



The NOVAFERT database offers a detailed snapshot of 76 value chains based on six key secondary raw materials: treated manure, digestate, sewage sludge, wastewater, bio-waste, and biological byproducts. This user-friendly resource maps out a wide range of alternative fertilising products, categorised by technology readiness, product type, processing conditions, cost data (CAPEX/OPEX), and legal status. Covering methods such as thermochemical recovery, phosphorus precipitation, nitrogen recovery, and biological processes like composting and anaerobic digestion, the database is a valuable tool for stakeholders across the value chain. Easily searchable and filterable, it supports data-driven decision-making for a more circular and sustainable fertiliser future.

Check the NOVAFERT database here

PEF-Wise Guidelines Pave the Way for Sustainable Bio-Based Fertilisers



A new PEF-wise guideline has being developed by the project to assess the environmental performance of bio-based fertilisers (BBFs). It covers both production (cradle-to-gate) and use in agriculture, building on the EU's 2021 PEF methodology with BBF-specific adaptations. The final version, soon available, aims to support the creation of an official PEF Category Rule (PEFCR) for alternative fertilisers, paving the way for broader recognition and use across Europe.

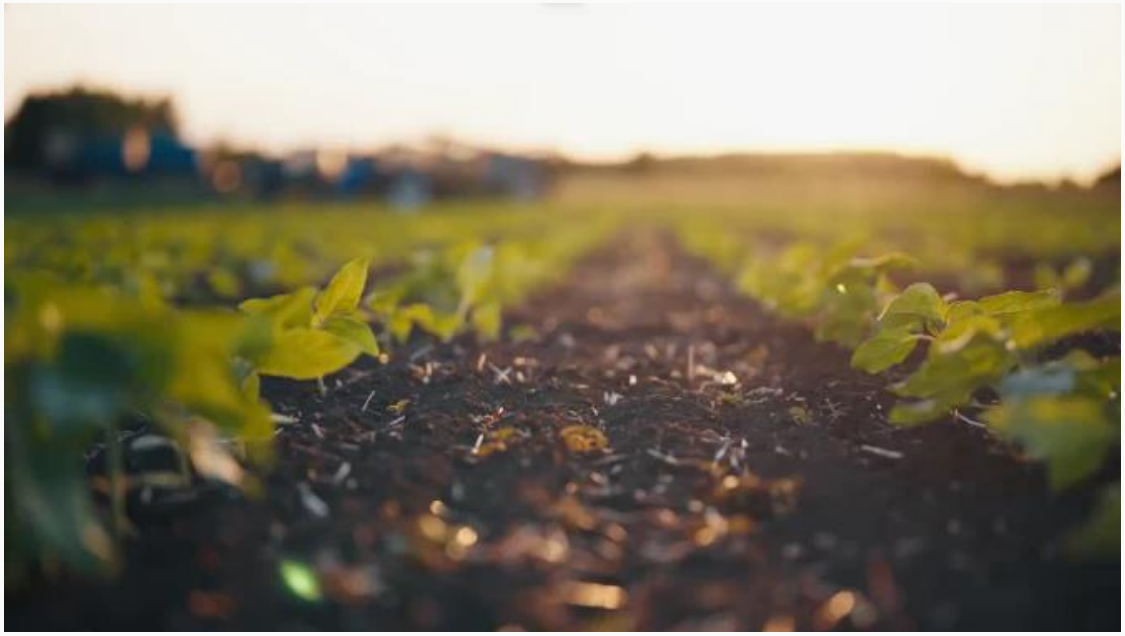
Stay tuned.. the report will be published soon.

NOVAFERT at the forefront on policy

NOVAFERT is actively shaping the future of EU nutrient and soil policy through robust, evidence-backed recommendations. In a collaborative response to the European Commission's evaluation of the Nitrates Directive, NOVAFERT and six peer research projects advocated for recognizing the RENURE and expanding legal approval for ammonium salts derived from off-gases—pushing for practical updates to existing regulations.
Additionally, alongside sister project FER-PLAY, NOVAFERT welcomed the European Commission's Soil Monitoring Law proposal, which lays the groundwork for healthier soils by 2050. The initiative supports sustainable soil management and circular fertiliser use, and NOVAFERT contributed a set of nine targeted recommendations, ranging from binding soil-health targets to EU-level technical guidance and championing circular fertilisers in regulatory frameworks.

Read more here

Industry analysis of fertilisers market

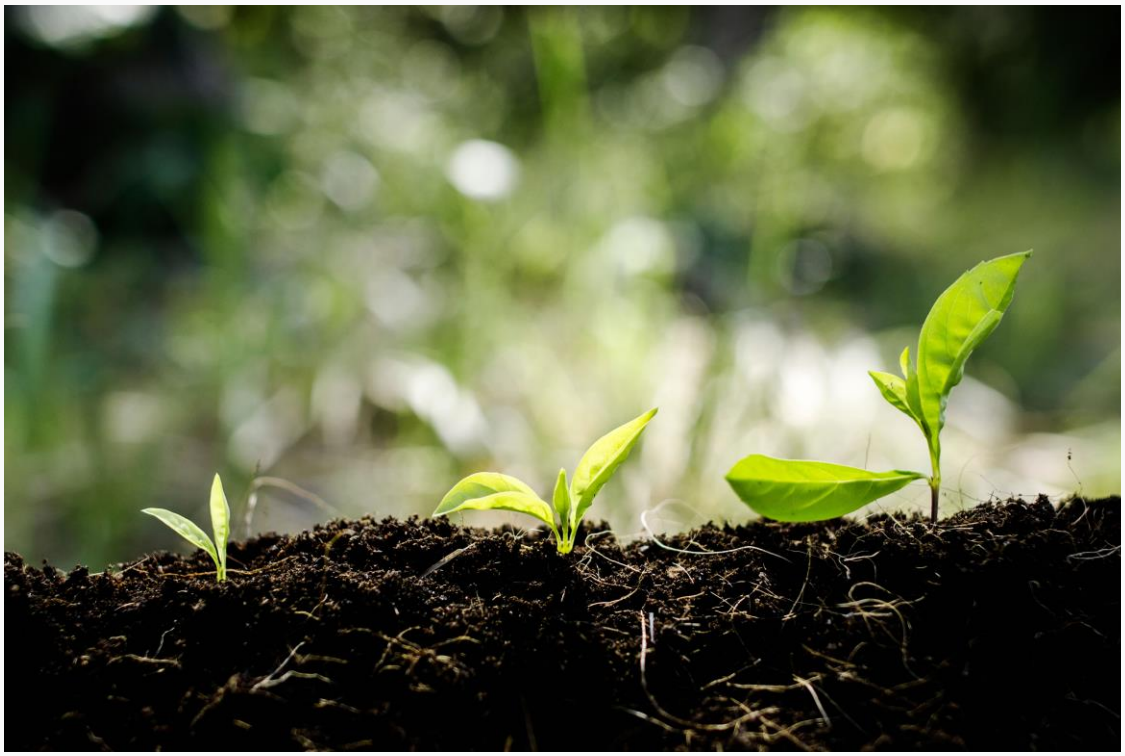


Novafert produced an in-depth analysis of the fertilisers market, with a focus on Bio-Based Fertilisers (BBFs) and the European Union (EU) sector. It highlights the growing importance of BBFs in promoting sustainable agriculture and responding to environmental challenges. The report covers global and EU market trends, regulatory impacts, and the demand for alternative fertilisers. It examines the pros and cons of these alternatives, analyses key industry players, and assesses market competition.

Customer behavior is explored through survey-based segmentation, offering insights into preferences and motivations.

Read more here

Regional assessment for alternative fertilisers adoption



NOVAFERT assessed the regional potential for using waste streams to produce alternative fertilisers. The goal is to identify key drivers and barriers to their implementation. The analyses provide a regional diagnosis that supports the development of strategies and action plans tailored to seven target regions. These findings will inform a general strategy and region-specific plans to address regulatory, market, and technological challenges. The NOVAFERT analyses cover political, economic, social, technological, and legal factors affecting the adoption of alternative fertilisers in agriculture.

Read more here

Discover the Novafert MOOC

Discover the MOOC modules!

Get introduced to the essential of the sustainable management of nutrients, which includes the use of organic fertilisers and the use of nutrients originated by waste streams.

Sustainable nutrient management aims to find the balance between maintaining and enhancing yields while reducing fertiliser-related losses and emissions, environmental impacts and costs. The development of methodologies and processes aimed at enhancing effective nutrient recycling from organic waste streams can help to decrease the reliance of European agriculture on mineral fertilizers from non-EU sources.

In this free course, you will learn about the scientific, economic, environmental and societal challenges around nutrient pollutions as well as benefits of enhancing the use of alternative fertilisers and the existing technologies and solutions to favor their market uptake.

This 4 week course consists of 4 modules. Each of this provides insights on the state-of-the-art of the recovered nutrients from the 6 different waste streams addressed by NOVAFERT.

Read more here

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 the European Research Executive Agency (REA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

Impact · Biezeweg · Wetteren 9230 · Belgium