

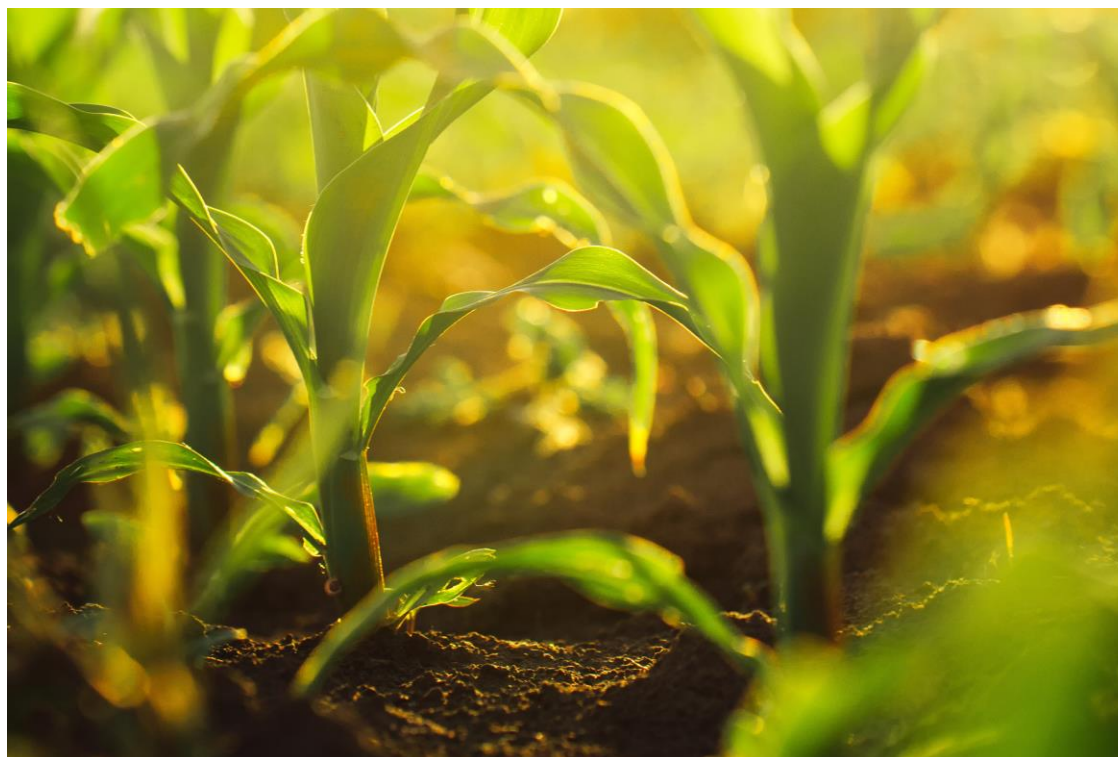
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Novafert

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



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ATLAS OF THE EU NUTRIENT ORIENTED LIVING LABS



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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

Technology main category	Technology sub category	Product main category	Product sub category	Secondary raw material	Country	Production data			Cost			Market	Legislation						
						Input material	Technology maturity and readiness level	Processing capacity	Process description	CAPEX	OPEX		ABP/EG	Considered as fertiliser in the national regulatory framework?	Considered as fertiliser in the European regulatory framework?	Component Material category (CMC)	ABP under scope ABP/EG and other/anal.	Waste framework directive	Manure under Nitrates directive
1	Physical-chemical nutrient recovery	Bio-drying	Compost, digestate & other (See all)	Bio-dried solid fraction	Treated manure	Spain	Pig slurry, solid fraction (See all)	7	6-12 t/year	The solid fraction of pig slurry (See all)			Considered as animal manure			ABP cat 1 and 2 may be used (See all)		Manure and materials produced (See all)	
2	Physical-chemical nutrient recovery	Membrane systems (Microfiltration, See all)	Scrubber solution & mineral cat. (See all)	Nutrient-rich concentrate	Treated manure	Spain	manure, liquid fraction (See all)	7	1-10 t/year	The reverse osmosis produces (See all)						ABP cat 2 and 3 may be used (See all)		Manure and materials produced (See all)	
3	Physical-chemical nutrient recovery	Membrane filtration	Scrubber solution & mineral cat. (See all)	Mineral concentrate	Treated manure	Belgium	Pig manure, co-product	9		Mineral concentrate is produced (See all)	€ 450,000	5-10 €/t of slurry	Seen as animal manure			ABP cat 2 and 3 may be used (See all)		Manure and materials produced (See all)	
4	Thermochemical nutrient recovery	Combustion	Biogas, Hydrochar & Ash	Ash	Treated manure	Spain, Finland	pig slurry, biochar (See all)	9	10-12 t/year	Biothermal drying (composting) (See all)					CMC 13 Thermal oxidation material (See all)		Waste materials or materials (See all)		
	Thermochemical nutrient recovery	SMC Moulding (thermochemical, See all)	Biogas, Hydrochar & Ash	Ash	Treated manure	Netherlands	Poultry manure	9									Waste materials or materials (See all)		

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 been 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!



Technologies & Products



Agronomic Performance



Sustainability Assessment



Legal Framework

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](#)



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