

News on biobased resource recovery

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**September 2023**

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Dear circular economy enthusiast,

Before summer ends, we are back again with a special issue of our Bulletin, focused on nutrient recovery and recycling.

The ESNI Conference, our highlight event on the topic, will be back on 20 September in Brussels to provide a comprehensive framework of the latest policies on nutrient recycling and the role of R&I projects in raising awareness on their benefits. An inspiring programme, consisting of 9 parallel sessions, will shed a light on policy development, sustainability and stakeholder engagement. Check for more details on the programme below!

This year, ESNI also offers the opportunity to participate to the final conference of Nutri2Cycle, held from 19 to 21 September in Ghent and Brussels, where the project will present its results, recommendations and impacts. So if you are interested in nutrient recycling, what a better time to join us and contribute to put nutrient recycling high in the EU agenda?

And while you are waiting for these events to start, we propose you a selection of news that will enrich your reading and make you aware of the updates on nutrient recycling, latest publications and interesting upcoming events.

We wish you a pleasant reading!

#### The BCE Team

Our latest updates will be waiting for you at @Bioref\_Cluster and [www.biorefine.eu](http://www.biorefine.eu). See you there!

You wish to share any news with us? Get in touch! [info@biorefine.eu](mailto:info@biorefine.eu)

#### Biorefine community

### The ESNI Conference will take place on 20 September in Brussels



The European Sustainable Nutrient Initiative - ESNI Conference will take place on **September 2023 in Brussels (BE) as well as in hybrid format.**

Being one of the major events on nutrient recycling, the ESNI Conference will provide a comprehensive framework of the policies promoting the nutrient recycling and recovery (NRR) at European level as well as a focus on the role of EU-funded R&I projects in contributing to enhance the scientific knowledge on the benefits of nutrient recycling and reuse.

The conference will offer a platform for **fruitful discussion and exchange of knowledge where policy-makers, researchers, industry representatives and many other stakeholders** will discuss how to improve nutrient recycling.

This year, 12 European-funded projects joined their forces with the Biorefine Cluster Europe to give an **insight on the most innovative solutions** developed to create value added products from nutrient recycling as well as their major outcomes both from a policy and stakeholder perspectives.

On the day of the conference, the General Assembly of the European Sustainable Nutrient Initiative will be launched **to foster collaboration between relevant initiatives and projects around nutrient recycling in Europe and to exchange knowledge and good practices.**

**Check the preliminary programme and register [here](#)**

**Biorefine community**

## **All good things come to an end... Nutri2Cycle organises its final conference**



**The Nutri2Cycle consortium is delighted to invite you to join its final conference, taking place from 19 to 21 September in Ghent and Brussels (BE).**

During these three days, Nutri2Cycle partners will showcase best practices, innovations and management changes to increase awareness among farmers communities of the need for integrated approaches to reduce carbon (C), Nitrogen (N) and Phosphorus (P) losses.

Most importantly, Nutri2Cycle will present the **policy perspective on nutrient recycling** in the framework of the **European Sustainable Nutrient Initiative (ESNI) conference**, taking place in Brussels. Nutri2Cycle will introduce its policy recommendations on bio-based fertilisers and how its outcomes can feed nutrient efficient agriculture in Europe and contribute to food security with decreased external inputs.

A **field visit** will close the event and allow all attendees to get a first-hand knowledge on

some of the solutions developed by Nutri2Cycle.

Check the preliminary programme [here](#).

#### Policy updates

### EU Soil Monitoring Law proposal and digestate



Soils are the foundation of our agri-food systems, they regulate the nutrient, carbon and water cycles and they provide a habitat for biodiversity. They also play an essential role in the circular economy and adaptation to climate change. Nevertheless, today [60 to 70% of European soils are unhealthy](#) due to climate change, extreme weather events, unsustainable soil management, intensification of agricultural practices, industrial activities, etc. These drivers of soil deterioration will not decline in the future unless a proper legislation is implemented. It is therefore necessary to ensure that EU soils are protected and that all soils are in healthy condition by 2050, as envisioned in the EU Soil Strategy in 2021.

Read more [here](#)

#### Project news

### 3rd Nutri2Cycle Summer School





The third (and final) Nutri2Cycle summer school took place at the IRTA premises in Barcelona between 7-9 June 2023. Over 50 young researchers and keynote speakers addressed the latest advances across the five research lines of the Nutri2Cycle project. The participants visited [the Nutri2Cycle lighthouse demo led by IRTA](#), and also enjoyed the dedicated workshops on LCA of nutrient recovery and recycling, emission monitoring and abatement in manure processing, and scientific communication and policy support. Interaction has always been the key word of the summer school, pushing the researchers to broaden their perspective and to frame the results in a broader European context and vision towards the future.

#### Project news

### Nutri2Cycle organised a conference on sustainable agriculture



Nutricycle Vlaanderen, Nutri2Cycle, Fertimanure, Fer-Play and Novafert organised a conference on sustainable agriculture in Merelbeke (Flanders) on 20 June.

The projects gave the floor to various policymakers, innovative farmers, agricultural and sector organisations and nature organisations.

Notable speakers were Farmer Jacob Vandenborne, who gave an interesting presentation on precision farming and alternative fertilisers and entrepreneur Kris Ally, who explained the benefits of biobased precision farming.

The conference ended with an interesting panel discussion on the future of sustainable farming, where the speakers explained that cooperation between different organizations is possible and necessary for the sustainability of agriculture and that technology and innovation will play a crucial role in this.

#### Project news

### Nutri2Cycle published a White Book for Sustainable Farms



The Nutri2Cycle consortium produced a “White book for sustainable farms” which provides an overview on the CNP challenges faced by different agro-typologies within the EU production systems and how the solutions proposed by the project are able to cope with them.

The identified agro-typologies include the group of livestock production (pig, cattle and poultry), plant production (cereal and maize, vegetables and orchard), and processing (slurry, byproducts and agroenergy), which links livestock and vegetable production. The solutions proposed within the Nutri2Cycle project act on four main strategies: decreasing feed and nutrient imports, increasing nutrient exports, improving nutrient use efficiency, and importing recovered CNP from other areas or sectors.

These strategies aim to address the issues related to nutrient overload, feed dependency, and carbon depletion in the soil.

Stay tuned to know when the publication will be available.

#### Major event

### **The 65-years anniversary of Yara’s long-term field tests**





On September 5-7, 2023, Yara is celebrating **the 65-years anniversary of Yara's long-term field tests**, in Dülmen (GER) and online.

During the first two days, there will be guided tours to the agronomic R&D laboratories, the glasshouses and to the research fields to an invited audience, consisting of scientists, representatives of farmer associations and food companies as well as other food chain stakeholders.

On September 7<sup>th</sup>, a scientific conference with contributions by agronomic scientists and Prof. Erik Meers will follow, including a podium discussion. After the main scientific part of the conference, Prof. Erik Meers will moderate a dedicated [Nutribudget](#) co-creation workshop.

Regenerative agriculture is a declared part of Yara's corporate strategy goals. With this systematic approach, the best farming practices shall be adopted by farmers, to positively affect nature and climate, across the five recurrent themes: climate, soil health, resource use, biodiversity and prosperity.

The link to join the conference will be shared soon.

**Food for thought**



**Constructed wetlands and duckweed ponds as a treatment step in liquid manure handling — A life cycle assessment.** Science of the Total Environment 889, 163956. [Read the full article here](#)

**From fork to farm: Impacts of more sustainable diets in the EU-27 on the agricultural sector.** Journal of Agricultural Economy, 00:1–21.  
[Read the full article here](#)

**Dynamics of soil nitrogen and N-cycling-related genes following the application of biobased fertilizers.** . Applied Soil Ecology, 191, 105033.  
[Read the full article here](#)



## **Vlaams bio-energie forum 3 October 2023, Drongen, Belgium**

On Tuesday 3 October, Biogas-E and ODE Bio-Energieplatform organize the first Vlaams Bio-Energieforum ([Flemish Bio-Energy Platform](#)). Topics linked to anaerobic digestion as well as the latest developments and innovations in energy generation from solid biomass are discussed.

This event is the perfect opportunity to network with professionals, exchange ideas and stay up-to-date with the latest trends and technologies. The event takes place in the historic and authentic setting of the Oude Abdij Drongen, which offers a unique background for fascinating discussions.

[Continue reading](#)

*The Biorefine Cluster is supported by the European Biogas Association (EBA), a no-profit organisation which advocates for recognition of biomethane and other renewable gases as sustainable, on demand and flexible energy sources that provide multiple knock on socio-economic and environmental benefits. Learn more [here](#)*



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