



SHORT TITLE

Results 1st Flemish RUSTICA workshop with external stakeholders

SHORT SUMMARY FOR PRACTITIONERS

EN version

In 2021, the first RUSTICA multi-stakeholder workshop for the Flemish region took place. 20 people involved in different parts of the biobased fertiliser (BBF) value chain attended. The goals of the workshop were to better connect the regional network to make progress in the development of BBFs, to gain more insights in potential customer demand, as well as in legal and market related challenges and to share project (intermediate) results.

Outcomes of the workshop entailed an overview of most important regional stakeholders in the Flemish region, a list of long term and short term goals to be pursued by the RUSTICA network, leek as choice of crop for the development of a BBF blend for the Flemish region, and most crucial interlinked social, political, technological, economic and environmental factors related to BBF development and use. Practical recommendations include the need to have a more clear legal framework and to ensure a clear economic benefit for potential waste stream suppliers. Additionally, three main drivers for the future of BBFs were identified: 1) Public sustainability awareness; 2) A competitive price of BBFs compared to current fertilisers; 3) Affordable and innovative technologies to develop BBFs. During future workshops, stakeholders suggested to provide more details on technological methods in RUSTICA and market data.

SHORT SUMMARY FOR PRACTITIONERS

NATIVE version

In 2021 vond de eerste RUSTICA multi-stakeholderworkshop voor de Vlaamse regio plaats. 20 mensen die betrokken zijn bij verschillende delen van de waardeketen van biogebaseerde meststoffen (BBF) waren aanwezig. De doelstellingen van de workshop waren om het regionale netwerk beter te verbinden om vooruitgang te boeken in de ontwikkeling van BBF's, om meer inzicht te krijgen in de potentiële vraag van klanten en in juridische en marktgerelateerde uitdagingen en om (tussentijdse) projectresultaten te delen.

De resultaten van de workshop omvatten een overzicht van de belangrijkste regionale stakeholders in Vlaanderen, een lijst van lange- en kortetermijndoelstellingen om na te streven door het RUSTICA-netwerk, prei als gewaskeuze voor de ontwikkeling van een BBF-mengsel voor Vlaanderen, en de meest cruciale sociale, politieke, technologische, economische en milieufactoren met betrekking tot de ontwikkeling en het gebruik van BBF. Praktische aanbevelingen zijn onder meer de behoefte aan een duidelijker juridisch kader en aan een duidelijk economisch voordeel voor potentiële leveranciers van afvalstromen. Daarnaast zijn drie belangrijke drijvende krachten voor de toekomst van BBF's geïdentificeerd: 1) het duurzaamheidsbewustzijn van het publiek; 2) een concurrerende prijs van BBF's in vergelijking met de huidige meststoffen; 3) betaalbare en innovatieve technologieën om BBF's te ontwikkelen. Tijdens toekomstige workshops stelden de stakeholders voor meer details te verstrekken over technologische methoden in RUSTICA en marktgegevens.



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CONTEXT

On the 18th of October 2021, EV ILVO organised the first RUSTICA external multi-stakeholder workshop for the Flemish region. There were about 20 attendees involved in different parts of the biobased fertiliser (BBF) value chain including farmers association, fertiliser companies, technology providers, policymakers and research organisations.

PROBLEM

The bio-based fertiliser value chain is in need of better connected regional networks to make progress in the development of BBF. More insights in potential customer demand related to characteristics of future BBF blends is needed, as well as in legal and market related challenges.

SOLUTION

Regional RUSTICA stakeholder workshops connect stakeholders and project partners related to different parts in the bio-based fertiliser value chain. The workshop setting is used to explore and discuss questions such as customer wishes for BBF blends, market value chains, future scenarios for the development of BBF blends, technology developments and legal frameworks. Project results are shared and discussed with the stakeholders during the workshops.

OUTCOME

1. Detailed overview of regional stakeholders in the Flemish region
2. List of long term and short term goals to be pursued by the RUSTICA network. In the short term: enhanced networking opportunities throughout the value chain, solutions for technical and legal issues related to the production and use of BBF and expanding scientific and technological knowledge on the topic. In the long term: more circularity in the agricultural sector, increased soil quality, BBF commercialisation opportunities, enhanced public awareness on bio-based alternatives and broadening the scope of the results beyond the fruit and vegetable waste streams.
3. 2 potential crops with list of detailed characteristics for development of a matching BBF. Leek was then chosen by the RUSTICA partners as crop for the Flemish region.
4. In-depth reflection of stakeholders on the Flemish market context for future BBF development.
5. Social, political, technological, economic and environmental factors related to BBF development and use were scored on relevance and interlinked.

PRACTICAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ Need to have clear regulations and certification on the use of waste streams.
- ✓ It is crucial to have an economic benefit for potential waste stream suppliers.
- ✓ Three main drivers for the future of BBF were identified: 1) Public sustainability awareness; 2) A competitive price of BBF compared to current fertilisers; 3) Development of affordable and innovative technologies to develop BBF.
- ✓ During future workshops, stakeholders suggested to provide more details on technological methods in RUSTICA and market data.