



ALMERIA - LEGAL POINTS

RUSTICA test case: A view on legal points in Almeria

SHORT SUMMARY FOR PRACTITIONERS

EN version

RUSTICA aims at sustainable provisions by means of converting redundant residues from the agri-food chain into valuable fertilising products. The project specifically focuses on circular models benefitting regional approaches. In this respect, legal and political frameworks are pivotal, and enormous progress has been achieved in terms of using organic materials for fertilisers by enacting the new Fertilising Products Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 in the EU. Furthermore, Spanish legislation enables a wide range of bio-based solutions for fertilisers while some restrictions apply if waste and animal by-products are considered.

The project develops and evaluates a broad spectrum of bio-based fertilisers starting from a variety of feedstocks, using new processing routes and leading to six main building blocks microbial biomass, NPK-concentrate, insect biomass, frass, biochar and compost for tailor-made fertilisers. At present, European and national Spanish rules already reveal that certain value chains can be built based on leftovers from fruit and vegetable production. In particular, routes involving compost are prominent examples for such options while other value chains would need a more specific consideration of relevant criteria, such as type of input, technology and characteristics of the final product.

SHORT SUMMARY FOR PRACTITIONERS

NATIVE version

RUSTICA quiere fomentar la producción sostenible de fertilizantes de base biológica mediante la conversión de residuos agrícolas en valiosos productos fertilizantes. El proyecto se centra específicamente en modelos circulares con un enfoque regional. En este sentido, los marcos legales y políticos son fundamentales, y se ha logrado un enorme progreso en términos del uso de materiales orgánicos para la producción de fertilizantes, al promulgar el nuevo Reglamento de Productos Fertilizantes (UE) 2019/1009 en la UE. Además, la legislación española permite una amplia gama de soluciones de base biológica para la producción de fertilizantes, aunque son aplicables algunas restricciones si se tienen en cuenta los residuos y subproductos animales.

El proyecto desarrolla y evalúa un amplio espectro de biofertilizantes a partir de una variedad de materias primas, utilizando nuevas rutas de procesamiento y dando lugar a seis bloques principales de producción de materias primas: biomasa microbiana, concentrado NPK, biomasa y excrementos de insectos, biochar y compost, para la producción a medida de fertilizantes. En la actualidad, la normativa europea y nacional española ya revela que se pueden poner en marcha determinadas cadenas de valor a partir de los restos de la producción hortofrutícola. En particular, las rutas que involucran al compost son ejemplos destacados de tales opciones, mientras que otras cadenas de valor necesitarían una consideración más específica de los criterios más relevantes, como el tipo de insumo, la tecnología a utilizar y las características del producto final.



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CONTEXT

At the moment, precious resources from residues and side streams of fruit and vegetable production, food manufacture and retail often remain unused. Fertilisers are frequently produced by traditional methods and nutrient recovery by regional concepts are not at the forefront. Therefore, innovative solutions are needed to close the gap on sufficient availability of circular fertilising materials.

PROBLEM

Albeit the new EU legislation on fertilising products and the national legislation in Spain provide opportunities on waste and animal by-products, there are some bottlenecks for such input if it will be considered for plant nutrition. These legal rules affect also complex valorisation routes of novel bio-based fertiliser developments.

SOLUTION

Legal aspects are broadly addressed in the RUSTICA project and the scope of analysis comprises not only international agreements and EU legislation but also national and regional stipulations in Spain and Andalusia. The results achieved in the course of the study are published and available for policy makers and authorities. The investigations include inter alia the six main technologies of RUSTICA and EU rules on fertiliser application including their national and regional transposition in Spain and Andalusia. Attention is paid to conventional and organic farming.

OUTCOME

1. A detailed and publicly available report (D3.6) on national and regional legislation in the test regions in EU countries and Colombia revealing options and constraints of RUSTICA developments has been prepared.
2. A dedicated summary on major criteria of national and regional legislation in Spain and Almeria relevant for stakeholders and marketing of the new technologies is elaborated.
3. An integration of the subject into workshops enabling a broad discussion on legal situations, positions and future needs in the Almeria test region has been made.

PRACTICAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- An evaluation of the feedstocks and precursors of fertilising products identifying their legal options for the individual value chains;
- A verification of the processing methods and comparison with legal requirements to recognize further needs;
- An assessment of contents, such as nutrient values, contaminants and pollutants of the fertilising products, blends and mixtures in terms of compliance with legislation;
- A consideration of legal sources addressing environmental issues, e.g., water (nitrate) and fertiliser application;