

# POLICY BRIEF 1

## Policy and legislation on circular bio-based fertilisers

### Key challenges

- Transition from current regulations to the new Fertilising Products Regulation.
- Uncertainties hinder the development of new bio-based fertiliser products.
- Need for a level playing field in the development of bio-based fertilisers.

## CURRENT CONTEXT

### Farm to Fork strategy

Europe promotes bio-based fertilisers as crucial for enhancing soil quality, resilience, and advancing circular food systems

### EU funding

Europe supports projects advancing bio-based fertilisers through diverse technologies, including those derived from animal and plant waste sources.

### New FPR regulation

EU Regulation 2019/1009 establishes harmonized standards for fertiliser feedstocks and Component Material Categories for fertilisers and plant bio-stimulants.

## PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

### Legislative lag

Regulations are not keeping pace with technological innovations in bio-based fertilisers.

### Outdated focus

EU Regulation 2003/2003 prioritized inorganic fertilisers, leaving bio-based producers reliant on fragmented national legislation.

### Unfulfilled objectives

The new EU FPR 2019/1009, meant to harmonize rules and incentivize production, still leaves key principles unaddressed.

### Regulatory bottlenecks

Strict regulations create barriers to market introduction of bio-based fertilisers from organic feedstocks and innovative technologies.

### Legal restrictions on circular models

Waste, animal by-products, and microorganisms face legal restrictions that need clearer alignment with current technologies.

### Global market consistency

The EU must ensure a level playing field for bio-based fertilisers within its member states and in global markets.

### Lack of dialogue

Insufficient communication between policymakers and stakeholders is hindering market-aligned policies and sustainable practices.

## RECOMMENDATIONS TO POLICY MAKERS



Align legislation with Green Deal and Farm2Fork strategy to support innovation in bio-based fertilisers, promoting **sustainability and circular economy**.



Establish clear **guidelines on accepted feedstocks and valorisation pathways** for bio-based fertiliser production to reduce uncertainty.



Foster open **communication between stakeholders and policymakers** to share insights and develop policies that align with market needs.



Provide **support for project consortia** to navigate complex regulations, minimizing wasted time and resources due to legal uncertainties.



Encourage **collaboration between project consortia, backed by the EU Commission**, to overcome legislative barriers and streamline bio-based fertiliser development.