

POLICY BRIEF 1

Policy and legislation on circular bio-based fertilisers



Demonstration of circular bio-based fertilisers and implementation of optimized fertiliser strategies and value chains in rural communities

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.



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PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

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OUTDATED FOCUS - EU Regulation 2003/2003 prioritized inorganic fertilisers, leaving bio-based producers reliant on fragmented national legislation.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



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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.

