HERMEST: Application of reclaimed fertilisers in the cultivation recipe in non-soil crops

Met steun van / in samenwerking met:

The current rise in fertiliser prices is placing significant pressure on the profitability of many Flemish agricultural, horticultural and ornamental businesses. It should be noted that recovered fertilisers from animal manure are still legally recognised as animal manure. Consequently, the use of these products in outdoor cultivation remains restricted. In ornamental and sheltered horticulture, the use of artificial fertilisers is prevalent. By replacing some of these artificial fertilisers with equally effective reclaimed fertilisers, growers can make significant cost savings and reduce their reliance on artificial fertilisers and natural gas.

The objective of this project is to provide growers of tomatoes, strawberries, chicory, bedding plants and ornamental shrubs with the knowledge required to utilise reclaimed fertilisers effectively, with a view to implementing this knowledge immediately. We are working with a number of industry-leading companies to demonstrate effective methods for using reclaimed fertilisers. These companies serve as models for others, helping to eliminate obstacles and align supply and demand more effectively.

We anticipate that the main outcomes will be the dissemination of knowledge and the immediate application of our findings. From the outset of the research project, we have worked closely with growers to ensure a smooth transition from research to implementation. We develop bespoke knowledge for the target group and ensure its immediate application. This will facilitate a broader transition in the sector during the course of the project. We will address all potential challenges.

Once the project has concluded, we intend to provide ongoing support in order to further stimulate the transformation. We are developing a web tool that will facilitate the matching of supply and demand for reclaimed fertilisers, as well as a brokerage service that will provide technical and legal support to companies. These tools will remain active and will be supported by follow-up pathways. These pathways concentrate on the utilisation of reclaimed fertilisers in novel crops and applications, or on the advancement of particular reclaimed fertilisers.

By collaborating with growers and developing practical tools, we aim to assist them in achieving their goals.

Partners: Inagro, Viaverda, VCM

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