



## SYSTEMIC – AGROCYCLE Policy Workshop

Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> May 2018, Brussels  
(location Renewable Energy House, Brussels)  
09:00-12:30

### CONTEXT and AGENDA OUTLINE

#### **Fertilising products based on animal manure under the nitrates directive and circular economy.**

##### **Background**

The uptake of nutrient recovery from bio-waste, animal manure and sewage sludge across Europe is only viable if there is an effective market for the final products. A major barrier to the advancement of a viable market for nutrients recovered from manure are the limitations of the Nitrates Directive.

Currently only 170kg N per ha per year of nitrogen from livestock manure can be applied, including any processed manure and nutrients recovered from manure. The European Commission has recognised that the new products coming from nutrient recovery plants may have the potential to be as agronomically effective and have the same environmental performance as chemical fertilisers and therefore could, potentially, be given end of animal manure status and therefore exempted from the 170kg N per ha per year limitation (in case of no derogation) of the Nitrates Directive.

In order to propose this update of the implementation of the Nitrates Directive, EC DG Environment have mandated EC JRC with a two year study to look into the product quality, agronomic efficiency and environmental performance of fertilising products derived from manure.

This workshop aims to feed into that process by discussing the characteristics of different groups of fertiliser products from different routes of fertilising production from manure and to identify what further information is required (gaps) to feed the JRC information search and the policy decision making. Specifically it aims to involve SYSTEMIC, AGROCYCLE and other H2020 research and innovation projects in the discussion at the earliest possible stage in order to help policy makers to evaluate the consequences of certain decisions and legislation for the uptake of nutrient recovered products in the market to stimulate the implementation of the Circular Economy.

Prior to the workshop, SYSTEMIC will provide all those attending with the product information sheets on the different groups of products, based on information provided by H2020 Research and innovation projects.

## AGENDA

- **Introduction and context** (30 mins) Oscar Schoumans, Coordinator of SYSTEMIC
- **3 parallel sessions** (30 mins each) on the following for the products (each group to rotate so 3 sessions of 3 groups).
  - Product quality
  - Agronomic aspect
  - Environmental aspects
- **Plenary session**
  - **Feedback from parallel sessions** (10 mins per session)  
Each of the moderators will provide a summary of the discussions in the group they have moderated and up to three key statements for discussion
  - **EC JRC - TBC** (10 minutes). A member of JRC will give the workshop an overview of the ongoing study, the timings and key moments during the study and their priorities, and information needed.
  - **Discussion** (all) (30 mins)

Overall moderator and session moderators: A member of SYSTEMIC

## Background information of SYSTEMIC and AGROCYCLE

SYSTEMIC is a project funded under the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation H2020 for the period 2017-2021 and includes 15 partners from 7 EU member states. The SYSTEMIC project is working with 5 demonstration plants and 10 outreach plants to show how recovering nutrients from organic waste sources can be economically viable and how it is possible to produce renewable fertilising products that can be cycled back to croplands and can replace current mineral fertiliser produced from non-renewable resources. The project will evidence how European animal manure, sewage sludge and bio-waste treatment can be taken to the next level by applying novel technologies to produce energy and recover nutrients, and through the application of knowledge gained at these plants, contribute to the expansion of nutrient recovery across the EU.

Agrocycle is Horizon 2020 research and innovation project addressing the recycling and valorisation of waste from the agri-food sector. The consortium has 26 partners from 8 EU countries, two partners from mainland China, and one from Hong Kong. The project takes a holistic approach to understanding and addressing how to make best use of the full range of waste streams associated with the agri-food industry. It will deliver the AgroCycle Protocol, a blueprint for achieving sustainable agri-food waste valorisation. The resultant AgroCycle Protocol will deliver sustainable waste valorisation pathways addressing the European policy target of reducing food waste by 50% by 2030, as well contributing to the wave of change that is occurring in China in relation to sustainability. AgroCycle will undertake a holistic analysis of agri-food waste value chains, from farm-to-table, including livestock and crop production, food processing and the retail sector. It will address a wide range of valorisation pathways, including: bio-fuels, high value-added biopolymers, energy and microbial fuel cells.