

# Policy Brief Alternative crop nutrient providers (Green Fertilisers / Biofertilisers, biostimulants / Biochar)

## Main results / outcomes

Around 50% of all energy used in EU agriculture is associated with the production and consumption of chemical fertilisers. The production of these fertilisers is based on fossil fuels, often natural gas. For the EU agricultural sector to move towards sustainable production systems a significant transformation is required in the production of fertilisers. Such products are green fertilisers, biofertilisers/biostimulants and biochar.

## Practical recommendations

- Promote R&D processes that support the replacement of fossil fuels
- Support industries that produce and/or shift their production processes to green fertilisers
- Promote the use of biomethane and green hydrogen as a substitute of natural gas
- Through market incentives, ensure price competitiveness of green fertilisers
- Develop education and extension processes on the benefits of alternative crop nutrient providers
- Support the development of products that improve the quality of soils and support carbon sequestration
- Promote further the use of alternative crop nutrient providers through the Common Agricultural Policy
- Support local networks that prioritize the production of local biofertilisers
- Promote R&D processes on the long-term potential of biochar to improve soil fertility
- Promote demonstration projects and pilots that showcase alternative crop nutrient providers
- Provide a financial incentive to industry that uses pyrolysis and gasification technologies of agricultural biomass to produce biofuels or electricity and biochar as a by-product.



Fig 1: Image showing biofertilisers. Copyright: FREEPIK

## Expected Impacts

The expected impacts of the policy recommendations include reduced greenhouse gas emissions, enhanced biodiversity and soil health, positive environmental externalities, improved public health, increased rural

## About this abstract

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**AgroFossilFree** is a H2020 multi-actor project that will evaluate the current status in EU agriculture regarding energy use and assess existing needs, allowing farmers to optimize agricultural production through more efficient energy use and reduced GHG emissions, resulting in economic, agronomic and environmental benefits. AgroFossilFree will create a framework under which critical stakeholders will cooperate to evaluate and promote the currently available Fossil-Energy-Free Technologies and Strategies (FEFTS) in EU agriculture. The project is running from October 2020 to September 2023.

**Website:** [www.agrofossilfree.eu](http://www.agrofossilfree.eu)

