



PRESS RELEASE

ManuREsource, the conference on management and valorization of manure on the 3th and 4th of December 2015

October 12th, 2015

The second edition of the ManuREsource conference is coming soon! All international expertise on manure, gathered in one conference. What to expect? Clear policy views of several European countries who are dealing with manure surpluses, a scientific evaluation of existing and new techniques and a clear overview of the demand of organic fertilizers in Europe. The conference takes place on the 3th and 4th of December in the unique historical building 'Het Pand' in Ghent, Belgium. After the success of the first edition, with more than 200 participants, the organising partners University of Ghent, Inagro, the POM West Flanders and the Flemish Coordination Centre for Manure Processing (VCM vzw) expect a large attendance.

More and more regions in and outside the EU are confronted with manure surpluses, due to the increase and the enlargement of non-land based livestock breeding. In the scope of the European Nitrates Directive, various member states have drawn up action plans to cope with these nutrient surpluses. The treatment of manure is one of the possible actions to reduce and manage the surpluses, and at the same time it is a way to recover the valuable nutrients.



Because of its profound practical experience with manure treatment, Flanders is the perfect location for an international conference on this topic. A large number of techniques have already been tested in Flanders; some were successful and are still implemented in practice, others have proved not to be economically or technically feasible.

Several international research institutes have been concentrating on the problem of manure surplus and the development of innovative techniques, with a strong focus on energy production, and/or nutrient recovery. The conference aims to exchange expertise and experiences between various regions, and offers the ideal opportunity to do some networking with experts of the industry.

The development of new techniques for manure treatment leads to new end products, which often can't be defined as animal manure anymore. During anaerobic digestion, waste streams and agricultural residues are also used as input material. With the latest treatment techniques manure is refined into N-, K- and P-concentrates of which the composition tends to be a mineral instead of an organic fertilizer. This evolution brings a lot of work on European, national and regional policy level, in order to give an appropriate statute to these end products.

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The large success of the first edition has shown the need for such initiative.

Participants are scientists, construction companies, manure processors and policymakers as well as intermediates. On this second edition we welcome Mr. Francesco Presicce from the European Commission (DG Environment) and the Flemish minister of agriculture Ms. Joke Schauvliege. Furthermore, several keynote speakers will inform the public on possible new markets for organic fertilizers in Europe, focusing on Poland, Hungary and Sweden.

During the panel debate with representatives from Finland, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Germany and Flanders, the national approach for manure surplus will be discussed and we'll go more deeply into the impact of the European policy on member state level. In the framework of coming, new European policy measures (revision EU2003/2003, End-of-Waste, circular economy package, ...) the organisation hopes to discuss the various visions of the European member states to come to a communal vision for the future.



The program offers several parallel sessions where Flemish and international speakers present their research on themes like fertilization, energy production from manure, technological innovations, nutrient recovery, environmental impact, quality of manure products, ...

Excursion to the largest Flemish manure processor and demonstration of the NIR-technology for registration of manure composition

Preceding the conference, VCM organises a guided visit to the Flemish company Fertikal (Antwerp). Fertikal is producer of organic and organo-mineral NPK fertilizers for the global market. Fertikal processes Flemish (Belgian) and Dutch manure into composted soil conditioner and granulated organic fertilizer for both agricultural and horticultural markets in more than 25 countries. Fertikal's offices and production site are located in the centre of the Port of Antwerp, an obvious logistical advantage in terms of transport and accessibility. The production plant has been completely modernized in 2014 and opens its doors exclusively for the ManuREsource conference.

Next, **the NIR(Near InfraRed)-system** will be demonstrated. This mobile system offers the farmer the possibility to register on-line the composition of manure in the slurry tank, this by using a NIR-sensor. This concept has been picked up by the Dutch company 'Vlastuin Group' and will be demonstrated during the visit on the 2nd of December. Currently, the Dutch government is investigating if Near InfraRed could be used as registration system for manure transports. During the visit, we'll look more deeply into this subject.

The four organising institutions are looking forward to a successful exchange of experiences on this current theme, and hope for ManuREsource to grow into a well-established conference on international level.

All information and registration see <http://www.manuresource2015.org/>

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