ESNI-NERM 2026

The Flagship Event on Nutrient Recycling

Conference Booklet DAY 1

ESNI-NERM

28-29 April 2026 Brussels & hybrid

ERIK MEERS

PROFESSOR
GHENT UNIVERSITY

Prof. Erik Meers is associated to the Ghent University (Belgium) where he coordinates research in resource recovery. He is founder of the EU project cluster Biorefine Cluster Europe (www.biorefine.eu) He also coordinated the Flemish biogas association, Biogas-E (www.biogas-e.be) from 2012- 2016 and is currently board member in this local association representing Ghent University. In recent years, Erik Meers has supported EBA as chairman to the Scientific Advisory Council (SAC) and in that capacity organized the 2016 EBA conference in Ghent and supported the 2018 edition in Antwerp with research contributions. His main aim is to re-organize and increase the participation and involvement of research institutes into the activities of EBA to support the policy agenda and with the goal towards innovation-towards business implementation.

LAIA LLENAS ARGELAGUET

DEPUTY DIRECTOR
BETA TECHNOLOGICAL CENTER

Dr. Laia Llenas is a Chemical Engineer, PhD in Chemical Engineering. She is currently the Deputy Director of BETA Technological Center. As a project manager, she has deep expertise in the preparation and execution of national and international research projects and knowledge transfer to private sector. As a researcher of BETA Research Group, her expertise is focused on water treatment, wastewater reuse and membrane technologies.

BERTRAND VALLET

POLICY OFFICER
DG RTD, EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Bertrand Vallet works as a policy officer at the European Commission's Directorate General for Research and Innovation in the Oceans, Seas, and Waters Unit. With engineering credentials in water treatment, he also holds a master's and PhD in wastewater treatment and modelling. Bringing over 20 years of sectoral experience, he focuses on sustainable water services, the circular economy, ecosystem protection, and disseminating innovative solutions to facilitate a sustainable green transition.

MARIA FUENTES MERINO

POLICY OFFICER FOR ECO-SCHEMES
DG AGRI, EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Maria Fuentes Merino is a Policy Coordinator for eco-schemes with extensive experience in EU agricultural policy. She holds a degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Barcelona and a Master of Science in Economics and Agricultural Policy from the Institut Agronomique Méditerranéen in Montpellier. She began her career as a researcher at INRAE in France and has worked for 27 years at the European Commission’s DG Agriculture and Rural Development, focusing mainly on environmental and climate issues, including eight years coordinating rural development programmes (PDR) in France. Over the past five years, she has worked in the environmental sustainability unit on CAP instruments supporting climate and environmental objectives, and currently coordinates eco-schemes.

IGNASI SALAET

DIRECTOR
FERTINAGRO BIOTECH

Ignasi Salaet is a PhD in Molecular and Cellular Biology and a graduate in Biology from the University of Barcelona, with over 15 years of R&D experience at Fertinagro Biotech. He is a former Torres Quevedo Programme fellow, inventor on 37 patents, and has participated in 27 national and international research projects, including EU H2020 initiatives. He currently serves as Director of the Basic Research Area at Fertinagro Biotech, specializing in molecular biology, biotechnological processes, and the development of biofertilisers based on plant growth-promoting microorganisms.

KRIS ALLY

CO-FOUNDER
SMARTRENURE

Kris Ally is a co-founder and key figure at SmartRenure, where he focuses on bridging innovation, entrepreneurship, agriculture, and sustainability. He is active in the agricultural and biotechnological ecosystem and is known for his role in fostering collaboration between research, business, and sustainable development initiatives. Through his work at SmartRenure and related projects, he supports innovation-driven solutions in agriculture and contributes to building connections between industry stakeholders and knowledge institutions.

CiNURGi, FERTITEC and FertiCovery: “Scaling Circular Nutrient Solutions: From Regional Innovation to European Best Practice”

This session showcases results from three EU-funded projects (CiNURGi, FERTITEC and FertiCovery) focused on nutrient recycling. Through expert talks, a keynote from the European Commission, and an interactive panel discussion, the session explores cutting-edge technologies, market challenges, and policy levers shaping nutrient recycling.

Attendees will gain insights into transforming waste into high-value fertilisers, advancing sustainable agriculture, and supporting the transition to a circular economy that reduces environmental impacts while strengthening nutrient resilience across Europe. The session is organised by three EU-funded projects CiNURGi, FERTITEC and FertiCovery focused on nutrient recycling

About the projects

CiNURGi project
The CiNURGi project is a European collaborative initiative focused on advancing circular nutrient management and sustainable fertiliser solutions. It brings together a multi-stakeholder consortium of research organisations, industry partners, and technology providers to promote innovation in nutrient recovery from secondary raw materials. The project supports the transition towards a more circular and resource-efficient agri-food system in Europe by strengthening links between science, industry, and policy.

FERTITEC project
The FERTITEC project is a European initiative dedicated to developing and scaling innovative technologies for nutrient recovery and the production of bio-based fertilisers. It involves a broad network of scientific, industrial, and institutional partners working together to improve resource efficiency in agriculture. The project aims to accelerate the deployment of circular fertilisation solutions and contribute to a more sustainable and resilient European agricultural system.

FertiCOVERY project
The FertiCOVERY project is a European research and innovation initiative focused on recovering valuable nutrients from secondary raw materials and transforming them into high-quality fertiliser products. Through collaboration between research centres, companies, and stakeholders across the agri-food value chain, the project promotes circular economy principles in agriculture. Its goal is to reduce environmental impacts while enhancing nutrient recycling and sustainability in European farming systems.

EU-FarmBook

EU-FarmBook: “How EU-FarmBook Can Strengthen Your Research being implemented in Practice across Europe"

EU-FarmBook, an open-access platform designed to make EU-funded knowledge easier to find and used by agricultural and rural actors

EU-FarmBook brings together practice-oriented knowledge, tools, guides, videos and research-based insights from EU-funded projects — all in one place. The platform helps you quickly access credible, non-commercial, EU-backed knowledge, saving time while strengthening the visibility, quality, reliability and long-term impact of project results.

During this workshop, we will:

- Highlight how EU-FarmBook supports you, including smart search, multilingual access and practical materials you can directly reuse or recommend.
- Introduce the AI-powered tools for making life as a contributor ans knowledge consumer easier.
- Walk you through the key sections of the platform.

To summarize, this workshop will show how EU-FarmBook can work for you.

About EU-Farmbook

EU-FarmBook is a Horizon Europe initiative designed to create a central, user-friendly digital knowledge platform for agriculture and forestry. It brings together practical, science-based solutions, best practices, and research results to support farmers, foresters, advisors, and policymakers across Europe.

The project connects a wide network of research organisations, advisory services, and industry stakeholders to improve the accessibility and usability of agricultural knowledge. Its goal is to accelerate innovation uptake in the field by translating complex research outputs into practical, actionable guidance that supports more sustainable, productive, and resilient farming and forestry systems in Europe.

Funded by the European Union

RELEAF project and LANDFEED project: “Tailored Technologies for resource recovery from Complex Streams”

This workshop will showcase innovative approaches to recovering valuable resources from complex bio-waste streams, drawing on real-world applications from the RELEAF and LANDFEED projects. Participants will explore how urban food waste, sewage sludge, fish processing residues, and other agricultural by-products as olive oil waste can be transformed into advanced bio-based fertilisers.
Technologies under discussion include enzymatic treatments, twin-screw extrusion, fermentation and hydrolysis processes. These methods enable the production of organic and inorganic fertilisers, a portfolio of different types of biostimulants and microbial biomass.

About RELEAF and LANDFEED

ReLEAF project
The ReLEAF project is a European research and innovation initiative focused on developing sustainable solutions for nutrient recovery and circular bio-based fertiliser production. It brings together research organisations, industry partners, and technology providers to valorise organic and secondary raw materials, transforming them into high-quality inputs for agriculture. The project supports the transition towards a circular economy in the agri-food sector by improving resource efficiency and reducing environmental impacts associated with nutrient losses.

LANDFeed project
The LANDFeed project is a European initiative aimed at advancing innovative and sustainable fertilisation practices through the recovery and reuse of nutrients from secondary raw materials. It involves a multidisciplinary consortium working across research, industry, and agricultural sectors to develop scalable solutions that enhance soil fertility and reduce dependency on mineral fertilisers. The project contributes to a more resilient and circular agri-food system by promoting efficient nutrient cycling and environmentally responsible farming practices.

Funded by the European Union

ESNI-NERM 2026

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AGATA KOTKOWSKA

DEPUTY HEAD OF UNIT FOR BIOECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS
EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Agata Kotkowska is Deputy Head of Unit for Bioeconomy and Sustainable Materials at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Environment. An economist by training, she has over 20 years of experience in environmental, energy, and regional policies, working at the intersection of sustainability, economic governance, and investment frameworks. She played a key role in the development of the 2025 EU Bioeconomy Strategy, helping to shape its focus on competitiveness, sustainability, and strategic autonomy through stakeholder engagement and policy coordination. Her expertise covers sustainable resource economics, scaling innovation to market, mobilisation of public and private finance, and the design of regulatory frameworks to support the transition to a circular and bio-based economy.

QUINTEN VAN HAECKE

PROCESS ENGINEER
AQUAFIN

Quinten Van haecke is a process engineer at Aquafin, where he contributes to the operation, optimisation, and development of wastewater treatment processes in Flanders. He works within multidisciplinary engineering teams to ensure efficient and stable biological treatment performance, supporting Aquafin's mission to produce clean water and improve environmental quality. His role involves process monitoring, troubleshooting, and continuous improvement of treatment installations, combining engineering expertise with a strong focus on sustainability and operational reliability.

LAURE BAILLARGEON

POLICY OFFICER
DG GROW, EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Laure Baillargeon has been policy officer at the European Commission DG for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs since 2007. She has worked on product eco-design, micro-economic structural reforms, policy planning, technological innovation, strategic value chains and investments. Since 2018, she has been working on plastics circularity. She is acting as co- chair of Task Force 2 of the Biomethane Industrial Partnership since April 2023.

Interreg Co-funded by the European Union
North-West Europe
ReNu2Cycle

ReNu2Cycle project: “Stakeholder feedback on Circular Economy Act as driver for Nutrient Recycling”

The Upcoming new Circular Economy Act aims to target barriers that hinder the free movement of recycled and secondary raw materials. It seeks to simplify the regulatory framework and remove barriers to the functioning of the Single Market, and strengthen secondary raw material markets and in improve access to feedstocks.

The NWE Interreg project ReNu2Cycle has put forward a feedback paper highlighting the major barriers and solutions for the market entry of recycling-derived fertilisers.

In this interactive session, we will inform, discuss and collect stakeholder opinions and suggestions on perceived barriers and pathways to market that can be solved under the circular Economy act.

About ReNu2Cycle

In North-West Europe, essential plant nutrients like nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) are lost in form of non-recycled organic resources from waste sector and nutrient surplus regions due to a predominating linear economic model.

ReNu2Cycle promotes the circular economy by a transregional valorisation of recycled NPK from municipal, industrial waste and agricultural sector in Flanders, The Netherlands, Ireland, Saarland, Lower Saxony and Luxembourg

Co-financed by the Interreg North-West Europe Programme

SEMPRE-BIO

SEMPRE-BIO project: “From concept to market: Microalgae cultivation for CO2 and digestate valorisation”

This session will bring information on the microalgae activities within the SEMPRE-BIO project. Members from the three organizing institutions (UGENT, INNOLAB, UVIC) will make short presentations showing the advances obtained during the project implementation.

Afterwards, they will open the discussion with the audience on the opportunities and challenges for implementing this technology, focusing mainly on legal and acceptance barriers and how to overcome these.

About SEMPRE-BIO

The SEMPRE-BIO project is a Horizon Europe initiative focused on scaling up cost-effective biomethane production in support of the European Green Deal and REPowerEU objectives. It develops and demonstrates innovative technologies to convert renewable and waste-based feedstocks into biomethane, including advanced upgrading and conversion pathways. Through collaboration between research, industry, and technology partners across several European demonstration sites, the project aims to accelerate the deployment of sustainable biomethane solutions, improve resource efficiency, and contribute to Europe’s energy transition and climate neutrality goals..

Funded by the European Union

NENUPHAR project: “From Challenges to Policy: Enhancing Nutrient Policy Governance through Interregional Exchange”

Join NENUPHAR for an interregional dialogue on the future of sustainable nutrient management.

The first session unpacks the NENUPHAR project's methodology for shifting from linear to circular business models, with interactive group work discussing barriers, testing feasibility, and mapping the actors who can turn strategy into real-world action.

The second session brings experts together to share good practices on measuring nutrient runoff, closing data gaps, and bridging science and policy. It is a hands-on opportunity to strengthen collaboration, test workable approaches, and unlock the environmental, social and economic benefits of more sustainable nutrient management.

About Nenuphar

The NENUPHAR project is a Horizon Europe initiative focused on tackling nutrient pollution and improving nutrient recycling through innovative governance models and technologies. It brings together a multi-stakeholder consortium to develop solutions for recovering nitrogen and phosphorus from key waste streams such as manure, sewage sludge, and dairy wastewater.

By combining technological innovation with policy, economic incentives, and stakeholder engagement, the project aims to reduce environmental impacts, lower fertiliser costs, and support the transition towards a circular and sustainable agri-food system in Europe.

Funded by the European Union

Harvrest project: “On-Farm Biogas Production and Environmental Sustainability Enhancement Through the Treatment and Utilization of Digestate”

The HarvRESt project showcases how integrating renewable energy systems (RES) into agricultural operations affects soil quality, crop performance and overall sustainability of agro-communities.

At the shared demonstration farm in Balaguer (Spain), which includes an on-site biogas plant, HarvRESt uses digestate from biogas production to evaluate solid and liquid fractions as fertilisers, quantifying nutrient use efficiency, emissions and leaching risks under real farm conditions. Building on these results, GREENHOOD advances the same setting by introducing enhanced nutrient recovery and treatment technologies, aiming to optimise nutrient management and circularity.

Together, the session illustrates a progression from assessing RES-derived inputs in practice to deploying improved, technology-driven solutions for sustainable nutrient cycles and reduced environmental impacts.

About Harvrest

The HarvRESt project is a Horizon Europe initiative focused on integrating renewable energy sources into agricultural systems to reduce carbon emissions and enhance sustainability. It brings together research, industry, and agricultural stakeholders to develop innovative solutions that balance food production with energy generation on farms.
Through the development of advanced modelling tools and decision-support systems, the project supports farmers and policymakers in identifying optimal strategies for renewable energy integration. By promoting circular and energy-efficient farming practices, HarvRESt contributes to more resilient, climate-neutral agricultural systems and diversified income opportunities for farming communities.
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Funded by the European Union.

NutriBudget project: “Integrating soil nutrient budgets into EU carbon policy: building a competitive agriculture”

Discover how smarter nutrient management can drive both climate action and farm resilience. This session explores practical policy pathways to accelerate the uptake of efficient, climate-friendly practices across agriculture and the agri-food value chain.

From soil nutrient budgeting to carbon farming, experts will unpack how regulatory frameworks and financial tools can unlock cost-effective solutions.

Join the discussion on strengthening competitiveness while aligning with EU climate goals, and learn how policy instruments can best support farmers in this evolving landscape.

About Nutribudget

The NutriBudget project aims to help agriculture to intensify sustainably in order to meet the demands of optimising yields without compromising environmental integrity or public health.

NutriBudget covers 5 pilot regions in 4 different climate zones across the EU where new agronomic mitigation measures are being tested. The ultimate goal is to develop and implement a prototype of an integrated nutrient management platform, called NutriPlatform as a decision-support tool, tailor-made for different stakeholders such as farmers, advisors, European policy makers and regional authorities in their quest for nutrient use optimization.

Funded by the European Union.

ANKE VALVEKENS

R&D ENGINEER
DETRICON

Anke Valvekens is associated with Detricon, where she is involved in the development and application of innovative solutions in the field of nutrient recovery and sustainable fertiliser technologies. She works on advancing circular approaches for the treatment and valorisation of organic and secondary raw materials, contributing to the company's efforts in supporting more resource-efficient and environmentally responsible agricultural systems.

PAUL ROELEVELD

DIRECTOR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & INNOVATIONS
HASKONING

Paul Roeleveld is Director for Business Development and Innovations at Haskoning, with over 30 years of experience in wastewater treatment and resource recovery. He focuses on advancing sustainable and circular water management solutions, with particular expertise in transforming wastewater treatment plants into resource recovery facilities. His work centres on improving process efficiency, enabling nutrient recovery (including phosphorus), and supporting the transition towards a circular economy in the water sector. He is also active in innovation-driven collaborations aimed at scaling up new environmental technologies across Europe.

CRISTIAN TERRONES

SUSTAINABILITY SPECIALIST
ICL EUROPE

Cristian Terrones is a Sustainability Specialist at ICL Group in the Netherlands, with a strong background in agronomy and soil science. He focuses on developing and promoting sustainable fertilisation strategies, including nutrient-efficient and recycled fertiliser solutions derived from secondary raw materials. His work supports the reduction of agriculture's environmental footprint by improving nutrient use efficiency and advancing circular approaches in crop nutrition. He is actively involved in research, field trials, and innovation projects aimed at scaling low-carbon and resource-efficient fertiliser technologies across global agricultural systems.

EHSAN MOSLEHI

R&D ENGINEER
EASYMINING SERVICES

Ehsan Moslehi is an R&D engineer at EasyMining Services Sweden, part of the Ragn-Sells Group, where he works on the development of innovative processes for nutrient recovery and circular fertiliser production. He specialises in chemical and process engineering for recovering phosphorus and potassium from waste streams such as ashes and bio-based residues, contributing to the company's Ash2Phos and related technologies. His work focuses on scaling sustainable solutions that transform waste into high-quality fertiliser products, supporting the transition towards a circular economy in agriculture and resource management.

WIM MOERMAN

CTO & CO-FOUNDER
NURESYS

Wim Moerman is CTO and co-founder of NuReSys (Nutrient Recovery Systems), a Belgian cleantech company based in Flanders. He is an engineer and inventor of NuReSys' core technology for recovering phosphorus, nitrogen, and magnesium from wastewater through controlled crystallisation processes, producing high-quality struvite fertiliser. With over two decades of experience in wastewater treatment and nutrient recovery, he has played a key role in developing and scaling industrial applications of circular nutrient technologies across Europe and internationally. He is also involved in innovation projects and collaborations aimed at advancing resource recovery and circular economy solutions in the water and agricultural sectors.

DR. JOACHIM CLEMENS

HEAD OF R&D
SOEPENBERG

Dr. Joachim Clemens is associated with Soepenberg, where he works on the development and application of sustainable nutrient recovery and recycling solutions in the waste and fertiliser sector. With a background in environmental and process-related sciences, he focuses on transforming secondary raw materials into valuable agricultural inputs, contributing to circular economy approaches in nutrient management. His work supports the optimisation of recycling processes and the production of safe, efficient fertiliser products derived from recovered resources.

NUTRI•KNOW

NUTRI-KNOW Final Project Event: “Exchanging easy-to-understand nutrient management knowledge with farmers and practitioners”

After years of collaboration, innovation, and knowledge exchange, NUTRI-KNOW is reaching its final milestone. As part of the ESNI-NERM conference, the project’s final event on 29 April will showcase its key achievements and stimulate high-level dialogue on nutrient management.

The session will open with an executive summary of project’s main outcomes, highlighting how innovation-driven knowledge is being translated into practical solutions. Following is an interactive policy workshop featuring panelists from DG AGRI, industry, and research. The discussion will focus on the legislative and practical pathways for RENURE products, pocket digestion, and algae-based technologies, aiming to identify concrete actions to support implementation and advance the transition towards circular nutrient management.

About NUTRI-KNOW

NUTRI-KNOW aims to support the modernisation and dynamisation of the agrifood sector by broadening EIP-AGRI Operational Group outcomes across borders. NUTRI-KNOW will contribute to foster and share knowledge and innovation aiming to address the most urgent needs, challenges, and opportunities for farmers. The outcomes from NUTRI-KNOW will assist in improving agricultural and environmental management and performance of the current agricultural practices which, eventually, will lead to a more sustainable and efficient European agri-food sector.

https://www.nutri-know.eu/

Funded by the European Union.