NUTRI•KNOW

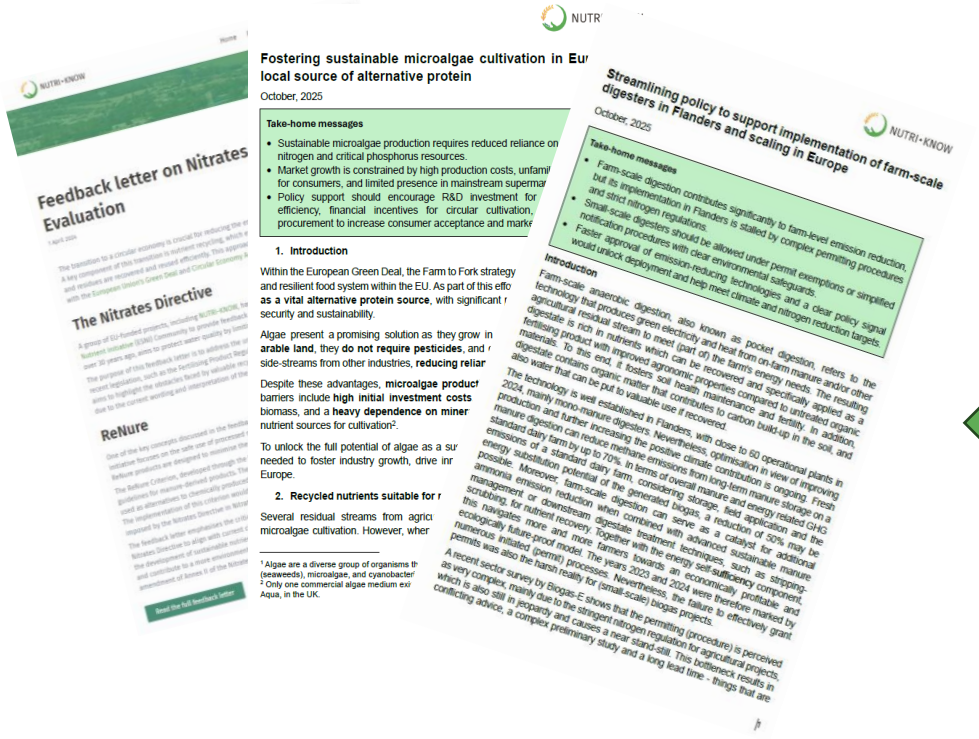
Policy workshop:

Barriers and Opportunities for Circular Fertilisers and Energy

29 April 2026

Brussels

Agenda



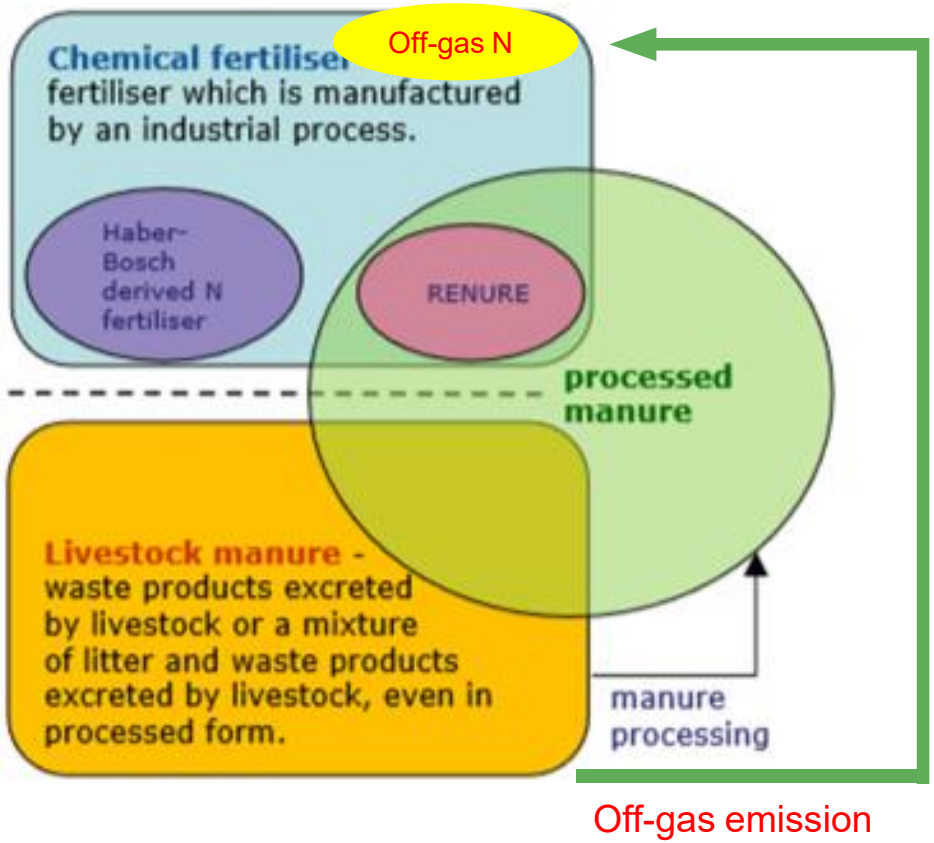
Three policy briefs

Feedback & next steps

Panel discussion

Funded by the European Union

Policy brief 1: RENURE as alternative fertilisers



12 March 2024
Joint feedback on the Nitrates Directive Evaluation

28 May 2025
Joint letter on the implementation of RENURE

- Closer dialogue between policy makers and EU-projects on nutrient recycling;
- Implementation of the RENURE criterion defined by the EC-JRC in conclusion to the SAFEMANURE evaluation;
- Harmonize legal status of ammonium salts derived from emissions.

Funded by the European Union

Policy updates on RENURE

19 September, 2025
Amendment to the Nitrates Directive was approved in the Nitrates Committee

9 February, 2026
Amendment has been in force but still needs to be transposed into national legislation

- **Application**: maximum 80 kg RENURE nitrogen per hectare per year.
- **Quality requirements**: no heavy metals and strict control of composition.
- **Restrictions**: no expansion of livestock numbers.

Funded by
the European Union

Policy brief 2: implementation of pocket digestion

Pocket digestion for on-site manure processing to produce bioenergy and biobased fertilisers

Challenges

× Complex **permitting** procedure due to the emission related regulations

Recommendations

- ➢ Accelerate recognition of emission-reducing technologies;
- ➢ Exempt this technology from the permit obligation or make the implementation possible via a notification;
- ➢ Issue a clear policy signal to break the deadlock around this mature technology.

✓ **A dedicated document is being developed by Biogas-E and INAGRO to map the environmental aspects of permit applications for pocket digesters.**

Funded by the European Union

Policy brief 3: microalgae as alternative protein

Circular protein from microalgae cultivation as local produced alternatives for imported soyameals

Challenges

- × No mature **market** for algae as novel protein source;
- × Unclear **end-of-waste** status of proteins derived from residual streams;
- × Conceivable **risks** and **quality requirements** for circular protein

Recommendations

- ➢ Targeted economic incentives to close price gap;
- ➢ Strategic demand creation through public sector, consumer-focused initiatives and events;
- ➢ Establish Circular Protein Platform to support knowledge exchange and regulatory coordination.

Funded by the European Union

slido

Please download and install the Slido app on all computers you use

what is your main professional activity?

ⓘ Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

what is your main professional activity?
(1/2)

0 5 4

Farmer/practitioner
2 %

Farm advisor
0 %

Technology provider
9 %

Fertiliser production
4 %

Food industry
0 %

Research & Academia
57 %

what is your main professional activity?
(2/2)

0 5 4

Public administration
6 %

National food authorities
0 %

Financial Institution
0 %

Media
0 %

Civil society organisation (CSOs, non-profit)
9 %

Other:
13 %

Funded by
the European Union

slido

Please download and install the Slido app on all computers you use

Which country is your activity based on?

ⓘ Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

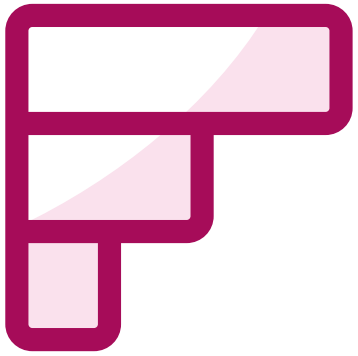
Where is your activity based on?

0 5 4

Funded by
the European Union

slido

Please download and install the Slido app on all computers you use



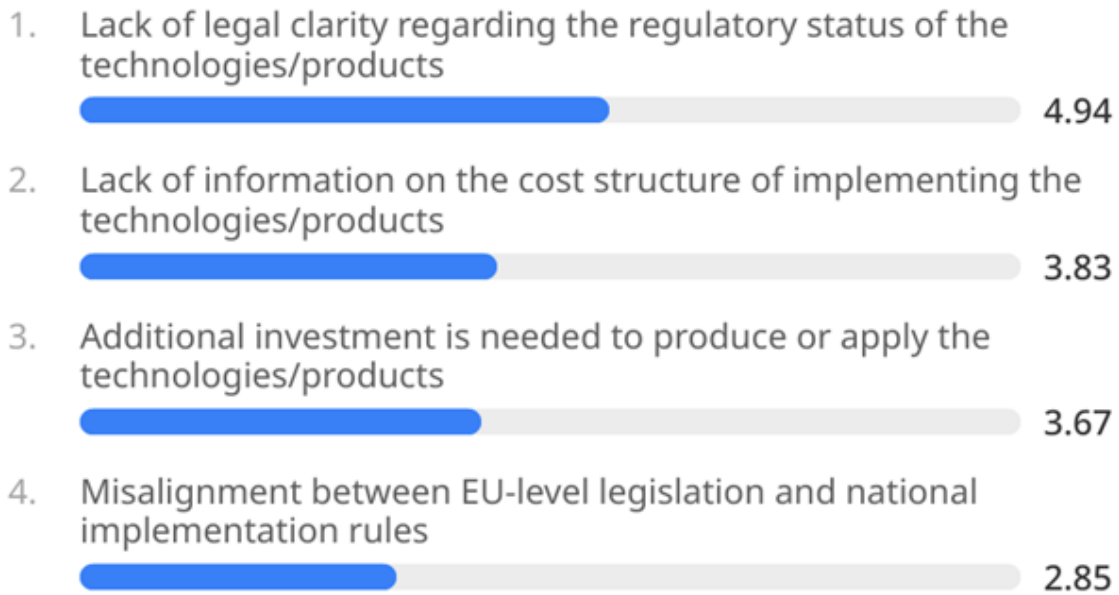
What are the major challenges/concerns of implementing RENURE/pocket digestion/algae cultivation technologies and products?

ⓘ Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

What are the major challenges/concerns of implementing RENURE/pocket digestion/algae cultivation technologies and products?

0 5 2

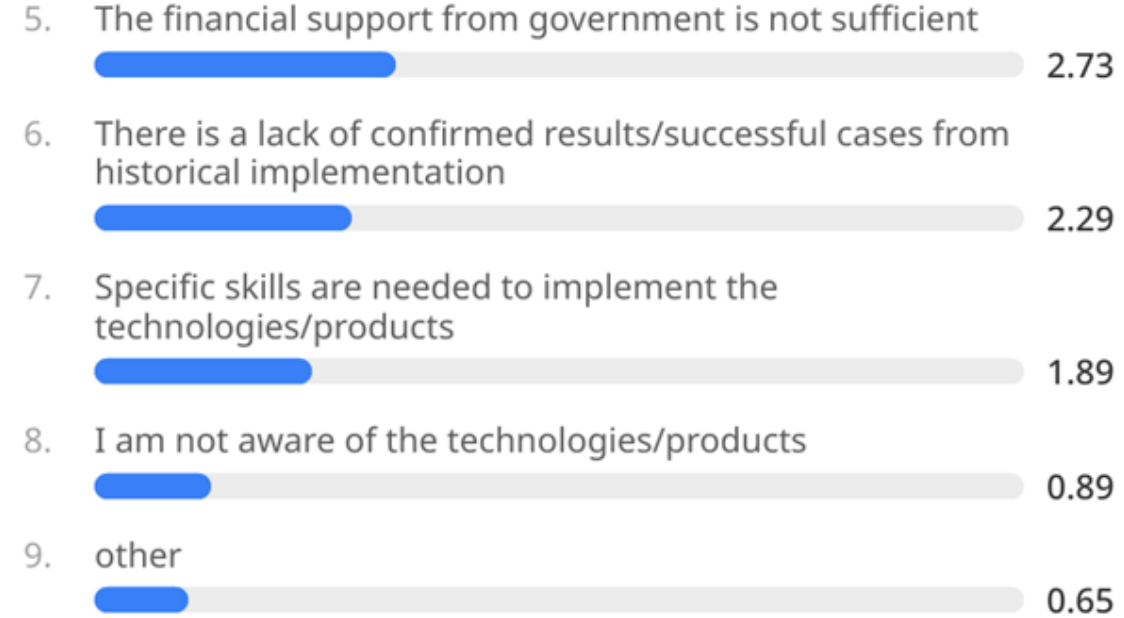
(1/2)



What are the major challenges/concerns of implementing RENURE/pocket digestion/algae cultivation technologies and products?

0 5 2

(2/2)



Funded by the European Union

Results from NUTRI-KNOW survey in 2023

1. Lack of legal clarity regarding the regulatory status
2. Misalignment between EU-level legislation and national implementation rules
3. There is a lack of confirmed results/successful cases from historical implementation
4. I am not aware of the technologies/products
5. Specific skills are needed to implement the technologies/products
6. Lack of information on the cost structure of implementing the technologies/products
7. Additional investment is needed to produce or apply the technologies/products
8. The financial support from government is not sufficient

Funded by
the European Union

Talk to our panelists

Mr. Benjamin van Doorslaer

DG AGRI

Mr. Ignasi Salaet

FERTINAGRO BIOTECH

Mr. Klaas Vanhee

Biolectric
Energy from manure

Dr. Marcella de Souza

GHENT UNIVERSITY

RE-SOURCE
LAB FOR BIORESOURCE RECOVERY

Funded by the European Union

Wrap-up

Funded by
the European Union

NUTRI•KNOW

Thank you!

Hongzhen.Luo@UGent.be
Erik.Meers@UGent.be
Celine.Wyffels@biogas-e.be
Anna.bago@uvic.cat