

Delisoil

Delivering soil improvers from circular food production processes to boost soil health



Delivering safe and accepted soil fertilisers in Denmark: insights from SWOT and PESTLE analysis

Summary

In the Danish regional context, circular fertilising products were assessed using SWOT and PESTLE analyses to identify the key barriers and enabling conditions for adoption and scaling. The results indicate strong societal and political support for circularity and sustainability, but also a risk-intensive external environment and major cost constraints, pointing to a defensive and risk-aware development pathway. The most immediate barriers are economic: high costs, limited access to suitable secondary raw materials, continued investment needs for process optimisation and compliance, and weak price competitiveness versus conventional mineral fertilisers, which are further amplified by market volatility and uncertainty about long-term policy instruments. On the demand side, conservative farming practices and risk aversion limit uptake, meaning that environmental messaging alone is insufficient without farmer-led demonstrations, peer learning, and locally relevant agronomic evidence to support it. Key enablers include long-term climate and circular economy goals, innovation and agricultural policies, high environmental awareness and consumer demand for sustainable production, adequate logistics, scalable technologies, and strong environmental benefits. Environmental protection laws serve as important quality signals.

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Stakeholders:

Farmers
Consumers
Industry
Researchers
Policymakers

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Practical Recommendations

Test and validate solutions through field trials, independent evaluations, and transparent monitoring. Align incentives by engaging advisors, value-chain partners, and policymakers to design stable rewards for circular solutions, such as targeted eco-scheme subsidies for bio-based fertilisers or financial support for nutrient recovery under national circular economy plans. Promote uptake via on-farm demos, peer learning, and advisory tools that link sustainability to yield and risk benefits. Build markets with clear quality standards, traceability, and coherent procurement and certification rules.

Needs addressed by the practice

Supporting farmers and agri-food stakeholders in adopting circular fertilising solutions by overcoming cost, trust, and regulatory clarity barriers.

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About DeliSoil

The EU-funded DeliSoil project is a four-year initiative that aims to transform food industry byproducts into safe, sustainable, and tailored soil improvers. This project addresses two pressing challenges: the poor recycling of industrial food processing byproducts and the degradation of soil health.

By harnessing a circular approach, DeliSoil will contribute to improving soil health and productivity, supporting the EU Mission "A Soil Deal for Europe" and the Farm to Fork Strategy, as well as other Circular and Bioeconomy Strategies and Plans.



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