

DeliSoil

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

Mapping funding mechanisms to support circular soil improvers from food side streams

Summary

Transforming food processing side streams into soil improvers such as composts, digestates, pellets, fertilisers and biostimulants requires not only suitable technologies, but also access to the right funding mechanisms along the value chain. Within DeliSoil, a structured portfolio of public and private funding schemes has been developed to help practitioners identify concrete financial opportunities supporting circular soil solutions.

The portfolio maps, analyses, classifies and compares funding mechanisms relevant to different actors, including farmers, cooperatives, food processors, waste managers, technology providers and fertiliser producers. These mechanisms include public instruments such as CAP eco-schemes and national grants, private co-investment models, commercial finance and venture capital, as well as emerging carbon and nature-related credit schemes.



Author:

Ronald A. Farrar-Tobar
Marina Ettl
Ludwig Hermann
Proman Management GmbH

Country:

Germany, Denmark, Spain, Italy and Finland.

Keywords:

Soil health
Circular soil improvers
Integrated soil index

Stakeholders:

Farmers and cooperatives
Agri-food processors
Waste and by-product managers
Technology providers
Fertiliser and biostimulant producers
Investors
Advisors
Policymakers
Innovation support actors

DeliSoil

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

Practical Recommendations

The analysis shows that public funding mainly supports on-farm adoption of sustainable practices, while private and hybrid mechanisms are particularly important for upstream valorisation steps and scaling innovative soil improver technologies.

For practitioners, the main added value is improved visibility of available funding options and a clearer understanding of which instruments match their role in the value chain. By using the portfolio, stakeholders can identify realistic financing pathways, combine complementary instruments, and reduce financial risks when investing in circular soil improvers. The approach supports more informed decision-making, faster uptake of soil-friendly practices, and replication of successful business models across regions.

Needs addressed by the practice

Helping actors in agri-food and soil value chains identify and combine suitable funding mechanisms to valorise food side streams into soil improvers.

Coordinator:

Ansa Palojarvi
Luke
ansa.palojarvi@luke.fi

Contact:

Ronald A. Farrar-Tobar
Proman Management GmbH
r.farrar@proman.pro

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.



Funded by
the European Union

Funded by the European Union under the Horizon Europe Programme, Grant Agreement No. 101112855 (DeliSoil). Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or Research Executive Agency (REA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them. Swiss partners (FiBL) have received funding from the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI).

Designed by ERINN Innovation