

Delisoil

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



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

Summary

Spain offers strong conditions for circular fertilising products and biostimulants made from abundant agri-food side streams (e.g. fruit and vegetable residues, meat-processing by-products, and olive pomace). Key enablers include supportive EU and national regulations (including Regulation (EU) 2019/1009), good availability of secondary raw materials, access to financing, and growing societal demand for sustainable inputs. However, scale-up is constrained by high logistics costs, high investment needs, energy inefficiency in some production routes, and limited resilience to feedstock and market variability. Uptake may also be slowed by traditional farming practices and ongoing safety and quality concerns, which require clear evidence and assurance.

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Country:

Spain

Keywords:

SWOT
PESTLE

Stakeholders:

Farmers
Consumers
Industry
Researchers
Policymakers

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Practical Recommendations

Differentiate from mineral fertilisers by positioning circular products as functional soil improvers that enhance drought and salinity resilience under Mediterranean conditions. Reduce delivered costs by localising production and co-locating with agri-food processing sites, supported by efficient logistics and stable supply contracts. Increase process efficiency through energy upgrades and flexible processing able to handle variable side streams while maintaining consistent quality. Strengthen farmer confidence via field demonstrations, transparent performance data, and clear application guidelines, underpinned by certification, monitoring, and traceable quality aligned with EU standards.

Needs addressed by the practice

Helping farmers and agri-food actors valorise organic side-streams. Developing safe, certified circular biostimulants. Improving soil function and climate resilience. Reducing waste and emissions.

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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.



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).

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