



FERTIMANURE



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Practice Abstract 4

Existing nutrient imbalances in European regions

Short summary for practitioners

Knowledge about the current nutrient imbalances in European regions is essential to predict where the nutrients recovered in FERTIMANURE can contribute best to agriculture's long-term sustainability. FERTIMANURE has performed a nutrient imbalance analysis, focusing mainly in those EU regions where the pilots are installed.

Nations such as the Netherlands and Spain have recently had an intensification of animal production, causing a high production of manure and, consequently, a nutrient surplus. At present, measures to reduce the nutrient surplus in the Netherlands are primarily closed on a regional, national or Northwest European level. The high density of livestock production in Spain is primarily concentrated in the Northeast (pig and poultry) and Northwest (cattle), which complicates the distribution of the nutrients as fertiliser.

In Germany and France, there are considerable differences between regions of nutrient inputs from manure; the Northwest and Southeast regions of Germany have a significant input of nitrogen and phosphorus from manure, whereas the other areas have to apply mineral fertiliser to compensate for the lack of nitrogen and phosphorus from manure. The centre and north of France are more devoted to cereal and oil crop production and receive the minimum amount of nutrients from manure.

Agricultural land in the northern regions of Belgium is mainly used for livestock production. In contrast, cereal and industrial crop production is primarily found in the country's south. Therefore, the northern regions are characterised by higher nutrients from animal sources.

For producers, it is essential to close the nutrients loop, considering and addressing the different needs of their regions. For that, accurate data is essential in forming policy and assessing appropriate fertiliser needs of regions, and this is dependent on local, national and EU data being consistent.



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