



### Problem encountered and objective

The Belgian Community of Practice aims to develop farm composting as a soil health business model. As interest grew—from 3 to 20 pilots—the group faced logistical and financial challenges, needing new strategies to scale efforts and secure stakeholder support. One challenge in particular is the lack of a clear legislative framework on farm composting in Flanders, Belgium.

### Main Results and Outcomes

Cross-border learning with a Dutch cooperative and hands-on field visits created strong engagement and shared knowledge. The CoP succeeded in launching pilot sites and attracting new farmers and funders, including the Province of Zeeland and Antwerp Port Authority, and therefore gained the possibility to scale up in summer 2025. The pilot cases have proven a powerful example to advocate for the establishment of a facilitating legislative framework for farm composting and regional circular landscapes.

### Practical recommendations

- Foster early engagement through joint field visits, advisory support and farmer-to-farmer exchanges to build trust and shared learning.
- Seek out existing models (e.g., cooperatives) for inspiration and collaboration, especially across regional borders if possible.
- Plan for scaling from the start: as momentum builds, anticipate growing needs for coordination, funding, and stakeholder negotiation.
- Include governmental actors from the outset, they are crucial for long-term support and enabling policy environments.
- Use each event (workshops, demos, meetings) as a stepping-stone to grow the network and refine the model based on real-time feedback.
- Encourage continuous reflexivity to adapt to new actors and shifting conditions without losing the core vision.
- Take care of the “soil carer” to enable farmers to meet the increasing societal demands for environmental and climate-related performance



### ABOUT SOILVALUES

**SoilValues** is a Horizon Europe project that will contribute to the development of successful soil health business models across the EU to improve soil quality and provide land managers with the necessary incentives.

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### USEFUL LINKS

 <https://soilvalues.eu/>

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 <https://zenodo.org/communities/heuropesoilvalues>

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