

Organisational structure for regional farm composting

Problem encountered and objective

Farm-scale composting at a regional level offers opportunities to improve soil health by locally valorising organic waste streams from both nature management and agriculture. This soil health business model aligns the needs and requirements of farmers, society and nature conservation agencies within a region. Implementation within a region is constrained by organisational barriers, including limited access to suitable biomass, insufficient technical support, and unclear agreements on quality standards, monitoring and responsibilities

Main Results and Outcomes

A practical organisational framework was developed based on experiences in the Belgian Testing Ground to support collaboration between farmers and suppliers of nature conservation biomass. The framework sets out clear agreements between all partners covering biomass quality, available volumes, pricing, logistics, storage arrangements and long-term supply and purchase commitments. Farmers then prepare a composting plan that specifies the origin, type and quantity of biomass inputs and aligns compost production with farm nutrient needs and available land. A logistics plan is developed to coordinate sourcing, transport, delivery schedules and temporary storage. The resulting system provides better societal outcomes at the same recurring societal costs.

Practical recommendations

- Successful composting further requires the correct construction of compost windrows, using appropriate feedstock mixtures and an adequate C:N ratio.
- Process monitoring is supported through a compost logbook that records key parameters such as temperature, moisture, CO₂ levels and C:N ratio, enabling timely interventions such as watering or turning.
- Before use, the finished compost should be checked for contaminants and viable weed seeds.
- Finally, high-quality compost is applied at rates that match crop and soil requirements.
- The framework should be tailored to the local legislative context.



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/>
 info.soilvalues@kuleuven.be
 <https://zenodo.org/communities/heuropesoilvalues>

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